

Congregational Tidings



*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

A weekly newsletter



February 12, 2020

**Sixth Sunday after
Epiphany
February 16, 2020
10:30 am**

**Pastor Scott Spence
will present the
sermon:**

What Comes Out

**Scripture Reading
Mark 7:1-23**

**Worship Leader
Greg Holt**

**Deacon-In-Charge
Connie Jo Peirce**

**Acolytes
Jeff and Cindy
Thompson**

**Greeters
Sue Hummel
Diane Highnam**

**February Ushers
Gordon Lauterbach
Kelly Conrad
Jonathan Yarngo
Peter Steva**



Ash Wednesday Service:

February 26th at 6:00pm

The imposition of ashes will be offered
and communion will be served.

Pastor Scott's February

Public Office Hours:

Scott will hold Public Hours from 3 to 5pm unless specified as follows:

- *2/12 - Caribou Coffee (University, CF)
- *2/19 - Lincoln Perk (218 E. 4th, W'loo)
-Special Hours 2pm - 4pm
- *2/26 - Sidecar (Ridgeway, W'loo)

Children's Choir Practice

The children's choir will practice following Worship this Sundays and will perform on Transfiguration Sunday.

Women's Book Study

The Women's Book Study group has selected "*Present Over Perfect*" by Shauna Niequist for our next book. You can get it at Target, Amazon, the library, etc. While the Friendship Room is undergoing repairs, we're meeting in the chapel. Anyone is welcome to join!

BQUGG Program

Danny Steiber and Anna Kendall will be sharing their "*Barn Quilts of Iowa and the Underground Railroad*" History movement at the Waterloo Public Library for one hour at 2pm on Thursday, February 13th.

Lenten Project: "Feed the Hungry"

The Social Justice Committee of Blessed Sacrament Community is asking for your help to package meals to help meet the needs of the poor in our area. Kids Against Hunger is a national organization that coordinates food "packaging parties", creating meals that are designed not only to be nutritious but also feed many people for minimal cost. A group of 10 can help package 2000 meals per hour! Volunteers are needed on Packaging Day, March 11th from 10am for set up, 12:30 to 8pm for packaging and 8pm until done for cleanup. If you would like to participate, contact Derek Mineart (Project Coordinator) at dsmineart@gmail.com with the names of your volunteers and the desired shift (either 12:30 to 2pm or 6:00 to 8:00pm).

For more information, please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Crossroads.

Transfiguration Sunday



February 23 is Transfiguration Sunday, and what better way to

celebrate the glory and brilliance of Jesus than a little New Orleans-inspired party? During worship, we will be blessed by music from a UNI jazz ensemble. After worship we will continue to celebrate with a Mardi Gras-themed lunch featuring jambalaya and red beans and rice (vegetarian and meat will be available) and king cakes. Most importantly, we will take up a special offering that will go to our UCC mission partners at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS who work "to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives." Invite your friends, family, and neighbors, and make plans to join us for lunch. **Please RSVP to the church office by Thursday, Feb. 20 for the luncheon.**

~From the Missions and Christian Education Committees

Church Directory

Michelle is working on the new directory this month. Please call or email her with any changes. Diane Highnam has offered to take a new picture for your listing. Please contact Diane or Michelle in the office to set this up. Thank you!

Sunday School

Gathering (9:00 - 9:15 am)

Youth and adults initially will meet in the chapel.

Classes (9:15 - 10:15 am)

Students 3rd - 5th grade will gather in the chapel with Katie Thomas.

Children ages pre-K - 2nd grade will meet with Jayne Slaughter in the downstairs children's nursery / classroom.

The Adult class meets in the Chapel.

Weekly Events

Wed., February 12

3 - 5:00pm - Public Office Hours

6:00 - Potluck

6:30 - Choir Practice

7:00 - Pastor's Class

Youth Group

Thurs., February 13

6:00 - Bells Practice

Sun., February 16

9:00 - Sunday School

10:30 - Worship

Children's Choir Practice

Tues., February 18

7:30 - Men's Breakfast at Village Inn

Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries

On February 1, 1960, four North Carolina A&T University students who were deeply disturbed by the tortuous murder of Emmett Till sat down at the Woolworth's lunch counter in downtown Greensboro, NC, challenging the restaurant's "whites only" policy. Denied service, the four young men—Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain, and Joseph McNeil—refused to give up their seats. The Greensboro Four, as they came to be known, followed the nonviolent practices of Mohandas Gandhi and civil rights activists, ignoring the violent provocation of local law enforcement and customers. They stayed seated until the restaurant closed, then returned the next day with more students from area colleges.

By February 5, the number of daily protesters at Woolworth's had grown to 300, paralyzing the restaurant and surrounding businesses. By March, this movement had gathered massive media coverage and spread to 55 cities in 13 states to protest segregation in libraries, beaches, hotels and other establishments. What began as the effort of four students determined to change the racist reality of their community became a launching pad for community mobilization against racism everywhere. In response to the success of these sit-ins, dining facilities across the South were integrated by the summer. Four black Woolworth's employees—Geneva Tisdale, Susie Morrison, Anetha Jones, and Charles Best—were the first to be served at the counter where it all began.

I've come to believe both courage and compassion are contagious but the witness for justice begins at home. Movements for justice are not birthed on public platforms with celebrity faces. Such is often a product of such momentum but never the impetus. Iconic public figures like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. Rosa Parks, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Malcom X, Congressman John Lewis, and Governor Robert M. La Follette are the fruit of movement trees whose roots are the actions of courageous citizens who decide the unjust treatment of humanity is too great a burden to bear. So they begin to rise up, and sit down and march and sit in, but they all start at home.

Recently, Justice & Local Church Ministries has partnered with RIP Medical Debt and UCC Conferences and local congregations to abolish medical debt for people living at or below the income threshold of poverty in communities we serve. We began in the Illinois Conference, working together to abolish \$5.3 million in medical debt for over 5,000 families. Last month, we partnered with the Missouri Mid-South Conference, some Missouri churches, and the Deaconess Foundation to abolish \$12.9 million in medical debt for over 11,000 families. Our next stop will be the Southern New England Conference, followed by the Central Atlantic Conference.

In every case, the impetus is local church engagement in the communities they serve. The witness for justice begins at home and spreads abroad. Every quarter, from now until the 33rd General Synod, we will work with Conferences and local churches to abolish debt in every geographical region the United Church of Christ serves.

We are hopeful to continue with others in building a movement concerned with burdens of health costs on impoverished families and communities. We can do this. We can be a part of changing our reality. We can be a part of telling this story. We can help lives and this planet, if we act with courage, if we rally our neighbors, if we challenge our state and local politicians, if we join this movement in our cities and our towns, because the witness for justice always begins at home.

The United Church of Christ has more than 5,000 churches throughout the United States. Rooted in the Christian traditions of congregational governance and covenantal relationships, each UCC setting speaks only for itself and not on behalf of every UCC congregation. UCC members and churches are free to differ on important social issues, even as the UCC remains principally committed to unity in the midst of our diversity.

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

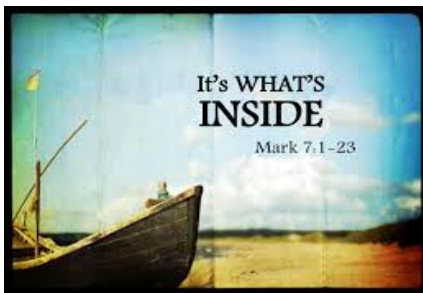
Congregational Tidings

Place
Stamp
Here

Create an endowment of love. Please consider including our church in your estate planning.

F I R S T C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C

Worship SCHEDULE



February 16

What Defiles?

Mark 7:1-23



February 23

Transfiguration Sunday

Mark 8:27 - 9:8



March 1

First Last and Last First

Mark 10:17-31



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