

# Congregational Tidings

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



A weekly newsletter



[www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

March 6, 2019

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Genesis 3:19



Since the fourth century, Christians have prepared for Easter with a season of spiritual examination and repentance. This season typically includes the willingness to take on some spiritual discipline, whether that is fasting or increased time for prayer or Scripture or acts of mercy and justice. Over the years this season became known as Lent.

Lent derives from the Old English word *lencten*, which means to lengthen. The word applied to the time of year when the days were lengthening into spring. Even as we make our way through Lent and this unusually cold Iowa winter we can be confident that new birth and Easter joy are just over the horizon!

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Our service starts at 6:00 and will include song, scripture, Communion, and the imposition of ashes. Why ashes? They are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice. Ashes are reminder of the finite nature of our lives and our eventual return to our Creator. We are called to repent our shortcomings before God and each other as well as showing our reliance on God's saving grace.

I recently came across a blog post called [Lent: Deconstructing into Wholeness](#) by The Contemplative Monk. The writer shared an understanding of Lent as a time to deconstruct ourselves so that we might be made whole in God. Lent calls us into a time when we let go of our pretenses and posturing, to take off the masks we wear and to get real with God.

The author shared some other observations about Lent that really resonated with me:

- Lent: It's time to get real with God, to Fast, Pray, Weep, Mourn...to let go and let God be God in our lives..
- Lent is the season where we might be laid bare to God's grace, mercy, and light.
- Lent is the season for spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical detox.
- Lent is dying before we die, so that we might live.

So why take on a spiritual practice or give something up for Lent? I don't think the purpose is to see if we can live without chocolate for 40 days. It is an opportunity to make room for something new. To make room for a deeper connection to God. To quiet the noise so that we might perceive the invitations God extends to us - invitations to a life that is bigger than our own existence.

If we truly take on this call of Lent, it can be a vulnerable time. It is in that vulnerability, that we can turn to God and rest in the trust that God will hold us and walk with us when our defenses are down. I hope you will join us on Sunday mornings for worship and for the other special services listed elsewhere in The Tidings.

May this season of Lent be a blessing to each and every one of you.

Pastor Scott

**First Sunday in  
Lent  
March 10, 2019  
10:30 am**

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

*Math and Forgiveness*

**Using the text:**  
Matthew 18:15-35

**Worship Leader**  
Jack Conrad

**Deacon-In-Charge**  
Janice Akin

**Greeters**  
Diana & A.J. Paige  
(Sanctuary)

Roger & Joanne Lane  
(Crossroads)

**March Ushers**  
Bruce Jensen  
Mike Sherman  
Jim Stevenson  
Bob Tefft  
Rich Thuesen

**Pastor Scott's  
Community  
Office Hours:**

**3/6 - The Tea Cellar**  
(209 State St., CF)

**3/13 - Sidecar**  
(Downtown W'loo)

**3:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Memorial Service**



~ Larry Garlock's funeral service will be held at 11:00 am this Saturday, March 9th at Locke Funeral Home (1519 W. 4th Street in Waterloo). Visitation will take place an hour before the service.

\*\*\* \*\*

**Prayer Chain...**

~ Sara Bruce, daughter of Bob and Beth Hurley is back home following brain surgery in Iowa City.

The Deacons invite you to jump on the meal train (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/o3vl9n>) for Sara Bruce and her family.

By going to the website above, you can sign up to bring/make a meal, make a donation or send a gift card. Not a cook?? Live far away?? Please think about a donation, a gift card, a gas card AND/or offering a few hours of respite.

You may donate on the website, add to the offering plate on Sunday (marked for Sara Bruce/care of Bob or Beth Hurley), or mail to the church office, 608 W 4th St Waterloo. (again, marked clearly for Sara Bruce/care of Bob or Beth Hurley).

Thank you again for your prayers and support. If you have questions, please contact Gina Greene.

\*\*\*\*\* \*\*

*When a loved one falls ill, one tends to feel isolated, helpless, and frustrated. It is at such troubling times as these that we turn to family for comfort and reassurance! Just as Jesus tells us, "the greatest of these is love", this is so true of our church family!*

*You have blessed us with so much love, caring, and generosity, and it has been such a blessing to both us and our Sara! This church family has spread God's love upon us to light up our way through these uncertain times.*

*Thank you and God bless you,  
Bob Hurley*

**Sunday School**

**Gathering (9:00 - 9:15am)**

Youth and adults meet for singing, praying, and mission news in the chapel

**Classes (9:15 - 10:15 am)**

**CHILDREN**

**Students 6th grade and up** will gather upstairs with Diana Paige and Evie Waack in the Murphy Youth Room

**Children ages pre-K - 5th grade** meet with Jayne Slaughter in the upstairs Sunday School Room

**ADULTS**

**Adults** will meet in the chapel looking at *Discipleship*.

**Women's Book Study** meets in the Friendship Room looking at Nadia Bolz-Weber's *Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People*.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Upcoming Events**

**Sat., March 9**

9:00 am - Women's Breakfast at Perkins

**Sun., March 10**

9:00 am - Sunday School  
10:30 am - Worship  
*Confirmation Class will follow worship*

**Mon., March 11**

Community Meals (C)

**Wed., March 13**

12:00 Brown Bag Bible Study  
5:30 pm - Bells  
6:00 pm - Lent Midweek Service  
7:00 pm - Choir

## - LENT EVENTS -

~ A Brown Bag Bible Study on Discipleship and the Gospel of Matthew will be offered twice each week in March. Beginning on Wednesday, March 13th from noon to 12:45 bring your lunch or join us during the Sunday School Hour each Sunday.

~ Our Ash Wednesday Service is at 6:00pm tonight. The imposition of ashes will be offered and we will serve Communion. All are welcome.

~ Lent Midweek Services will begin March 13th. Services will start at 6:00. All are welcome.



### Get to know your Confirmands:



**Jessica Conrad** is an 8th grader at Bunger Middle School.

**Jessica Likes:**

- \* People at FCC,
- \* Cats, and
- \* Video Games (*Firewatch & The Last of Us*)

**Jack Conrad** is a 7th grader at Bunger Middle School

**Jack Likes:**

- \* The Church - - feels like he can talk to anyone there about anything,
- \* Star Wars, and
- \* Video Games (*Bioshock, Fallout and Shadow of Mordor*)



Thank you to friends and church family for your thoughts, cards and prayers during this difficult time for our family. We will ALL miss Jeff very much. What a great church family we have.

~ **Bonnie & Stewart Rickert**  
and **Courtney & Tom McCaffrey**

### OFFICE NEWS



Due to a glitch, the office computer calendar was erased. If you had given an event to Michelle, such as an open house, wedding, group activity etc., before the end of February, please contact her with the date again so we can make sure your event is reserved. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank those who have already contacted the office.

## An Open Letter to the United Methodist Church:



The United Church of Christ, an Open and Affirming Communion of the Body of Christ, practices a belief in both a still-speaking God and an extravagant welcome. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, through the faithful renderings of our sacred texts, and standing in a long line of reformers who have come before us we proclaim with great fervor that no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome.

We hold in prayer those whose past wounds have been reopened by the recent debates of the governing body gathered in St. Louis. The Body of Christ has, throughout its long history, not always been kind and loving to those who live outside its established norms and conformities. We confess to our own history and complicity with racism, misogyny, transphobia, and homophobia. Our hope is that we can and will continue to struggle with our closed hearts and minds as we seek to live more fully into the vision of God's shalom for all.

We hold in prayer the entire Body of Christ around the world. It is living through a time of division and separation as it struggles to wrestle with what have become irreconcilable differences. There are countless wounded on all sides of these divisions, and as a uniting communion called to find the common ground in support of a hoped for vision of unity within diversity we suffer alongside our United Methodist kindred who today feel the deep pain of a new brokenness.

Know that we stand ready to serve all who are in need of healing and all who seek simply to know the power of the risen Christ fully articulated in the expression of a love that knows no bounds.

We understand that it is with great sadness and a good deal of grief that many will have been left to feel unwelcome in a spiritual home that gave you hope, sustenance, and nurturance. Many of us have felt the sting of that same rejection – and know full well the grief that attaches to it.

We hold the entire United Methodist Church in prayer as it seeks to heal and to express its faith in light of their understandings of scripture and the gospel.

In solidarity with all who call on Jesus, we remain humbly servants of the gospel in search of a more full articulation of love,

Faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer,  
General Minister and President

The Rev. Traci Blackmon,  
Associate General Minister

The Rev. James Moos,  
Associate General Minister

Andrew Lang, Executive Director

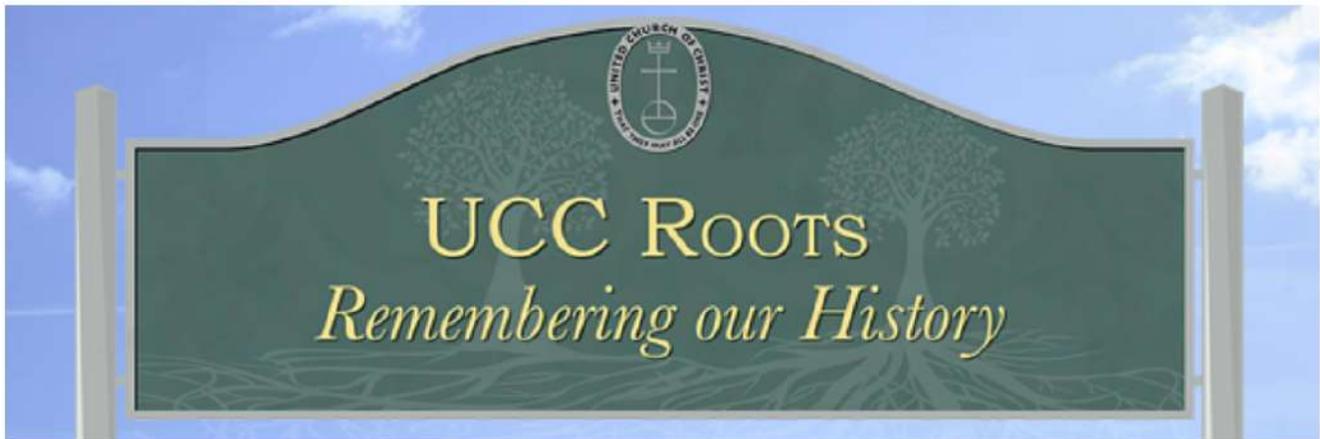
## Iowa, Nebraska & South Dakota Conferences

The collaborative staffing of the Tri-Conference Ministries



Join us for the first ever joint meetings of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota conferences of the United Church of Christ June 14-15-16, 2019 at the [Tri-Faith Initiative](#) in Omaha, Nebraska. The Tri-Faith Initiative is one in which three faith institutions – [Temple Israel](#), [Countryside Community Church UCC](#), and the [American Muslim Institute](#) — committed to build three houses of worship and a shared Tri-Faith Center together on one parcel of land. We are so grateful for their hospitality!

Please contact the Church Office if you are interested in being a delegate!

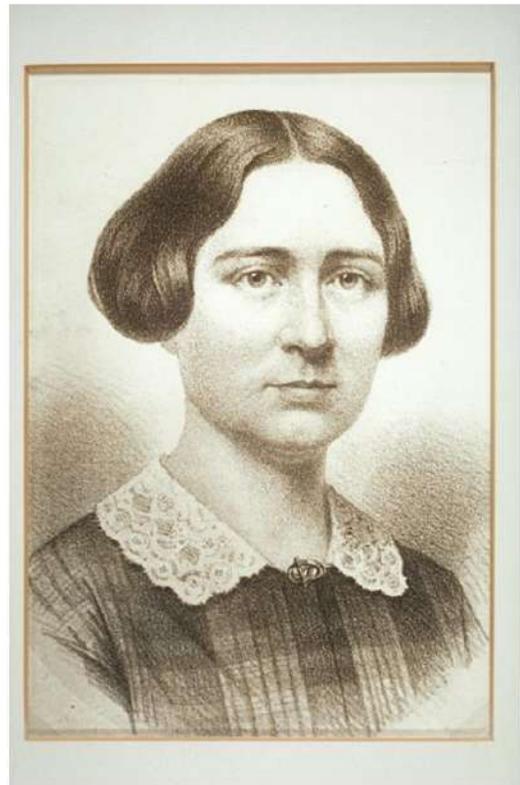


## New Insights about Antoinette Brown Blackwell

The United Church of Christ honors the life of Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921). In 1853 she was the first woman ordained to Christian ministry in a mainstream Protestant denomination in the United States.

Blackwell did not study science, but she became a popular author, publishing *Studies in General Science* (1869)—and ten other books in the physical and social sciences. She was impressed by the expanding world of science and by much of Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species* (1859).

In her second book, *The Sexes Throughout Nature* (1875), she argued strongly for the equality of the sexes—making distinctions between equality and sameness and insisting, for example, that male and female lions each had attributes that strengthened the species. Darwin made lists of men and women in almost any field, but he always argued that males were superior. Blackwell objected, collecting her own data and using Darwin's research, she compared male and female strengths and deficits, declaring that males and females of the same species were true equivalents. Blackwell thought that Darwin's opinions were socially repugnant and scientifically in error, because *"Men see clearly and think sharply when their sympathies are keenly enlisted, but not otherwise"*



Blackwell knew that people would think her brash to take on great men of science, but she felt she had no alternative. *"Only a woman can approach the subject from a feminine standpoint; and there are none but beginners among us in this class of investigations. However great the disadvantages. . . , these will never be lessened by waiting."*

Blackwell was a pioneer ordained woman minister, a relentless advocate for women's rights, and a skilled science writer challenging masculine assumptions.

Read more about "The Woman Who Challenged Darwin's Sexism" in *Smithsonian Magazine*, November 2017. Copies of her book, *The Sexes Throughout Nature* are online.

Contributor: Davida Foy Crabtree

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

The First Congregational UCC

Board of Fine Arts

Presents:

Sunday, March 10, 2019

2:00 pm

Free and Open to the Public

## *An Afternoon of Chamber Music* with



Ross Monroe Winter  
*violin*



Julia Bullard  
*viola*



Hannah Holman  
*cello*