

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

March 13, 2019



"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..."

Ephesians 3:20

As I am writing this note to you the temperatures outside are gradually warming up. The roads are becoming clear and the snowpack is starting to get a little smaller. Spring is slowly but surely on its way. A season of renewal and growth is on the horizon.

We have also entered a new season in the liturgical calendar. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday—a time of 40 days (minus Sundays) where Christians engage in new spiritual practices and make the journey to Holy Week. It is a season that is traditionally associated with giving up things or faithful austerity. Lent even begins with the imposition of ashes and the reminder that “from the dust we come and to the dust we shall return.”

I believe that there is room for those types of practices during Lent. This Lent I am trying to engage in more spiritual journaling and different ways of engaging with scripture. I am trying to lessen my consumption of meat and engage in more ecologically friendly lifestyle choices. There will also be special Bible Studies and Wednesday Night Services at FCUCC if that's more your speed.

Over the past several years I have become convinced that Lent is not just a time for narrowing your options—that in fact Lent can encourage you to widen your horizons. You can open yourself up to the work of the Holy Spirit and seek to engage people outside of your usual social circles. We are reminded that since we belong to God we can indeed accomplish more than even our wildest imaginations could ever consider possible!

On March 31st FCUCC will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during worship. OGHS supports the disaster, relief, and development activities of our denomination. We many not be able to personally be at every place where disaster occurs but your OGHS offering ensures that UCC Disaster Relief will be there to offer a helping hand. Your generosity helps those in need to receive aid and to move forward with their lives.

OGHS helps our church and others like us to positively impact lives around the world—and all through your gifts. How amazing is that?

I encourage you to thoughtfully pray over the next several weeks to determine how you might be called to contribute. Take the time to check out the OGHS bulletin inserts as well. And in all things know that God is working through FCUCC to do more than we could ever ask or imagine. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Scott

**Second Sunday
in Lent
March 17, 2019
10:30 am**

**Evie Waack will
present
the message:**

The Prodigal Landowner

Using the text:
Matthew 20:1-16

Worship Leader
A.J. Paige

Children's Lesson
Dale Waack

Deacon-In-Charge
Nancy Mahood

Acolytes
Steve and Liz Thorpe

Greeters
Danny Steiber
Anna Kendall

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

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

3/13 - Sidecar
(Downtown W'loo)

3:00 - 5:00 pm

3/27 - Cup of Joe
(Downtown CF)

Prayer Chain...



~ Sara Bruce, daughter of Bob and Beth Hurley will be having another surgery today, March 13th as the spinal fluid in her brain is not draining properly. The surgery should be a simple procedure but your continued prayers are appreciated.

The Deacons invite you to jump on the meal train (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/o3v19n>) 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.

Pastoral Care

One of the most important functions of ministry is providing care and support in times of need. Please contact the church office, Diaconate Chair or contact me directly (919) 265-8902 if you or some one you know is in need of pastoral care. Due to HIPAA regulations, churches are no longer contacted when their members are in the hospital so please contact us in case of emergency.

~ Scott

Pastor Scott will be out of town from March 16th through 22nd. Please contact the office if you need pastoral assistance during that time.



**Spring Clothing
Give-Away
April 6, 2019**

Time to check your closets for items you'd like to donate! Bedding, towels and pillows are also always in need for new residents in our neighborhood. You may bring your items to the Crossroads anytime this month.

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

Thursday, March 14
Meals on Wheels

Sun., March 17
9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship
NO Confirmation this Sunday

Tues., March 19
7:30 am - Men's Breakfast
at Village Inn

Wed., March 20
NO Brown Bag Bible Study or
Community Office Hours this week
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Lent Midweek Service
7:00 pm - Choir



Thank you to everyone who agreed to be Mentor for our Confirmation class this year! This important relationship is intended to help our Confirmands develop their faith and start to become a full member of First Congregational UCC. It is a important commitment and we are blessed to have such a great class of Mentors and Mentees.

Here is our 2019 Class-be sure to greet them when you get a chance:

Mentee

Jack Conrad
 Jessica Conrad
 Kaden McConnell
 Kenny Steva
 Zack Steva
 Allison Kaliban
 Lucy Prescott
 Michael Dunn

Mentor

Tim Ahrens
 Connie Jo Peirce
 Paul Greene
 David Panicucci
 Meach Meacham
 Lauren Reisinger
 Jayne Slaughter
 Greg Holt



Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer yes to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke.

We hosted this Life Line Screening event in January 2017 and are pleased to host again on April 10th here at First Congregational Church. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

For more information and to register for this event and receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979.

Karen Georgia Thompson nominated as next**AGM Global Engagement**

March 08, 2019

Written by Connie Larkman



The United Church of Christ Executive Board, in its March meeting in Cleveland, has affirmed the nomination of the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson for the position of Associate General Minister of Global Engagement and Co-Executive of Global Ministries, the common overseas ministry of the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). With her nomination confirmed unanimously, General Synod delegates will vote to elect Thompson in Milwaukee this summer.

The Rev. Alice Hunt chaired the AGM Search Committee, which began looking for candidates in August 2018. She said Rev. Thompson, who currently serves as UCC Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, is a natural choice for the Church's next Associate General Minister of Global Engagement.

"The search committee unanimously voted to present Rev. Thompson to the UCC Board. Her breadth of knowledge and experience, her passion for the work, and her clear call to the position made the decision clear for the committee," Hunt said. "Building on the relationships she has nurtured in her current position, she will bring vision and energy to the work of the Church."

"I have forged and nurtured significant relationships and have knowledge and connections with many of the partners in Global Ministries through years of involvement with the World Council of Churches and World Communion of Reformed Churches," Thompson said. "I will be able to bring a vision that is grounded in a working knowledge of our partnership and agreements and will be providing leadership in ministry and mission with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The totality of this current role, my years in conference ministry and in nonprofit management, along with the years of working for racial equality, have provided invaluable experience both in administration and relationship building, to step into this role."

Thompson has shared her skills and gifts in a variety of settings nationally and internationally during the course of her career. Her ministry is informed by her passion for racial justice. A strong proponent of human rights, she currently provides leadership for the joint United Church of Canada and United Church of Christ committee working on the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent.

Thompson was one of 11 applicants considered by the AGM Search Committee during the selection process. The search committee settled on three finalists, meeting those candidates during initial conversations via Zoom and then in face-to-face interviews.

"We had excellent candidates," Hunt said. "The pool of candidates was broadly diverse. It was my pleasure to work with the gifted search committee. Based on the position description and our knowledge of the life of the UCC, we outlined our desired criteria. Each search committee member reviewed the candidate profiles and ranked each candidate on each criterion. We brought those rankings to our conversation in order to select our finalists. I am thankful to the tenacious search committee and to all of the wonderful candidates."

The Rev. John Dorhauer, United Church of Christ General Minister and President, one of eight members of the AGM Search Committee, strongly believes in their nominee. "Having worked closely with Karen Georgia the last four years, I am convinced that she was called and is equipped to serve as an officer of the denomination. Quite frankly, I am excited about the possibilities that are now present to us under her leadership. I wish her the best, and strongly support her nomination as Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ."

If confirmed by General Synod 32, Thompson will begin a four-year term August 1, 2019.

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 **by May 1st** if you are interested in being a delegate!

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

- LENT EVENTS -

~ What does it mean to follow Jesus? Does it cost anything? Does it ask anything? How can we do it by ourselves? Or as part of a faith community? What is this whole Christian thing about? You are invited to explore these questions (and more!) during our Lenten Bible Study. Led by Pastor Scott, this class will take a look at Discipleship and The Gospel of Matthew. We meet every Sunday at 9 or Wednesdays from 12-1 in the Chapel.

We will look at the following topics:

Week of March 10th: *The Joy and Terror of Being Called*

Week of March 17th: **No** Class due to Spring Break

Week of March 24th: *Disciples in Crisis*

Week of March 31st: *Disciples in Mission*

Week of April 7th: *When the Going Gets Tough*

Week of April 14th: *Disciples in the Making*

~ Lent Midweek Services begin tonight, March 13th and will be held every Wednesday Night until April 17th. Service starts at 6:00. All are welcome.

