

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

April 4, 2018

**Second Sunday of
Easter
April 8, 2018
10:30 am**

**Rev. Tim Ensworth will
present the message:**

Grace

Using the text:
Ephesians 2:4-10

Worship Leader
Evie Waack

Children's Lesson
Kerri Mennenga

Special Music
Canticum Novum

Deacon-In-Charge
Nancy Heinick

Acolytes
Rich and Kay Thuesen

Greeters
Roger and Joanne Lane
(Sanctuary)

Mike Sherman
(Crossroads)



**Join Canticum Novum for a beautifully musical service
this Sunday, April 8th, at our 10:30 am Worship Service.**

Works presented include:

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Collegium Regale) - Herbert Howells

Psalms 133 - Richard Proulx

Prayers and Responses - William Smith

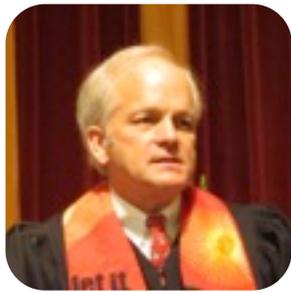
Light's Glittering Morn Bedecks the Sky - Horatio Parker

Directed by Ben Owen. Anne Hoekstra will accompany on organ.

Additional performances include:

April 7th, 4:00 PM at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Cedar Falls

April 8th, 4:00 PM at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul in Des Moines



Happy Easter! Jesus is alive!

Easter is not over. It is just beginning. Or, to put it more accurately, Easter was a beginning, a new beginning, a new beginning for God's people, for all of God's people. All of us, then and now, live in a world where Jesus is going still to heal and to reconcile and to bring peace, and where Jesus invites us to go with him, healing and reconciling and bringing peace.

Our work continues. And, for a little while more, it will still be our work -- yours and mine. And then there will be another called to teach and lead and discern and motivate and, most of all, be with you as you follow Jesus together.

I have reached the home stretch of my ministry at First Congregational United Church of Christ -- three months and nine sermons left. What do you do with your last nine sermons? I have chosen to focus on the main themes of my ministry or, I might better say, the themes and texts I consider to be at the heart of the Christian gospel as I understand it. These are the values, the ideas, the distinctive features of the story of God and God's people about which I am most passionate, about which I believe God is most passionate! These are the nine ...

- **grace** (April 8) -- *God has made us what we are*
We are what we are, we have life at all, our life has meaning at all, only by grace. All is gift, God's gift.
- **humility** (April 15) -- *Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised!*
If pride is the cardinal sin, refusing to acknowledge God as God, then humility is the cardinal virtue, letting God be God, and embracing what we are -- creatures.
- **creation** (April 22) -- *And God saw that it was good ...*
Good! This is good! The earth, our bodies, all of creation, come from God. The material universe does not distract us from God. It is the place, the only place, we can and do know God.
- **music** (May 13) -- *They never stop singing ...*
We will never stop singing, because song is the language of praise. Music is one of the best of God's gifts to us. Music allows us to express our joy, but music also creates joy!
- **community** (May 20) -- *The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.*
You cannot be a Christian alone. God created us for community, for communion with God and with each other.
- **courage** (June 10) -- *Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you ...*
It takes courage to follow Jesus, to go a way which often runs counter to the ways of this world.
- **beauty** (June 17) -- *Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*
Truth is beautiful and beauty is truth. Beauty is not merely subjective, but is a reflection of God's glory. We see God in the beauty of the earth, in art and music and language, in acts of love, in each other.
- **shalom** (June 24) -- *Let us walk in the light which the Lord gives us!*
God created the world in and for shalom. Shalom is where we have come from and where we are going, what we are made for, and what we are made to do.
- **gratitude** (July 1) -- *I thank my God for you every time I think of you ...*
I do! I thank God for you and for all God's gifts to me, for all God's good gifts to us.

*You, Lord, are all I have, and you give me all I need;
my future is in your hands.
How wonderful are your gifts to me; how good they are!*

Tim

Sunday School

Gathering (9:00 - 9:15 am)

Youth and adults meet for singing, praying, and mission news.

Chapel

Classes (9:15 - 10:15 am)

CHILDREN

Students 6th grade and up will gather upstairs in the Murphy Youth Room with Lauren Reisinger. **Children ages 1st - 5th grade** meet with Lynne Ensworth in the main level Sunday School Room. **Children up to Kindergarten age** meet with Jayne Slaughter in the upstairs Sunday School room.

ADULT FORUM

Adults meet in the chapel.

Weekly Events

Sun., April 8

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship Service

Mon., April 9

Community Meals (D)

Tues., April 10

7:00 pm - Common Meeting

Wed., April 11

5:30 pm - Ukulele
5:50 pm - Bells
7:00 pm - Choir

Thurs., April 12

Meals on Wheels

Spring Cleaning:

As you start spring cleaning in your house, garage and shed...Don't forget our Bazaar's Bottom Drawer and tool section.

~ If you have items that you purchased, but never used -- **Bring them to church!**

~ If you are downsizing and don't need as many household items -- **Bring them to church!**

~ If you have tools that you no longer use -- **Bring them to Church!**

Bring your items to church and leave them on the table in the dining room next to the dividers.

Don't wait until November to bring your items...You can bring them now.

Easter Tulips

Thank you for your Easter Flower celebrations and memorials. IF you do not plan to reuse your tulip Ball Jar vase- please drop it off in the box under the table on your way to the library. Thank you.

Spring Clothing Give-Away

The spring clothing give-away will be **Saturday, April 14** from 9:00-10:30 am at First Baptist Church (434 Baltimore Street - Waterloo).

Bedding and towels are especially needed to help the new neighbors set up their households.

Summer Services:

If you are interested in leading a service this summer, including sharing the message, or have some 'suggestions' please let Gina Greene know (ggreene1124@gmail.com). We will follow-up with 'suggestions' as needed. Thanks!

"Supporting Mothers, Creating Futures"

Did you know we are getting new neighbors? The House of Hope is moving from Walnut St to 4th & Allen soon. This local, church-founded organization provides a home, community and transformation for homeless, single mothers.

Members of our Church Row coalition have already been helping dry wall and paint.

If you would like to participate as well, please check out their website, HouseofHopecccd.org. They have a list of needs from furniture to cleaning supplies as they grow from serving 7 families to 15.

You can help break the cycle poverty by empowering women and giving a chance for self-sufficiency with an 86% success rate! "

Common Meeting

Just a reminder that the Common Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 pm.

Help Needed:

Alice Schneider is moving to Friendship Village and needs some volunteers to help her move next **Sunday, April 15th**. We will meet at 2:00 p.m. at her house (315 Byron Ave. - W'loo). If you are able to help, please join us then. If you have a pick-up that will be helpful!

Call Michelle in the office if you are able to help. (319-234-8927)

Family Fun Day



APRIL 28, 2018

11 am - 3 pm



Admission and food are free!

Sign up Sheets are in the Library.

We need help with everything from supervising booths and serving food the day of the event to baking cookies or making pasta salad and baked beans beforehand.

This is an All-Church Family Outreach so let us ALL sign up to help!

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Return Service Requested

Congregational Tidings

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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



Easter Egg Hunt Fun

