

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 17, 2019

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."

Charles Dickens

Recently I was talking to a pastor friend of mine who shared a story about a coffee date with a church member. The congregant had been active in the church for a while but expressed a general sense of unease and discomfort about her life. After some talking around the subject they gradually came to the point: the person felt like the church wasn't offering "something" that fit her needs. As the woman approached her golden years, she didn't feel like she fit in anywhere anymore. She didn't know what the next phase of her life needed to be and was hoping for a clear answer.

After a long pause the pastor eventually asked her, "Well...what do you need?"

What do you need? What do any of us need? It was a question the woman struggled to answer- but I know she's not alone in this. I hear this question being asked over and over again except that it usually sounds more like "someone" should be doing "something." For each person that worries about that "someone," the "something" is slightly different.

And this is the sticking point. Because many of us remember the days when everyone wasn't quite so busy and there always seemed like there was "someone" to help. Now, people seem to be busier than ever. There doesn't seem to be as much time to lend a hand to help with a Church Board or to serve at Community Meals. There's just so much to do and so little time to do it in!

We know this. But, that doesn't stop us from lamenting that "someone" should really do "something." I do this too. I recently read an article by the theologian Brian McLaren entitled *Joining the Resurrection*. He argues that the resurrection isn't just something that happens to Jesus but happens to each and every "someone." McLaren says it best:

It is good and right to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning, but even better and greater to choose to affiliate with it . . . to identify with it, to join it, to enter it and let it enter and fill us, to give ourselves to it and receive all it offers us, so we can wholeheartedly participate in it and with it, so that resurrection keeps spreading until everything is healed and everything is new and all is well and all manner of things are well.

This happens when each and every "someone" realizes that there are no hands and no feet but our own. We can't outsource it. We don't have all of the money in the world. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the someones that will do something. It might not look like it once did because our ministry will change as much as we have changed-just like things have changed since that first Easter morning.

When we are able to recognize this change, and resonate with it enough to believe that all is well and all manner of things are well, we will be able to do "something" about it. We will realize we are the someones and maybe even be clearer about what it is that we need most. For, surely, this knowledge is what will allow us to participate in the resurrection wholeheartedly -- when we know what it is that we need most and then try to do something about it.

We are in the midst of Holy Week. I invite you to participate in the services listed here in *The Tidings*. Invite your friends, families, and neighbors. All Are Welcome here at First Congregational UCC!

And I also invite you to contemplate and to pray about this: Since we are a Easter people, and people of the resurrection, how are we called to be someone? To be someone for somebody outside the walls of our church? In the Cedar Valley? And beyond?

God bless.

Pastor Scott

Prayer Chain...

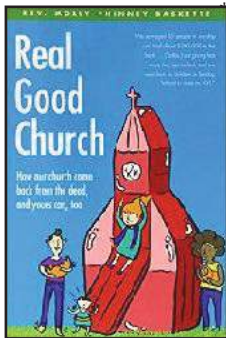


~ Greg Hoekstra underwent surgery at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester on Friday, April 12th and is recuperating. He is expected to be dismissed for home today. Prayers are appreciated.

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



A new book study with potluck will begin on Thursday evenings at 6:00pm beginning April 25th. The book is titled *Real Good Church* by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette. Rev. Baskette is a UCC pastor who writes openly and honestly about the experience of church renewal and gives practical steps for any congregation. You can purchase the Kindle Version on Amazon for \$10, the book from any online retailer or reserve a copy from Michelle in the office for \$20 by emailing michelle@firstcongucc.org or calling 234-8927. *Deadline to reserve a copy from the church is this week.*



Get to know your Confirmands:

Kaden McConnell is an eighth grader at Hoover Middle School. He is on the swim, baseball, basketball, and football teams at school. He has been very active as a "Leader-In-Me" tour guide for school visitors. Kaden's parents are Kevin and Brook. He has two sisters, Lauren and Leah Reisinger, who've both been confirmed here at FCUCC. His grandparents are Tim and Vicki Ahrens. Kaden also enjoys spending time with friends and playing on his phone and Xbox. His goal for confirmation is to get a different perspective on life as a Christian and learn more about Christ.



Easter Sunday

April 21, 2019
10:30 am

Rev. Scott Spence will present
the message:

He is Risen

Using the text:
Matthew 28:1-10

Deacon-In-Charge
Joanne Lane

Acolytes
Rocky and Mary Kay Petersen

April Ushers
Craig Driver
Peter Blankenfeld
Todd Ellison
Steve Peters

Upcoming Events

Maundy Thursday,
April 18

6:00 pm - Dinner
7:00 pm - Service

Good Friday, April 19

11:30 am - Processional to First UMC (meet at Zion Lutheran)
12:00 pm - Ecumenical Service at First UMC
7:00 pm - Service of *Tenebrae*

Saturday, April 20

10:00 am - Easter Rehearsal

Sun., April 21

6:20 am - Sunrise Service at RiverLoop Amphitheatre
9:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt (No Sunday School this week)
10:30 Easter Worship Service (No Confirmation this week)

Wed., April 24

5:30 pm - Bells Practice
7:00 pm - Choir Practice

A Request from Grin and Grow Child Care (G&G)

Grin and Grow Child Care has enjoyed the hospitality and kindness of our UCC hosts at 608 West 4th for many years. We are posting in Tidings and the Bulletin this week to inform you that unfortunately we are experiencing particularly severe financial stress at present. We know that First Church understands the important role G&G plays in meeting child care needs for working class parents in the neighborhood we share. This notice is to ask church members to consider making individual donations. G&G is a 501c3 organization. Arrangements have been made for the church office to collect your donations. Please help us to continue our important work in this financially troubled time.

~ Cliff Highnam, G&G Board of Directors and FCUCC Liason

Historic Church Row Upcoming Opportunities

The coalition will be providing a meal for the Getting Ahead In The Cedar Valley class on Thursday, April 25 at 5pm. If you would like to make a dessert or help serve and clean up, please text or call Laurie at 504-3212.



Cedar Valley Chamber Music is hosting the vocal ensemble, LYRA, on Sunday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. at First Congregational UCC. LYRA is from St. Petersburg, Russia, and is composed of professional singers

performing in different churches of St. Petersburg. They perform music of the great Russian Orthodox tradition and Russian folk songs as a way of sharing their culture and heritage. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and are free for students.

JOB FOUNDATION ANNUAL AFFIRMATION EVENT

Thursday, April 25th from 5 to 7pm (Waterloo Center for the Arts)

Come to The Job Foundation Annual Affirmation Event to celebrate student accomplishments, volunteers, and supporters. RSVP on their website (<https://thejobfoundation.org>) by 4/19 for this event. (No Cost)

SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS AND OUR LOCAL THEATER

We are excited to announce that four of our members (Natalie Lindaman, starring as Junie B. Jones, Kari Lindaman, Emily Lindaman and John Mardis) will be performing in the upcoming play, *Junie B. Jones is NOT a Crook* at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. (225 Commercial St. W'loo)

The show runs APRIL 26, 27 & MAY 3, 4. People can come early opening night, April 26 for FREE food. They are serving mac and cheese, chicken nuggets, lunch lady brownies, milk cartons and water.

Tickets are available online at www.wcpbhct.org or by calling 319-291-4494.



What a horrible day for Junie B.! She is sure that someone stole her brand new mittens– whoever took her mittens needs to return them immediately. This hilarious and heartfelt story is based on the shenanigans of the incomparable Junie B. Jones created by Barbara Park.

First Congregational UCC
 608 WEST FOURTH STREET
 WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

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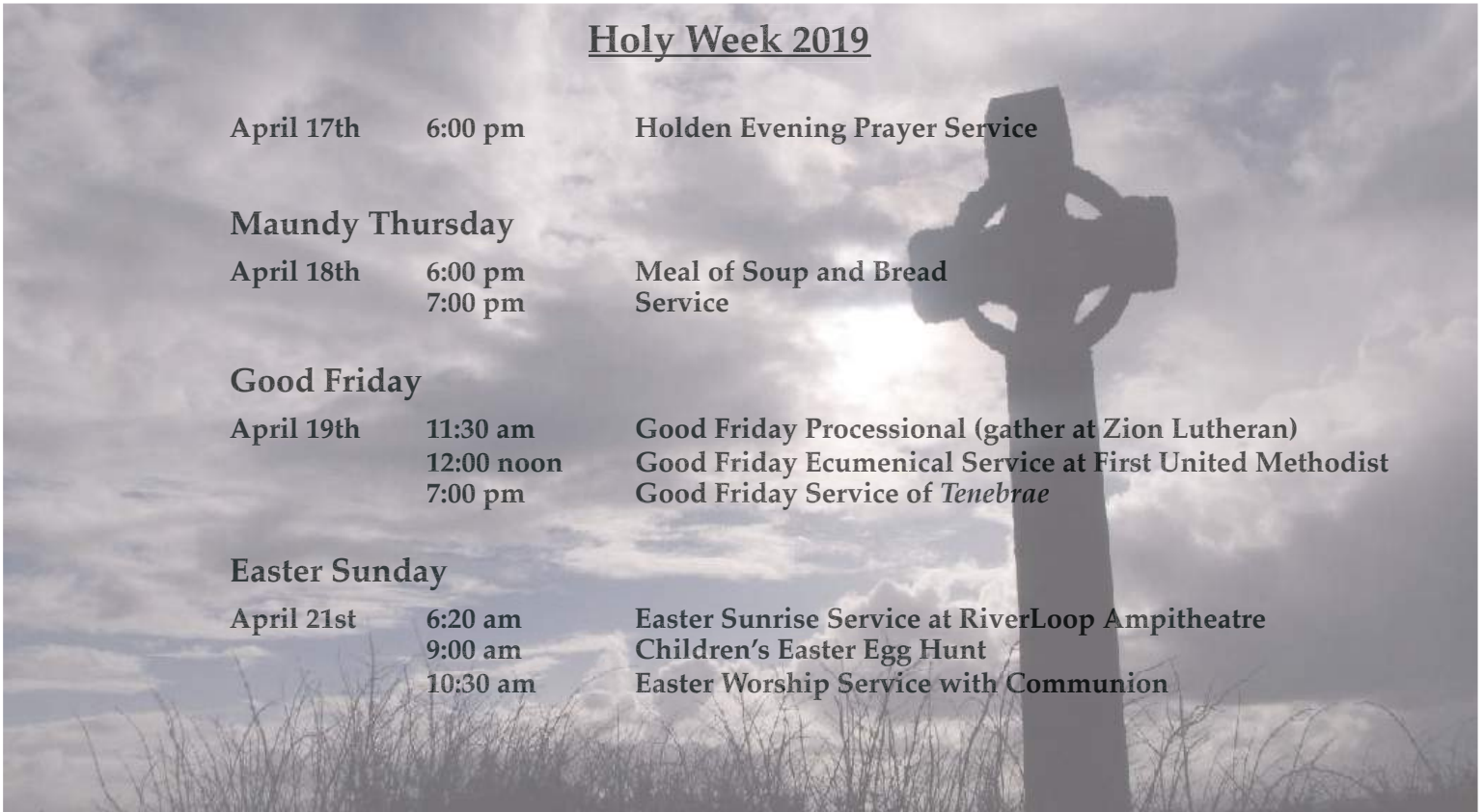
Place
 Stamp
 Here

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

Holy Week 2019

April 17th	6:00 pm	Holden Evening Prayer Service
Maundy Thursday		
April 18th	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Meal of Soup and Bread Service
Good Friday		
April 19th	11:30 am 12:00 noon 7:00 pm	Good Friday Processional (gather at Zion Lutheran) Good Friday Ecumenical Service at First United Methodist Good Friday Service of <i>Tenebrae</i>
Easter Sunday		
April 21st	6:20 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Easter Sunrise Service at RiverLoop Ampitheatre Children's Easter Egg Hunt Easter Worship Service with Communion



Thank you

To All My Friends and Family in the United Church of Christ,



Greetings to you all in this Lenten season. May the love of Christ build within you a resilience and hope sufficient to meet the challenges of our day.

I write to thank you for your support for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing Special Mission Offering. Through this Offering, the United Church of Christ engages in sustainable development, refugee, and disaster ministries within the United States and around the world.

As many of you know, in times of disaster, those funds help the United Church of Christ stay active in assuring that recovery systems are strong. We are flexible and fill gaps in service in order to accompany the most vulnerable people. We enable our churches and individuals to practice preparedness, and to sustain long term recovery strategies long after the news cycle on the disaster ends.

In recent days, we have witnessed excessive damage from typhoons in Southern Africa and massive flooding across the Midwest. Mission partners in Zimbabwe and Mozambique were affected by these disasters, as were many of our church communities across the Midwest. In addition to your ongoing financial support for One Great Hour of Sharing, I call for prayers for our partners in southern Africa and our church families across the Midwest. They are all uplifted by your contributions and your prayers.

I give God thanks for the outpouring of generosity. As we approach the season of Easter, a season in which the rising of Christ instills within us all the hope of redemption and new life, I find myself filled with gratitude for the ways in which your gifts sustain our ministry. Through your contributions and prayers, we are helping to restore hope through building and rebuilding communities of resilience. Thank you all, and may the spirit of the living God and the risen Christ abide with you through the living of your Days.

Humbly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Dorhauer".

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ



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!