

# Congregational Tidings



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

A weekly newsletter



April 22, 2020

## Help us grow...

### Remote Pledge Payments

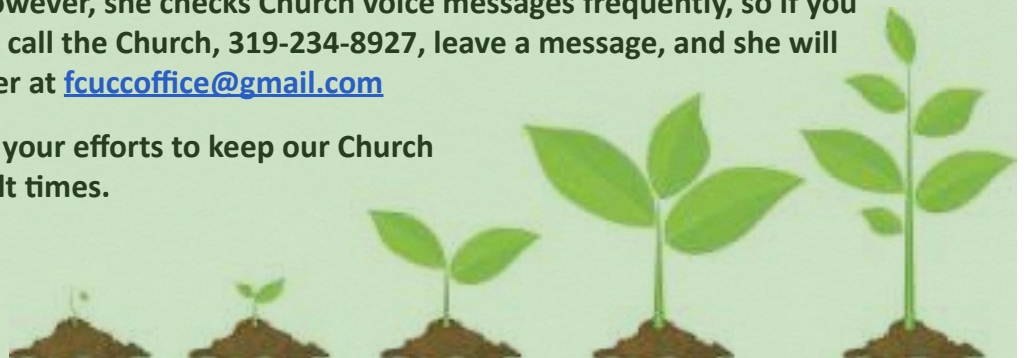
As I said in my recent Quarterly Treasurer's Report, it is important that we all keep our pledge payments up to date while we join in faith remotely, because our Church expenses are continuing as normal. Many of you have sent your checks to the Church via the postal service, which is fine, but that is not the only way to make your pledge payments. Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow. Two ways to make your pledge payments remotely are:

1. If you are set up to do **Bill Pay with online banking** at your financial institution you can make individual payments to the Church, or you can set up a recurring automatic payment for weekly, biweekly, or monthly. Each bank's website will be slightly different, but here is how the basic process works:
  - a. Log on to your bank's website and click on the link for the "Bill Pay" feature.
  - b. Add the church as a Payee.
  - c. Set up a Recurring Payment to be sent to the church on a scheduled basis (weekly, monthly, etc.). You can also send a one-time gift (e.g., for a special annual offering).
  - d. Each time you make a gift (either one-time or recurring), the bank will mail a check to the church. This check will be deposited into the church's bank account just like a regular, hand-written check.
  
2. You can make your payments through PayPal by going to our Church website home page and clicking on the yellow "Donate" button in the top left corner of the page - <http://www.firstcongucc.org/index.html>  
*You do not need a PayPal account to use this option.*

Any three of these ways to make your payments will work. Remember that the Church office is closed, so please don't plan to drop off your check in person. While Michelle would love to see your face and chat for a while, she is working from home. However, she checks Church voice messages frequently, so if you have questions on any of this, please call the Church, 319-234-8927, leave a message, and she will get back to you. Or you can email her at [fcuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcuccoffice@gmail.com)

Thank you for your past support and your efforts to keep our Church finances in order during these difficult times.

*Dave Allbaugh*  
Treasurer



# EASTERTIDE 2020

## Worship Calendar:

In the Christian calendar Easter is not just one day but a season of 50 days until Pentecost. Whether we meet virtually or at 608 West 4th, FCUCC is committed to celebrating Resurrection together. Here is a Sunday worship calendar for the next two months:

\***April 26:** Third Sunday of Easter

\***May 3:** Music Sunday

\***May 10:** Fifth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day

\***May 17:** Youth Sunday

\***May 24:** Pick a Text Sunday Winner

\***May 31:** Pentecost Sunday & Pastor Scott's Last Sunday



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### Sunday Morning Book Conversation

Meeting on Zoom at 9:30 am

Join us this Sunday at 9:30am for a Book Conversation. The current book is *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor and is available wherever books are sold. Don't worry about jumping in the middle of the book, or not having a copy, we will welcome you. Part of our time we check in with each other to see how we're doing. Contact Evie Waack at [evie.waack@gmail.com](mailto:evie.waack@gmail.com) or 277-0163 if you have any questions or are interested in joining us.

### Sunday Worship - April 26, 2020

Sermon: *Being Noticed*

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

### Announcing Coffee and Cookies Time!

Join us this Sunday following the Worship Service from 11:30-12:30 for Coffee and Cookies Time via Zoom! This is another time to connect with your church family. We look forward to seeing you there!







# Read a Good Book Lately??

Have you read a good book lately that touched you in a special way? Or made you laugh out loud? Or gave you one of those "aha" moments? Or was maybe just a good distraction that took you somewhere wonderful? ... Well, have you?

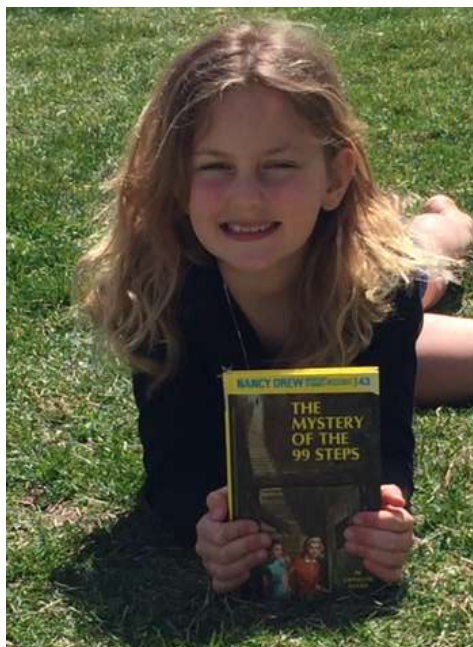
If so, we want to know about it! Many of us have a little extra time to read a good book, or two, or so. So, let us know about that good book (without spoiling the ending, of course) and what you liked about it ... how it tickled your funny bone or how it spoke to you. Write a "book report" of 250 words or less and send it in the mail or email ([fcuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcuccoffice@gmail.com)) to the church office. We'll get it in Tidings so everyone knows where to find a good book. **Whether you're 6 or 96 we would like to know about your good reads.**

## *First Book Reviews:*

Instead of reviewing one book, I want to introduce a series. If you have not already discovered the Flavia de Luce books by Alan Bradley, you should! They take place on a tumbling-down family estate in rural England in the early 1950's: WWII is a fresh memory. Flavia, our heroine, is 11 years old; she has two teenage sisters who torment her. Her mother died in a mountain climbing accident when she was just a year old; her father is focused only on his stamp collection. Flavia is being raised by the two remaining family servants who run the household. Armed with her wit, the chemistry lab she inherited from an uncle, and her trusty bicycle (Gladys), Flavia is able to solve many crimes. As she explains in the first novel (paraphrased) "I can ask questions and do things that others can't because I'm a child and so no one pays any attention to me." Start with The Sweetness in the Bottom of the Pie. (I love the audio books because I like the accents; John reads the print versions.)



~ Barb Mardis



During their time at home the Spence girls have caught up on their reading.

Miriam recommends the Nancy Drew series and Leah is a big fan of Harry Potter.





If you do not have a computer or internet access to receive the most updated information about our church activities and watch our sermons online, please contact Michelle in the office so that we can send you a printed version of announcements, Sunday Bulletin or the sermon for you to enjoy.



**Do you know how long it's been since we did a First Church Cookbook? Too long!!** We think it's time to put together a new, updated cook book. Do you have time to try out and tune up your favorite recipe? Well, let's get going! It can be a marvelous main dish ... or a delectable dessert ... or a scrumptious salad ... or something that's simply quick to put together in a very busy world. So, write down the recipe, or better yet, just scan the coffee-stained, yellowed back of the envelope where you originally jotted it down and send it in

to the church office by US Mail or email ([fcuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcuccoffice@gmail.com)). **But wait, there's more ...** Also include a paragraph as to why this recipe is special to you. Most favorite recipes have a story. What's yours? Did you used to make it with your grandmother? Was it a Christmas dinner favorite? We need to include that in the cook book, too. Recipes with stories ... not just your everyday cookbook! **Get yours in today!!**



**Due to COVID-19 health concerns, the Church Office and Building continues to be closed. You can reach the staff during this time via the following:**

**Pastor Scott:** (919) 265-8902 or [scott@firstcongucc.org](mailto:scott@firstcongucc.org)

**Youth Director Katie:** [katie@firstcongucc.org](mailto:katie@firstcongucc.org)

**Music Director Luke:** [luke@firstcongucc.org](mailto:luke@firstcongucc.org)

**Organist Hudson:** [organist@firstcongucc.org](mailto:organist@firstcongucc.org)

**Office Manager Michelle:** [fcuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcuccoffice@gmail.com)

**Custodian Kyle:** [k.lindaman79@gmail.com](mailto:k.lindaman79@gmail.com)

**Questions?**

Call 319-234-8927 or email us at [fcuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcuccoffice@gmail.com)

*(Messages will be checked periodically)*

***Here are ways you can stay in touch:***

\*Check your personal email for regular updates from Church Staff.  
Not signed up to the church email? Please contact our office manager, Michelle.

\*Facebook: First Congregational UCC Waterloo, Iowa  
(@FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

\*The FCUCC website: [www.firstcongucc.org](http://www.firstcongucc.org)

\*Our new Youtube Channel: FCUCC Waterloo

\*Wednesday Night Prayer Service via FB Live 7:00pm

\*Community Coffee Talk via Zoom 3-5 Fridays

\*Coffee and Cookies Time via Zoom 11:30-12:30 Sundays

\*And of course by reading *The Tidings!*

# Commentary: How do we Live in an Easter World When it Still Feels Like Lent?

April 09, 2020

Written by **Katie Adams**



How do we live in an Easter world when it still feels like Lent?

I'm writing this at the start of Holy Week, but it will be published online on Maundy Thursday and then circulated next week after Easter Sunday. And what a different Easter it will be: our alleluias tempered by news of deaths and disaster, the liturgical calendar stubbornly refusing to mirror the Lent we still find ourselves in.

I didn't grow up with Lent. In my non-denominational church, we went right from Christmas to Easter, from a long celebration of the Christ Child to the celebration of the Risen Christ. I'm grateful now for the Lenten time in the desert and the idea of meditating on mortality. Never more so has hearing "You are dust and to dust you shall return" rung true than in the midst of a pandemic, but I am struggling now with the upcoming "Hallelujah he is risen!" of Easter.

More now than ever, it feels, the cracks in our society are showing themselves to be gapping chasms, brought into sharp relief by a global tragedy. They remind us that for many in our world the deep struggle of daily existence has always been there. In the U.S., about sixteen million children face hunger every year—one in five kids. There is no paid sick leave for millions of American workers, forcing them to choose between recovery or job loss – and that's their normal. Because healthcare is seen as a commodity and not a right, there are many millions who've never had access to preventative care, pandemic or not, leading to the healthcare crisis we find ourselves in. Food insecurity, employment, and healthcare access are ingrained with the systemic racism that is so pervasive in the U.S., and the flames of white nationalism are further fanned by a white supremacist President.

As Christians we are called to speak into those struggles, to speak of a world where each person's dignity and value is upheld, cherished, and treasured. We must grasp onto the prophetic promise of restoration – and that's what Easter is.

Risen he is. And risen is our faith. So I suppose the alleluias of Easter Sunday, even while we're in the deep sadness and isolation, those alleluias speak to the promise of the Gospel. Not knowing what the future looks like, or even when you can venture into the world again, is a deeply unsettling unknown. But we can anchor ourselves in knowing what we are called to do, no matter what, as Micah 6:8 (NIV) tells us: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

**Katie Adams is Policy Advocate for Domestic Issues for the United Church of Christ.**



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.*

C O N G R E G A T I O N A L



## ATTENTION SEWERS...

Lack of proper safety equipment is a grave concern for all. Volunteer sewers are needed to make masks for MercyOne. These masks would supplement the supply of N95 masks that the hospitals have on hand. Dave and Shelli Panicucci are happy to pick these up from the volunteer's house and deliver. Their daughter and son are among the many brave health care workers providing care to COVID-19 patients.

Just contact Shelli if you are able to help - [s.panicucci325@gmail.com](mailto:s.panicucci325@gmail.com). Thank you in advance!

Here is a link for instructions for the MercyOne masks -

<https://www.mercyone.org/northeastiowa/about-us/news-releases/help-sew-masks-for-mercyone?fbclid=IwAR2uZYHID03L8YEG7HjHb9MTbfWJ4yQCkHJQxtFBWpoo1PmUksPbpvdzapA>