

Congregational Tidings

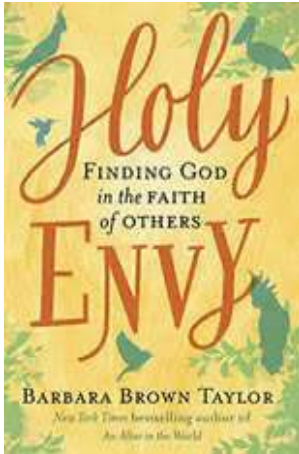


*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

A weekly newsletter



April 29, 2020



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 or 277-0163 if you have any questions or are interested in joining us.

Sunday Worship - May 3, 2020



This Sunday is Music Sunday. Our virtual worship will include musical gifts from our Organist Hudson Lourenço, Section Leaders, and church members. Feel free to invite a friend or family member. All Are Welcome!

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!



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:



- ***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



Help us grow... **Remote Pledge Payments Update**

To follow up on my message last week, when you set up our Church in your Bill Pay section of online banking, you will need to enter our address; First Congregational United Church of Christ, 608 West Fourth St., Waterloo, IA, 50702. If you enter it as an individual that should be all you need. If you enter it as a business, your bank may ask for an account number. You don't have an account number at the Church, so enter your name, for me DAllbaugh. Let me know if you have questions; drall8@mchsi.com And be safe.

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 (You may have to include the information from my first paragraph above).
- 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.

You can still mail your check to the church or 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.

Remember that the Church office is closed but Michelle does check 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

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

Dave Allbaugh
Treasurer





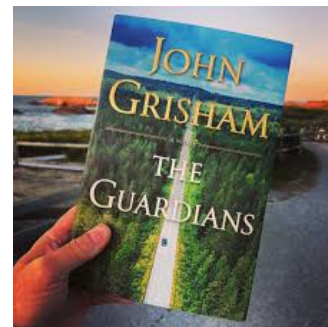
Read a Good Book Lately??

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) 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.**

Book Review: *"I recently finished reading a novel by John Grisham called "The Guardians." It is a detailed and fascinating tale about a disgruntled lawyer who is called by God to a new ministry. This book details a social and legal issue that should be in all of our prayers. I love this author. Shortest book report ever!"*

~ Craig Driver



COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 health concerns, the Church Office and Building is closed. You can keep in touch with the church staff during this time:

Questions?

Call 319-234-8927 or email us at
fcuccoffice@gmail.com

(Messages will be checked periodically)

Pastor Scott: (919) 265-8902 or scott@firstcongucc.org

Youth Director Katie: katie@firstcongucc.org

Music Director Luke: luke@firstcongucc.org

Organist Hudson: organist@firstcongucc.org

Office Manager Michelle: fcuccoffice@gmail.com

Custodian Kyle: k.lindaman79@gmail.com

Here are ways you can stay in touch:

*Check for updates from Church Staff via email.

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

*The FCUCC website: www.firstcongucc.org

*Our Youtube Channel: FCUCC Waterloo

*And of course by reading The Tidings!

** Weekly Events **

Wed., April 29

7:00 pm - Prayer Service via Facebook Live

Fri., May 1

3-5pm - Community Coffee Hour via Zoom

Sun., May 3

10:30 am - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Join us via our Facebook page and Youtube channel.

11:30 - 12:30 - Coffee and Cookies Time via Zoom

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays

1 Lynne Zellhoefer	12 Josh Backens
2 Roger Lane	15 Jan Bernhard
4 Ed Dams	Marie Kelch
Molly Bishop	Hildegard Larsen
Sam Koch	16 Jodi Casteel
6 Allison Blankenfeld	17 Sharon Holdiman
7 Nancy Heinick	20 Jeanne Allbaugh
8 Dave Panicucci	Duane Franke
Marty Zellhoefer	Jesse Buck
10 Elcina Buck	23 Becky Martens
Bonnie Rickert	24 Dorothy Brecunier
	Austin Naber


25 Dorothy Baker
Lorraine Heinick
Jayden Zellhoefer
26 Nathan Leary
Helen Swisher
Bob Hurley
27 Lauren Reisinger
Kyle Lindaman
28 Brandon Casteel
Eric Ellison
31 Henry Ensworth

May Anniversaries

4 Todd & Becky Ellison
11 David & Marian Greene
26 Brandon & Regan Casteel
27 Josh & Charlotte (Driver) Backens



Please keep the family and friends of Allison Anderson in your prayers. Allison is Lois Johnson's granddaughter. She passed away unexpectedly Monday night. If you would like to share condolences Lois can be reached at 319-233-7123 or at 536 Helmet Avenue, Waterloo, IA 50703.



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 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). **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!!**

We are with you



April 28, 2020

A Letter to Our Churches from the Officers of the United Church of Christ

Dear Friends in Christ,

We send this with the magnitude of our emotions written large on the surfaces of our hearts, minds, bodies, and spirits. We feel deep pain, loss, and anguish on our collective behalf for all that we have experienced in the last two months. Worship in our sanctuaries has come to a sudden halt. Jobs and incomes have been threatened, if not lost. Loved ones have suffered or died from a hidden enemy for which there is no current remedy.

Our sheltering in place is exhausting. For many of us the loss of human contact, the drudgery of unchanging surroundings, our inability to frequent places that brought joy to our lives, and the call to adapt overnight to overwhelming change are taking a toll.

We are also witnesses in this time to heart-warming acts of human kindness and solidarity that speak to the angels among us. We are not only making great sacrifices, we are doing so in a collective effort to protect and care for the most vulnerable among us. The courage, stamina, endurance, compassion and empathy being practiced among us remind us that we do not grieve as those who have no hope. The power of a faith enriched by Easter joy and resurrection hope is not diminished by anything. Neither death nor life, not angels or demons, not power and principalities, not height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).

Seeing the church in and through this time fills us with a lingering hope in humanity, in the Body of Christ, and in the promises of a God whose only begotten child came that we might have life, and have it to the full.

In short order, states and municipalities are going to begin relaxing their shelter in place orders. We also write to strongly encourage you to give deep thought and prayer to how, if, when, and under what circumstances you will return to worship and other gatherings.

There will be a great temptation to rush back into our sanctuaries, celebrate victory over this corrosive and deadly virus, and return to life as we knew it.

Please think long and hard about that. There is no going back to life as we knew it. For a while at least, even what seems like a safe gathering may present a threat to the life of someone we love and care deeply about. Something substantial will emerge on the other side of this that we did not recognize before it started. Some of that we will accompany with our grief; and some of it we will receive as a gift from the God who is always about to do something new.

Please pay close attention to anything coming from your Conference offices about when you should return. Your Conference staff is keeping close watch on this and should be consulted before you make any decisions. If you want an example of a comprehensive look at what should be fully considered before making that decision, [check out this resource distributed by the Wisconsin Council of Churches](#) – it is the best we have seen to date.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers. All of us in this denomination are working, as one, to find our way through this. You are not alone. We love you all. We are seeing and feeling deeply your pain and suffering; as well as your heroic efforts to find meaning and healing in the midst of it. All of our own efforts are now being expended to help us find our pathway through this – a pathway we share in partnership with each other, and with the Holy Spirit of the living God and the risen Christ.

May the power of the love that created us, the love that redeemed us from the grave, and the power of the Holy Spirit rest upon you wherever you are on this journey. Lift up your eyes to the hills, from whence comes our help. The Creator of us all keeps watch. "All shall be well, and all shall be well; and all manner of thing shall be well." (Julian of Norwich).

Sincerely,

John. C. Dorhauer
Traci Blackmon
Karen Georgia Thompson

(Executive officers of the UCC)

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. 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>

Also, we want to ensure that all of our church members are taken care of as well as the hospitals. If you are unable to make or find a mask, please let Michelle in the office know and we will help find one for you.