

Congregational Tidings

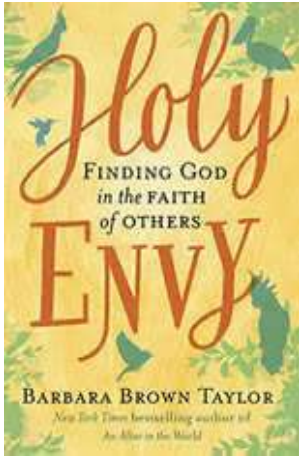


*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

A weekly newsletter



May 6, 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 10, 2020

Please join us on Facebook or our Youtube channel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Service. 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!



Letter from the Pastor

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

Dear FCUCC Community,

I am sitting on my back porch in early May. Spring is in full bloom and the air is filled with the songs of birds and lawn mowers. And yet things are different. Balanced with the beauty of God's creation is personal exhaustion as so many of try to balance work, school, and social distancing. We are living in the Time of COVID-19.

We are in our third month of this unthinkable time- so appropriately enough I have been thinking about Julian of Norwich as of late. Julian of Norwich, while not a canonized Saint in the Roman Catholic tradition, is known as a Holy Person. She lived as an anchoress, choosing to live in solitude in the cell of an abbey. She was allowed a cat (to keep the rat population at bay) with whom she formed a personal and spiritual bond. She lived during a time when 25% of the population around her died of the Black Plague, and she herself became quite ill at the age of 30.



She was so ill that people feared that she was dying, and Extreme Unction (Last Rites) was administered to her so that her soul would be sanctified and enter Heaven. While she was gravely ill, she received a series of 16 visions from Christ, during one of which Christ tells her this phrase that people have remembered for centuries since, "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

Julian of Norwich recovered from her illness and her journals and manuscripts have been studied ever since by scholars, theologians, clergy and laity. **For me, the words of Blessed Julian are words of hope for these times.** I am reminded that people before us have gone through times such as this (worse than this, even). Life finds a way. It may not be easy and we will surely be grieving lives, milestones, relationships and our usual way of life.

But I am confident that by the end of this but we will find a way forward.

Somehow, someday, all will be well. God assures us of this. Here, where the rubber hits the road, we find faith in the midst of doubt and hope in the midst of sorrow.

Until then and in spite of all of this, I miss you and continue to pray for each of you. God bless, stay safe, check in on your neighbors, and wash your hands!

Be blessed and be well,

Pastor Scott



Childcare Provider Appreciation Day Friday, May 8th

Please recognize all childcare providers who provide nurturing early learning environments for young children. They are truly an essential workforce! We especially want to express appreciation for all the staff of Grin and Grow, located in our church building. Families count on the care they provide every day.



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Greetings Congregation,

I am writing you as the chair of the newly formed Search and Call committee and would like to give you an update as to what is happening with the search process. First, I would like to introduce the other members of the committee: Abbey Athey, Craig Driver, Cliff Highnam, Sue Hummel, Zoe Lennox, Meach Meacham, Peter Steva, Kay Thuesen, and Paul Greene (moderator-ex-officio). I am delighted to be working with such a great team and know we will be much better acquainted after this whole process!

We have met weekly for the past month, using Zoom to conference by web rather than in person. Our UCC conference support person, Samantha Houser, has met with us and will be a great resource for us as we proceed through this process.

Since the process for finding a “settled” pastor is one that typically takes 10-18 months, we are exploring our options for an interim pastor, someone who will serve the congregation by preaching and providing pastoral care until a full time pastor is called. We are fortunate that Gina Greene, deacon chair, has been scheduling supply pastors for the summer, so that gives us a little time as we seek an appropriate interim.

Please pray for us in the process of searching and calling both an interim and settled pastor. We know God is still speaking as we seek God’s wisdom and guidance in this most important process in the life of our congregation.

Anne Hoekstra



Donna Koweil Scholarship Opportunity

The Scholarship Committee is excited to announce that FCUCC has been given a tuition grant again this year from the Donna Koweil Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is awarded to current college students who are members of FCUCC and have successfully completed at least one year of schooling.

Deadline to submit an application is May 31, 2020.

If interested, please contact Michelle in the office (fcuccoffice@gmail.com) for an application and cover letter which explains the scholarship in more detail.

~ Marcia Johnson & Connie Jo Peirce

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.**



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). **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!!**

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., May 6 and 13

7:00 pm - Prayer Service via our Facebook page

Fri., May 8 and 15

3-5pm - Community Coffee Hour via Zoom

Sun., May 10

Sermon: *To Whom Do We Belong?*

Scripture Reading: Acts 18:1-4,

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Join us via our Facebook page and Youtube channel.

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:

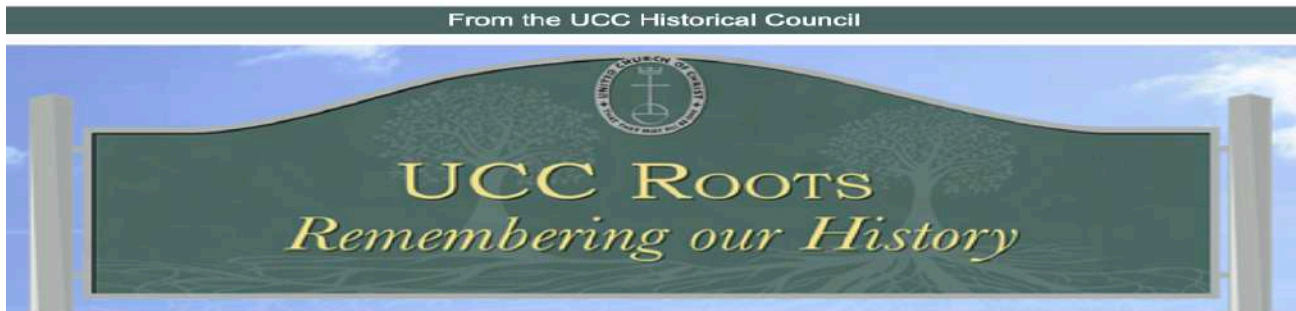


***May 10:** Fifth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day

***May 17:** Youth Sunday

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

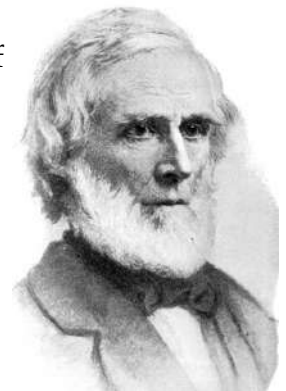
***May 31:** Pentecost Sunday & Pastor Scott's Last Sunday



"He Focused on Christian Nurture"

Most New England Congregationalists in the 1800s were "Calvinists" —followers of the Reformation scholar John Calvin, who insisted that the power of God and God's grace, rather than human action, "predestined" human salvation. However, by the early 19th century American Protestant views of God began to change.

Born in Bantam Connecticut, Horace Bushnell (1802- 1876) played a key role in cultivating more flexible religious beliefs and practices. He studied law at Yale, and then theology. After a stint of newspapering, in 1833 he was called and ordained to serve as pastor at North Church in Hartford, Connecticut. He served there until 1859. He embodied the idea of a minister active in the community, establishing the nation's first public park in Hartford.



Bushnell was a controversial thinker. He challenged classic views of theology. He considered Calvinism rigid and was troubled by the extreme individualism and emotionalism of revivalism. He also questioned the limitations of language in describing God and God's creation. Yet he remained grounded in Christianity, attesting to the divinity of Christ, but insisting that the influences of "Christian family life" should shape Christian knowledge.

In 1861 Bushnell published a classic book entitled *Christian Nurture*. He asserted that the true way to prepare a child to become Christian was to make sure "that the child would grow up a Christian, . . . never knowing himself/herself as being otherwise." Dramatic conversions and salvation promises were not needed. Today, 150 years later, Bushnell's book is still in print. It is used in Christian education programs in churches all over the world.

Although some Congregationalists were troubled by Bushnell's theology, Horace Bushnell enabled Protestant religious leaders to reshape theology, transform evangelism and expand Christian education in new ways.

Contributor: Stephen R. Silver

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



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, 2020.