

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

May 9, 2018

**Seventh Sunday
of Easter
May 13, 2018
10:30 am**

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

Music
"They never stop singing"
"A new song"

Using the text:
Psalm 98

Worship Leader
Ben Owen

Children's Lesson
Paul Greene

Special Music
Song of the Cherubim
Toccata of Praise
Chancel Choir

Praise to the Lord
Touch of Brass

Deacon-In-Charge
Nancy Mahood

Acolytes
Bob & Pat Brock

Greeters
Erin, Josh & Ada Medhus
(Sanctuary)

Jayne Slaughter,
Eva & Demi
(Crossroads)

YOUTH SUNDAY WAS FANTASTIC!

Don't we have such a great group of young people? Thank you to our youth for participating and leading the service last Sunday (Pictures will be in an upcoming Tidings)!

Thank You!



Thank you to all who have helped teach a Sunday School Class or provide childcare during our Sunday Worship services this school year! This coming Sunday is the last Sunday School Classes before we break for the Summer.

Welcome Katelynn!

Katelynn Barfels is our new childcare worker during Sunday mornings worship. Please give her a warm welcome.



Grass is greening. Hyacinths are blooming. Farmers are out in the fields. Maple trees are not yet leafed out, but their red buds are swelling. Spring is here.

Finally.

I don't remember an April like this during my time in Iowa. More snow in April than the rest of winter combined. Snow on April 18!

So, does the delayed spring make its coming all the sweeter? Or are you

still grumbling about the lousy April? Or are you one who is already dreading the dogs days of summer, just around the corner?

But whatever you think and however you feel, that doesn't change the reality. Today, spring is here. And it is beautiful. So you may as well enjoy it! Forget April. Forget August. It's May!

Sometimes our capacity for seeing the big picture, for interpreting every moment of our lives in the broad context of past and future -- our particular past and our anticipated future -- inhibits our ability to appreciate the present. We carry burdens with us from the past, burdens of disappointment or bitterness or hurt or guilt, or even "burdens" of joy, of success, of moments of exhilaration and great satisfaction, all of which -- bad or good -- divert our attention from unique delights of this one moment.

Or we worry. Or we plan and dream and anticipate and miss what is happening today because we are so preoccupied with what may (or may not) happen tomorrow.

I am writing this to remind myself to enjoy today. Because my mind and heart are vey much taken up right now with both future and past. The closer July 1 comes, the more I am pulled backwards and forwards by a complex of emotions.

I am remembering, reminiscing, reliving so many of the experiences of the last twenty-four years. It is good, satisfying, gratifying to remember, but memory also brings grief, grief for those I have already lost, for those I already miss, but grief too for all I will be losing and all those I will miss.

And, of course, I am excited, too, excited about the new adventure of retirement, of having time to hike and paddle and fish and build and write and read and garden and photograph and explore. I am excited about having time! But I worry, too (of course, I worry!) about how it will work, about what I will do or about what I may not be able to do.

But it's May! Spring is here. And it is beautiful. And you and I have Sundays -- beautiful Sundays! -- still to enjoy together. We have a past, a past together we will treasure. And we have a future, you have a future, to be excited about: new adventures, new opportunities, new relationships, new directions, new experiences of the love and faithfulness and goodness of God.

But we have now this moment, these moments, to enjoy. Enjoy the spring! Enjoy this day! See you Sunday ...

Tim

May 13, 2018

Last 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

Thurs., May 10

Meals on Wheels

Sat., May 12

9:00 am - Women's Breakfast at Perkins

Sun., May 13

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship Service (Baptism)

Tues., May 15

7:30 am - Men's Breakfast at Village Inn

Wed., May 16

No Music Practices (Will resume in the fall)

Condolences:

Bobbi McGuire died last Wednesday, May 2nd. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, May 9th at 3:00 pm here at First Congregational.

Our condolences to her daughter, Kate and family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Church Picnic June 3, 2018

The annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, June 3rd. Please save the date! We always enjoy a wonderful day of worship and fellowship!

Summer Guest Articles

I am looking for anyone who would be interested in doing a guest article for Tidings during the summer months of June, July, and August. Any church member is welcome to write something. If you would be interested, please contact Michelle at the church office.

Graduations

It's that time of year again! Now is the time to let the church office know if you have someone graduating from high school or college. Please submit their names to the church office for publication in Tidings at a later date. Include future plans they may have in mind such as colleges they will be attending.



Vacation Bible School June 17 - 21, 2018

We are partnering with First Methodist who will be hosting the VBS.

If you are interested in volunteering or helping out this year, please contact Hannah at hannah@firstcongucc.org.

The theme this year is Rolling River Rampage - "Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!"

Donations Needed

The Community Partnership for Protecting Children supplies for "Essential Baskets" are low. These are available for those in need and are items that cannot be purchased with Food Stamps.

If you can provide any of the following please bring to church and we will see that they get delivered. Thank you.

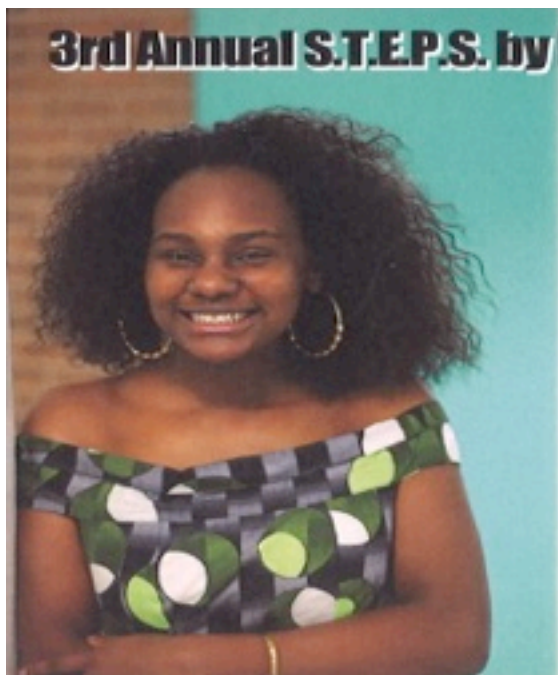
ITEMS NEEDED:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Laundry Soap
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Dish Soap
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Garbage Bags
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Body Wash/Bar Soap
- Laundry Baskets

Pastoral Care

One of the most important functions of ministry is providing care and support in times of need, in times of illness or grief or personal crisis. Please contact the church office or contact me directly if you would like pastoral care, for yourself or for a friend or family member. Because of HIPAA regulations, churches are no longer contacted when their members are in the hospital. I want to be there! But I will only know if a member is hospitalized or has another special concern if I am notified.

Tim



3rd Annual S.T.E.P.S. by Kei-Che showcase

Spring 2018 YOUTH PROGRAM

We are showcasing American Sign Language through Hip-Hop music.

Our mission is to bridge the gap between the deaf and hearing communities.

(2) Scholarships will be presented.

When: June 1st, 6-8pm
Cedar Falls Woman's Club
304 Clay St.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Cost: \$5 person

Funds will be used for scholarships for the youth.

For More Info: 319-429-9504

First Congregational UCC
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WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

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Return Service Requested

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

Save the Date!! June 3, 2018 ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

LOOKOUT PARK - Park Drive and Mandalay Drive, Cedar Falls

MAIN DISH
AND DRINKS PROVIDED

PLEASE BRING SIDE-DISH AND PLACE SETTING



SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

LUNCH AT NOON

