

Congregational Tidings

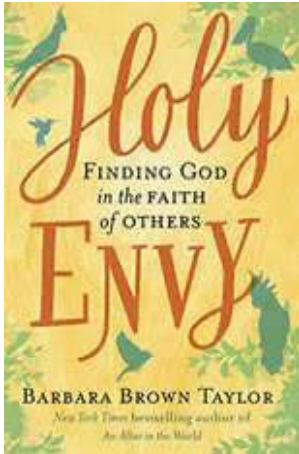


*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

A weekly newsletter



May 13, 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.

Youth Sunday - May 17, 2020

Please join us on Facebook or our Youtube channel for our Youth Sunday 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!



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 last three weeks:



- *May 17: Youth Sunday
- *May 24: Pick a Text Sunday Winner
- *May 31: Pentecost Sunday & Pastor Scott's Last Sunday



Christian sympathy is shared with the family and friends of Rev. Bob Bromley. Rev. Bromley served as an Interim Minister at FCUCC Waterloo in the 1990s. He died on Saturday, May 2nd.

Thanks from the Treasurer



The April financial results are in and I want to thank all members for your commitment to keeping your pledge payments up to date. I was concerned that with our need to pay remotely, April receipts would lag previous years, but I should not have doubted you. When we compared last month's pledge payments to those of April 2019 and 2018, the results were very close to the same. Thank you! Your efforts are helping keep our Church financially sound during these challenging times.

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.**



Congratulations to...

Dave & Marian Greene who celebrated their **73rd Wedding Anniversary** on Monday, May 11th!! Wow!! What else can you say? Wow!! Thanks for sharing your life and marriage with your church family for so many years!

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 13 and 20

7:00 pm - Prayer Service via our Facebook page

Fri., May 15 and 22

3-5pm - Community Coffee Hour via Zoom

Sun., May 17

Sermon: *Not a Wedding Sermon*

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Women on the Frontlines of COVID-19

May 06, 2020

Written by Jessica Quinn



The coronavirus pandemic has thrown into sharp relief the existing divisions and privileges in our society. As we know, in any disaster or humanitarian emergency, the vulnerable are the ones who suffer the most.

The higher number of deaths for communities of color relative to their percentage of the population shows the racialized lack of access to healthcare and the greater underlying health conditions related to access to nutrition and lack of clean air. The CDC wasn't collecting data about race until April 17, 2020 so it may be some time before we truly understand the impact on communities of color.

We've seen how wealthy communities have had access to tests, while poor communities have had difficulties finding tests to distribute to those showing the symptoms. Access to testing has barely improved, and its ongoing lack of availability is a public health threat.

Yet another societal division is gender. Women are more likely to hold essential jobs, such as frontline healthcare workers, long-term care providers, and grocery workers. Women also hold many of the service sector jobs in places like restaurants and retail stores, which were among the first jobs lost. Women also tend to do more of the unpaid labor at home, such as caring for children or elderly parents and household chores. With childcare centers and schools closed and more people staying home, more of this burden is falling on women in addition to their normal work.

As more people are following lock-down or stay-at-home orders, reports of gender-based and domestic violence continue to rise. Countries around the world have seen sharp spikes in calls to domestic violence hotlines and in reports to police. With movement restrictions and loss of income, women become trapped with, or dependent on, their abusers. It's also probable that child marriage rates will rise due to education disruption, the family's economic stability, and/or the belief that their daughter's future will be more secure.

With a clampdown on non-essential medical procedures, access to reproductive healthcare has been restricted. Some pregnant women fear visits to health care facilities, and when they do visit, they find fewer doctors and medical supplies available. Pregnant women have been told by hospitals that their birth partners are unable to join them in delivery rooms causing additional pain and fear. Unplanned pregnancies are on the rise globally due to restricted access to contraception. In the US, six states deemed abortion procedures as non-essential and have closed clinics and barred doctors from performing them. Court battles have ensued and some of those states have been forced to allow clinics to reopen.

Globally, women and girls are the ones responsible for collecting water, buying food, or tending to shops to support their families, thereby putting themselves at risk for contracting the virus. For poor women, the choice is risking their health to buy food or fetch water or to starve.

We've known that women participate in a disproportionate share of the unseen labor around the world. This pandemic has brought that unseen labor to light. Women of color are even more impacted due to the racial disparities underlying our existing systems. This pandemic can be a moment of opportunity for us to change our systems to benefit everyone. When we increase paid family and sick leave, we help everyone, but particularly women. When we increase access to healthcare, we help everyone, but particularly women. When we raise the minimum wage, we help everyone, but particularly women. When we include women in decision-making spaces, we help everyone, but particularly women.

Let us advocate for greater inclusion of women in politics and for policies that lift up marginalized communities, including women.

Rebekah Choate is the Associate for Global Advocacy and Education for Global Ministries

First Congregational UCC
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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.