

# 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](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

June 27, 2018

## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 1, 2018

10:30 am

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

**Using the texts:**  
Psalm 16:5-6, Philippians 1:2-7

**Worship Leader**  
Paul Greene

**Children's Lesson**  
Greg Holt

**Special Music**  
*A Joyous Ring*  
A Touch of Brass

*Let Everything That Hath Breath*  
*Northern Lights*  
*Psalm 130*  
Chancel Choir

*Speak, O Lord*  
*Give Us a Song*  
Men's Quartet

*Tu es Petra*  
Miah Han

**Deacon-In-Charge**  
Gina Greene

**Acolytes**  
Rocky and Mary Kay Petersen

**Greeters**  
Cindy Thompson (Sanctuary)  
Jeff Thompson (Crossroads)

## So Is This Where It All Ends?!

Certainly not! Doing some quick math in my head, Tim stood in the pulpit for around 16,500 minutes sharing his thoughts on God, Jesus, Holy Scripture, and how they relate to us, our lives, and our world today. During some of those thousands of minutes we probably were fervently nodding in agreement and actually feeling pretty good about ourselves. But some of the many minutes we may have been a little more than uneasy, maybe even angry. And then there were those minutes during which we literally squirmed in discomfort. The words shared during those 16,500 minutes weren't meant to be heard, felt, and then discarded. The words weren't shared to simply evoke an emotion left hanging. The minutes we spent listening, and more importantly hearing, were an investment we made ... an investment of our time and thought. An investment hopefully resulting in our taking action and making changes for ourselves, for others, and for our world.

This Sunday we will hear the last words of encouragement Tim will deliver to us. We will make our last investment of time and thought hearing what he has to share. But that isn't the end, is it? When Tim drives away he's gone, yes. But only what is left of Tim is driving away. Much of Tim stays right here within each one of us and within our church family. That's the investment Tim has made in us. Every week he has given a little bit more of himself. Every sermon, every prayer, every funeral, every wedding, every confirmation, and every baptism he has given a piece of "Tim" for us to have and to use. Has he made a wise investment?

I believe he has! We are not the same people we were 24 years ago when Tim joined our church family. Whether we realize it or not, we've changed. We've learned. We're different. We make more of a difference. And we will continue to be the caring, welcoming church family we have grown to be. Sunday we take the time to thank Tim for investing himself in us. We honor and celebrate the role he has played in the history of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Waterloo, Iowa. And we celebrate his opportunity for enjoying retirement.

No, it's not the end. There is no end. That's probably the most important message of all. We will go on ... and Tim will go on ... in Maine and certainly here in our church family. Thanks, Tim!

First Congregational UCC  
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# Congregational Tidings

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F I R S T C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C

## Weekly Events

### Sun., July 1

10:30 am - Worship Service  
11:30 am - Tim Celebration

### Tues., July 3

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

## Want to help?

The Ensworths will be loading a rental moving truck this Friday, June 29. There is much to load at two locations and we could use some helping hands!

If you can help, please meet Tim at 9:00 am at Added Self-Storage, Unit J-8, at the corner of West 27th and Union Streets in Cedar Falls. Thanks!



*Tim,*

You are such a hard person to say goodbye to but we also are so excited for you to start your retirement! Unfortunately, you can't say goodbye to an alarm clock in the morning as we are sure that Toby will not let that happen. : )

Thank you for being a great boss, mentor, and friend. We hope that you enjoyed working with us as much as we have enjoyed working with you.

We wish you well!

*~ Your First Congregational UCC Staff*

## Nicaragua Shoe Boxes



In this, our 17th year, we need your help again. Shoeboxes for the kids and bags for the moms are available to pick up and fill or you can donate money and Connie Jo and Jayne Slaughter will do the shopping for you.

We started this project with two and now have over 5,000 helping us in eight states.

These aren't just gifts, these boxes keep kids in school and change their lives.