

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

July 11, 2018

**Eighth Sunday after
Pentecost
July 15, 2018
10:30 am**

**John Mardis will
present the message:
*Glue Gun Blessing***

Using the texts:
Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew
25:34-40

Children's Lesson
John Mardis

Special Music
Simple Gifts
Anne Hoekstra and Ben Owen
(piano duet)

Deacons-In-Charge
Henry and Lynette Doepke

Acolytes
Greg and Anne Hoekstra

Greeters
Bob and Beth Hurley
(Sanctuary)

Teri Graham
(Crossroads)

They Laugh

Waking up on the morning of November 9th 2016
Is this a dream? A nightmare destined to restore a racist reality
That filled our ears with the Roar of Charlottesville
"Unite the right" "Unite the White"
"Make America great again" make America hate again
Zero tolerance -Protect the Border- Build the wall- Ban Muslims
Law and Order- Driving cars into crowds

" But you laugh at them Lord- you scoff at all the nations"
On November 12th 2016 a female Jewish rabbi and a female Muslim Imam
Publicly shared their friendship at the Waterloo Library
And in this church, we were taught Shalom
We heard teachings of unity, teachings of love
We radically embraced the inclusion of the communion table.

In this church, we were taught to hail the Word of the Lord
The Word of love, the Word of Shalom
By a man who played the trumpet, who found the Lord in music
Who celebrated the postludes and shouted "Allelujah" when they came
to conclusion
He played and taught and preached and loved us dearly
He blessed our houses, moved our families, married our children, buried our
loved ones
He quietly studied.
He played with his dogs, who chased the wind.

He taught us to be in awe.
He taught us to laugh, "Stupid people are given positions of authority."
He married well, tears filled his eyes when he spoke of her
Tears filled his eyes when something moved him about Jesus.
He taught us to be in awe.

By: Meach Meacham
(Delivered at Tim's July 1st Celebration)

A Note from Tim Ensworth...

I write this note sitting on a wicker settee on my screen porch in Blue Hill, Maine. It is a beautiful sunny summer day, 67°, and Toby and Stoney are laying at my feet. Lynne is outside on the deck catching some rays.

Do I love being here? Absolutely!

Do I love being retired? If these first few days are any indication ... absolutely!

Do I love you? Absolutely! You are always in my heart ...

If my twenty-four years with you were the best years of my life, then my last Sunday with you was one of the best days of my life. My heart is full with the memories of that day, memories I will hold close for the rest of my life.

Worship -- from Paul's prayers to Greg's children's lesson about planting seeds to Miah's playing to joyful ringing from A Touch of Brass to wondrous music from the choir to singing one last time with the men's quartet to being privileged to speak to you again from my heart of the good news that fills all our hearts to sharing communion and celebrating our oneness in Christ -- it was all glorious, a fitting culmination to all the glorious and meaningful times in worship I have shared with you.

And the party! Oh, my! I am moved and honored and deeply grateful for the thought and time and energy and care that so many of you put into making this retirement celebration happen. The food was exquisite (walleye! mints! lemon cake!) and the program was well-planned and so much fun (prizes! ties! vacation weeks in Maine!)

The words of appreciation shared by Paul and Greg and Lauren and Anne and Cliff on your behalf have allowed me to retire with a glad heart, feeling that what I did among you, what we did together, did matter. And your gifts, your generous and most thoughtful gifts, mean so much: Craig Driver's poem (it will hang in my study!), Meach's poem (I want a copy!), your gift of money (I am using a portion to get a desk for my study!), the poster from the children adorned with candy bars (yes, they sustained us on the long drive from Iowa to Maine!), the children's song ("Peace Like a River"), the beautiful poster (with all my favorite things!), the gift certificate (gingko tree!), quilts for Lynne and for me (thank you, quilters!), fly rod (a fly rod! a Cliff Highnam special! oh, my!), and a memory book (which I will cherish as I read and re-read and remember). Thank you ...

You have our address in Maine -- 213 Stover Road, Blue Hill, Maine 04614. And many of you have already won a month with us! Do come. We would love to see you, to share with you our home and the wonders of the Maine coast, but mostly just to see you.

Be well. We miss you. I miss you. You are always in my heart.

Tim

P. S. I will be sending thank you's for your personal gifts soon. Remember, I'm retired now!

Condolences...

Our sympathy and prayers go to the family of long time church member Jeanette Argotsinger. A Celebration of Life service will be held for Jeannette at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 14th at the Friendship Village Cove Lounge. The Cove can be found through Door C at 3720 Village Place at Friendship Village. A committal service will be held at 3:30 pm on Friday, July 13th at Waterloo Cemetery. Jeannette will be greatly missed by her church family.

Condolences may be left at www.LockeFuneralHome.com.



To Our Pastor, Tim, Upon His Retirement

God called, and you answered. You came with wife, Lynne and your three children: Matt, Henry, and Louisa. You found a home that you loved on a picturesque pond in Cedar Falls, and you found a church to lead, First Congregational United Church of Christ, that loved you. It took some courage to leave what you have known and venture into the savage wilds of Iowa, but we are so glad that you did. You have accepted us as you found us and worked steadily to improve us.

Our church has a tradition of finding and keeping gifted ministers of God’s faith, and you met and exceeded our expectations. The most visible of a minister’s roles is leading worship services and “sermonizing”. You have excelled at this. Every worship service has been intelligent, inspirational, challenging, and motivating. Every Sunday’s sermon has been genuine and been delivered with enthusiasm and warmth.

A message delivered from the pulpit has little meaning if the receivers do not believe in the sincerity and devotion of the messenger. We know that you struggle to follow in Christ’s path like the rest of us. We know that you, like us, are striving to understand the mysteries of God and to follow Jesus to the best of your abilities. We know of your passion Tim Ensworth; we have no doubt of your sincerity.

But worship is only the visible part of a minister’s service. You also have cared for the flock. We all have our frailties and need ministering in various and unique ways. You have welcomed many new members into our church. You have rejoiced with us as children are born and baptized, celebrated with us as we marry, encouraged us when we are ill, given us faith, hope, and assurance as we leave this life, and given condolence and peace to those left behind. We will all have lasting memories of these gifts of affection from you.

And you are a musician! What a great bonus. We are very proud of our music at First Church, and you have only elevated it. You joined in enthusiastically with your trained tenor voice and your bright and powerful trumpet. Not only that, but you recruited some of the best music directors that we could have hoped for. Every Sunday, we look forward to learning what new music our choir has discovered and perfected. Worship under your direction has integrated with the music, and we could not now imagine one without the other.

Because a church is always more secure and comfortable with a minister who has a strong marriage we greatly appreciate your wife. Lynne has had a full schedule: raising a family (and then helping with grandchildren), managing a household, and full-time teaching responsibilities. And yet she has found time to also become a leader in our church. She has been invaluable in our religious education endeavors and tireless in her board and committee work.

We applaud your service to us and your service to the Lord as you transition into a well-deserved retirement at the end of the earth in Maine. Enjoy the kayaking and hiking in one of earth’s beautiful spaces where rugged coast and sea, forest and mountain are joined. Please think of us often as you enjoy the peace that communing with nature brings to you as we shall often think so fondly of you. And visit us frequently.

With love, respect, and gratitude from your friends at First Congregational UCC

Please Let Us Know

If you or someone you know needs a visit or assistance, please let Michelle know at the church office 319-234-8927 or at michelle@firstcongucc.org. We want to include information in every Tidings about who could use some comforting words, or a shoulder to lean on, or a helping hand. We just need to know!! Thanks!!

We’re happy to report Jeff Rickert has returned to Manor Care on Ridgeway from Allen Hospital ICU and is ready for visits once again!



Rules are Rules ... even in the UCC

Upon Tim’s retirement he became unavailable to our congregation for weddings, funerals, baptisms, or other official acts of the clergy. It’s tough, but it’s an important UCC rule meant to protect incoming and outgoing pastors. As we have done every summer while Tim is gone, we have church row clergy “standing in the wings”, if needed. Each week has a specific church row pastor ready and willing to help. Please contact Michelle in the church office at 319-234-8927 or Paul Greene, Moderator at 319-404-4940 if assistance by clergy is needed. Thanks for understanding!

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

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.