

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 15, 2020



Our new pastor, Rev. Bret Myers, will be with us soon!

Great news--in just a little more than 2 weeks, Rev. Myers, or Bret, will begin his time with us as a designated term pastor, serving as our interim! He comes to us with lots of experience working with churches in transition, and this certainly is a transitional time for us, with many unexpected changes coming

our way these past few months! He will begin serving us while living in New Hampshire where his previous interim pastorate was, but will be moving here as soon as it is feasible. Covid-19 has taught us that we can be church in new ways--not just inside our building!

Bret is originally from Indiana, graduating from the Boston University School of Theology, and has served churches in Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire, and soon to be--Iowa! He enjoys interacting not only with the congregations he serves, but the communities in which he lives, striving to create understanding, caring, and creativity where people can live and flourish. Bret enjoys the outdoors and is an avid environmentalist. He loves to write, both poetry and prose, and enjoys photography as well as the performing and visual arts, and events that promote cross-cultural understanding and respect between races, nations, and religions.

He will be introducing himself to you in various ways in the next few weeks. It may be some time before he actually greets you in person, but we are all looking forward to the time when we can see each other in person again and meet him face to face.

I would like to thank the search and call committee for their wisdom, time, and input in this call process. Members include Abbey Athey, Craig Driver, Cliff Highnam, Sue Hummel, Zoe Lennox, Meach Meacham, Peter Steva, Kay Thuesen, and Paul Greene (moderator, ex-officio). I ask you to continue to pray for our congregation as we begin a new chapter in the life of First Congregational UCC. And stay healthy!

Anne Hoekstra

**WE WANT TO SEE
YOUR SMILING FACE!!**



**EVERY WEDNESDAY
EVENING
6:30 - 7:30 PM**

JOIN ON ZOOM

laughs ... smiles ... share joys ... smiling faces ... virtual hugs ... just chat ... catch up ... see old friends ... laugh some more ... smile some more ... share some more

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89698477798?pwd=K25ERitRYmk3MFZnMHZCYVNSNGY2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 896 9847 7798

Or Dial: 312 626 6799

Password: 554196

Questions? Call Paul Greene: 319-404-4940



Pick Up the Phone and Make Someone's Day!

Someone needs to hear from you today! You know who it is. Today would be a great day to make time for that all-important phone call. So, let's do it ... let's find a comfortable place to sit, where it's cool and we can see outside ... maybe a nice tall, cold drink would be a good idea, too. Then settle in, dial the phone, and enjoy a long conversation with someone you truly care about ... that's a lot of people, isn't it?

Love Your Neighbor

Wear your face mask, not for yourself, but to protect everyone around you.

Stay at least 6'0" from everyone WITH your face mask on.

Stay away from all places where you cannot maintain a safe distance from others.

Remind others to follow the same guidelines... it's a group effort ... a family effort!



**** THIS SUNDAY ****

Join us this Sunday, **July 19th at 10:30.**
All are welcome. Find the link on the First
Congregational UCC Waterloo Facebook page.
Cliff Highnam will provide the sermon.

We also look forward to worship on July 26th with
Kathleen Marsh providing the sermon.



Thinking About Our Church Family ...

Who should we be thinking about this
week? Do you know someone who
needs our prayers? Please make sure
Paul or Michelle know about them. Thanks!

Dick Grimm's hip surgery was a success and he is on
his way home! Finally! Yea!

Linda Waldon's treatments having been going well.
She's enjoying summer!

Pete Blankenfeld is doing well and mostly staying
sequestered at home. He would love to have a phone
visit with you, but call after noon, please, if you call :)



JOY is NOT Cancelled!!!

WHAT MADE YOU SMILE TODAY? the youngest grandkid's first steps ...
the kindness of a neighbor you don't really know ... recovering from the yuck ...
noticing smiles in more people's eyes ... appreciating the small things ... finding more
time to read that stack of books ... trying out one of grandma's favorite recipes ...
discovering more ways to use bushels of zucchini What has brought you **JOY** today??

Call, email, or text Michelle or Paul ... let us know!!

JOY!!

There have been many Good things that have sprouted from the pandemic. One thing in particular I have noticed. People who don't normally get together are ... getting together, that is. Many of us are becoming "zombies" with the many Zoom meetings we now have every week. But Zoom has also opened a door of opportunity for us. In my family, the Greene cousins of my generation haven't been together for decades. We stretch from Alaska to New York. And yet now, because of the pandemic and because of zoom, we took the occasion to see each other's smiling faces and laugh together regularly. Good things happen in a pandemic. JOY happens!

Nicaragua Shoeboxes



Since we started this project we
have shipped tons of aid to moms
at our shelter and thousands of
shoeboxes to kids. In this, our
19th year, we need your help
again. Monetary donations for BOTH shoeboxes and
layettes are now being accepted in the church office.
You may donate by mailing a check or online
through our website, www.firstcongucc.org. Thank
you in advance!

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

The Sunday morning discussion group has started a
new book this month. We gather at 9:30 via Zoom to
check in with each other and discuss interesting and
sometimes challenging parts of the book.

If interested in joining our group or have questions,
contact Evie Waack at 277-0163.

You can order your copy of "A Bigger Table" at
christianbook.com, Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, or other
places you get your books.



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

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