

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 25, 2018

**Tenth Sunday after
Pentecost
July 29, 2018
10:30 am**

**Hannah Hannover will
present the message:
*Better Together***

Using the text:
Ephesians 3:14-21

Worship Leader
Emily Soldwisch

Children's Lesson
Dale Hatinger

Special Music
Just As I Am
Kay Leary

Deacon-In-Charge
Beth Hurley

Please Remember Your Church Family

In this hectic, full life we create for ourselves sometimes taking time for our church family slips between the cracks. We have quite a few family members who could use a card just letting them know you're thinking about them or better yet a visit. Some are recovering from an illness and some simply can't get to church like they used to. We'll all be there sometime, won't we? Here's just a few who could use some thoughts from you this week:

Margaret Collins
Windhaven #65
5500 S Main St
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Jeff Rickert, Room 159
ManorCare Health Services
201 W Ridgeway Ave
Waterloo, IA 50701

Margaret Hubrig
7511 University Ave
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Dick Grimm
714 West 3rd St
Waterloo, IA 50701

Lorraine Reeves
2121 Scarsdale Blvd #2113
Pearland, TX 77581

Peter Blankenfeld
148 Rachael St
Waterloo, IA 50701

Scott Bessman, Room E14
Ravenwood Specialty Care
2651 St Francis Drive
Waterloo, IA 50702

Moved by the Spirit



What is that little voice inside us that seems to direct our thoughts, actions, and the choices we make? Is it our 'conscience' or, as many old cartoons depict, a little devil on one shoulder and an angel on the other both trying to influence our behavior? I believe it is the Holy Spirit within that guides our lives and directs us in the way we should go. But how many of us truly listen to that voice and trust in it? I believe most people these days want to be in total control of their lives and have begun to tune out that voice in their heads. We seem to have more faith in our own intellect and common sense.

Some of you remember the article I wrote about a year ago about my sister in Florida who had opened up her home to a stranger late at night who was running from an abusive situation. The trust she had in that voice in her head changed the life of that young woman! My sister seems to be very tuned in to that voice as it moves her to take action when so many of us would be afraid. Just the other day she was telling me about a similar incident. She was driving down the highway on her way to Walmart on a hot, sunny Florida day recently, when she noticed a young couple walking down the side of the road with a baby in a stroller. The young mother was sunburned from head to toe, and the baby was in a diaper only with no cover over it to shield it from the sun. She continued down the road when an urging inside her moved her to turn back. She pulled over and offered them a ride. What a coincidence that they, too, were on their way to Walmart. They said their car was broken down, and they only had money enough for a taxi one way, thinking it would be more important for it to carry them and their bags back home. My sister asked how far they had walked all ready; about 1 ½ miles. The store was yet another mile or more down the road!

Let us be so moved by the Holy Spirit within us so as to be a blessing to ourselves and to others. Mother Theresa of Calcutta was the epitome of one moved by the Holy Spirit, so I will end with one of her prayers which was put to music in the wonderful choral piece, "Prayer", by Rene Clausen.

*Help me spread your fragrance where ever I go.
Flood my soul with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess my being so utterly,
That my life may be only a radiance of Yours.
Shine through me and be so in me,
That every soul I know will feel
Your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me,
But only You. Amen.*

~ Beth Hurley

Please Let Us Know

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



Black Hawk Youth Chorus Inaugural Concert

The Black Hawk Youth Chorus will perform their first concert here at First Congregational this Sunday, July 29th at 2:00 pm. Join us! The kids have worked hard and are excited to present the program. Admission is free. You won't want to miss this!

National Night Out

The Church Row Neighborhood Assoc. will be celebrating National Night Out Tuesday, Aug 7, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm across the street at Washington Park.... You are invited to join the festivities. Food, Music, Games, Custom Cars, and lots of fun. Please bring lawn chairs. If you can help set up, serve, take pictures, or with games, call or text Ed Dams at 319-231-6572 or email edams@mchsi.com. In the case of rain we will go to Trinity Lutheran gym.

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!

This is Your Opportunity to Save a Tree...Read on

If you would prefer to receive Tidings as an email attachment in the future rather than hard copy in the mail, please contact Michelle in the church office at michelle@firstcongucc.org or call 319-234-8927. A form will also be available this Sunday in the bulletin. You can simply fill it out and slip in the offering plate as well. (If you prefer to continue getting it in the mail you don't need to contact Michelle.)

She will need to know:

- Your email address (please double-check to make sure it's correct)
- If it's okay to use your email for other church-related communication
- If it's okay to add your email address to the next printing of the church directory

Planting Seeds will Never Be Easier than this . . . are you in?

The more people who know what's going on at First Congregational UCC, the better ... right? We want to *plant as many seeds* as we can in our community and world. To that end, we invite you to add people to receive an electronic email version of Tidings each week. This could be anyone who you believe would like to know what has happened or all the good things that are going to happen at First Church. Our Tidings will be full of good information that should be shared with more than just our church family. Interested others could be family members, neighbors, friends, co-workers ... anyone. It doesn't matter where they live or if they already have a church home.

Help us *Plant More Seeds*, won't you? If you know anyone who may like weekly information through our Tidings, please contact Michelle in the church office at 319-234-8927 or at michelle@firstcongucc.org with the information below. (Of course, anyone preferring *not* to receive Tidings for any reason will be taken off the list immediately.) It doesn't cost us a nickel and it may just make someone's day a little brighter!

Michelle will want to know:

- The email address of the person you think would like to receive Tidings
- Whether they are a friend, family member, neighbor, or co-worker, or other

Thanks for Helping Us Grow Our Garden!! Plant More Seeds!!

Neighborhood Newsletter

Help is needed distributing the neighborhood newsletters on July 26. If you can spare an hour that afternoon call or text Ed Dams 319-231-6572 for more information.

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

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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



Take a Walk Through Your Church Directory ...

Here's a great way to reach out to our Church Family ... take the time to take a walk through your church pictorial directory. You can do it while you're sitting out on the deck or watching a TV show you're not really watching or just because you think it's an important thing to do.

As you're going through the directory notice the people you don't see every Sunday in church, especially those you miss and wish you could see more often. Then reach out to each of them with a simple card or phone call and tell them. Tell them you miss seeing them and you hope to see them in church soon. Maybe you will find out a reason they're not coming that we can help with.

Regardless, they will be happy to hear from you ... and that's enough, isn't it?