

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

August 19, 2020

Sometimes the best way to be together is to be apart



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

**EVERY WEDNESDAY
EVENING 6:30 PM**

Meeting ID: 896 9847 7798

Or Dial: 312 626 6799

Password: 554196

Questions? Call Paul Greene: 319-404-4940

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



Did You Ever Notice?

Did you ever notice how excited you get when you get a handwritten letter from someone? ... a letter you can hold in your hands and read, and read again later ... a letter that sits on the dining room table until you see it and pick it up and read it again?

Yes, that kind of letter, the one that takes an envelope and a stamp. Did you ever notice how when you write a letter, fold it, put it in the envelope, address it, put a stamp on it, and mail it, you really feel like you've accomplished something? Do you know why? Because you have!! Please make someone's day!! Write a note or letter to someone you miss today!!

The Pastor's Corner

August 2020

Rev. Bret S. Myers
revbmyers@yahoo.com
Home: 603-375-4036
Cell/Text: 608-370-9472
(doesn't always receive well)



Hello Members and Friends of First Congregational UCC in Waterloo, Iowa!

I am glad to be working with staff and lay members in conducting our worship services online, and I have been delighted to meet some of you on our Wednesday evening and Sunday morning events. It is important to me to get to know you, and thereby hopefully be able to better serve your needs individually and as a congregation.

I want to find ways to connect us to one another in this time of pandemic so that our "physical" distancing is not truly "social" distancing. Finding ways to connect as a congregation in trying times will help keep us healthy emotionally and spiritually. I welcome your suggestions of how we can find ways to do this other than the ways we are already doing so. And I am hoping that we can create some opportunities for us to perhaps be in better contact with our congregation than ever before!

One thing we can do is create a "Caring Connections Member Care Team." The cool thing about this voluntary team is that everyone of all ages is invited to be on it! It will be an outreach to our members, attenders, and friends who consider our church their spiritual home. We will invite all participants to **contact 3-5 people from our congregation by phone, internet, or other safe ways once a month just to check in on each other and ask how things are going.** We may even plan bi-monthly or quarterly get-togethers (virtually, or safely otherwise) to share with one another how those we contact are doing.

The idea is to let people know that we care about them and know that we are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. We'll create a list of volunteers, hopefully large enough that we can ensure that every person of our church will know that they are thought of and cared for by someone from our church at least once a month. **If you are willing to volunteer to do this important ministry of member care, please contact Michelle, Paul, Anne, or myself.** We hope this will be a joy not only for those you are willing to check in with, but also for you. It is a blessing to be a family of faith!

I also have a favor to ask of all of you to help me to know each of you. Will you **please send me a recent photo of you and your family** (listing the names of each), **and also your address, phone number, email, and any other means that I might best communicate with you?** This would help me tremendously given that most of you I have yet to meet in person, and that it may be some time before that happens. Please email me at revbmyers@yahoo.com with this info, or send by mail with the enclosed envelope to my current address: P.O. Box 669; Holderness, NH 03245.

Along with that information, I would love to find out how you are doing, and how the church might be able to best serve you, and help you to serve others, during this time. So **please answer one, several, or all of the following questions:**

How are you emotionally and spiritually dealing with this time of physical distancing?

What ways can the church help you in coping with things during this time?

What ways would you like to help our church members and friends during this time?

I hope you are already finding resources to help you and your loved ones deal with safely and healthily with all that is happening in our world right now. Please know that I am here for you and your family, and that I look forward to building relationships with you that will be meaningful and enriching.

Blessings,

Pastor Bret

Transform Your Spirit!

Share the beauty: Practice kindness, live compassionately!

In Our Hearts and Minds and Prayers ...



Please let Pastor Bret, Michelle, or Paul know of those we should be keeping close

Blessings and peace for all struggling with health and loss, especially in these trying times.

Dick Grimm as he recovers from further complications from his hip replacement. Dick is in Room 474 at Allen Memorial Hospital – Unity Point (no visitors, please)

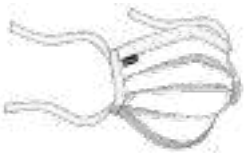
Prayers for Father Ken and our Bothers & Sisters at neighboring Sacred Heart Church.

Prayers for all affected by the destructive derecho in Cedar Rapids and throughout Iowa.

Prayers for Hudson and Joe as they recover from the effects of the derecho in Marshalltown.

Prayers for Pilgrim Heights Camp, staff, and volunteers as they recover from the derecho damage.

Continued prayers for our church family and Pastor Bret as we begin an exciting journey together.



CARE FOR EACH OTHER, *it's our job*

- Wear your face mask, not just 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

Joy Abounds!!!

joy

Sometimes watching the news and reading the paper can be downright disheartening ... okay, maybe that's more often than not, or maybe even every day. But we shouldn't be discouraged ... in fact, we should be just the opposite. JOY is everywhere! JOY surrounds us! JOY is happening every second of every day! We don't have to search for it ... we just have to recognize it when we see it. Recognize JOY ... sometimes it comes in very small packages or in the blink of an eye, but it's there ... always! Let us know when you see JOY!

Pilgrim Heights Camp Volunteers Needed

Pilgrim Heights Camp and Retreat Center near Toledo has been the site for summer camps and retreats for many of our church members and families for decades. Last week it was damaged in the storm that blew through central Iowa. Staff and volunteers have made some progress on repairs to buildings and the removal of damaged trees, but there is still a lot of work to do. If you are able to donate financially, please see the website at <https://www.pilgrimheights.org>

If you wish to contact the camp to volunteer to help with the clean-up efforts, call 641-492-6165.

Nicaragua Shoeboxes

Our shoppers are out shopping for box items but there is still time to do a shoebox yourself for boys and girls ages 4 to 18. Contact Steve or Liz Thorpe today if interested: (319) 984-9139.

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

Place
Stamp
Here

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

