

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 26, 2020

Sometimes the best way to be together is to be apart

Join us on Wednesday to laugh
...smile...share joys... see some
smiling faces...get virtual hugs
...just chat...catch up... see old
friends...to 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

Zoom Link:

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



Did You Ever Notice?

Did you ever notice how contagious helping others is? Rather appropriate in the middle of a pandemic. Helping others is just like a smile. It just keeps getting passed along. You help me. I help the next folks and they help someone else. Nothing helps us feel better about ourselves than caring for someone else. So, receive care with grace and pass it along with a smile. Help someone today.

You'll feel better for it ... and so will they!!!

Reach Out and Touch Someone

Last week Pastor Bret asked us to consider being on the Caring Connection Member Care Team. What a great idea! We all love to hear from others and we all enjoy reaching out to our church family to check-in. Many of you are already doing it, so let's make it official and just keep right on doing it. Please submit your name to Bret, Michelle, Anne, or Paul to be included on the CCMCT. Reach out and touch someone!!



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 at home from his hip surgery complications

Joan Grimm as she awaits more testing for her heart concerns.

Prayers for those continuing to recover from the recent derecho.

Prayers for teachers and students as they return back to school in a different world.

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.



JOY is Everywhere Around Us!!!

On Beth Hurley's birthday in July, her sister shared this JOY with her. It is simply a song. A beautiful, sweet song sung by 17,572 singers from 129 countries. And while those are astounding numbers, the JOY comes from the song ... the message. Beth wanted to share this JOY with you. That's what JOY is for ... sharing. Share in Beth's joy ... listen ... enjoy ... let the JOY speak to you the way it spoke to Beth. Thank you, Beth! 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, or hear, JOY!

Eric Whitacre's "Sing Gently" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InULYfJHKIO>

May we sing together, always.

May our voice be soft.

May our singing be music for others
and may it keep others aloft.

Sing gently, always.

Sing gently as one.

May we stand together, always.

May our voice be strong.

May we hear the singing and
May we always sing along.

Sing gently, always.

Sing gently as one.

The 11th Commandment



Thanks to the St Peter's Anglican Church in Dorchester, California for this not-so-gentle reminder. The Ten Commandments are not just for the good of us individually, but rather for the good of us collectively. May it be so!
- Remind others to follow the same commandment ... it's a group effort ... a family effort ... for everyone!

Member News



Tristan Holt was recently promoted to Sales Manager at McGrath Kia of Hiawatha where he has been selling new cars for the last two years. In Monday's storm the dealership was damaged and without power for four days and Tristan's apartment building also suffered structural damage and he has been without power for over a week.

Yay for his promotion but we know he has a lot of work ahead to get the dealership back on track after this storm. His new address is Tristan Holt, 605 G Ave NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

September Birthdays



September Anniversaries

1
Craig Driver

4
Barbara Hatinger

6
Charlotte Backens
Liz Thorpe

8
Jennifer Thompson

9
Abbey Akin
Ruth Brower

12
Japhy Holt
Hannah Prescott

13
Paul Greene

15
Stephanie Peters
Kate Thuesen

18
Connie Paul

21
Craig Wells

22
Stan Mingus
Stewart Rickert

23
Sara (Rickert) Faust
Zoe Panicucci

24
Liam Craig Backens

25
Shelli Panicucci
Courtney (Rickert)
McCaffrey

26
Jackie (Dahlgren)
McAllister

27
Zoie Lynne Casteel

28
Jacquelyn Eden
Edna Koch
Dave Vandeventer



1
Albert & Allison McFadden
Tom & Jane Wells

2
Greg & Michelle Holt

5
Gordon & Beth Lauterbach
Paul & Hannah Prescott

16
Craig & Nancy Mahood

20
Ed & Eileen Dams

22
Rich & Janice Akin

29
Bob & Joanne Tefft
Gary & Linda Waldon



Due to COVID-19 health concerns, the Church Office and Building continues to be closed. You can reach the staff during this time via the following:

Questions?

Email us at fcuccoffice@gmail.com.

(Michelle will be out of town September 3rd - 7th if you need immediate assistance contact Paul Greene.)

Music Director Luke: firstconguccmusic@gmail.com

Organist Hudson: HUDSON.LOURENCO7@gmail.com

Office Manager Michelle: fcuccoffice@gmail.com

Custodian Kyle: k.lindaman79@gmail.com

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

Remembering the “Neighbor” in our Neighborhood Church Row



For the last ten days or so all messages on our electronic sign were silenced, except for these two. It was our way of letting our dear brothers and sisters at Sacred Heart Church know that we were remembering them, thinking of them, and praying for them ... every day. Our efforts were not lost.



The church family at First Congregational UCC needs to know many of our Sacred Heart neighbors have commented on Facebook, left messages on our church email and voicemail, and stopped in person to thank us for our thoughts.

There Are So Many Ways to Help



Thank you, thank you, thank you to Diane Highnam for seeing a job that needed to be done and taking care of it. Diane noticed there were weeds growing in front of our electronic sign and stopped to pull them. Then she noticed the flower/shrub bed next to the electronic sign needed weeding and came back the next day to pull those weeds. She filled the back of her Subaru with weeds. Then the next day she noticed the welts and itching on her hands, arms, face, and neck. And that’s when we discovered poison ivy in our shrubs. Thank Diane if you see her, keep Diane in your prayers, and stay away from poison ivy!