

# Congregational Tidings



*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

A weekly newsletter

September 1, 2010

## They would love to hear from you!

**Sunday, September 5, 2010**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**Worship at 10:30 am**

**Rev. Timothy Ensworth will  
present the message:**

**'Useful'**

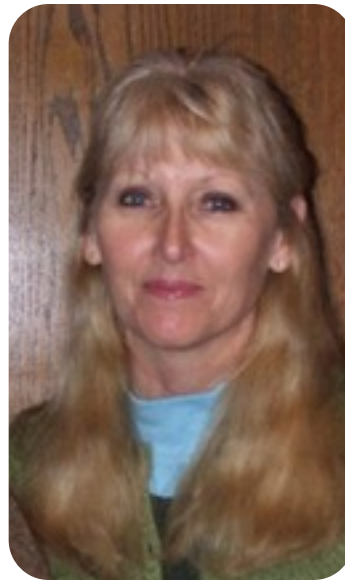
**Using the text:  
Philemon**

**Worship Leader  
Paul Greene**

**Acolytes  
Janice Akin & Nancy Heinick**

**Deacon-In-Charge  
Gina Greene**

**Greeters  
Pete Blankenfeld and Ed  
James (Sanctuary)  
Audrey Adams-Sorge and  
Marcia Johnson (Crossroads)**



Carol Whitmore and Chad Hoffman are both currently stationed in Iraq, with the same unit! Chad tells me they are housed just a mile apart.

Both Chad and Carol appreciate very much our thoughts and our prayers, as do their spouses here in Waterloo: Brad Whitmore and Beth Hoffman.

And they would love to hear from you, to be able to hold in their hands a good old fashioned letter, a piece of Iowa, a piece of you, in a place far from home.

Here are their addresses:

MSG Carol Whitmore  
HHC, 103d ESC  
APO AE 09391

SFC Chad R. Hoffman  
103d ESC  
APO AE 09391





I'm getting ready to be BUSY.

With the coming of fall and the beginning of the new church year come the resumption of many of my regular church activities as well as some new events.

This will be a confirmation year, the first confirmation class we have had at the church in five years. Greg and I will be leading the class together Sunday evenings from 5:30 - 7:00 pm beginning September 19.

We are excited about the group we have to work with, eight young men and women, some who have grown up among you and others who will be new to you. You will be seeing them often this year -- leading worship, planning special church worship services, participating in the mission activities of the church. The best "teachers" they will have are all of you, showing them by example, by your faithfulness, by your eagerness to grow in your own faith, what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

I will also be leading *Kerygma: The Bible in Depth*, an intensive and extensive exploration of the Bible as whole. It is a thrilling and challenging study, demanding much from class members and leader alike. But it is worth it! So worth it! This class will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm (so choir members may join!) starting Sept. 16.

In addition to our regular adult forum Sunday School program, we will be offering two other options for adults during the Sunday School time period (9:15 - 10:00 am.)

Andrea Nelson, our newest church member and a soon-to-be candidate for ministry in the United Church of Christ will be leading a Sunday School class for young adults. Watch Tidings for more details about this class.

I will be moderating a Bible discussion each Sunday focussed on the weekly lectionary lessons. Each week we will discuss the scripture text that will serve as the sermon text for the following Sunday. I am excited about this team approach to sermon preparation! I am counting on those of you who wish to participate to help focus my thinking and reflection in the direction of the issues that concern you! I am sure you will ask questions of the text that I would not think of asking, or see things I may not see.

So ... confirmation, Bible study, lectionary study, worship planning, sermon preparation, committee meetings, staff meetings, visits, I'm going to be BUSY!

But, you know what they say ... If you run around in circles, you may be going fast and working hard, but not going anywhere! The fact that I will be busy, that we will be busy, that there will be lots going on around the church -- in mission and music and study and worship -- doesn't mean very much by itself.

What matters ... what matters is Jesus himself, and our relationship with him. What matters is listening, paying attention, following, doing all that we do in concert with where Jesus is going, doing all that we do with a desire to honor God and to know God all the more.

When we rest in God, when we are filled by God's grace, when we watch and listen and wait, then we won't be spinning our wheels, but living in the moment and in the place where God is and where God wills us to be.

May it be so for me! May it be so for us ... in the midst of all our busyness or even in spite of all our busyness!

Tim

## Weekly Events

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### Sun., Sept. 5

COMMUNION SUNDAY  
10:30 am - Worship Service

### Mon., Sept. 6

Labor Day  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

### Wed., Sept. 8

7:30 am - Men's Bkfst. @  
Waterloo Village Inn  
7 pm - Chancel Choir

### Thurs., Sept. 9

5 pm - Bells  
6:30 pm - Stewardship Committee  
Meeting  
Meals On Wheels

### Sat., Sept. 11

8:30 am - Women's Bkfst. @  
Perkins

### Sun., Sept. 12

9:30 am - Sunday School Kickoff Party  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
HARVEST SUNDAY  
RALLY SUNDAY  
Baptism: Charlianne Catherine Weber

### Mon., Sept. 13

9 am - Quiltmakers  
Community Meals (Cookie Team A)

### Tues., Sept. 14

7 pm - Common Meeting



## SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF PARTY SEPTEMBER 12 AT 9:30AM

### Martial Arts Class

The Church Row churches will sponsor a martial arts class again this Fall, beginning Sept. 20, running every Monday for eight weeks, with the final class being Nov. 8. Classes begin at 4:00, and will run about an hour long.

Class will be held at First Congregational UCC in the lower level.

Please join us for our Sunday School kickoff event on Sunday, September 12th at 9:30 a.m. We'll be serving a hot breakfast, playing games and creating original works of art. Plus we will introduce our design for this year's Sunday School. There are special things in store this year for folks of all ages. K-3rd graders will explore activities from the Spark Bible Series. The older youth will participate in storytelling ideas and create films to show in church. And adults will be able to choose between Adult Forum (featuring a special guest speaker each week), a Bible study class led by Pastor Tim Ensworth, and Young Adults, led by Andrea Nelson. So come join the party a week from Sunday. Come hungry and fill up your mind and your body. We hope to see you there!

### Bell Choir rehearsal...

Bell Choir practice will begin Thurs., Sept. 2, at 5 pm. We will 'ring' until 6:30pm and will meet each Thursday. Feel free to attend if you are interested in joining our group. We are always looking for new members!

### Chancel Choir rehearsal...

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing tonight (Wed., Sept. 1), at 6 pm at the Highnams' home, and will continue to meet each Wednesday night, at 7 pm in the music room. New members are always welcome!

### Address for Student:

Brandon Becker is studying the art of motorcycle maintenance in Phoenix, Arizona. He'd love to hear from his church family. Notes can be sent to: 2902 W. Sweetwater Ave., Apt. 2191, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

### United Way - Call 2-1-1

Just a reminder that Black Hawk County has received a Federal Disaster Declaration. If you are a homeowner, renter or a business owner and have been affected by severe storms, tornadoes, or flooding since June 1, 2010, you may be eligible for federal disaster assistance.

To apply for assistance, call 1-800-261-FEMA (3362) or apply online at [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) OR [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

Be sure to have the following information available when you call: phone number, Social Security number, Current mailing address, address of the damaged property, brief discription of damages, and any insurance information (if applicable).

### KERYGMA Bible Study Sign-up

There is still room for you in the Bible study that is starting on Thurs., Sept. 16! The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Crossroads. Please be sure to note whether or not you will need a book. Sessions will run weekly on Thursdays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

Check out the bulletin board for more information about the content of the study, the cost for the Resource Book, and some comments from Kerygma "graduates"!

### Stewardship Meeting

There will be a Stewardship Committee meeting on Thurs., Sept. 9, at 6:30 pm. Please make every attempt to attend. Thank you!



Photo: Stoney Bear Hollow Productions

## Harvest Sunday September 12

Bring your flowers, your fruits, your vegetables, your herbs to decorate the front of our sanctuary and to serve as a visible display of our gratitude to God.

The things you bring will be shared with others: members of the congregation and folks who attend Monday evening's Community Meal.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

**September 1, 2010**

First Congregational UCC  
608 WEST FOURTH STREET  
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Return service request

*Congregational Tidings*

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