

Congregational Tidings

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



A weekly newsletter



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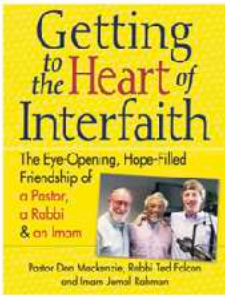
September 16, 2020

It's a New
Church
Year!

Get ready
for the
NEW!

It's a new year and we're going to
continue to find new ways to do church,
to be together, to be there for each other.

So, get ready for mission work, for
activities, for worship, and fellowship!!



Sunday Book Discussion:

New Book for Sunday Morning Discussion: Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi and an Imam by Pastor Don Mackenzie (a UCC pastor), Rabbi Ted Falcon and Imam Jamal Rahman. We gather together on Zoom at 9:20. Contact Evie Waack with questions or if you want to join us. (evie.waack@gmail.com 319-277-0163) Order a book from your favorite bookstore, or Amazon, or Barnes and Noble, etc.

Youth Activities:

This message is to all those youth out there wanting to have some fun and grow their relationships with God and one another! I would love for you to formally sign-up to be a part of this experience by emailing me at abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com and telling me your name, grade, and your birthday : -)

I will also be hosting a virtual office hour via Zoom every week on Fridays at 5pm! Stop in and say "hello" or stay for a while. Grab a snack, sit back, and come chat!

Link to the Google Calendar Invite: <https://tinyurl.com/drinkteawithme>
Questions? Email me at abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com



Elementary School and Younger for Week of Sept. 13:

I will be creating packets with hands-on activities that will be delivered to you as well as videos that go along.

Middle School and High School for Week of Sept. 13:

Let's head to Zoom! I will be hosting a virtual get-to-know-you meeting on Wednesday September 16th at 6:30pm. If this time does not work for you, let me know and we can set up another time! You can also come to my "office" hour on Fridays at 5pm. We will work together to set up a more consistent schedule in the coming weeks, again, this just starts with connecting in the first place!

~ *Abbie Greene, Youth Director*

New Security at Church



NOTICE! We have changed the code required to disarm the security system to the church office areas (office manager office, pastor office, youth director office, RE supply room). This is NOT the security code to enter the church building from the outside. Very few people have reason to arm/disarm the security system protecting the office areas. If you believe you have reason to enter the office areas and have not been given a new code to disarm the security system, please contact Michelle or Paul immediately. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE OFFICE AREAS WITHOUT A NEW CODE! If you do, the alarm will sound. The police will be alerted. The police will arrive.

Reach Out and Touch Someone



Pastor Bret asked us to consider being on the CCMCT. What a great way to care for each other in our church family. 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 while being on the Team. Please submit your name in to Bret, Michelle, Anne, or Paul to be included on the CCMCT.

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;
Lorraine Heinick as she continues to recover in Northcrest from Covid-19;
Everyone close to the wild fires in the west ... bring them peace and comfort;

Continued prayers for teachers and students as continue a new way to do school;

And more prayers for housing answers for Pastor Bret. He wants so much to be here with us! And so do we!

Did You Ever Notice?

Did you ever notice how sunshine can change everything? Did the sunshine change you this week? It did me. After too many rainy, cloudy days in a row the sunshine felt extra warm on my face, made everything look extra green and lush, made the day seem so much brighter, and lifted my spirits higher than they were before the gray days even got started. We can do that for each other, too! We can be the sunshine that changes someone's whole outlook on the day. Be the sunshine! Be the warmth!



How To Be An Antiracist ... a Community Opportunity

If you have an interest in joining as a church group, please let Paul, Michelle, or Bret know ... thank you!

There is incredible hope cultivated when individuals, groups, and organizations across all disciplines purposefully enter into a shared experience in order to learn, grow, and create a flourishing community.

We are inviting you and your organization to be a part of just such a community-wide effort this October: A Cedar Valley reading of the book How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi. Dismantling racism is a priority and will not happen without ongoing intention, prioritization, and strategic focus. A collective reading of How to be an Antiracist can help our community by:

- creating shared vocabulary and definitions around race, racism, and antiracism.
- growing understanding through the reading and by listening to our Cedar Valley neighbors.
- building new and stronger connections with Cedar Valley neighbors.
- forging a collective sense of urgency and value to work together as antiracists toward the vision of a more just community.
- providing a launching pad for further discussion and strategic action.

How do you get involved?

We encourage you to organize a group at your work, place of worship, school, neighborhood, place of civic involvement, book club, etc.. You might also read the book as an individual or family. Once you organize to read the book:

- Order/download/check out/purchase the book How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi. If purchasing the book is a hindrance for you or anyone in your group, contact diversity@uni.edu.
- Click the link below by Sept. 30 to share your commitment to join and to give some information.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdjkqneBmgu9RgDbiZiZPDgQ2E-VEyddtZtvJYCW6sYcDfxQ/viewform?gxids=7757>
- Click the link below to join a FACEBOOK GROUP that has been created for the Community Book Read. This Facebook page will be a resource for information and supplementary videos and content for groups and individuals involved in the community wide book read this October!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2540724689572239/about/>

Have questions? Email Abraham Funchess at Abraham.Funchess@waterloo-ia.org; Gwenne Berry at Gwenne.Berry@uni.edu; Cathy Young at cathyyoung4@gmail.com; Dave Kivett at davekivett@cfu.net; or Sharon Juon at juon@mchsi.com

We hope you'll join us!

The Cedar Valley Book Read Planning Team

Abraham Funchess, Gwenne Berry, Cathy Young, Dave Kivett, Sharon Juon, Joy Briscoe, Dee Vandeventer, Mary Robinson, Thomas Flint, Carol Teare, Scott Kober, Gulsum Kucuksari, Laura Hoy

WANT SOME FUN?

Where?

I didn't realize how much I look forward to this!

Imagine if

'Love the sunshine!

Hi, Karen!

I hope Bret finds a house soon

Who knew?

I hope the dogs show up again

Yo, Lane!

JOIN US AT 6:30 EVERY WEDNESDAY ON ZOOM

Meeting ID: 896 9847 7798 Or Dial: 312 626 6799
 Password: 554196 Questions? Call Paul Greene: 319-404-4940

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89698477798?pwd=K25ERltRYmk3MFZnMHZCYVNSNGY2Zz09>

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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Congregational Tidings

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