

# Congregational Tidings

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



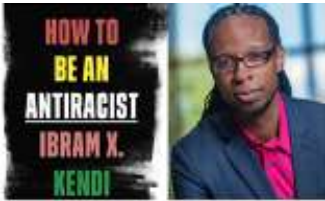
A weekly newsletter



[www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

September 23, 2020

## How To Be An Antiracist ... a Community Opportunity



*Our church will be meeting during the regular book study time slot of Sunday mornings at 9:20 during October to discuss this best-selling book. We would love to have you join us. Our church is registered on the community website as a discussion group. You are welcome to register as an individual, also, as the following instructions suggest, and then join us on Sunday mornings. You are also encouraged to*

*participate in the Thursday evening discussions with local civic leaders. Those sessions will be discussed on Sunday mornings in our group. If you choose to join the book read, please let Michelle, Paul, or Evie know so we can make sure you have all the information you need to participate. Thanks for wanting to be included!*

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](mailto:diversity@uni.edu).
- Visit the link 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>
- Visit 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/>

**We hope you'll join us!**

**The Cedar Valley Book Read Planning Team**



## It **IS** a New Year!!

Get ready!! Your boards and committees have been meeting, and talking, and creating, and discussing, and coming up with new ways of all of us being more together. So, get ready to see more new things coming your way. And be prepared to be more involved yourself. New is Good! Get ready for NEW!!

## New Security at Church . . . UPDATE



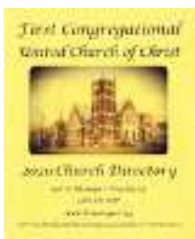
The security code to shut down the security system for the offices has been changed. ALSO, the keying for the four doors in the office hallway has been changed. If you do not have the new code or key and believe you need them, please contact Michelle or Paul. Thanks!

## Have You Submitted Your Name for Being on the CCMCT? . . . . .

One of the things we do best at First Church is take care of each other. Pastor Bret has asked us to start a group to continue doing exactly that, but in a more structured way so we know everyone is being included. Please join in and be part of the caring team. Let Michelle, Paul, or Pastor Bret of your interest.



## Directory Revisions!! . . . make changes



We have a couple of changes to make to the current directory. If you know of other revisions that need to be made or if you don't have a directory and need one, please let Michelle or Paul know.

Ruth Linderman ... new address ... 3720 Village Place #5118 Waterloo, IA 50702

Bonnie Bessman ... new phone number ... 319-233-6865

It would probably be best to send Ruth a card and call Bonnie to test things out! :-)

## Did You Ever Notice? . . . . .

Did you ever notice how even one small positive thought first thing in the morning can make your whole day brighter? Did you ever notice how, if you decide in the morning that "today's going to be a good day", it usually is? Did you ever notice that when you smile at someone they usually smile back and when you're well past them you're still smiling? ... and so are they! Smile at more people today!



## In Our Hearts and Minds and Prayers ...



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

Jeff Thompson's father, Robert James Thompson, passed away. Please keep Jeff, Cindy, and the whole Thompson family close and pray for peace and comfort.

Lorraine Heinick is recovering well from her bout with Covid-19, however, please keep Janice, Nancy, and Abbey in your thoughts. It has been six months since they've been able to give Lorraine a hug and hold her close. These are tough times.

Please hold Connie Jo Pierce and Scott close as Scott's mother, Ruth, enters Hospice after living with Alzheimer's for some time. It's difficult to watch your loved ones slip away slowly.

Prayers for all of those caring for loved ones, especially in these times of isolation and distancing.

Prayers for Joan Grimm who is dealing with more and more medical tests trying to diagnose

Prayers for Dick Grimm who is making daily trips to the hospital for antibiotics, change dressings, check his vacuum pump. This has been a long road for the Grimms ... keep them close.

Prayers for those who are dealing with chronic pain every day. Pray for healing and comfort.

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 closure for Pastor Bret. He wants so much to be here with us!

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## Welcome to the Fine Arts Corner!

As you can see, we have a new feature in Tidings, sponsored by the Board of Fine Arts--the Fine Arts Corner! We want to feature YOU, and your creations, great or small. We welcome photography, paintings, sculpture, poetry, stories, dance, music, acting, recipes, knitting, crocheting, sewing, needlework, pottery--whatever you enjoy creating. We would like to know a little about what you are sharing, perhaps a story of how you created your work, and why it or the experience is important to you. If you would like to present a video, we can link it to our website and/or Facebook page. We have a lot of talented folk at First C, and we would love for you to share your talents with us all! We welcome artists of all ages and abilities.

Our first contributor is Paul Greene. Thank you, Paul, for sharing something you love to do--kayaking and photography!

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Anne Hoekstra at [annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com](mailto:annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com) or 319-269-0241.



"I love kayaking! I love being so close to the water ... actually sitting in the water. I love how I feel how the kayak and I become one ... together. This is my first kayak and favorite kayak that I've had for probably twenty years ... long before kayaks were so popular as they are today. But, I have the same problem kayaking as I do with other activities like biking, running, walking, or whatever. It seems I just have one speed ... all out. I can't seem to slow down and just enjoy. I see a lot of things when I'm outdoors, but I often wonder what I'm missing going 'wherever' in such a hurry.

Well, every now and then there is an exception to my "all-out flaw". You see one of them here. I'm all by myself on the water, everyone else has (foolishly) gone home, it's quiet except for the wildlife, and God puts on a show just for me. It's at these times that I can finally pull my feet out of the kayak, sit back, and enjoy the incredible splendor of our Creator, And not only am I pulled out of "all out" mode, but I could sit there forever, if the show lasted that long. I feel so close to our Lord ... surrounded by His Creation in sight and sound. Amen ..."

## Youth Activities:

\*\* Hey youth (or those young at heart!), stop by my "office" hour Fridays at 5pm at <https://tinyurl.com/abbiesoffice>. Come with questions or if you just want to stop in and say hello :)

\*\* Attention middle school and high schoolers! Come to my get-to-know-you Zoom Take #2 on Friday, September 25th at 6pm! Below is the URL. Drop in for a little bit or stay for the full hour. Hope to "see" you there! : - ) <https://tinyurl.com/abbiesoffice>

\*\* Hello Guardians of our wonderful elementary and younger youth! I want to hear from YOU what you would like to see out of our pandemic "Sunday" school programming this year. Please reach out to me at [abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com](mailto:abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com) with any questions, concerns, and/or suggestions. Thank you!

Some prompts for you (and your youth(s)) to answer:

Do you see value in having the youth meet via Zoom?

What could make the packets better?

Are the videos engaging?

What gets your youth(s) excited? This could be anything...

... Such as a topic or activity (church or non-church related!).



~ Abbie Greene, Youth Director

## October 2020



### Birthdays

1	16	26
Greg Hoekstra	George Brown	Pat Brown
3	22	Emily Lindaman
Ann Zellhoefer	Bonnie Bessman	27
Carol Towsley	Jack Koch	Abbey Martens
7	Sarah Peters	Abbott
Rex Boatman	Pavelski	27
8	24	Andrew Yarngo
Melissa Wells	Emily Highnam	29
9	Landon Kelley	Pearl Goos
Lucas Backens	Marsha Lind	30
		Bret Myers

### Anniversaries

3
Justo & Jeni Lara
5
John & Barb Mardis
7
Teresa Dahlgren & Michael McCollough
Dale & Barbara Hatinger
12
Russ & Carol Towsley
14
Scott & Ariel Driver
25
Rich & Kay Thuesen

If you have not submitted your birthday or anniversary and would like it to be announced in our Tidings, please let Michelle know the date and she will publish it the month before.



## Opportunity to Join in the Discussion ... ..

"13th" is a 2016 American documentary film by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States." It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution. You are invited to watch "13th" this week on your own (or with a friend or as a family)

and then join the discussion of the documentary this coming Sunday, 9/27, at 9:20am via Zoom. We look forward to seeing you!

Watch here before the Sunday discussion: "13th" is currently streaming on Netflix and YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8&t=11s>

### Join Zoom Meeting Discussion:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81036068682?pwd=dDgwREs0OWRLR280cThCbDA4aEZ3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 810 3606 8682

Passcode: 360704

Or dial in for audio only at 312-626-6799



Love INC

## Need Action This Week for Love INC

Love INC (which means Love In the Name of Christ) is a clearinghouse to identify needs of people in our community and match those needs with resources in our community of churches.

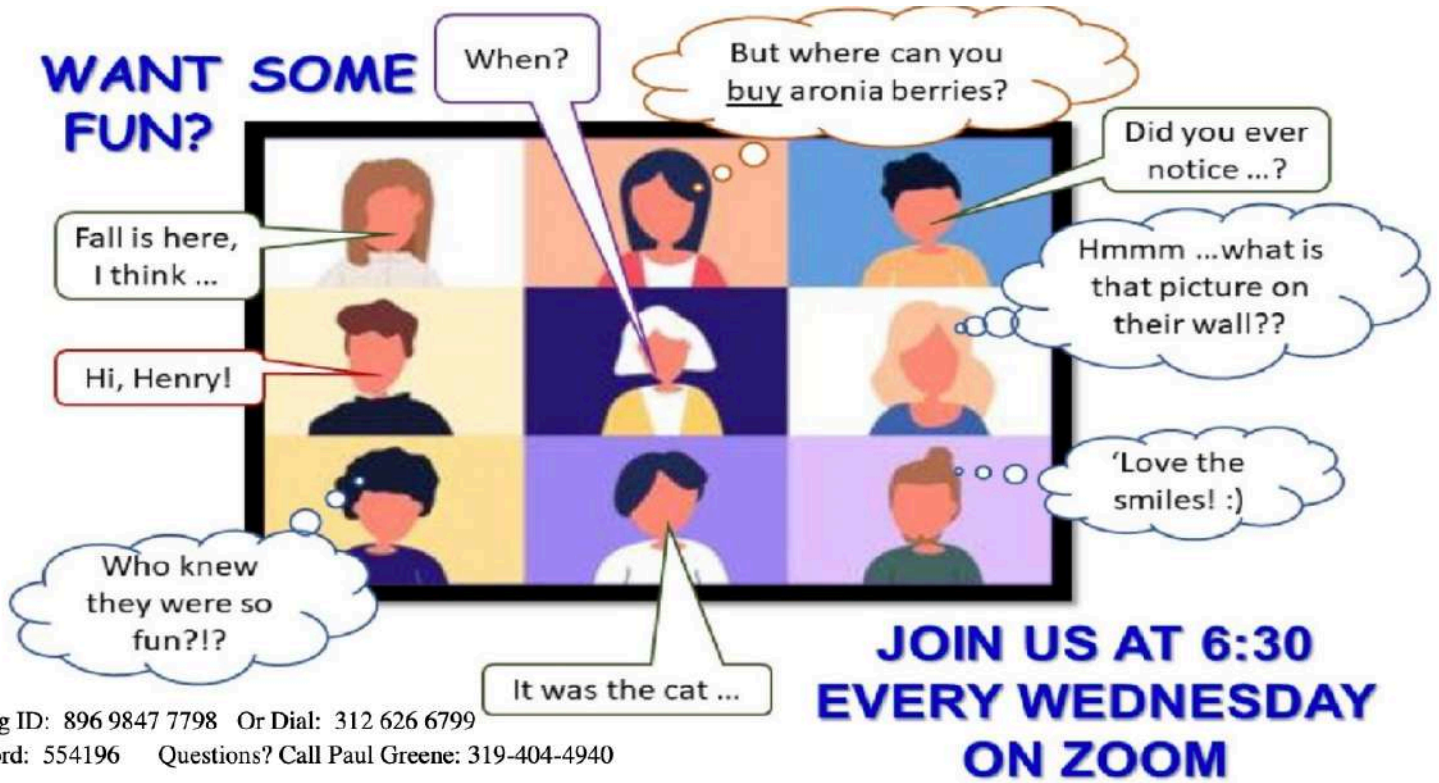
We are one of 31 different churches that supports Love INC in their mission to help local folks who are in crisis. The crisis may be no food to feed their

family, no diapers for their children, no gas money to get to medical care, no stove to cook on... and the list goes on.

Love INC is celebrating 10 years in the Cedar Valley! Our network of churches has met over 23,000 needs for over 5,000 households in the last 10 years.

Local sponsors have committed to matching up to \$10,000 of donations given THIS WEEK. I know, short notice. But we invite you to consider donating to this organization...this week...so that they receive the promised matching funds. You may give online to the church with a notation of Love INC. Or, mail your check to the church with Love INC in the memo. Or, give directly to Love INC with a notation of FCUCC in the memo. It's all good.

Let's help them move into the next 10 years. Thank you for your quick response.



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

First Congregational UCC  
 608 WEST FOURTH STREET  
 WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

# Congregational Tidings

Place  
 Stamp  
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