

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

October 3, 2018

**Twenty-seventh
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
October 7, 2018
10:30 am**

**Pastor Scott Spence will
present the message:
*Rules and Relationships***

Using the text:
Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17

Special Music
*This Do in
Remembrance of Me*
Chancel Choir

*Meditation on
"Beautiful Savior"*
Touch of Brass

Deacon-In-Charge
Joanne Lane

Greeters
Diane Highnam
(Sanctuary)

Bonnie Rickert
(Crossroads)



Potlucks with the Pastor

Congratulations! We have just passed the one-month anniversary of me being the Pastor and Teacher here at First Congregational UCC. There have been many meetings, several sermons, a wonderful Welcome Luncheon, a baptism, and of course many a cup of coffee and good conversation in our time together. I want to thank all of you for being such a supportive community to my family as we settle in to our new homes here in Waterloo.

Now that we are off and running, **I would like to take this month as an opportunity to get to know you a little better.** I believe that no matter who we are or where we come from that we all share one thing in common: we have to eat. And it is in those times that we share a great meal and good conversation that wonderful things can happen. Barriers fall down. Dreams are shared. The Body of Christ is truly alive and vibrant.

So I would like to extend an invitation to something I call "Potlucks with the Pastor." It's a chance for us to get to know each other a little better, for me to learn more about our church, and for us to share our dreams and hopes for the future of this church. **We will start around 6 with a potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall and will begin our chat around 6:30ish.** I envision us wrapping up around 7:30. The church will provide for childcare.

Because we are a large congregation and so that everyone who wishes to speak can be heard we will have several potlucks this month. **My hope is that we can arrange these alphabetically by last name. Here is our schedule:**

- *Thursday, October 18th: Last names starting with A-F
- *Thursday, October 25th: Last names starting with G-L
- *Thursday, November 1st: Last names starting with M-R
- *Thursday, November 8th: Last names starting with S-Z

I know we all lead very busy lives so that if you cannot make it to your designated time please come on another Thursday. I do ask that you please RSVP with Michelle (michelle@firstcongucc.org or 319-234-8927) in the Church Office with your name, date, and what you are bringing so that we have a good idea of what to expect. I look forward to some fine Iowa cuisine and even better conversation! God bless.

~ Pastor Scott



Today is World Communion Sunday. Established in 1933 this special worship service promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. In that spirit I would like to share with you this message from our sister Evangelical Christian

Church in Bremen, Germany:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We send you our best fraternal greetings across the Atlantic ocean. It is not so long since we celebrated worship and the Lord's Supper together. Your kind thoughts and wishes have accompanied us back to Bremen. In Iowa we thought about special gifts in the service. We experience it as a special gift to have met you - and to pray together for peace and against racism and intolerance. We are convinced that only together we will find a way out of the current difficulties in our countries.

God bless you and your families.

Your Bremen friends, Heike and Günther for the Immanuel congregation with the best wishes from our Pastor Gunnar Held

Volunteer Needed:

Congratulations to our office manager, Michelle, who has become a first time aunt! Her niece, Abigail Charleigh Corwin was born in Charlotte, NC. Michelle will be traveling to meet her and attend her dedication. We are looking for anyone interested in volunteering to cover the phones while she is gone.

The times needing coverage are
October 18, 22 & 23: 9am to 4:30 pm and
October 19: 9am to Noon

Please let Michelle in the office know if you could help. Thank you

Mark Your Calendars



The Church Row will be holding our annual clothing giveaway again on **Saturday, October 27th from 9am to 10:30am** at Sacred Heart.

Please collect your extra clothes, bedding, and towels and drop them off in the Crossroads at church when you come on Sunday.

Confirmation

If you have a child in 6th-8th grade who is interested in being confirmed, please join us this Sunday, October 7th in the chapel after church for the informational meeting about the upcoming confirmation class. Please plan to attend with your child(ren).



** November 17th is our annual church bazaar. We are gathering items for the Bottom Drawer, so if you would like to donate gently used items, you may bring them anytime now to the church basement.

** Also, be creative and start thinking now what you can provide for the SILENT AUCTION. Ideas are endless: A themed basket, a dinner event, yard work or snow shoveling, a special piece of art or photography- as you come up with ideas- please contact Gina Greene. ggreene1124@gmail.com. In advance for all you do. Thank you.



We will present 3rd grade Bibles in our October 28th service. If you have a current 3rd grader please contact the office.

A Collect

Last Sunday in Adult Sunday School we wrote a collect inspired by our reflections on the scripture lesson from Exodus 14, Delivery from the Sea of Reeds.

A collect is a form of prayer that is over one thousand years old. It was typically a prayer of the assembly. When writing individually it can be thought of a way to assemble oneself, "collect oneself" in prayer:

*Steadfast and Faithful God,
Who gave us our Lord Jesus,
Help us be patient and trusting,
even when we grumble,
That we may live each day
to praise and to serve you.*

Sunday School

Gathering (9:00 - 9:15 am)

Youth and adults meet for singing, praying, and mission news in the chapel

Classes (9:15 - 10:15 am)

CHILDREN

Students 6th grade and up will gather upstairs in the Murphy Youth Room with Paul & Hannah Prescott. The youth will learn how being "Plugged In" to God can make their lives even better!

Children ages pre-K - 5th grade meet with Jayne Slaughter in the upstairs Sunday School Room. The children will learn to tie scriptural truth into their own lives.

ADULTS

Adults will meet in the chapel. Join Pastor Scott and Evie Waack to discuss how the Bible relates to our lives today.

Weekly Events

Sun., October 7

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship Service
(World Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need Offering)

Tues., October 9

6:00 pm - Trustee's Meeting

Wed., October 10

5:30 pm - Bells
7:00 pm - Choir

Danish Resistance and Rescue of the Jews of Denmark

The UNI Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education and the Hearst Center for the Arts is commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Danish resistance and the rescue of the Jews of Denmark. The events will begin with the opening on October 5 of a photographic exhibition, RESISTANCE & RESCUE: PHOTOGRAPHS BY JUDY ELLIS GLICKMAN at the Hearst Center in Cedar Falls. There will be a reception from 5:30 to 7:00, with food, drinks and music. The exhibit will be available for viewing through November 25.

Other events related to this commemoration "The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews of Denmark" include Steen Metz giving a gallery talk on October 30 at 7:00 p.m. "My Story: Surviving the Holocaust". There will also be a film series: "The Danish Solution" on October 16 at 7:00 p.m. with filmmaker Karen Cantor, "Miracle at Midnight" on November 1 at 7:00 p.m. and "Across the Waters" on November 15 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. All events are free and open to the public.



Neighbors in Need October 7, 2018

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. The offering this year will be held on **Sunday, October 7th** as part of our World Communion Sunday. You may use the special offering envelope in your bulletin this coming Sunday and drop it in the offering plate or you may mail your special offering to:

*First Congregational Church
608 W. 4th St.
Waterloo, IA 50702*



Love to talk about books?

Looking for a Sunday School class? Tara Spence is organizing a Young Women's Book Study Class. Please contact her at 919-260-2767 or TLNSpence@gmail.com if you are interested.

Sunday School ...

It's not too late to let Hannah or Paul (Hannah@firstcongucc.org) know if you would be interested in teaching a Children's Sunday School Class this year.

A Note from Pastor Scott...

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

I want to take a moment to speak to what happened in Washington, DC this past week with the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings. You might be thinking that you don't want to hear about it in your church newsletter or anyone else because you are sick and tired of the topic and the relentless 24/7 news coverage. Or you might be tuned out and you're not really sure what I am talking about and why it matters. This message isn't directed towards any of you and I ask that you grant me a moment of personal privilege to speak to some other folks in our First Congregational UCC community.

My message is for those people who have felt triggered or re-traumatized this past week, either because you're a survivor of sexual assault or you love someone who is a survivor.

If this has been an emotionally difficult week for you, I just want you to hear from your pastor that your story, your lived experience, it matters. You, in the fullness of who you are, you matter. In fact, you matter so much that I am asking you to take care of yourself. If one way of caring for yourself is worshiping with us Sunday, I commend you for doing that and for being with us. If you need to talk to someone or disconnect or pray or scream or take a walk or connect with a mental health professional, please do that. If you need help getting the support you need then you can start with me. I will do whatever I can to help you feel healthy and grounded once again. If you talk to me, I will believe you. I can be reached at 919-265-8902 or via email. And if none of the news this past week was traumatic for you, then that's wonderful. But please be aware that you're navigating in a place in which many people are feeling emotionally raw and so I ask you to prayerfully discern your words and your actions accordingly.

Thank you all for being part of our church community. If we remember nothing else today and in the weeks to come, may we remember that each of us is a beloved child of God and that First Congregational UCC is a place where we will model what it looks like to treat each other with the dignity and respect that we all deserve.

My door is always open if you want to chat. God bless.

~ *Pastor Scott*

2018 Third Quarter Financial Status

The Church Operating Budget continues in good condition. At the end of September, we were 75 percent of the way through our budget year, so both income and expense should be close to that number. Current Pledge income was 70 percent. Because of this shortfall we made our third and final transfer of Memorial Pledges from the Endowment. This brought our Total Income to 76 percent. Total Expense was 74 percent, right on budget. This is the time of year when pledge payments slow, and in some past years we have had to borrow from the Endowment to keep the doors open. I don't believe we will need to borrow this year, but please make an effort to keep your pledge payments up to date.

We are in the last calendar quarter of the Rose Window/Sound System capital campaign. It will wrap up at the end of December. Office Manager, Michelle Wolfe, reports that 18 pledge units have pledges due yet this year. If you are one of them, please plan to make your final pledge payment in the coming months.

As I have done in past years, I will be contacting pledge units with pledges due, not to exert pressure, but to help estimate the year end budget and campaign status. If you have questions about either the Operating Budget or the Capital Campaign, please contact Michelle.

Dave Allbaugh
Treasurer

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



FALL FESTIVAL



Mark your calendars for the annual fall festival!

Sunday Oct 21 at 3:00

Join us for outdoor fun with a hayride, apple bobbing,
pumpkin carving and more!

Then warm up inside with our chili cook-off!

