

Congregational Tidings

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



A weekly newsletter

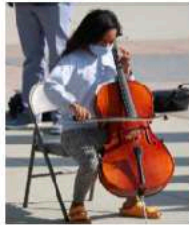
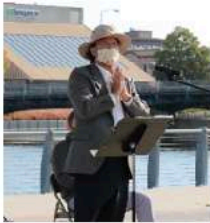


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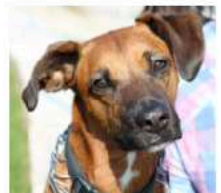
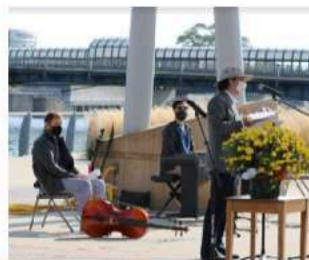
October 14, 2020

What a Great Time at the RiverLoop!!

Oh, my, did we ever have a great time at the RiverLoop last Sunday! What a wonderful, first in-person service with Pastor Bret! The weather was perfect ... beautiful sunshine and a breeze. The music was extraordinary because we were making it TOGETHER! beautiful version of Ode to Joy on her cello capped off the service. Thank you, Sabina's Sabina!! And as you expect at a Blessing of the Animals worship service, there were animals ... lots and lots of animals of all shapes and sizes. They were



were all wearing face masks, but the smiles ... the smiles ... the smiles seeing friends and family seven months ... the smiles meeting Pastor Bret in person ... the smiles hearing live music and singing out loud, together ... the smiles of being in God's creation on a simply perfect morning ... the smiles of being together. Yes, it's true ... a face mask cannot stop a smile!! Thank you to the sixty plus who participated in our RiverLoop service! Thanks to those who joined the livestream at home! Thanks to Pastor Bret for making his new home in Iowa with us! Thanks to God for the many blessings we share!





Did You Ever Notice? ...

Did you ever notice how sometimes it seems like nobody notices the good things you do until you stop doing

them? Well, it's not true! And it's not about being noticed anyway, is it? Or is it? The good things we do, the kind things, the caring things are noticed by others. And when they are, the ripple effect begins. I'm a firm believer that a simple smile can run through a crowd like wildfire. A random act of kindness will be repeated over and over again. And every kind deed begins another ripple. Every smile contributes to the waves of Goodness we want these ripples to become. Add to the wave...add your ripple...keep doing the good things you have always done. Make their day!

Neighbors In Need Offering

We will be collecting the Neighbors in Need (NIN) special offering throughout the month of October. This offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds supports our local community and two third of the NIN funds help a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through our UCC Tri-Conference.



Isn't it about Time for a Fall Festival?!?

Yes, it is!! It's going to look a little different this year, like so many things, but get yourself ready for some fun!! What kind of fun, you want to know?? Well, how about decorating some pumpkins and sharing your spooky or fun works of art with us?? We'll give you a chance to holler for a pumpkin if you need us to deliver. And, yes, you still get to guess the weight of the big pumpkin. So, you may want to practice your weight guessing skills on other things around the house ... the microwave ... the dog? And then, you get to guess how many pieces of candy corn are in the jar. You can fill a jar with marbles, or thimbles (what's a thimble?), or mini-marshmallows, or ??? to get ready. Then your greatest Fall Festival wish comes true ... **CHILI**. You get to go through the First Church Drive-Thru and pick-up your samples of this year's chili ... complete with Kay's famous cornbread. You'll hear a lot more about that over the next two weeks, but you'll want to put Friday evening, October 30th on your calendar now. And if you're in costume, or short, or just a lot of fun, you may get a treat bag when you drive through! Whoo hoo! Don't cha' just love fall festival time? We do at the RE Board!! 'Stay tuned over the next couple of weeks!!



Looking at Life through Others' Glasses

Deborah VanTrece was a valvictorian of her class at the Art Institute. She is a Culinary Artist extraordinaire. She started a restaurant, Edible Art, to huge success and another, Twisted Soul Food, which has been equally successful. She happens to also be AfricanAmerican. It's sadly not surprising she would run into many obstacles in this white-led restaurant industry before making it on her own. But what is most shocking are the stories about everyday life as a black woman in the south. Stories of being followed and then stopped in stores for shoplifting, of being hit with a billy club and hauled downtown to the police station only to be let go, with no apology, when it's discovered she is a bright, college student with no record ... and, of course, that she didn't, in fact, shoplift anything. We have no idea what it's like, do we? She has an article titled "Why I Keep Cooking" in the October issue of Bon Appetit magazine. It may open your eyes. Thanks, Dick Grimm, for bringing this article to our attention.



In Our Hearts and Minds and Prayers ...

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

Karen Dew's brother-in-law Richard McKinney needs our prayers. He had quadruple heart bypass surgery last week. He will have a pace maker/monitor placed Wednesday.

Teri Graham had to say goodbye to her longtime companion, Bear, last week. We all know of the very close relationship between Bear and Teri ... keep Teri very close!

Jo Tefft's brother, Duane Fails of Denver passed away Sept 29th. His last day here with us was Bob & Jo's 63rd anniversary. We celebrate a beautiful Life and we celebrate a beautiful union!

Please remember Michelle and Greg this week as they prepare to lay Michelle's daughter, Kalli Corwin, to rest. Cards & Memorials may be sent to Michelle Wolfe 1248 Doreen Ave Waterloo 50701.

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

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

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

And more prayers for Pastor Bret as he unpacks, closes, and makes his new home in LaPorte City!

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Welcome to the Fine Arts Corner!

This is our third entry for the Fine Arts Corner, from Cliff Highnam who not only creates beautiful objects of art, but plays beautiful music using these pieces of art. Thank you, Paul, Diane, and Cliff for your contributions so far. We look forward to hearing from many of you out there!

We are encouraging creations of all kinds, great or small. We welcome photography, paintings, sculpture, poetry, stories, dance, music, acting, recipes, knitting, crocheting, sewing, needlework, pottery--whatever you enjoy creating. Or maybe you have a favorite hobby that isn't necessarily your own creation, but an appreciation of the creativity of others. You can take a picture of your creation or something you appreciate. If you would like to present a video, we can link it to our website and/or Facebook page. 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 miss seeing each other and this is a way that we can share ourselves in a different way. We welcome artists of all ages and abilities. Please send your creation or questions to Anne Hoekstra at annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com or call 319-269-0241.

From Cliff:

This is a photo of a set of dulcimer hammers I made. This pair is composed of walnut with grips of maple. I cut them out with a scroll saw and glued them together with clamps. The hammers are hand-sanded and finished with tung oil. The dot on each shank is a wood inlay locating the fulcrum or balance point. The fulcra for a pair need to match in order to feel balanced in the player's hands. The striking surfaces are covered with leather strips that soften impact and mellow sound.



During the boredom created by the pandemic, I made dozens of these pairs and peddled them on E-bay and from my Etsy shop. But I flooded the market (which took a couple dozen) and now I'm nursing a bloated inventory. Hammers anyone? : -)



Create an endowment of love. Please consider including our church in your estate planning.

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