

Congregational Tidings



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

A weekly newsletter



October 16, 2019

**Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
October 20, 2019
10:30 am**

**Pastor Scott will
present the message:**

*7 Signs: Why Church?
Why Here?*

**Scripture Reading
1 Corinthians 12:13-31**

**Worship Leader
Beth Hurley**

**Deacon-In-Charge
Janice Akin**

**Acolytes
Dale and Evie Waack**

**October Ushers
Gordon Lauterbach
Kelly Conrad
Jonathan Yarngo
Peter Steva**



FALL FESTIVAL

Indoor Activities

Gourd & Pumpkin Decorating

Fall Photo Booth



Outdoor Activities

Hay Rides

Apple Bobbing

Gourd Games

Pumpkin Seed Spitting Contest



Sunday, October 20, 2019

Starting at 3:00 pm

Come join the fun!

5:30 pm

Chili Cook-off

*(Please bring your
chili by 5:15 pm)*



Chili Cook-Off Sign-Up October 20th

Please contact Michelle ASAP if you would like to enter a chili in our cook-off this Sunday during Fall Festival. (michelle@firstcongucc.org)

Reformation Sunday October 27th

You're invited to a Congregational Town Hall - *Where do we go from here?* You can drop your questions in the big red box in Crossroads or email them to Michelle before the 27th.

Need a Ride?

Do you need a ride to get to the Doctor, to church, to an appointment, to run an errand or to meet with a friend? Through a generous gift from the Goodrich Fund, the church will be setting up an account for church member rides through Dolly's Taxi. If you have questions or need a ride, contact our Deacon's Chair, Gina Greene (ggreene1124@gmail.com) or 319-404-8840 to arrange a ride. Rides can not be promised unless they are scheduled 48 hours in advance. Short notice rides will be subject to availability. Dollys can transport a rider in a wheelchair but only has 1 van for this purpose. Let us know how we can help. Thanks.

Historic Church Row Fall Clothing Give-Away

Please bring donated items to the church crossroads by 10/17. To help arrange items on Friday, October 18 from 9 to 5 or distribute on Saturday, October 19 from 9 to 10:30, please call/text 319-504-3212.

Operation Warm

Please remember those 7,000 children in our community who need winter coats and are unable to afford them. These new coats cost \$17.00 each because we work with a Foundation which can purchase in bulk. Call Steve or Liz Thorpe 319-984-9139.

Public Office Hours

Join Pastor Scott at Starbucks (1501 Flamming) today and Fat Cup (37 Fletcher) next Wednesday, 3-5pm.

Partners in Education

* 15 Students from Bunger are interested in becoming journal buddies this year. Please see Tim Ahrens to sign up to be a buddy!

* Bunger Middle School is hosting an 8th grade registration dinner on **November 5th at 6:30 pm** and would like some volunteers to help serve the dinner. (No prep work or clean up is involved). If you could help serve, please see Tim Ahrens.

Congregational Meeting



To Members of First Congregational United Church of Christ Waterloo, Iowa:

A Called Congregational Meeting is scheduled to be held immediately following worship Sunday, October 27th in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the congregation of the current roof repairs being completed on our church building and to discuss the funding sources to be used for those repairs.

The meeting is planned to be very short. Please plan to attend. If you have questions please contact our Moderator Paul Greene or Church Treasurer Dave Allbaugh. Thank you.



**November
8th & 9th**

*Why? Weekend:
A Church Visioning Event*

Hope to see you there!



Coming Soon:



**November 3 -
All Saints' Sunday**

**November 10th -
Stewardship Sunday**



Sunday School

Gathering (9:00 - 9:15 am)
Youth and adults initially will meet in the chapel.

Classes (9:15 - 10:15 am)
Students 6th grade and up will gather upstairs in the Murphy Youth Room with Diana Paige.

Students 3rd - 5th grade will gather in the chapel with Katie Thomas.

Children ages pre-K - 2nd grade will meet with Jayne Slaughter in the main floor Sunday School classroom.

Pastor Scott's Adult class will meet in the lounge.

The Women's Class will meet in the Friendship Room.

Weekly Events

Wed., October 16
LifeLine Screenings (*All Day*)
3-5pm - Public Office Hours at Starbucks (*Waterloo*)
6:00 pm - Potluck
7:00 pm - Pastor's Class
Youth Group
Choir Practice

Thurs., October 10
6:00 Bells Practice

Sun., October 20
9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship
3:00 pm - Fall Festival
5:15 - Chili Cook-off

A Note from Pastor Scott

Over the past several Sundays in worship our congregation has been on quite the journey. As part of our transition to new pastoral leadership and in response to the ever changing culture and needs outside of our walls, we have looked at the *7 Signs of a Vital Congregation*. All organizations, whether faith-based or secular, are called to periodically step back and take a look at what makes them unique and the specific things they are called to do and to be. That has been the core purpose of this sermon series that will wrap up this Sunday (October 20th).

You can think of the past several weeks as a "check up" or a self-assessment of sorts. I want to thank everyone who has given me their feedback or fresh ideas over coffee, during Community Office Hours, or email. This has been a great chance to get to know many of you further and to hear of your passions and dreams for our beloved First Congregational UCC.

There are two more ways in which you can be involved in this vital congregational conversation.

***The first is during worship on Sunday, October 27th.** We will mark Reformation Sunday as a congregation by participating in that most Congregationalist of activities: a Town Hall. More specifically, you are invited to come with your questions and ideas as we talk about the *7 Signs* and what they mean for us in 2019 and beyond. This will be in lieu of the traditional sermon so plan on that chat lasting around 15 minutes at the most.

If you want to submit your questions in advance, please email them to Michelle at the Church Office or put them in the big red (for the Reformation!) box in the Causeway. I look forward to our conversation.

***The second opportunity is November 8-9 here at FCUCC.** After a great deal of discernment, our Leadership Team (Paul, Cliff, Barb, Keith and Dave) and I have asked the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center to lead us in a "Why? Weekend." The purpose of this weekend is to help lead us in answering the questions of "Why are we church? Why has God called us here to this place? And how can we answer that call as a faith community?"

We believe that thinking about and answering these questions under the facilitation of the DMPCC leaders will provide some critical direction to our future together. And this is where you come in—we are in need of between 20-30 church members to RSVP that they can come to the Why? Weekend.

The sessions will run 6-9 PM Friday, November 8th and 9-4 Saturday, November 9th. In order for us to have the best possible response to these important questions we need the widest possible group of attendees: from life-long to new members, young adults to "seasoned" citizens, men and women, etc.

If you have ever wanted to help shape the future direction of First Congregational—this is your chance! If you have ever felt the call to collaborate on what this church can do for our members and the community—now is the time!

Please RSVP to the Church Office so we can get an accurate count. Again, we need between 20-30 for the event to be successful. Please note that we will provide food for both days—more details to come.

As always my door is open if you have questions. God bless.

Pastor Scott

BAZAAR BUTZ

**Christmas Bazaar
Sat., November 23rd**

Bazaar preparations are in full swing!

If you would like to be a part of this popular event, the following areas will be featured this year!

Festival of Trees:

There is still time left to decorate a tree if you are interested. Let one of us know and we will show you the trees to choose from! We have table top ones that wouldn't take much to decorate, as well as bigger trees.

Greens:

Any donations of items to decorate wreaths are always appreciated, especially ribbon!

Book Nook:

Current titles and children's books are especially needed.

Bottom Drawer:

Gently used items are still being collected and appreciated, and may be placed in the church basement behind the partition.

Bling bling:

Jewelry, purses, and scarves are needed.

Handmade items:

We can still use more items that you may have been working on such as cards, knit hats/mittens, hand towels. Excited to see what ideas you have had!

Kandy Korner:

Homemade candy, dipped pretzels, popcorn balls, toffee, peanut brittle, just to name a few.

Baked Goods:

If you enjoy baking, now is your time to shine! We need you ! Cookies, pies, breads, cakes, cookies, jams, bars, etc.

** Also we will once again feature a Healthy Choices area. Things like gluten free, sugar free, whole grains. Healthy doesn't need to be boring!

We have ordered more containers again this year to put your baked goods in. Just let us know if you want some. As always you are also welcome to package and decorate your own . Be creative! Packaging is everything!

**Also in the baked goods we will be featuring cookie mix in a jar creations and are looking for a team of people to help assemble them. Look for upcoming announcement of when that will happen!

Silent Auction:

We still need more silent auction items. I've heard talk of a "traveling dinner" as one of the items. Sound like fun? Let us know if you want to learn more.

If you have questions you may contact any of us or call Michelle in the office and she will let us know!

Thank you for all y'all do!

Connie Jo, Jayne and Jill

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

Place
Stamp
Here

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



Join us this Sunday as our 7 Signs of a Vital Congregation Sermon Series concludes with “Why Church? Why Here?” looking at 1 Corinthians 12:13-31.

Here are the questions that Pastor Scott asked you to contemplate over this past week on “*Outward Focus and Caring Communities:*”

- *Who is at the margins of our community? Our congregation?
- *How does our congregation show up outside our building and share the love of Christ? What would our community say about your churches identity?
- *Where is Christ at work and inviting you to join? Does our congregation have an emboldened spirit to follow Christ?

- *What prevents us from going where God may send us? What are our fears? What leaves us focused inward?
- *Does our church welcome the lost, help the doubting, sit with the grieving, lend aid to the poor, help the downtrodden, offer forgiveness to the sinner, clothe the naked, support the suffering and sick, strengthen the faint hearted, respond to the skeptic, help bind up the broken-hearted, stand up for the weak, give voice to those silenced, pray with those in pain, and otherwise live into the incarnate spirit of Christ our Savior? If so, in what ways? If not, why?
- *What practices of caring relationships does our congregation cherish most?
- *What would a neighbor/community visitor say about the environment of caring relationships?
- *How does our church handle conflict?
- *How do we foster and nurture lasting relationships in your community, with the larger UCC, and beyond?