

# 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](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

October 17, 2018

**Twenty-eighth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
October 21, 2018  
10:30 am**

**Pastor Scott Spence will  
present the message:**  
*David and Bathsheba*

**Using the text:**  
2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27;  
12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9

**Special Music**  
*Create in Me a Clean Heart*  
Chancel Choir

**Deacon-In-Charge**  
Nancy Mahood

**Acolytes**  
John and Barb Mardis

**Greeters**  
Paul and Gina Greene  
(Sanctuary)

Janice Akin  
Nancy Heinick  
(Crossroads)



## FALL FESTIVAL

### Indoor Activities

Gourd & Pumpkin Decorating

Fall Photo Booth

Face Painting



### Outdoor Activities

Hay Rides

Apple Bobbing

Gourd Games

Pumpkin Seed Spitting Contest



**Sunday, October 21, 2018**

**Starting at 3:00 pm**

**Come join the fun!**

**5:30 pm**

**Chili Cook-off**

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



## You Are Beloved!



Saturday I had the honor of attending the Iowa Conference Annual Meeting in West Des Moines. Annual Meeting is an opportunity for UCC clergy and church members from all across the Hawkeye State to come together and conduct business, worship, have fellowship, and just “be church” for a day. Our Conference, much like our state, is quite diverse. In attendance were believers from congregations rural and urban, large and small, historic and new, and Congregationalist and Evangelical & Reformed. It’s quite the event.

The central event of Annual Meeting was the Installation of the Rev. Brigit Stevens as our Conference Minister. Installation is an opportunity for a church and a new pastor to formally make commitments to one another and to God that they will support and be accountable for the course of their time together. Think of it like a wedding but with different vows and everyone being in the party.

This Installation was especially important because of recent changes within the UCC. The next several years will see the creation of something called the Tri-Conference. In plain speak this means that the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences will be combining ministries and functions together in order to fit the needs of today’s UCC. This does not mean that the Iowa Conference will cease to function or that First Congregational is now on its own in the wilderness. It does mean that we are being asked to be more creative and open to the Holy Spirit’s calling on the direction of our denomination. **Institutions need to change and adapt to be better at their calling-and that includes the local and national church.**

**I realize that change can be scary.** I confess that I don’t know how exactly the Tri-Conference idea will shake out. I don’t know what form First Congregational will take in 2019, 2025, or beyond. We will succeed at some things, fail at others and stop “doing it the way we’ve always done it”-**but we will still be the Body of Christ no matter what.**

I’d like to share some advice that Rev. Stevens gave during worship. She was preaching on John 17:21 and Jesus’ prayer that “they may all be one.” That phrase is a big deal in the UCC. This desire for community and love was one of the reasons for our founding in 1957. It’s even in our logo!

Rev. Stevens reminded us that the verse is in a larger passage about God’s love for each and every one of us no matter who we are. She asked us that in times of stress and change, or even as a daily spiritual practice, to take time and look in the mirror and remind yourself **“You are beloved! You are beloved!”**

Here’s my challenge for you: don’t just end it there. Extend that to our church and our community- especially when you are frustrated with either one. **“First Congregational UCC-You Are Beloved! Waterloo, Iowa-You Are Beloved!”** Say it. Believe it. Be it.

God bless.

Pastor Scott

## Sunday School News:

\* Our Sunday School Mission this year is Cedar Valley Hospitality House. Join us for Sunday School this Sunday, October 21st to hear Joni Hansen speak talk about all they provide for the Cedar Valley.

\* **We are in need of one more Sunday School teacher. If you or you and another person would like to share this opportunity to teach our children, please contact Hannah.**



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.

## Attention Church Youth:



If you are interested in playing the bells, practice will begin on Sunday, October 28th after the church service in the choir room. We will continue to meet each Sunday through

November 18th with our debut at our worship service on November 25th.

## Chamber Music Concert

The chamber music concert at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Waterloo will be on Sunday, October 28, at 3:00 p.m. This concert is sponsored by First Congregational Church and American Guild of Organists Cedar Valley Chapter. Please see the next page for more information. This program is free and open to the public.

## Condolences:

Ann Brecunier died recently in her home in Oregon. She was the daughter of Dorothy Brecunier and the late Dick Brecunier, members of our church family. Please keep Dorothy and family in your thoughts and prayers.

## Pastoral Care

One of the most important functions of ministry is providing care and support in times of need. Please contact the church office, Diaconate Chair or contact me directly (919) 265-8902 if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care. Due to HIPAA regulations, churches are no longer contacted when their members are in the hospital so please contact us in case of emergency.

Thank you.

Scott

## Bunger Journals



We are excited to announce that there are 41 students at Bunger Middle School who are interested in having a journal buddy from our congregation this school year!

Please contact:

Hannah ([hannah@firstcongucc.org](mailto:hannah@firstcongucc.org)) or Michelle ([michelle@firstcongucc.org](mailto:michelle@firstcongucc.org)) to get signed up with your new pen pal.

Thank you in advance!

## Sunday School

### Gathering (9:00 - 9:15am)

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. We will learn to tie scriptural truth into our 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

### Thurs., October 18

6:00 pm - Potluck with Pastor (A - F)

### Sun., October 21

9:00 am - Sunday School  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
3:00 pm - Fall Festival

### Wed., October 24

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

### Thurs., October 25

6:00 pm - Potluck with Pastor (G-L)

\*\*\*\*\*

*The First Congregational United Church of Christ  
and  
American Guild of Organists Cedar Valley Chapter  
Presents*

# Chamber Music Concert

J.S. Bach - Concerto for Oboe and Violin with Strings, BWV 1060  
F. Handel - Organ Concerto, "The Cuckoo and the Nightingale"  
J. Haydn - "Benedictus" from Little Organ Mass  
W. A. Mozart - Church Sonatas in F and D Major

Featuring

Dr. Daniel Kaplunas, violin Dr. Heather Peyton, oboe  
Miah Han, Dr. Karen Black, Anne Hoekstra, organ  
Dr. Mitra Sadeghpour, soprano  
Taemin Han, director



**Sunday, October 28, 2018  
3:00 pm**

This concert is free and open to the public  
Child care service will be provided

**First Congregational United Church of Christ  
608 West Fourth St. Waterloo, Iowa  
319-234-8927 [www.firstcongucc.org](http://www.firstcongucc.org)**

## ***From Celeste Bembry...***

Dear Church Family,

Kenya Mission Trip 2018 - God's amazing gift to Celeste Bembry

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

You, First Congregational Church family all are a huge Iowa blessing to me and so many others. Thank you Jesus!!

You are cordially invited to the Kenya Mission Trip presentation this **Saturday, October 20th.**

We are excited to share our experiences and present pictures of the beautiful children, the Masai and Kukuyu people, their culture, country and wildlife. Absolutely stunning!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support to fund my opportunity to join the Antioch Baptist Church mission team to serve nearly 80 motherless and fatherless Kenyan children this past August. The experience was life-changing.

**Event:** Kenyan Mission Trip Presentation

**Date:** Saturday, October 20th

**Time:** 1:00pm to 2:30pm

**Location:** Antioch Baptist Church

**Address:** 426 Sumner Street, W'loo

**Directions:** drive north on 4th Street to Sumner Street make right turn. (Sumner just passed railroad tracks)

See you there!!!

## **Women of Faith Supper**

\* Each month Women of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian Faiths from the Cedar Valley gather on a Tuesday evening for a meal and then have an educational sharing.

\* The next Women of Faith supper will be held on Tuesday, October 23 at 6 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 2410 Melrose Drive, Cedar Falls. That evening, we will learn how The World's Window helps women around the world. The World's Window is a nonprofit gift shop which sells unique certified Fair Trade products to the Cedar Valley. Items from the shop will be displayed and available for purchase.

\* Check out "Women of Faith Potluck Dinners" on Facebook for more information.

\* Contact Evie Waack at [evie.waack@gmail.com](mailto:evie.waack@gmail.com) or Audrey Adams-Sorge at (319) 236-1817 if you are interested or have questions.

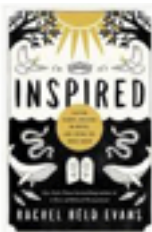
## We Need Your Help...

Veteran Affairs and the Church Row neighborhood are working together to remodel a home at 1417 West 4th St. and make it available to a veteran family at an affordable price. We need your support. Please volunteer to help or give a donation. For more information call or text Ed Dams 319-231-6572, or email edams@mchsi.com.

## Women's Book Study

**When:** 9-10 am on Sundays starting October 28th

**Where:** Friendship Room



We will be reading the latest book from Rachel Held Evans called *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. It is available at Amazon starting at \$9.99 depending on the

version you buy. Come ready to talk about the first chapter. Bring a friend and I'll bring snacks!

~ Tara Spence



**Please Grab  
your  
Name Tag...**

In order for Pastor Scott and his family to get to know us better, we will have the name tag board in the library for the next few Sundays. Please pick up and wear your name tag and return it to the board before you leave each Sunday.

Thank you!

## BAZAAR NEWS:

### How Can I Help with the Bazaar?

#### Let Us Count The Ways!!!

1. Come to the Bazaar and bring friends.
2. Buy luncheon tickets.
3. Donate money to defray the luncheon food costs.
4. Bake! Bake! Bake!
5. Make Candy.
6. Come and Buy a Quilt.
7. Bring in homemade/ grown jams, pickles, squash, plants, herbs.
8. Return jelly, canning jars.
9. Donate wire hangers and wired ribbon for wreaths.
10. Bring in new or barely used items for the "Bottom Drawer."
11. Donate tools, sporting goods, fishing gear for "Grandpa's shed."
12. Knit crochet, sew items for Handmade table.
13. Volunteer to serve at the luncheon.
14. Volunteer to set up/ take down tables
15. Take and post flyers.
16. Donate an item, Theme basket, group meal, movie tickets, dinner out (Be Creative) for the Silent Auction \*\*
17. Donate jewelry.
18. Donate books.
19. Volunteer to help with one of the tables to give others a break.
20. Think of new ideas for next year!!!

\*\* Ideas for the Silent Auction 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](mailto:ggreene1124@gmail.com).

### Desserts Also Needed...

Again, we are asking for amazing desserts for the bazaar lunch. Just like last year we want the people to be awed by the food and desserts! So, we would like pies, layer cakes or cheese cakes from scratch to be made by those who like to bake. Please let Nancy Mahood know and she will add you to her list. A great big THANK YOU in advance!



### NEW THIS YEAR

Each year our baked goods tables have been quite a hit! This year we are offering a "Healthy Alternatives" section for those who are looking for healthier ingredients or who have special dietary needs! So we need bakers who would like to contribute to this table. These could be any baked goods that would be:

- Gluten-free
- Refined white sugar-free
- Organic or vegan
- Whole wheat
- Contain especially healthy ingredients such as yogurt, honey, etc.

Be sure to label your items and list any special ingredients that make it a 'healthy alternative' as well as any that might contain an allergen such as nuts. If you have any questions, contact Beth Hurley.

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



## Potlucks with the Pastor

This is 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 18<sup>th</sup>: Last names starting with A-F
- \*Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>: Last names starting with G-L
- \*Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>: Last names starting with M-R
- \*Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>: 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](mailto: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