

Congregational Tidings



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

A weekly newsletter



October 23, 2019

Fall Festival 2019

**Reformation
Sunday
October 27, 2019
10:30 am**

**Congregational
Town Hall**

*Where do we go
from here?*

**Scripture Reading
Romans 3:19-28**

**Worship Leader
Diane Highnam**

**Deacon-In-Charge
Bonnie Rickert**

**Acolytes
Bob and Pat Brock**

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



Congregational Meeting

Attention all FCUCC Members:

Please stay after the worship service this Sunday, October 27th for a short meeting to discuss the funding sources to be used for our roof repairs.

Any questions, please contact our Moderator Paul Greene, or our Church Treasurer Dave Allbaugh.

Fall Festival

Congratulations to Jessica Conrad for winning first place and to Dale Waack and Nancy Mahood for taking second place!! Thank you to everyone who attended the event and to the RE Board for all your hard work!

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.

Blessing Bags

For the next few weeks, we will be collecting travel-size toiletries and personal care items from the following list to make Blessing Bags:

Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Floss, Mouthwash, Hair brushes, Warm socks, Gloves, Warm hats, Hand/feet warmers, Wet wipes, Bottled water, Chapstick, Lotion, Deodorant, Band-aids, 1 gallon-size zip-top bags, and Individually packaged snacks like granola bars

You can bring donations to the church office. Once we have collected the items, we will need volunteers to help pack the bags with these items and a flyer with information about Love Inc.

Public Office Hours

Join Pastor Scott at Fat Cup (37 Fletcher) today and Cup of Joe in Cedar Falls next Wednesday, 3-5pm.

Living with Gun Violence: What It Means for Our Neighbors

This program is presented by **Rev. Abraham Funchess**, Pastor of Jubilee United Methodist Church and hosted by the **Canterbury Forum**.

When: Sunday, October 27th

Where: St. Luke's Episcopal Church
2410 Melrose Drive, Cedar Falls

Time: Program starts at 7:00 PM

Free of charge and open to the public

7 Signs Series:

Here are the final questions for our 7 Signs of a Vital Congregation Series. Last Sunday we focused on the question "Why Church?"

*Do you feel like our church centers life with prayer at the heart of all things?

*What is the mission of our church? Who wrote it? How does our church live into its mission? How does our budget reflect your mission?

*What are the core values and vision of our church? Does everyone know and share them?

*Does our congregation do well to embrace change? • When was the last time a dream led to incredible new vision and ministry in our church?

*Are people stakeholders in being a part of our church? Do they feel committed to values and mission? Do they feel they are necessary in dreaming, envisioning, decision-making process?

*How does our church teach stewardship and tithing?

*Who makes decisions in our church? Are they transparent? Do all get buy-in; all opinions heard?

*Is our budget sustainable? How is it assessed? Who determines spending?

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 23

LifeLine Screenings (*All Day*)

3-5pm - Public Office Hours

at FatCup (*Waterloo*)

6:00 pm - Potluck

7:00 pm - Pastor's Class

Youth Group

Choir Practice

Thurs., October 24

6:00 Bells Practice

Sun., October 27

9:00 am - Sunday School

10:30 am - Worship

Special Congregational Meeting immediately following service



November 8th & 9th

Why? Weekend: A Visioning Event

If you have not already sent in your RSVP, please do so to Michelle ASAP.



Coming Soon:



November 3 -
All Saints' Sunday



November 10th -
Stewardship Sunday



Hip Hop Literacy 319

Thank you to the Fine Arts Committee for sponsoring this event on October 13th!



Mayor Hart and Meach Meacham

Special Guest Speaker

On Sunday, December 1st, our supply pastor will be poet, minister, activist, and teacher Joe Davis of Minneapolis, MN. Joe Davis will be leading worship, using the arts--poetry, in particular, as a vehicle for leading us in worship. In June 2018, several from the choir traveled to Holden Village in Washington State for a week of camp--worship, fellowship, workshops, and outdoor activities, and Joe Davis was our artist in residence for the week. Several of us said "we must have him visit us", and so he is!

Besides being our preacher of the day, he will provide a writing/poetry workshop during Sunday School for adults and teens interested in writing poetry. You don't have to be an accomplished poet to attend the workshop, or ever have written poetry before. Just come with your willing spirit to learn and experience something new. If you would like more information about Joe, you can speak with Beth Lauterbach, Evie Waack, or Anne Hoekstra, or visit Joe's website joedavispoetry.com.

Adult Book Study Class

The Sunday class will be starting a discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World: a Geography of Faith* next Sunday, Oct. 27 during the Sunday School hour. We meet in the Friendship room. Here's a description of the book:

"In her stunning follow-up [to *Leaving Church*], *An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor shares how she learned to encounter God far beyond the walls of the church. Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of meditation if we pay attention to what we're doing and take time to notice the sights, smells, and sounds around us. Making eye contact with the cashier at the grocery store becomes a moment of true human connection. Allowing yourself to get lost leads to new discoveries. As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do. Through Taylor's expert guidance and delicate, thought-provoking prose, we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in."

Church bodies forgive millions in medical debt for 5,888 Chicago families:

CHICAGO, Oct. 20, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Local, regional and national leaders of the United Church of Christ announced Oct. 20 that church donations have wiped out \$5.3 million in medical debt for 5,888 South Side Chicago families. Families are now receiving letters telling them that their debt, averaging \$907, has been forgiven.

In a news conference and celebration at Trinity UCC that included national and Conference UCC representatives, the church leaders said the project focused on ZIP codes 60621, 60628 and 60636. The church bodies raised \$38,000 over the summer and then worked with the New York-based nonprofit RIP Medical Debt to buy the debt at pennies on the dollar. In addition to Trinity UCC and two wider UCC agencies -- Justice and Local Church Ministries and the Illinois Conference -- generous contributors included St. Pauls UCC of Chicago, Covenant UCC of South Holland, Ill., and The Leaders Network, a consortium of Baptist churches serving Chicago's west side neighborhoods. The urban neighborhoods were chosen because of their demographics.

"Today we thank all the supporters of this beautiful vision," said the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, senior pastor of Trinity UCC, the lead congregational contributor. "Because of your generosity, thousands of families in Chicago will now be free to pursue dreams and celebrate this holiday season without the weight of medical debt."

"When medical debt piles up, families have to make difficult financial decisions, sometimes cutting back on food, clothing or other basics," said the Rev. Justo González II, interim Illinois Conference minister.

"The talent, time and treasure of the church have touched a core need of people without means, or a way out of no way," said the Rev. Dr. Ozzie Smith Jr., senior pastor of Covenant UCC. "God be praised for faithful collaborative efforts!"

"Saint Pauls is so happy to be part of this effort," said its senior pastor, the Rev. Matt Fitzgerald. "It's like Jesus feeding thousands of people from a few loaves of bread and two fish. We just watched \$38,000 become more than \$5 million."

Blackmon also announced that the UCC is planning a similar campaign throughout the denomination on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3. Updates on that project can be found at this page at the UCC website.

"Our efforts in the Chicago area serve as a launching pad, in collaboration with the UCC's 38 conferences and almost 5,000 congregations, to medical debt relief efforts for those living at or below poverty in the 44 states we currently serve," Blackmon said. "We view this ministry as one that also embodies what it means to love God, love our neighbors and proclaim Good News to the poor, whether they worship in our churches or not."

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



Reformation Sunday October 27th

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