

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 24, 2018

**Twenty-ninth
Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

**October 28, 2018
10:30 am**

**Pastor Scott Spence
will present the
message:
*Solomon's Wisdom***

Using the text:
1 Kings 3:4-9, 10-15,
16-28

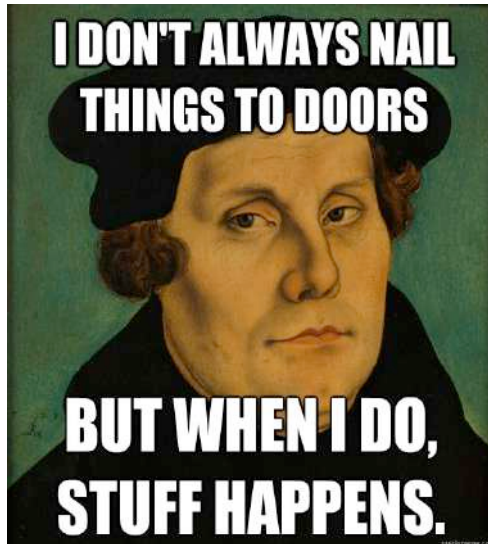
Special Music
Refuge and Strength
Chancel Choir

Deacon-In-Charge
Nancy Mahood

Acolytes
Diane Highnam
Evie Waack

Greeters
Nancy Heinick
(Sanctuary)

Janice Akin
(Crossroads)



Luther was convinced that the Church of his time needed to engage in serious self-reflection and reform in order to truly be the Body of Christ. His act of nailing 95 Theses (or ideas) to the doors of the Wittenburg Cathedral helped to start what we now call the Protestant Reformation-and 501 years later and half a world away we are still feeling the effects of Luther's protest.

How? Think for a moment of our own United Church of Christ. Our denomination is a product of the Reformation. **We are a Reformed Church.** We read the Bible in our own native languages, worship in a specific way, and structure our lives as believers together because of the Reformers. Their importance is recognized at the very start of our denominational Constitution above. **It's just who we are!**

But before we start turning this Sunday into a Protestant pep rally or an opportunity to just rest on our laurels...some faithful words of caution from your pastor.

*The Reformation also split up the Western Church. It led to unimaginable violence and toxic theology. Protestants and Catholics have only recently begun to take the first steps at reconciliation. If we in the UCC really believe in "*that they may all be one*" then we are called to open our hearts and minds so that we can learn from our fellow Christians. We don't have all the answers.

*Please look at the last sentence in the Preamble above. It states that each and every generation is called to "*make the faith its own...*" **If we are really Reformed then we are not meant to do it the way we've always done it, or the ways that make us comfortable, or to spend our time and treasure on things that only fit in with our preconceived notions of church. God is directing us to be different-even if it makes us uncomfortable.**

Directing us to what? **We are called to be something more radical than we have imagined.** Being Reformed challenges both liberal and conservative tribes and the habits and ruts we fall into. Being Reformed is a prophetic critique to our desire to "not make waves" in our congregations or communities—and it calls us to communal and institutional repentance when we are in error. It invites us, as a people who worship and serve a still speaking God, to be open to being "re-formed" according to the Word of God and the call of the Holy Spirit.

So let's get to work.

Pastor Scott

Reformed and Always Reforming

The United Church of Christ ... claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.

Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

On October 28th First Congregational UCC will celebrate Reformation Sunday during worship. This is an opportunity to join with other Reformed churches around the world to remember the bold and faithful act of a German monk named Martin Luther. We will celebrate this through singing Reformation hymns and by giving Bibles to our Third Graders.



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

Attention Church Youth:

If you are interested in playing the bells, practice will begin this 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 is this 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.



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) or Michelle (michelle@firstcongucc.org) to get signed up with your new pen pal.

Welcome Home Hip Hop Literacy from China!



The Hip Hop Literacy kids will arrive at Payne Memorial Ame Church (1044 Mobile St., W'loo) on Thursday, October 25th from 7-8pm directly from China. This will be a great opportunity to hear about their accomplishments when their memory is so vivid.

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 25

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

Sun., October 28

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship Service
3:00 pm - Chamber Music Concert

Wed., October 31

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

Thurs., November 1

6:00 pm - Potluck with Pastor (M-R)

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 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

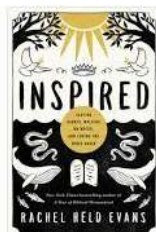
We Need Your Help...

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:

First Congregational Christmas Bazaar Saturday, November 17 9 am - 1 pm

Our Christmas Bazaar is almost here!
Are you as excited as we are?

Here is the list of our "Tables" and table leaders. Please contact the table leader about things you may have to contribute or to volunteer to help. And, as always, please contact Connie Jo or Jayne with any questions you may have about the bazaar.

Festival of Trees	Beth Lauterbach
Baked Goods	Jill Jensen & Beth Hurley
Luncheon	Bonnie Rickert & Nancy Mahood
Candy/Sweets	Joanne Lane
Christmas Greens	Donna Sheridan & Crew
Bottom Drawer	Janice Akin & Nancy Heinick
Silent Auction	Gina Greene & Greene Family
Quilters	Kathy Franke & Crew
Handmade Crafts	Sharon Holdiman
Cashiers	Sue Hummel & Crew
Books	Michelle Holt & Teri Graham
Host & Hostess	Rocky & Mary Kay Petersen

Silent Auction

** 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.

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

*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)**