

# 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)

November 7, 2018

**Thirty-second  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
November 11, 2018  
10:30 am**

**Pastor Scott Spence will  
present the message:**

*Micah*

**Using the text:**  
Micah [1:3-5]; 5:2-5a; 6:6-8

**Worship Leader**  
Kerri Mennenga

**Children's Lesson**  
Diane Highnam

**Special Music**  
*God, You Made Us  
in Your Image*  
Chancel Choir

**Deacon-In-Charge**  
Abbey Akin

**Acolytes**  
Roger and Joanne Lane

**Greeters**  
Bob and Beth Hurley  
(Sanctuary)

Ed and Eileen Dams  
(Crossroads)



**Why do you give to your church?**

We each have different motivations and capacities for giving, and every gift and pledge is gratefully received. Our one hope is that your support for our ministries comes from a profound sense of gratitude and joy for all you receive through your relationship with God and the members of our church.

We have chosen "What Shall We Bring?" as our stewardship theme this year. Why? Because we are blessed. We share a strong faith with each other. We celebrate the joyful events in each other's lives and comfort each other in times of trial and sorrow. We welcome everyone and anyone to join us, and we change the lives of people in our community – people who may never set foot in our church – simply because they have no one else to turn to and we are here.

Since 1856 our church has ministered faithfully to Waterloo and the Cedar Valley– not because members have given year after year out of duty, obligation, guilt or fear. Such motivations can't sustain an institution for so long. No, our church is still here because generations and generations of members have counted themselves blessed and thus supported its mission with generous gifts of gratitude and joy. Now it's up to us. Over the past year we have transitioned to new pastoral leadership. Part of that process was the creation of a Church Profile-a opportunity to take stock of who we are and what kind of church we wish to be in the future. Our congregation identified four areas that we consider central to our First Congregational UCC identity:

- \*Youth Ministry and Christian Education
- \*Outreach and Mission
- \*Worship and Fine Arts
- \*Evangelism and Church Growth

What support can we provide to these four areas? How can we make all of them better? How can we faithfully give our time and treasure to help us to become the church God wishes us to be? What shall we bring?

I invite you to prayerfully consider these questions this week. Please fill out your Pledge Card and bring it with you to worship or drop it off at the Church Office.

Stewardship Sunday is November 11th. Please plan now to worship with us. Over the past few weeks you have heard some special, deeply personal messages from members of our church family who feel blessed to be among us. Please use the next several days to reflect on the many ways you can count yourself blessed and then give gratefully, generously, and joyfully in support of our ministries in 2019.

As always my door is open if you would like to talk. God bless.

Pastor Scott

## Thank You RE Board!

A great big thank you to the Religious Education Board for the meal provided following our All Saints Service last Sunday! The meal was wonderful and enjoyed by all who attended.

## Potlucks with the Pastor

The final Potluck with the Pastor will be tomorrow night, November 8th. We will begin at 6:00 pm. The church will provide for childcare.

## \*\* Stewardship Sunday is this coming Sunday \*\*



Prayerfully consider your 2019 pledge then, if you haven't already, fill out a 2019 pledge card and put it in the box in the church library. You may also call the office and give Michelle your pledge over the phone.

Please complete your pledge by Stewardship Sunday.

## 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.

## Tidings

Please note that we will not publish a Tidings the week following Thanksgiving (Nov. 28th). We will resume Tidings on December 5th.

## Ecumenical Service

The Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held at the Kimball Avenue United Methodist Church at 4:00pm on Sunday, November 18th.

## Adopt-A-Family

We will be partnering with Bunger Middle School once again this year for the Adopt-A-Family program. With donations from the church, we will purchase gifts for families in need. Envelopes will be in the Library or you may call or email Michelle if you would like one mailed to you. Please place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday or return to the office by November 18th. Thank you!

## Advent Decorating

The Season of Advent is coming! You are invited to help decorate the Sanctuary after worship November 25th. A light lunch will be provided so please RSVP with the Church Office.

## Advent Study Series

You are invited to an Advent Study Series led by Pastor Scott! Beginning November 29th we will be looking at UCC scholar Walter Bruggeman's Names for the Messiah. We will start with a potluck dinner at 6 with discussion beginning around 6:30. All are welcome!

## Installation Service

Mark your calendars! Scott will be installed as Pastor and Teacher at First Congregational UCC at 3:30 on Sunday, December 2nd. Stay tuned for more service details.

## Condolences

\*Christian sympathy is extended to the family of *Merle "Bud" Gibson* who died October 31st. His funeral service was held on Monday, November 5th, at 11:00 am.

## 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.

**Children ages pre-K - 5th grade** meet with Jayne Slaughter in the upstairs Sunday School Room.

#### ADULTS

Adults will meet in the chapel.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Weekly Events

### Thurs., November 8

Meals on Wheels  
6:00 pm - Potluck with Pastor (S-Z)

### Sat., November 10

9:00 am - Women's Breakfast at Perkins

### Sun., November 11

9:00 am - Sunday School  
9:00 am - Women's Book Study  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
(Stewardship Sunday)

### Mon., November 12

Community Meals (C)

### Tues., November 13

7:00 pm - Common Meeting

### Wed., November 14

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

\*\*\*\*\*

# BAZAAR NEWS:

November 17th  
From 9am to 1pm

## Festival of Trees

Be sure to check out the beautiful Christmas trees in the Friendship Room after church!! You may purchase Raffle Tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Drawing will take place at 12:30 day of the Bazaar. Need not be present to win.

## Bottom Drawer

The cut off for bringing items for the Bottom Drawer is Friday November 9th. If you have any large pieces of furniture, bring those to the Crossroads on Friday November 16th.

## Baked Goods & Candy Corner

There will be clear containers available after church this Sunday. Please grab some for your baked goods and candy. Please remember, have your baked goods and candy nicely labeled and at church by Friday, November 16, so we have enough time to price and set up tables.

## 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](mailto:ggreene1124@gmail.com).

## Bazaar Tear-Down Volunteers

\*\* Starting at 1:00pm we could use some volunteers to help us tear-down on the day of the Bazaar.



## 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.



## CALLING ALL BAKERS!

It's time to start looking through your recipe books, and deciding what you will be making and donating to our baked goods table for the bazaar this year! We are in need of all types of goodies such as pies, breads, cookies, and items for our healthy alternatives section. Be sure to wrap your items nicely and label them! Any questions, talk to Jill Jensen or Beth Hurley.



Taemin and I sincerely thank all of you who supported and attended our chamber music concert on Sunday, October 28. This was a blessed event we enjoyed with many talented musicians in this community. Special thanks go to Anne Hoekstra and other Fine Arts Committee members, and American Guild of Organists Cedar Valley Chapter. Also, Paul Prescott, Kyle Lindaman, and Michelle Wolfe for their assistance with the stage works and programs.

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

## Armistice Day

This Sunday (November 11th) First Congregational UCC is joining churches around in marking Armistice/Remembrance Day during worship. This day marks the end of hostilities during World War I. This year is the 100th anniversary of the start of peace on "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month." We will pause during worship at 11AM to ring our chimes and read a short prayer. One of the more common ways of remembering this day in Europe is through the wearing of a red poppy. This tradition derives from the poem In Flanders Fields the Canadian poet John McCrae.

Here is a portion of that poem:



In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place, and in the sky,  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.