

Congregational Tidings



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

A weekly newsletter



November 20, 2019

**Christ the King
Sunday**
November 24, 2019
10:30 am

Pastor Scott Spence
will present the
message:

Who is the Son?

Scripture Reading
Colossians 1:11-20

Worship Leader
Paul Greene

Deacon-In-Charge
Gina Greene

Acolytes
Janice Akin
Nancy Heinick

November Ushers
Bruce Jensen
Jim Stevenson
Bob Tefft
Rich Thuesen

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 23, 2019

9:00 - 1:00 pm



Baked Goods
yummy!

It's time!

Bottom Drawer
gently used items



Wreaths
made with love!

Grandpa's Shed
tools and sports

Jewelry
dress up!

Crafts
cards, hats, hand towels,
decorations, crayon caddies, etc.

Books
lots and lots of books

Kandy Korner
homemade candies

Festival of Trees

buy raffle tickets for a chance to win your favorite tree!



Bazaar Luncheon

Adults \$8.00; Children (ages 4-12) \$ 4.00

(Children 3 & under are free)

Tickets available at the door.

MENU:

Beef Stroganoff and
Green Beans & Bacon or
Spinach/Strawberry Salad

OR

Chicken Wild Rice Soup
with Bread

From the Pastor's Desk

To embody and share God's love so all experience faith, hope and joy in community where love is made actual.
Proposed FCUCC Why? Statement

On November 8-9, over 20 members of our church gathered in the Fellowship Hall to answer questions centered on the theme of *Why?* Why church in the 21st century? Why FCUCC Waterloo? Why are we here? And why would others come to be part of this Christian community? *Why?*

Our journey to arrive at an answer was facilitated by two leaders from the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center (DMPCC). The DMPCC had already undertaken a similar process with the Tri-Conference Board of Directors over the summer- a copy of their statement is located in this issue of *The Tidings*.

The core idea behind the weekend is that all organizations, no matter their size, no matter their age or location, for-profit or faith-based, need to name and live into a reason for existence aka their *Why?* History is replete with groups that knew *How* they were going to do something and *What* it would take to do it. **It is the groups that know their reason for existence that truly make an impact on their members and the wider society.**

This question of *Why?* is especially relevant in a time of great cultural change-and this includes the church. **FCUCC's why in 1965 is certainly different than what it is in 2019...or even what it will be in 2050.** The world changes and we are called to adapt to that change whilst knowing who we are and what we stand for as a group.

What does that mean going forward? I ask you to think over and pray about the *Why?* statement written above. Let me know what you think about it.

In January participants who helped craft the statement will share their experiences during worship. **It is my hope that FCUCC will vote to formally adopt it at our Annual Congregational Meeting.**

Thank you again to everyone who participated and our facilitators Diane and Carla from the DMPCC. As always my door is open if you want to chat.

Pastor Scott

Reflections from Why? Weekend Participants

Thank you to you and everyone who participated in our Why? Weekend! I also truly believe that this was a great first step forward in our journey here at FCUCC. I also thought the level of enthusiasm for this project and the stories members shared was awesome! It was a very worthwhile weekend spent with our Church Family and the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center!

-Janice Akin

As with all families, every time our church family gathers, the stories begin ... whether at a potluck after worship or a planned event such as the Why Weekend. It's energizing to embrace the passion and excitement of what we HAVE done and carry it to what we COULD still do ... whether we are inviting the community into our space or going out into the community. We have so much to share with others and so much room to grow. Let's do this ... all together.

-Paul Greene

The Why weekend was very enlightening. It was wonderful hearing the stories that were told. It was also a great time of fellowship with church members we seem to only see on Sundays. Thank you to Carla and Diane (Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center) for directing our beginning steps to find Why we are here; Why we are a church; and Why we embrace God's love.

-Ginni Casteel

Public Office Hours

Join Pastor Scott at Cup of Joe (*Cedar Falls*) today from 3-5pm. No office hours on the 27th.

Office Hours and Print Deadlines for Thanksgiving Week

The office will be closed Wednesday, November 27th through Friday, Nov., 29th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The Tidings Deadline is 2pm on Monday, Nov. 25th. The Bulletin Deadline is 1pm on Tues., Nov. 27th.

Snow Removal For Congregational Member

Lois Johnson is looking for someone to provide snow removal at her home this winter. If you are able help or know someone who is, please call her with price (319-233-7123).

New Office Email

Michelle's office email has changed (All other staff emails will remain the same). Michelle's new email address is FCUCCoffice@gmail.com. Please take a moment to change your contact for her. This change was necessary to allow the office to efficiently send and receive emails.

Bazaar News:

Attention Bakers: Please have your baked goods to the church by noon this Friday.

Teardown Help Needed: If you are able to help with teardown from the Bazaar, please meet here at 1pm on Saturday. Thank you.

Partners in Education

Journals are here! If you are interested in partnering with a Bunger student this school year, please see Tim Ahrens this Sunday to pick up a journal.

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 December 2nd. Thank you!

Advent Decorating

The Season of Advent is coming! You are invited to help decorate the Sanctuary after worship November 24th. Lunch will be provided so please RSVP with the Church Office (FCUCCoffice@gmail.com).

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.

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 Cliff Highnam, Evie Waack, Beth Lauterbach, or Anne Hoekstra, or visit Joe's website joedavispoetry.com.

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 downstairs children's nursery / classroom.

The Adult class meets in the Friendship Room.

Weekly Events

Wed., November 20

3-5pm - Public Office Hours at Cup of Joe (*Cedar Falls*)
6:00 pm - Potluck
6:30 pm - Choir Practice
7:00 pm - Pastor's Class Youth Group

Thurs., November 21

6:00 Bells Practice

Sat., November 23

Annual Christmas Bazaar

Sun., November 24

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship
Hanging of the Greens following

November 27 - 29

Office Closed

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

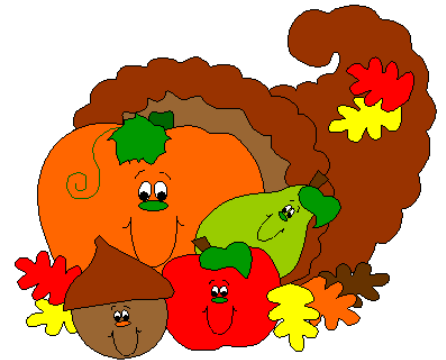
Place
Stamp
Here

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

Thanksgiving Word Search

R	E	L	A	T	I	V	E	S	T	I	F	S	M	F
P	N	R	E	U	K	S	S	N	C	H	A	O	E	A
X	I	E	F	B	O	B	E	T	I	L	A	A	O	S
O	B	L	Z	Y	O	L	T	U	R	K	S	N	T	D
W	R	Y	G	I	C	E	T	R	E	T	P	U	K	Y
T	S	E	V	R	A	H	L	K	N	Y	F	M	L	S
Y	V	A	R	G	I	M	E	E	N	F	T	I	U	N
S	Q	U	A	S	H	M	R	Y	I	W	M	A	R	P
F	A	L	L	P	R	A	S	N	D	A	L	O	B	A
R	M	H	T	N	B	A	G	C	F	A	C	E	K	I



cook
corn
dinner
fall
family
feast
food
gravy
harvest

maize
pilgrims
pumpkin
relatives
settlers
squash
stuffing
thanks
turkey



IOWA, NEBRASKA & SOUTH DAKOTA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TRI-CONFERENCE MINISTRIES

Visioning Process Results in Inspiring “Why Statement” *by Aidan Spencer*

The Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Boards of Directors unveiled its Why Statement at the Joint Annual Meeting June 14th-16th in Omaha. The Why Statement articulates the purpose of the conferences and will help guide future decisions.

The statement reads: “To live into God’s extravagant welcome and advocate for justice. So that all know love, safety, belonging and dignity.” Board member Dustin Barlett explains, “It was important to us that we capture the inclusive spirit of the United Church of Christ. We wanted to go beyond simply ‘welcome,’ and state explicitly that we’re talking about full inclusion and acceptance. People should be able to bring their authentic selves and find belonging in our communities of faith. That’s what God’s extravagant welcome means to us.” The statement was developed through a facilitated process with the three boards and staff from the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center.

First, a landscape survey was sent to each congregation — inviting the pastor and another member of that congregation to complete it. The survey included questions that helped draw out church members’ satisfaction with the work of the conferences, determine the energy respondents have for the conferences, and determine what factors most drive satisfaction.

That survey data was collected and presented in a report to the Boards of Directors before the first working session in late April. The data was presented in aggregate and with break outs of individual conferences.

The survey data showed that members believe these five main things drive their satisfaction with the organization:

- The Conferences’ ability to help each member understand what role they have to play.
- Conference leadership has developed a shared vision that unites us.
- Conference leadership provides strong and competent support to my congregation during challenging times.
- The Conferences make available policies and procedures that are helpful in the day-to-day operation of a church.
- The Conferences do a good job communicating with one another in a way that keeps us aware and engaged.

The survey also showed what factors drive members’ energy about and for the conference:

- The Conferences’ ability to help each member understand what role they have to play.
- Conference leadership has developed a shared vision that unites us.
- Conference meetings are a good use of time and energy.
- The Conferences provide adequate opportunities for members to engage in work that is meaningful.
- The whole spirit in our Conference makes people want to get as involved as possible.

After learning about the survey results, the Boards of Directors gathered for two days in Sioux Falls, SD in late April to begin the work of articulating a Why Statement, or the purpose of the organizations. Rev. Diane McClanahan and Rev. Carla Cain facilitated the process that began with small- and large-group storytelling prompted by the question, “I was most proud of the UCC when ...” Those stories often included times when individuals felt women, LGBTQ persons, Native Americans, and other marginalized groups were welcomed into local or wider church settings. Small groups then began to take the major themes from those stories and weave them into what eventually became a tentative Why Statement.

Members of the Boards of Directors then met in early May and crafted a final Why Statement. The boards had opportunity to meet separately and together during these processes. The Why Statement has already been guiding discussions and goal setting in board meetings, influencing the design of the upcoming website, and will continue to be an integral part of shaping our mission and action plans.

“The statement’s verbs — “live into,” “advocate,” and “know” — claim active processes of participating and embracing the interdependence of people, our congregations, wider communities, and our shared creation,” says Board member Craig Henderson. “The “WHY” of the Conferences are not to be one-time invitations but rather an ongoing reach to our neighbors, a living out, an advocacy, and a shared “knowing” of who we are and whose we are.”



IOWA, NEBRASKA & SOUTH DAKOTA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TRI-CONFERENCE MINISTRIES

WHY are we called to be the United Church of Christ in this time and place?
**To live into God's extravagant welcome and advocate for justice.
So that all know love, safety, belonging and dignity.**

How the Nebraska Conference UCC will live into our "why" statement above:

Connecting: Cherishing and loving our churches for who they are and who they are becoming

- Listen, respond, and be a physical presence

Giving Voice: Amplifying the voices of the unheard

- Educate, lobby, and stand in solidarity with all God's creation

Reaching Out to All: Going to others, without waiting for them to come to us

- Help churches to imagine the possibilities of unimagined connections

Ensuring Safety:

- Live out safe church policies with safe behaviors, inclusive language, unconditional acceptance

Equipping: Resourcing and looking for creative solutions

- Help the local church find what it needs to thrive

How the South Dakota Conference UCC will live into our "why" statement above:

Inspiring: Motivating others to be their authentic best selves so they are invited to do likewise

- Courageously allow our full light to shine and become a beacon

Loving: Selflessly giving for the greater good

- Love through action and joyfully love God, love others, and love oneself

Striving for Justice: Striving for impartial equity and human dignity

- Identify injustice and seek to correct it
- Create robust and diverse communication around topics of justice
- Acknowledge our roles in systems of inequity and injustice

Belonging: Recognizing the value of inclusion and relationship

- Acknowledge others as subjects rather than objects
- Nurture dialogue between equals
- Celebrate the uniqueness of each individual

Reconciling: Intentionally restoring broken relationships and connections.

- Provide opportunities to express hurts, make confessions, and seek forgiveness

Supporting: Communicating love and offering resources

- Provide lines of communication for personal and congregational need requests
- Offer encouragement and support for the needs of ministry
- Make available policies and procedures in the day to day operation of the church

How the Iowa Conference UCC will live into our "why" statement above:

Putting faith into action

- Embody justice, mercy and loving kindness

Celebrating

- Lavish love toward God, all people, and creation

Fostering transformation and embracing change

- Listen to and following our still-speaking God
- Strive to faithfully live up to who God has created and called us to be

Listening and sharing

- Honor others' stories and experiences

Giving honor to God

- Honor all people and creation, so that we honor the masterpiece of God's handiwork

Creating safe space

- Ensure the emotional, physical, spiritual well-being of all