

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

November 21, 2018

**Thirty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
November 25, 2018
10:30 am**

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

You are Appointed

Using the text:

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 7:1-11

Worship Leader
Kay Thuesen

Special Music
*Come, Ye Thankful
People, Come*
Chancel Choir

Amazing Grace
Children's Bell Choir

Deacon-In-Charge
Jill Jensen

Acolytes
James and Nancy Stevenson

Greeters
Craig and Sharon Holdiman
(Sanctuary)

Tim and Vicki Ahrens
(Crossroads)



It's New Year's Eve...

...in the liturgical calendar that is. This is the calendar by which the Christian worship year is structured. We begin with Advent and celebrating the birth of the Christ child, make our way through the Lenten disciplines, experience the drama of Holy Week and Easter, try to figure out what is so "ordinary" about Ordinary Time, and then we come to the Sunday after Thanksgiving aka Christ the King Sunday.

So what exactly is this day and what does it celebrate? It is a day in which we celebrate as believers the sovereignty of the God who is known to us in Jesus Christ. We give honor and glory to our creator and pray for the day in

which all is "on earth as it is in heaven." This is a moment when we proclaim that Jesus is the first and last, the beginning and the end, and the one who claims our allegiance above all earthly powers. It is a time to shout "Christ is Lord!" to all who will listen-and to those who won't.

Because let's be honest for a moment. There are a lot of things in this world that try to claim our loyalty. Our jobs. Our bank accounts. Sports teams. Institutions. Denominations. Political parties. Our possessions. Our buildings. Powers and principalities. Pop culture.

This Sunday (like New Year's Eve) is a chance for some honest self-reflection. Who or what do I worship? Who or what do I follow? And how much of that matches up with the season we are about to enter: a time of celebrating the birth of and waiting for the return of the King of Kings?

As always my door is open. God bless.

Pastor Scott

Bazaar Wrap-Up Meeting

There will be a short wrap-up meeting for all Bazaar area chairs immediately following the church service this coming Sunday in the friendship room.

Adopt-A-Family

We will do our final collection, Sunday November 25th. You will find your special envelope in your Sunday bulletin. Let us come together as the Hands of God in helping with families in need.

UNI Women's Chorus



The UNI Women's Holiday concert will be held here at First Congregational on **Tuesday, Nov. 27th at 7:00 p.m.** This event is free and open to the public.

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!

REMINDER:

No TIDINGS next week, November 28th. The next Tidings will be published on December 5th.

(Michelle's office will be closed November 26th - 30th)

Installation Service

Mark your calendars! Scott will be installed as Pastor and Teacher at First Congregational UCC at 3:30 on Sunday, December 2nd. The Rev. Ellis Arnold of Decorah United Church of Christ will delivering the sermon. Communion will be served. The Diaconate will be serving a light dinner following the service.

All are welcome!

2019 Pledge Request

If you have not turned in your pledge, please email Michelle in the office within the next week to help us with our 2019 budget planning. Thank you!
(michelle@firstcongucc.org)

KADENS KLOSET CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

**Saturday, December 8th
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

(Trinity Lutheran - 605 W. 4th St.)

Kadens Kloset is a service supporting Foster/Adoptive Families, Military Families, and those caring for children through Kinship/Guardianship. The Kloset is hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church. Each year they hold a celebration, Christmas Wonderland, especially for those families.

They are in need of toys, clothing, diapers, teen items, stocking stuffer items, and wrapping supplies/paper. Financial support and volunteers are welcome, too!

Those wishing to help or contribute may call or text Kathy Jo Porter at 319-239-6762.

Lost and Found

Several Tuxedo items (cummerbunds, ties, slacks, etc.) have been found in the closet across from the Library. Please contact the office to let us know if they are yours or if you know where they came from.

If unclaimed, they will be donated in December.

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.

Women's Book Study will resume on 12/2 with chapter 4.

Upcoming Events

November 22 & 23

Office Closed
(Thanksgiving)

Sun., November 25

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

Tues., November 27

7:00 pm UNI Chorus Concert

Wed., November 28

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

Thurs., November 29

6:00 pm Advent Study with
Potluck Begins

Sun., December 2

9:00 am - Sunday School
9:00 am - Women's Book Study
10:30 am - Worship Service
3:00 pm - Installation Service

Tues., December 4

7:30 am - Men's Breakfast
at Village Inn

Another Successful Bazaar...

Thank You!! Thank You!! Thank You!! We cannot thank our church family enough, for all your help and hard work that went into making our first Bazaar as Co-Chairs, a success!! From setting up, working and tear down (wow, St Vincent DePaul truck was loaded and drove away by 1:45) , to making quilts, making wreaths and bows, all the baking and making candy, decorating the Christmas trees (oh my, they were beautiful!!), all the silent auction items, all the crafts and hand made items, and the amount of bottom drawer items/books donated. And let's not forget the amazing luncheon!!

What we are trying to say is, this may have been our first time as Co Chairs of the entire Bazaar, but we know it was not your first time doing your part...and because of you, our Annual Christmas Bazaar is a huge success every year!!!

Onto next year's Bazaar!! Let us know if you'd like to decorate a tree for the Festival of Trees!! We plan to get trees when we see a great deal, so the sooner we have an idea of how many needed, the better!!

~ *Connie Jo and Jayne*



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

It's time to order your Poinsettias!!!



It's that time of year! With Christmas coming, it is time to place your order for Poinsettias to decorate our church sanctuary. You may fill out this order form and place in the offering plate or call Michelle at the church office. Orders may be placed any time by Sunday, December 16th. (\$12.00 per plant)

We will be ordering live poinsettias this year! You may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the late Christmas Eve service.

Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church (*write "poinsettia" in memo*).

Poinsettia(s) given by: _____

"In Memory of...": _____

"In Honor of...": _____