

Congregational Tidings



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

A weekly newsletter



November 26, 2019



**** Bazaar 2019 ****
**Thank you to everyone
who helped make this
another great success!!**



**First Sunday of
Advent
December 1, 2019
10:30 am**

**Joe Davis is our
guest preacher**

**Worship Leader
Evie Waack**

**Deacon-In-Charge
Joanne Lane**

**Acolytes
John & Barb Mardis**

**Greeters
Craig & Sharon Holdiman
Diana Paige**

December Ushers

Craig Driver
Todd Ellison
Steve Peters

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 5PM

SERVICE OF PEACE & COMFORT

For those who struggle to find the joy
of the Advent and Christmas seasons



(4535 Kimball Avenue, W'loo 50701)

*Vision is the art of seeing the invisible.
Jonathan Swift*

You may have heard the story of a man who came across three masons who were working at chipping chunks of granite from large blocks. The first seemed unhappy at his job, chipping away and frequently looking at his watch. When the man asked what it was that he was doing, the first mason responded, rather curtly, "I'm hammering this stupid rock, and I can't wait 'til 5 when I can go home."

A second mason, seemingly more interested in his work, was hammering diligently and when asked what it was that he was doing, answered, "Well, I'm molding this block of rock so that it can be used with others to construct a wall. It's not bad work, but I'll sure be glad when it's done."

A third mason was hammering at his block fervently, taking time to stand back and admire his work. He chipped off small pieces until he was satisfied that it was the best he could do. When he was questioned about his work, he stopped, gazed skyward, and proudly proclaimed, "I am building a cathedral."

The bigger your vision, the more magnificent your life could be. Most of us want to fix everything but change nothing. We want to lose 20 pounds in 2 weeks but still eat whatever we want and move as little as possible. We want to build the great cathedrals, but we don't want to work with the architects, buy the supplies, or carry the massive stones. Our vision may be grand, but our application is half-hearted, fearful, and impotent.

Becoming something or someone exceptional is not an accidental undertaking. No one accidentally builds a magnificent cathedral. No, we intentionally decide to do these things and then undertake the preparing, planning, and training to make them a reality.

How are you spending your life today? Are you angrily chipping at rocks? Are you molding rocks waiting for the day to end? Or are you building a cathedral? Your answer will tell the world how great you wish to be.

- Rev. Cameron Trimble, author of [Piloting Church: Helping Your Congregation Take Flight](#)
([Devotional from The Center for Progressive Renewal-the UCC church revitalization and renewal group based in Atlanta](#))

Office Hours and Print Deadlines for Thanksgiving Week

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

Silent Auction Thank You

A very special thank you for opening our church and your hearts and for the support and donations provided for the Silent Auction. I am grateful and we are all so blessed. Thank you.

~ Gina Greene

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!

Mitten Tree



We will again put up a Mitten Tree this year. New hats, scarves, boots, gloves and mittens are appreciated to decorate the Crossroads area of the church. Thank you!

Special Guest Speaker

This 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.



Join us for caroling
at 5:00 pm at
the church Sunday,
December 8th!

Christmas Eve Pageant

Any youth interested in participating in the Christmas Eve Pageant, please contact Katie (katie@firstcongucc.org). Practices will be during the Sunday School hour on December 8th, 15th & 22nd.

KADENS KLOSET CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Saturday, December 7th

(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.

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 Porter at 319-239-6762.

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

November 27 - 29

Office Closed
No Regular Activities

Sun., December 1

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship

Tues., December 3

7:30 am - Men's Breakfast at Village Inn
7:00 pm - UNI Women's Chorus

Wed., December 4

3-5pm - Public Office Hours
6:00 pm - Potluck
6:30 pm - Choir Practice
7:00 pm - Pastor's Class Youth Group

Thurs., December 5

6:00 pm - Bells Practice



December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship <i>Special Guest</i> Joe Davis	2	3 7:30 Men's Bkfst @ Village Inn 10:00 Al-Anon 7:00 UNI Women's Choir	4 3-5pm - Public Office Hours (POH) 6:30pm - Choir 7:00pm - Youth	5 6:00pm - Bells	6 7:00 NA Meeting	7
8 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Caroling	9 Community Meals	10 10:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Trustees Meeting	11 3-5pm - Public Office Hours (POH) 6:30pm - Choir 7:00pm - Youth	12 9:00 - PPRC 6:00pm - Bells	13 7:00 NA Meeting	14 9:00 Women's Bkfst @ Perkins
15 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	16	17 7:30 Men's Bkfst @ Village Inn 10:00 Al-Anon	18 3-5pm - Public Office Hours (POH) 6:30pm - Choir 7:00pm - Youth	19 <i>Christmas Eve Bulletins & 12/22 Bulletin Deadline is 9am</i> 6:00pm - Bells	20 7:00 NA Meeting	21
22 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	23 <i>12/24 Tidings & 12/29 Bulletin Deadline is 9am</i>	24 10:00 Al-Anon 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Early Service 11:00 Late Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27 7:00 NA Meeting	28
29 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	30	31 10:00 Al-Anon	<i>Please Note: The Church Office will be closed from December 24th through January 1st. There will be no Tidings the week of December 29th.</i>			

Birthdays

1
Ryan Gallagher
2
Vicki Ahrens
6
Steve Thorpe
7
Jake Jensen
8
Marty Zellhoefer
10
Peggy Essmann
Tom Wells

11
Gyobanna Driver
13
Joel Jensen
Linda Waldon
14
Thomas Panicucci
19
Mays Weber
23
Lynette Doepke

25
Don Damon
27
Brian Bishop
28
Dee Vandeventer
29
Jeff Thompson
30
Jeff Driver
31
John Stevenson

Anniversaries

17
Jeff & Cindy Thompson
26
George & Pat Brown
28
Dale & Evie Waack
30
Rocky & Mary Kay Petersen

DECEMBER SCHEDULE



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Hope
Our Guest Preacher
for **December 1st**
is Joe Davis



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Peace
Text:
Isaiah 40:1-11
December 8, 2019



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Joy
Text:
Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13
December 15, 2019



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Love
Text: Luke 1:5-13,
14-25, 57-80
December 22, 2019



Christmas Eve Services:

5:00 Handbells Concert

5:30 Family Service with Christmas Pageant

11:00 Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion

December 29th Service:

Pick-A-Christmas Hymn

(Choose any Christmas Hymn from the Red or Black Hymnals)



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! 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 15th. (\$12.00 per plant)

We will be ordering live poinsettias again 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...": _____