

Congregational Tidings



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

A weekly newsletter



December 4, 2019

**Second Sunday of
Advent**

**December 8, 2019
10:30 am**

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

Prepare the Way

**Scripture Reading
Isaiah 40:1-11**

**Worship Leader
Anne Hoekstra**

**Children's Lesson
Keith Jorgensen**

**Deacon-In-Charge
Nancy Mahood**

**Acolytes
Rich & Kay Thuesen**

**December Ushers
Craig Driver
Todd Ellison
Steve Peters**

December 1, 2019 Sunday Worship Pictures



**Guest Preacher:
Joe Davis**

Do You Have an Announcement?

We would love to post it in our Tidings or Sunday Bulletin. Print Deadline is Tuesdays by 2pm for the Tidings and Thursdays by 1pm for the Bulletin.

Journal Buddies



If you haven't already turned in your journal, please bring it with you this Sunday so we can get them back to our Bunger students.

Adopt-A-Family

We are 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 and in this Sunday's bulletin. Please place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday.



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!



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.

Public Office Hours

Join Pastor Scott at Sidecar (*Downtown, W'loo*) today and Sidecar (*Ridgeway, W'loo*) next Wednesday from 3-5pm.

KADENS KLOSET CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Saturday, December 7th @ 10am

(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.

Attention Crocheters:

Bonnie Rickert is looking for someone to crochet granny squares. If you would like to help, please email her A.S.A.P. at bonnrickert@gmail.com. Thank you!

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)

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., 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

Sun., December 8

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Worship
5:00 pm - Christmas Caroling

Mon., December 9

Community Meals (D)

Tues., December 10

6:00 pm - Trustee Meeting

DECEMBER SCHEDULE



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

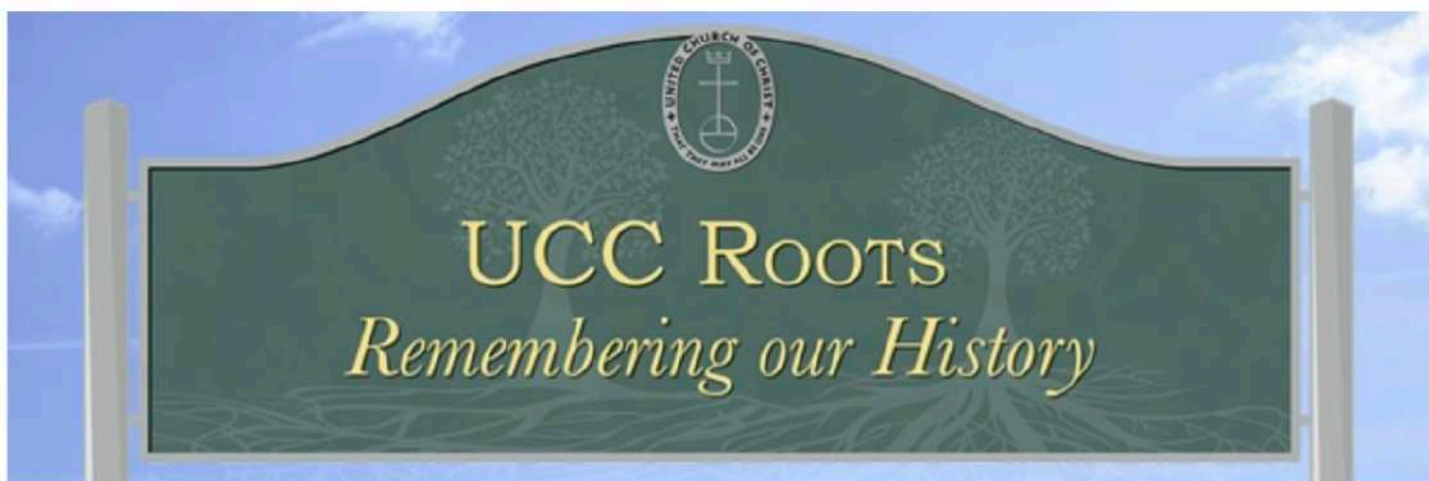
(Choose any Christmas Hymn from the Red or Black Hymnals)



Make plans to attend our Winter Wednesday Night Bible Study Series!

We will be taking a look at the Prophets of the Old Testament.

What were they saying to their communities-and how can their words mold our faith today? Class begins at 6:45 on January 8th in the Lounge. See you there!



“Lourdino Yuzon: A Filipino Leader”

In 1521 a Spanish explorer named Magellan visited a group of islands along the coast of Asia. He named them the “Philippines”—honoring Spain’s King Philip II. For several centuries the islands were ruled by Spain. Although the British controlled briefly, the Spanish prevailed until 1898 when the United States defeated the Spanish fleet and colonized the Philippines. War with the Filipinos continued until 1902 and their struggle for independence was not honored until 1946.

After the USA took control of the islands, American missionaries and teachers were allowed to go to the Philippines. In spite of political and economic difficulties, and religious and cultural rivalries, church leaders (especially Congregationalists and Presbyterians and the Christian Church/Disciples) worked together to help Filipinos establish their own United Church of Christ in the Philippines in 1948.

Lourdino Yuzon (1931-2015) was ordained by the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and served in varying capacities. In the 1990s the United Church of Christ (USA), invited him to help scattered Filipino families found a church in Texas. The Board for Homeland Ministries (UCBHM) provided resources. They named the new church “Cosmopolitan United Church of Christ,” after their home church in the Philippines. They committed themselves to the task of uniting people in personal faith and social responsibility. On August 20, 1995, when the church was received into the UCC South-Central Conference, Lourdino Yuzon was installed as its first permanent pastor



Lourdino Yuzon was more than a local church planter or pastor. He was awarded posthumously the “Outstanding Sillimanian Award” (OSA) from Silliman University, a strong university in the Philippines. The citation celebrated his church service, honored his leadership in education as an administrator and a Christian Ethics professor at the seminary, and applauded his leadership in the international ecumenical movement. The UCC is repeatedly blessed by immigrant leaders that continue to enrich our church.

Contributor: Joe A. Malayang

BAZAAR BUZZ

Thank You!! Thank You!! Thank you!!

For all your hard work, for all your time, for all your donations (bottom drawer, baking, silent auction, etc) but most of all...for your smiling faces and fellowship as we greeted the community.

It takes a village to put our annual Christmas Bazaar together and we sure are lucky to have **YOU** in our village.

There is still money coming in from Silent Auction, so we do not have a final total yet. Once the total is finalized, we will let you know. I know it was a huge success, thanks to you!

Sincerely,

Connie Jo Peirce Jayne Slaughter and Jill Jensen

A prayer for the week from The Center for Progressive Renewal:

Loving God,
As streets fill with shoppers
Bright lights and tempting offers
Christmas songs and children's laughter
You lead us along a different path
To a desert river and a Prophetic voice
A call to repentance
A call to service
A call to immerse ourselves
In living water that will never run dry
A call to prepare a way in our own lives
For the Savior of the world to enter in
To know the touch of tender mercy
And rest in your forgiving love.

Amen.



**Pork Loin Dinner Followed by
Christmas Music & Caroling**

Friday, December 6, 2019
5 pm
Unity Presbyterian Church
1149 Hammond Ave Waterloo

**Your Free-will
donation is
appreciated.
All Proceeds
benefit the
ministry of
Hope4Healing**

855-584-4673
www.hope4healingquakerdale.net

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...": _____