

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

December 19, 2018

**Fourth Sunday of
Advent
December 23, 2018
10:30 am**

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

A Righteous Man

Using the text:
Matthew 1:18-25

Worship Leader
Katherine Kaliban

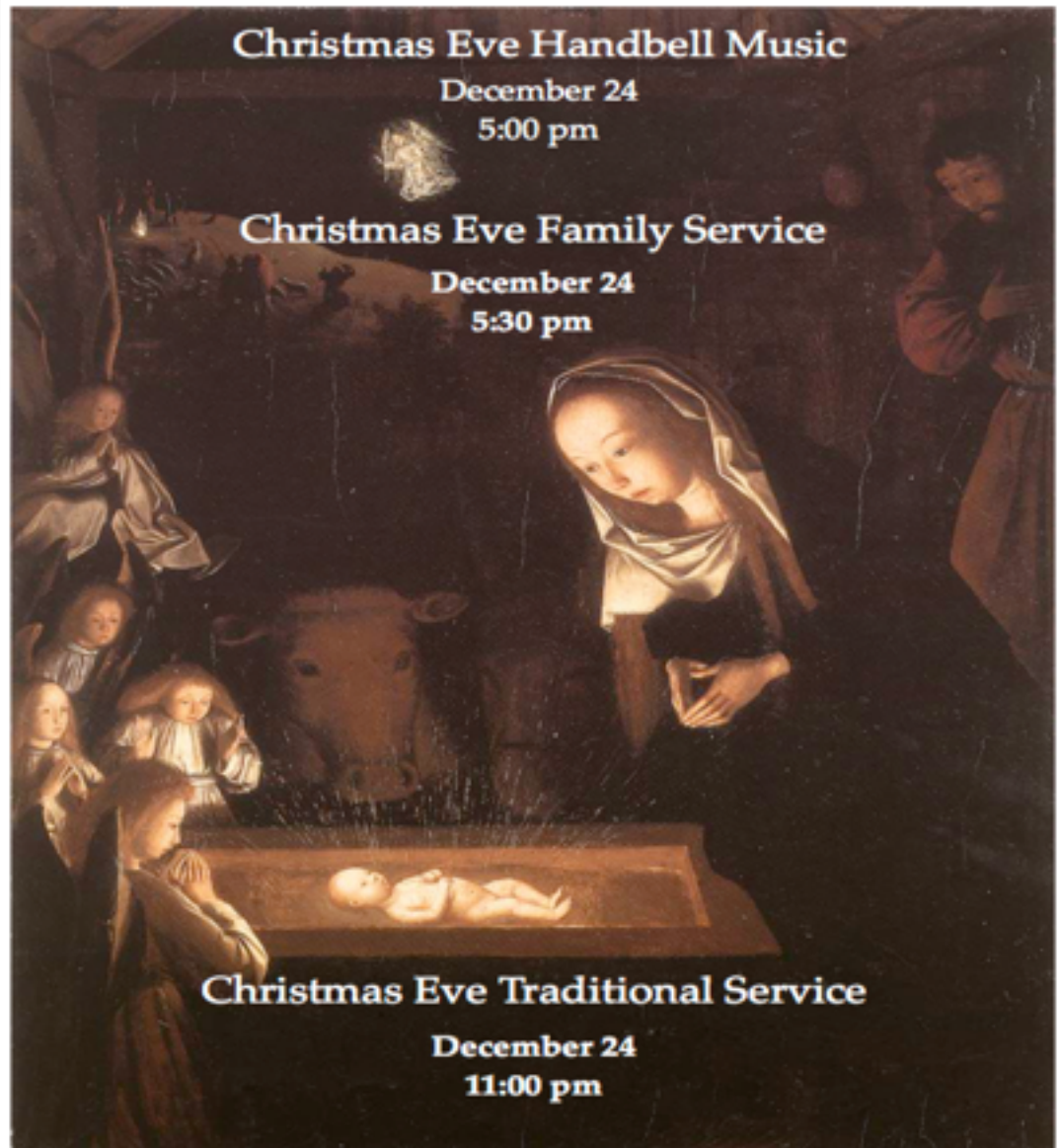
Children's Lesson
Beth Hurley

Deacon-In-Charge
Nancy Mahood

Acolytes
Tim Ahrens and
Leah Reisinger

Greeters
Bob and Beth Hurley
(Sanctuary)

December Ushers
Craig Driver
Todd Ellison
Steve Peters



*Scott
Miah
Kyle*

Merry Christmas!
from your
**First Congregational
United Church of Christ staff.**

*Paul &
Hannah
Michelle
Luke*

Advent Study Series

Our last Advent Study Series led by Pastor Scott is tomorrow night, December 20th. We are looking at UCC scholar Walter Bruggeman's "Names for the Messiah." We will start with a potluck dinner at 6 :00 pm with discussion beginning around 6:30.

UCC Christmas Offering

This fund helps to provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy and lay church employees in need, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to hundreds of annuitants, administered by the pension board. The offering will be collected at our December 23rd morning worship service.

Deacon Christmas Offering

We will also be collecting the Christmas offering this Sunday, Dec. 23rd. These donations help us assist those in need in our community throughout the year. Offering envelopes will be in your bulletin or you may mail in your donation.

Office News

- * The offices will be closed December 24th and 25th in celebration of the Christmas Holiday.
- * There will be **No Tidings** published next Wednesday, December 26th.
- * Beginning January 2nd, Michelle's public office hours will be 9am to 4pm Mon.-Thurs., and 9am to Noon on Friday.

Dinner Class

We will begin a new Thursday night dinner class beginning on January 10th. You can purchase the book, "Tribal Church - Ministering to the Missing Generation" from Amazon or from us. Please r.s.v.p. with a check for \$15 (if purchasing the book through us) to Michelle in the office by Wednesday, January 2nd. All are welcome!

Festival of Trees

Our first Festival of Trees was such a huge success at the Bazaar! Weren't they all just beautiful? We are planning to purchase the trees for next year's Bazaar, during the after Christmas sales, so if you are interested in decorating a tree, please let Connie Jo, Jayne or Jill know and we will sign you up! It doesn't have to be just you- you can partner up with someone and decorate together or a family can sign up to decorate a tree, etc We will provide the trees and you get to show off your creative decorating skills and decorate the tree from head to toe. We don't need to know your theme right now, just if you want to decorate one so we can be sure to get it during the clearance sales. Thank you in advance!!



Don't forget to bring in your hats, scarves, and mittens to decorate the Mitten Tree in the Crossroads area of the church.

2019 Offering Envelopes

2019 Offering Envelopes are available on the table under the bulletin board next to the church office.

2019 Budget Status

- Because of a reduction in both number of pledge units and amount pledged for 2019, our first calculations show a budget deficit.
- If we just "do the same things as we did this year" there is a \$15,000 deficit. But we want to do more programming and more for our fine staff. That calculation shows a \$25,000 deficit.
- As your Treasurer and fellow Church member, I'd ask you to reconsider your 2019 pledge so we can not only maintain what we have, but hopefully do more.

~ Dave Allbaugh

Sunday School

(Sunday School will resume on January 6, 2019.)

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 meets in the Friendship Room

Upcoming Events

Thurs., December 20

6:00 pm - Advent Study Series and Potluck

Fri., December 21

7:00 pm - Longest Night Service

Sun., December 23

10:30 am - Worship Service

Mon., December 24

5:00 Handbell Music
5:30 pm - Family Christmas Eve Service
11:00 pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Service (Office Closed)

Tues., December 25

Merry Christmas! (Office Closed)

Wed., December 26

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

Jesus is the Reason for the Season!!

The kids have been working hard and practicing for their big debut! Join us, Christmas Eve to see “Just a Little Christmas” Our bell choir will begin at 5:00pm with the service to start at 5:30pm. They will be telling you the story of Christmas and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This story has it all!

Angels singing, shepherds herding, Kings visiting and much more!! We hope that you are able to come and join in with us in this funny telling of the true Christmas story.



Christmas Program Rehearsal



Christmas Program Rehearsal

The Hospitality House (our current Sunday School Mission) will be sponsoring a vigil this Friday from 5:30 and 6:00 pm. December 21st is a national day of remembrance for homeless persons who have passed away during the past year. Join us at COR (220 E. 4th St. and we will walk to Lincoln Park for the memorial service. You may bring hats, scarves and gloves to hang on trees in the park for the homeless.

Then join us here at First Congregational at 7:00 p.m. for our Longest Night Service.



Lighting the Joy Candle
Worship Service Dec. 16, 2018



Christmas Caroling
December 16, 2018

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

