

Congregational Tidings



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

A weekly newsletter

February 1, 2012

Sunday Worship
Fifth Sunday after
Epiphany
February 5, 2012
10:30 am

Rev. Tim Ensworth will
present the message:
"Wait on the Lord"

Using the text:
Isaiah 40:21-31

Special Music
Have Ye Not Known/Ye Shall Have
A Song
Chancel Choir

Worship Leader
Paul Greene

Children's Lesson
Liz Thorpe

Deacon-In-Charge
Ken Allbaugh

Acolytes
Michelle Holt
Tristan Holt

Greeters
Connie Jo Peirce
Celeste Bembry
(Sanctuary)

Tim & Vicki Ahrens
(Crossroads)

**Remember to Sign
Up for the Church
Friendship
Luncheon, Sunday,
Feb. 12th, 11:30 am!**



There will be a catered sack
lunch, games, and prizes!
The cost is \$ 7.00 per person.

The Sign Up sheet is in the
Crossroads area of the church
or call Teri in the church office.

**Valentine's Day
Concert, "Recital of
Romance" by our
Section Leaders
follows at 1:30 pm!**



Sunday School
February 5, 2012
9:15 am

The Mustard Seeds
Children, Ages 3 - Grade 4
Led by Lynne Ensworth and Jayne
Slaughter. Meet in the second floor
elementary classroom, creating art
and learning about faith through a
program called "Discipleland."
Children's Sunday School Room

The Wondering Juveniles
Middle and high school youth
The Youth will be making subs!



Young Adults
We will view and discuss a video by
Rob Bell entitled "Open."
Friendship Room

Adults
Meet with Andrea Nelson.
We will be discussing faith and the
environment.
Chapel

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
 Has it not been told you from the beginning?
 Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?*



These words, from Isaiah 40, open the anthem our chancel choir will be singing this Sunday morning. The anthem, *Have Ye Not Known/Ye Shall Have a Song*, was composed by the American composer, Randall Thompson, and is my absolutely most favorite piece of music ever!

I first heard it sung in 1969, in Plymouth, Massachusetts, by the Massachusetts high school all-state chorus. I was a sophomore in high school, playing in the all-state band. This piece of music moved me to tears then, and still does every time I hear it.

This will be the second time our choir will have sung it . They performed the piece for my installation sixteen years ago! But this will be the first time I have sung it ... ever. I couldn't believe it when I saw it sitting among the new pieces to pick up at choir rehearsal several weeks back. I said to Maggie: "We are really going to sing this?" Good choice, Maggie!

I love music, and I love poetry, because of their ability to use language to come close to describing what is otherwise beyond description, for their ability to come close to conveying emotions that can otherwise not be properly conveyed. Objective language, prose, the language of science, simply cannot express some things that are true, the truest of truths, simply cannot even hint at the wonder of some things that are beautiful, the most beautiful of beauties. Only poetry, only music, suffice. And then it's only an approximation, an image, a taste of the reality!

That's exactly why so much of the Bible is poetry, because objective language, prose, the language of science does not do justice to the majesty and the glory and the love and the grace of God! What we know, what we have experienced, what we feel, the emotions that the felt presence of God raise in us, must be sung!

And so we will sing ... I hope you will hear it and enjoy it and be moved, too!

Tim

Weekly Events

Thurs., Feb. 2

5:00 pm - Bells
 6:00 pm - PARABOLA
 6:30 pm - Winter Bible Study

Sun., Feb. 5

9:15 am - Sunday School
 10:30 am - Worship Service

Mon., Feb. 6

9:00 am - Quiltmakers

Wed., Feb. 8

7:30 am - Men's Breakfast @
 Waterloo Village Inn
 7:00 pm - Chancel Choir

Thurs., Feb. 9

Meals on Wheels
 5:00 pm - Bells
 6:00 pm - PARABOLA
 No Winter Bible Study

**Want to see the video created
 by the PARABOLA group about
 Jonah again? Go to:**
<http://youtu.be/N-gQ519LWKY>



**Please sign up to be a greeter!
 It is a great way to meet your
 fellow church members! The
 board is located in the Crossroads
 area of the church.**

New Kitchen Stove Procedure

Our new kitchen stove has a gas shutoff valve which allows us to shut off the pilot lights when the stove is not in use, saving gas and improving safety. However, lighting the pilot lights to use the stove has been problematic. The oven pilot lights, in particular, are difficult to light.

So we are changing the procedure. Our custodian, Wayne Sparks, has agreed to light the stove pilot lights before all planned uses of the kitchen. Those who use the stove will simply have to turn on the burners and oven when they use the stove, as you do with your home stove. Wayne will turn the gas valve off after the event.

However, to make this procedure work, Wayne needs to know when we plan to use the kitchen. When you plan to use the kitchen, please advise Teri Graham in the church office so she can put the event on the church planning calendar. Wayne will refer to the calendar to know when to light the pilot lights.

And a reminder, our new convection oven is more efficient than the stove ovens. It uses less gas and cooks faster. And it doesn't have a pilot light. So you may want to consider using it to both bake items and keep dishes warm.

Dave Allbaugh

Remember to Bring Food for the Pastor's Pantry!



This Sunday is Communion Sunday and the Pastor's Pantry is looking pretty bare! Please remember to bring your canned goods and other non-perishable items this Sunday to help feed those who come to us for food. We are getting more and more requests so the need is always there. Please remember to check expiration dates to make certain that the food is still good. Your help is appreciated!

February Community Meals Cookie Team



Team B is making the cookies for Community Meals in February. Team B consists of Emmaline Sommer, Jill Jensen, Anna Kendall, Liz Thorpe, Jean Kimball, Anne Hoekstra, and Jo Tefft.



PARABOLA Returns For Speed Theatre Challenge



Last year the Waterloo Community Playhouse hosted a one day theatre challenge called Speed

Theatre. Each participating group was given a topic (based on a song) on Friday evening and the groups had exactly 24 hours to write, rehearse, gather props, find costumes, learn lines and be ready to perform by Saturday evening. Parabola was the only youth group to participate and the very first to perform. They did an impressive job and were awarded 2 of the 4 awards given that night. This year they will risk failure and strive for laughs again as they take part in WCP's second annual Speed Theatre offering. If you would like to support our Parabola youth, and see several other entertaining groups, please call the WCP box office (291-4494) and reserve your tickets for Saturday, February 11, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are only \$10 a piece. Performances are given in the Walker Building space.

Ski Trip



Our youth took on the challenge of the slopes this past weekend at Welch Village in Minnesota. Other than one unfortunate injury (where Craig Bennett broke his arm on the first run of the first day) the weekend was filled with supportive friends and newfound skills. This Sunday the youth will be hard at work constructing Super Bowl subs in order to pay all the bills. Thanks to all of our church members for their support.

**Children's Choir starts
Wednesday, February 15th,
at 4:00 pm!**

**Come join the fun!
Details next week!**



The Ski Trip was a blast!!!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

February 1, 2012

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Return service request

Congregational Tidings

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
WATERLOO, IOWA
PERMIT NO. 1850