

# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends

January 17, 2024

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



## PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Janice Springer for her message last Sunday, and to Sue Hummel for serving as worship leader. Thanks to Gina Greene for providing the mini message and to Cliff Highnam for his special music. It was a frigid day but a couple dozen brave souls braved the elements to experience worship together.

**Those who missed the service can watch it by clicking on the picture of Rev. Springer.**



This Sunday we welcome Rev. Jim Altenbaumer back to our pulpit. Kay Thuesen will be our worship leader and provide the mini message. Then join us for our potluck and Annual meeting. More info below.



## **\*\* ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE \*\***

**This Sunday, Jan 21, 2024**

*Copies of the 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Proposed Budget are available in the Crossroads for review before the meeting. If you would like an electronic copy or a zoom link for the meeting, please let Anne or Michelle know.*

A potluck will be held right after the church service with the Annual Meeting to follow. Please bring a dish to share and your own tableware.

## TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Prayers for Carol Towsley, who has been having some health concerns.

~ Prayers for Greg Wolfe, whose grandmother passed earlier this month.

~ Please remember Erin Brock-Medhus and family in your prayers as she undergoes a double mastectomy on January 18th. They have set up a meal train to help during her recovery. For more information and to sign up to help, please click [HERE](#).

## YOUTH NEWS

~ During the month of January we will meet at Kimball Ave UMC every Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30pm.

The Bingo Fundraiser and supper for January 20th at Kimball United Methodist has been postponed.

## PLEASE REMEMBER THE PANTRY

In the cold our body burns a lot of calories- remember those that are cold and hungry in our community. Keep in mind what will keep in a cold pantry box- such as Ramen, chocolate, cheese and crackers, foil pouches (tuna), fruit cups, breakfast or granola bars, mashed potato flakes, pancake mix, cake mix, etc. A special thanks to Prince and Princess for providing service by helping to sort and stock items for the pantry on Sunday.

## LIFELINE SCREENINGS - FEBRUARY 6

First Congregational United Church of Christ is pleased to offer a preventive health event.

The four vital screenings offered that scan for potential health problems are: Carotid Artery Ultrasound, Atrial Fibrillation, Peripheral Arterial Disease and Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm.

All four tests are offered at \$149. For more information and to register for this special discount, call 1-866-964-1386.

## FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

We would love to have you join our group of volunteers at the Food Bank. Our next date is January 23rd from 6:00 - 8:00pm. Hope to see you there!

## PULPIT SUPPLY, WORSHIP LEADERS, AND MINI MESSAGE PROVIDERS

At our annual meeting on Sunday, I will be completing my term as Moderator of the Congregation. Since we were without a pastor for nearly 2 years of my 3 year term, I took on the duties of finding pulpit supply, and seeking volunteers to serve as worship leader and mini message provider. Graciously, Michelle Wolfe, our office administrator, has agreed to take on this responsibility. She will be sending out something soon to ask for volunteers and to set up a schedule. Please let Michelle know if you would like to be included as a worship leader or mini message provider--she will be most grateful for your willingness and assistance. If you have never served in either position, there are "helps" to make the job easier. It's a great way to be a part of our worship and help make it even more meaningful. I have been so grateful to each of you who have assisted--your participation has enhanced our worship and made my job easier. Thank you!

*Anne Hoekstra, Moderator*

To  
Make  
You  
Smile



# Getting To Know You

## GETTING TO KNOW: TIM AHRENS



I was born in Waterloo, attended Waterloo public schools, graduating from West High. My Family, going back to my grandparents, were members of FCUCC. I was baptized by Reverend Charles Jacobs in 1953 and confirmed here in the mid 1960's. After graduation, Vicki and I were married and moved to Waukon IA. With the help of my father, we operated the Pizza Shack restaurant. In 1972 John Deere was hiring and we returned to Waterloo. I retired in 2005 after 33 years of service.

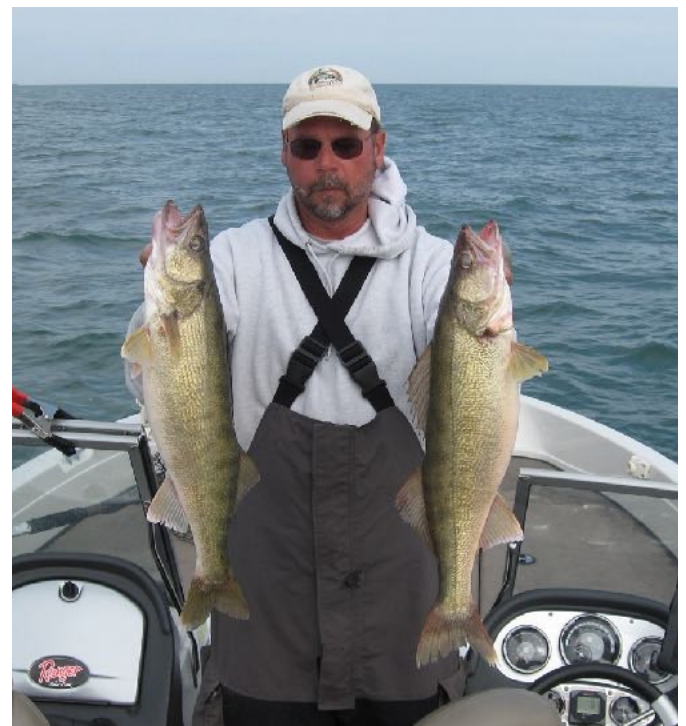
Vicki and I are the proud parents of four children and seven grandchildren. Through the years we have enjoyed attending all their basketball, baseball, football, volleyball and softball games.

My brother and I have managed seven rental properties since 1999 which can keep us busy at times. When not working, I enjoy cooking, gardening and, of course, fishing.

I have been competitive walleye fishing over 35 years, competed in 9 different states and Canada, qualifying 16 times with the Masters Walleye Circuits World Walleye Championship, qualified 15 times for the annual National Team Championship. This year we will be competing on Lake Erie in May and Lake Huron in September. I'm the President of the 120 member Cedar Valley Walleye Club.

My Church involvement includes: chair of the Board of Spiritual Growth and Programs, member since 2009; involved with Bunker Partners in Education, Student of the month and Adopt a family; youth collaborative Wednesday evening activities, Rally Day, Fall Festival, Easter activities, VBS and the Mitten Tree. I previously cooked on a monthly basis for Community Meals; Vicki and I also participated with delivering Meals on Wheels.

I am a co-owner of a 180 acre farm in Allamakee Co. with 140 acres of timber and 40 acres enrolled in CRP. I enjoy the outdoors!



# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

Join community members to explore how we practice charity, reading and discussing the book, "Toxic Charity" by Bob Lupton.



**Dates:** Tuesdays, January 18 - February 22

**Time:** Noon - 1:00pm

**Where:** All-In Grocers Community Room (221 Franklin St, Waterloo)

**Information:** 6 weeks, 10 chapters, 2 chapters per week - Week 1 will be an introduction to the book and sharing by House of Hope Staff - Lunch is available for purchase at the store.

**Sign up Today!** Email Jenna at [jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org](mailto:jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org) or call the Habitat office at 319-235-9946. You will need to purchase your own book or can listen on audible.

*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

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