

# 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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

January 06, 2021



## CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of the First Congregational UCC will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021 via zoom. Major topics of business will be discussion and approval of the 2021 budget, nominated officers and board members, Bylaws revisions, and Capital Fund Campaign.

Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, the meeting will be held virtually via computer using Zoom as noted below. If you are a member of First Church and would like to participate in the meeting, but do not have the equipment, internet access, and/or experience to do so, please contact the church office. We will assist you in finding a way to take part in this important meeting.

Topic: FCUCC Annual Meeting

Time: Jan 24, 2021 12:30 PM

Join Zoom Annual Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3192348927?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3192348927?pwd=SzIyY1NWRUVZKzF4MzRsbHNkSnFSUT09)  
pwd=SzIyY1NWRUVZKzF4MzRsbHNkSnFSUT09

Passcode: 246810

If connecting by phone

Dial in: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 319 234 8927



### Annual Meeting Reports

**Attention all Board Chairs** - I would like to have your annual report by Monday, January 11th. You could take advantage of this coming break and get it done early.

~ Michelle



## Did You Ever Notice ...?

Did you notice that people have been especially filled with Hope at the beginning of *this* New Year? The past year has certainly given us reason to be especially Hopeful for a New Year. We needed a break in the seeming continuum of bad news in which we found ourselves. We needed do-overs. We needed to start over. We needed a place mark to say, “Okay, from now on it’s going to be good!” Or did we? Maybe what we really needed was the reminder of *Christ-mas*. Maybe what we really needed was the reminder that All is Well, that God has given us the greatest Gift of all, and that we have it all year round ... always. He is always there with us and for us and all we have to do is accept the Gift.  
‘Seems pretty simple ... share the Gift.



## Keep Your New Year’s Resolution!!

(December was the worst month yet!!)

- Wear your face mask, not just for yourself, but to protect everyone around you.
- Stay at least 6’0” from everyone WITH your face mask on.
- Stay away from all places where you cannot maintain a safe distance from others.
- Remind others to follow the same guidelines ... it’s a group effort ... a family effort.

## Mindful Mandala Making:

*Sunday, January 17, 2021; 4:00-5:30 p.m.*



**What:** Gather with Evie Waack and other friends for a 90-minute Mindful Art virtual gathering on Zoom. With “Mindful Art” the emphasis is on the process of exploring rather than creating a finished product. Part of this exploration is making spontaneous marks on a sheet of paper, sort of like doodling. Evie will help explore ways to create intuitive mindful mandalas through simple mark-making. Mandala is a Sanskrit word for circle. A simple writing prompt will provide a chance to respond to our mandalas. Experience with art making NOT necessary. Experience with mindfulness NOT necessary.

**What Material is Needed:** Evie will deliver an envelope to each person. The envelope will include two sheets of multi-media paper, one sheet of lined paper and one black marker.

**What you will need to have on hand:** A pen or pencil for the writing prompt. If by chance, you want to include color, you could have something on hand for color (markers, pencils or crayons).

**Deadline to sign-up:** Sunday, January 10, 2021

**How to sign-up:** Contact Evie Waack at 319-277-0163 or [evie.waack@gmail.com](mailto:evie.waack@gmail.com).

**Why:** \* Art making and mindfulness are two possible ways of responding to stress.

\* A fun way to connect with a gathering of people.

\* It is FREE!

**Questions:** Contact Evie at [evie.waack@gmail.com](mailto:evie.waack@gmail.com) or 319-277-0163.



## Contribution Statements

End-of-year giving statements will be mailed out next week.



## Taking Care of Our Family . . . . .

Please pray for comfort and peace for Jeff Armstrong as he continues his treatments for cancer and now recovers from surgery for a broken hip. Jeff is the grandfather of Zoe, Eli, and Sam Lennox. They need your prayers, too.

Please let Danny Steiber know you’re thinking of him as they continue to explore ways to successfully treat his bone marrow disease. Pray for wisdom and guidance for his medical team.

Pray for all of us as we face the Joys of a new year. Keep us mindful of the needs of others.



Are you looking for a 2021 New Year's resolution that you can keep? One that brings you a deep satisfaction and a sense of purpose? And keeps you connected with those that you care about and love?

Well, today is your lucky day ... and your church is here to help!

\*\*\*If you're currently on a board or committee and looking to try something new... NOW is the time to make a change and hop onto another one!

\*\*\*If you're not connected with any of the boards or committees and want to join... NOW is the time to make the connection!

\*\*\*If you have an idea for a project or activity and want to explore the possibilities... NOW is the time to brainstorm and make it happen!

Think about how you'd like to be involved in our church and we'll find a way to connect you with others that share your passion. Give Diane Highnam or Michelle Holt a call, text, or email and let us know how you'd like to be involved.

**It's going to be a great year!**

### Need an Idea for a New Year Resolution??



Well, here's one that many people should probably give some consideration. Spend some time thinking about which social media platforms you use and how much time you spend on them. Keep track. Think about what

insights they are each giving you. Are they based on good truths and thoughts? You might want to think about them the same way you consider what people you spend time with. How do you pick those folks? Are you getting the right "vibes" from your social media? The same is true of the places you choose to get your news. Do you pick news sources that are comfortable, that give you what you want to hear? Or do you purposely try to find news sources that give you facts and truths, even if they don't fit with your thinking? We're naturally drawn to what we want to hear, aren't we? The Truth is out there, as Fox Mulder always reminded us. We just need to be diligent about finding it and recognizing it, even when it's not comfortable for us. Look for it! Find it!





Love INC

Love In The Name of Christ

Thank you to everyone who gave this past Christmas Season to our special offering. You raised \$535 to give to Love INC!

For those who do not know much about Love Inc...here is their mission statement:

Love Inc (Love In the Name of Christ) networks churches across denominational lines and leverages our collective impact to bless those in need in our community.

When our local churches, united in the purpose of showing Christ's love in our community come together, we are a powerful force for transformation: not only to individuals and families, but to the entire community.

Love INC of the Cedar Valley is a local chapter of a national organization. For more information about the national organization go to [www.loveinc.org](http://www.loveinc.org).

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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Congregational Tidings

Place  
Stamp  
Here