

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

February 24, 2021

IT'S TIME TO SEND IN YOUR PLEDGE!!

We are so fortunate to have a couple of anonymous donors to make this pipe organ project possible. But their generous support is not enough. We need your generous support, also. The much needed maintenance and the enhancements to our pipe organ will provide us and our community a beautiful instrument to enjoy for years to come. **Please return your pledge card today or simply contact Michelle at 319-234-8927 or at her private email fcuccoffice@gmail.com.** Thanks for keeping our church a community treasure!



SIGN UP FOR THE TALENT SHOW NOW!!

Yes, it's time! It's time for the return of the First Church Talent Show! We need to know your talent and your interested in participating right away! **Please contact Greg Holt greg.holt@wcpbhct.org or Meach Meacham shuaib.meacham@uni.edu.**

Give them: 1) your name, 2) your talent, and 3) a phone number. They'll contact you and arrange for videography at church or for you to send in a video of your own. They'll also discuss other details you need to know for your performance. All acts must be videoed, by you or by us, by the end of February so they will be ready for a March world premiere.

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE FIRST CHURCH TALENT SHOW ...
THE NEXT GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!!

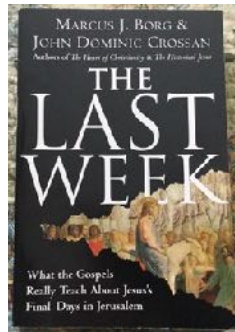


PPRC Committee

The PPRC committee will meet Tuesday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm (Via Zoom).

Sunday Mornings During Lent

During Lent, starting Sunday, February 21, the Sunday morning Zoom gathering will read and discuss the book *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.



"Using the gospel of Mark as their guide, Borg and Crossan present a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week of life. They begin their story on Palm Sunday with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem. The first entry, that of Roman governor Pontius Pilate leading Roman soldiers into the city, symbolized military strength. The second heralded a new kind of moral hero who was praised by the people as he rode in on a humble donkey..."

Topic: FCUCC Sunday Morning Book Study

Time: 09:20 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83998402038?pwd=b1YRnZjMFRhWUEvNm5MMTJ2bk5aUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 9840 2038

Passcode: 246810

Dial in: 312 626 6799 US

Contact Evie Waack with any questions.

Lenten discussions

During Lent we will take a half an hour after the worship service, starting at approximately 11:35 a.m. to talk about the theme of the day and/or our own Lenten reflections and thoughts. This is an opportunity to have some intentional fellowship after the worship service to deepen and broaden our spiritual connection with one another, and to edify our own faith journeys. A zoom link will be available on our church website and our church Facebook page. We hope to see you there!

Help Support Laura & Japhy

February 26th and 27th is the University of Iowa Dance Marathon's 27th Annual Fundraising Event benefiting the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

donate.dancemarathon.uiowa.edu/detail/385 (Laura)

donate.dancemarathon.uiowa.edu/detail/1297 (Japhy)

For more information: dancemarathon.uiowa.edu/about/

Thank you in advance for your support!

A Dinner, Movie & Conversation!

On Saturday, March 6th, at 6:00 PM we will have the opportunity to watch "Amistad" together followed by a discussion. As you know, the Congregational Church was instrumental in the abolition of slavery and the underground railroad. See history come to life in this compelling movie. Because of the graphic nature of the film, and its "R"



rating, you may not wish to have your children to watch. However, the issues illuminated may shed light on our own issues in 2021. The movie will set the context for Sunday worship on March 7th at 10:30 a.m., i.e., the next day, in which a narrative of the African who became the leader of the group, Sengbe Pieh, will be given by our own Shuaib Meacham. There will be African drumming and other special music for this worship experience you won't want to miss played by our own congregants.

If you have seen the movie or choose to watch it at a different time, please join in the discussion at 8:10 PM using the same Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3192348927?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3192348927?pwd=SzIyY1NWRUVZKzF4MzRsbnHNkSnFSUT09)

[pwd=SzIyY1NWRUVZKzF4MzRsbnHNkSnFSUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3192348927?pwd=SzIyY1NWRUVZKzF4MzRsbnHNkSnFSUT09)

Meeting ID: 3192348927

Passcode: 246810

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Waterloo's Soul Book Nook

During February, we focus on the history of African Americans in our culture. Cedar Valley is a more diverse population than many parts of Iowa, and we celebrate how diversity enriches us. During the summer of 2020, Waterloo welcomed new business owner, Amber Collins, to our neighborhood as she opened The Soul Book Nook. It is located in the former Robin Surplus store at 110 E 4th St, Waterloo, IA 50703. The Soul Book Nook offers a variety of types of books for adults and children, representing both diversity and a spiritual focus. Ms. Collins has been an avid reader her whole life, and was inspired by the Aquarian Bookshop well known in Los Angeles as a "citadel of black Intellectualism on the West Coast". Besides offering a wide variety of books for all ages, she plans to offer gatherings for book clubs, featured authors, and other events. Information about upcoming events and featured authors can be found at:

<https://www.soulbooknook.com/> and

<https://www.facebook.com/TheSoulBookNook/>

CREATIVE CORNER

Our third entry of 2021 for the Creative Corner is from Bob Hurley. We have seen some of his paintings, but his entry this time is a woodworking creation:

“Since my retirement, I turned my workshop into a woodshop as every man needs their own “man cave”! It's really helped to keep me occupied especially while isolating during the pandemic! So when I'm not at my easel in my art studio, I am making creations with wood! Some of my creations include bird feeders, toys, games, furniture, etc. Sometimes, I even invent my own games including the rules! People like them so much, they want to buy them. Other times I sell them just to cover the cost of my materials. But mostly, I like to give them away to my children and grandchildren for gifts.

I made this combination chess, checkers, cribbage board plus a wooden, lined box containing handmade checkers and cards for cribbage. The chess board is made of solid oak, hickory, and aspen wood, measures 18 x 21”, and has a lined drawer which contains the chess pieces. I picked out this beautiful piece of hickory for the cribbage board especially for its unusual grain pattern. I am considering selling this special piece as the materials to make it were quite pricey! Woodworking and painting has been a great creative outlet for me since retiring.”

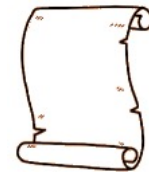


Thank you, Bob, for sharing a beautiful piece of woodworking and something that could become a family heirloom.

On behalf of the Board of Creative Arts, I would like to invite others to contribute your creations. We welcome photography, paintings, sculpture, poetry, stories, dance, music, acting, recipes, knitting, crocheting, sewing, needlework, woodworking, pottery--whatever you enjoy creating. Or maybe you have a favorite hobby that isn't necessarily your own creation, but an appreciation of the creativity of others. You can take a picture of your creation or something you appreciate. If you would like to present a video, we can link it to our website and/or Facebook page. We would like to know a little about what you are sharing, perhaps a story of how you created your work, and why it, or the experience, is important to you. We miss seeing each other and this is a way that we can share ourselves in a different way. We welcome artists of all ages and abilities. Please send your creation or questions to Anne Hoekstra at annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com. Thank you.

First Congregational UCC Reopening Protocol

The First Congregational UCC Board of Trustees approved a set of documents explaining the protocol we will follow to allow small groups to begin using the church building & grounds for meetings and events, when appropriate. Our Reopening Committee also recommended these documents. The documents are available for your review and download from our website at www.firstcongucc.org.



If you have a group of six or less who are interested in using the church for a meeting or event, please review the documents, fill out the request form, and submit it per instructions for review and approval. The decision to allow the gathering will depend on many variables including the current status of COVID in Black Hawk County.

Please submit your completed request form to Anne Hoekstra or Michelle Wolfe for approval.

Love INC Donations

Thank you to everyone who gave donations for our LoveINC Service Project. These donations will go to their stores to assist persons in need of essential items. Kyle will be dropping off the donations at LoveINC this week.



March



Birthdays

Anniversaries

1
Janis Engel
Kinnick Petersen
3
Liz Becker
April De La Hunt
6
Joan Siglin
7
Craig Jensen
Ginni Casteel
8
David Greene
9
Jason Dams
Sue Hummel

13
Kenny Steva
Maria Avino
15
Marian Greene
16
Rizzo Lace Buck
17
Danny Steiber
18
Lucy Prescott
19
Connie Jo Peirce
Gary Waldon
20
Adam Akin
Dick Grimm

23
Greg Holt
Samuel Stevenson
25
Lindsey Panicucci
Joanne Tefft
Molly Anne
Stevenson
30
Jeremy Essmann
Nancy Showers
31
Nevaeh Brock-
Streeter

23
Joel & Jackie (Dahlgren) McAllister
26
Steve & Susan Peters
29
Henry & Lynette Doepke
30
Craig & Cindy Wells





Taking Care of Our Family

Please let Pastor Bret, Michelle, or Anne know of those we should be keeping close ...

* Prayers for Ruth Brower who fell on Thursday, the 18th, and broke her pelvis. She is at New Aldaya for rehab.

Pastor's Corner

During this Black History month, I've tried to listen to Black voices that speak of our wider reality in this country. There has been a long unseemly legacy of racism and oppression in our country, and it is often the oppressed who can guide us forward to live up to our ideals.

Maya Angelou is one of my favorite poets, and the following poem speaks of the difference between humans who are privileged and free and humans who are not privileged and feel caged. May it bless your own spiritual journey of identifying with and seeking to advocate for the caged birds of our culture.

Blessings,
Pastor Bret

Caged Bird

BY [MAYA ANGELOU](#)

A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn
and he names the sky his own

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

Maya Angelou, "Caged Bird" from *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?* Copyright © 1983 by Maya Angelou. Used by permission of Random House, an imprint and division of Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved.
Source: *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou* (Random House Inc., 1994)



Habitat for Humanity - Local Mission

- * The Waterloo Habitat for Humanity ReStore needs donations...Donate building materials, furniture, and home goods to the ReStore and support their efforts to create a world where EVERYONE has a decent place to live.
- * Habitat for Humanity will hold their 22nd Annual Spring Benefit Auction on Monday, March 1st from 8am to Saturday, March 6th at 8:00pm. Proceeds from their auction event will directly benefit local families in need of safe, stable and affordable homeownership opportunities in our community!

For more information on the Habitat for Humanity, to buy tickets to the auction and for other ways you can get involved in our community, please visit their website at <https://www.webuildhabitat.org/events/spring-benefit-auction>

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

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

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Stamp
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