

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

March 10, 2021

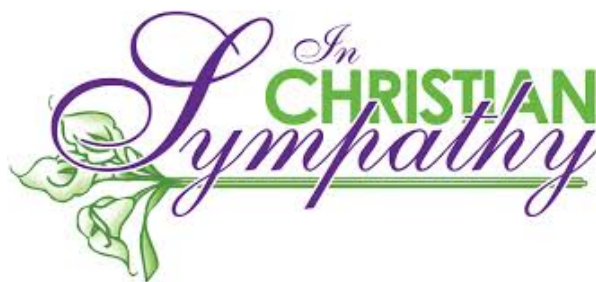
YOUTH NEWS



This last Sunday, youth and their families gathered at Hartman Nature Reserve and helped empty buckets and bags of fresh maple sap from trees all over the forest and bring them back to the Sugar Shack! Hands big and small participated, and so much teamwork happened, it was incredible! Once everyone was tired from darting from tree to tree, marshmallows were roasted and sandwiched between chocolate and grahams, hot chocolate was drunk, and laughter and conversations were abound.

HUGE thank you to the Greene's for providing the hot cocoa (it was delicious!), Sue for our s'mores materials, and Tim for setting things up for us and communicating with Hartman personnel. Seriously, these people are incredible! Thank you to all the helpers, big and small!!!

It was a blast getting out into nature and soaking up the sun! So... what will the youth do next? Stay tuned!

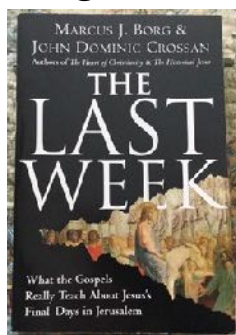


We are saddened to announce the passing of Sally Walker on Tuesday morning, March 9th at the Martin Center. Sally will surely be missed by all who knew and loved her.

A graveside service is being planned for Mid-May. More information to come.

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 at 9:20 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!

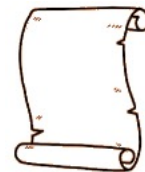


**Congratulations to
Hudson Lourenco-Feld
on his being granted his
Green Card!
We are so happy for
his news!**

Taking Care of Our Family

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

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.

Women of Faith

Our March meeting will be one of conversation related to the theme of "home." We'll break into small groups to talk about questions such as: What makes me feel at home in a community? How do I make a community feel like home? What is my responsibility to my home community? Whether you've come to Cedar Falls from another country or have always lived here, your observations will be welcome contributions to our evening together.

Please note the change in meeting date. We will meet by Zoom on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, please respond with an email to ratliff@cfu.net by Saturday, March 21.

This topic has been chosen as a prelude to our April 27 meeting at which the director of the Youth Art Team and some Team members will talk about their project "Making Iowa Home." The Team members interviewed seven people who have come to Iowa from around the world and asked them "What makes you feel at home?" Then, the Team created a book of selections from those interviews and their own art work. You can read more about this great project and purchase the book here: <http://youthartteam.com/public-news/youth-art-team-published-a-book/>

Contact Evie Waack with any questions.

CREATIVE CORNER

I am submitting this week's Creative Corner entry of a photo of something I love--flowers. During my time this past covid year, I have taken zoom classes for adults--no grades, little homework, and lots of good information. One of the assignments of a photography class I took was to take pictures of items in our homes. This orchid has been a happy guest of ours, blooming constantly since September. It sets in my kitchen window and reminds me each morning of the gift of nature and God's handiwork.



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.

WE STILL NEED YOU!



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! to all of you who have sent in your pledges for the three-year capital campaign for the pipe organ project!! We are well on our way to a successful campaign, but we still have a way to go yet. The critical, required maintenance and much anticipated improvements to our pipe organ are underway. We will see the components returning soon and the final project completed in a couple months. It's important we all participate in this exciting chapter in our church history. Please make your pledge now by calling the church office at 319-234-8927 or emailing Michelle at fcuccoffice@gmail.com. (Or just return your pledge card) Thanks!

PASTOR'S CORNER

HOW TO SPEAK YOUR SPOUSE'S LOVE LANGUAGE

WHICH LOVE LANGUAGE?	HOW TO COMMUNICATE	ACTIONS TO TAKE	THINGS TO AVOID
 WORDS OF AFFIRMATION	Encourage, affirm, appreciate, empathize. Listen actively.	Send an unexpected note, text, or card. Encourage genuinely and often.	Non-constructive criticism, not recognizing or appreciating effort.
 PHYSICAL TOUCH	Non-verbal - use body language and touch to emphasize love.	Hug, kiss, hold hands, show physical affection regularly. Make intimacy a thoughtful priority.	Physical neglect, long stints without intimacy, receiving affection coldly.
 RECEIVING GIFTS	Thoughtfulness, make your spouse a priority, speak purposefully.	Give thoughtful gifts and gestures. Small things matter in a big way. Express gratitude when receiving a gift.	Forgetting special occasions, unenthusiastic gift receiving.
 QUALITY TIME	Uninterrupted and focused conversations. One-on-one time is critical.	Create special moments together, take walks and do small things with your spouse. Weekend getaways are huge.	Distractions when spending time together. Long stints without one-on-one time.
 ACTS OF SERVICE	Use action phrases like "I'll help...". They want to know you're with them, partnered with them.	Do chores together or make them breakfast in bed. Go out of your way to help alleviate their daily workload.	Making the requests of others a higher priority, lacking follow-through on tasks big and small.

GRAPHIC BY **FIERCEMARRIAGE.COM**

BASED ON "THE 5 LOVE LANGUAGES", A BOOK BY DR. GARY CHAPMAN

MOMENT FOR MISSION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This Sunday, March 14, 2021, our church will be collecting an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This offering helps with disaster relief, refugee and immigration assistance, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, we can help with the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS, we can help with holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and



worldwide response & recovery networks, our contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put resources in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment, and recovery of the most vulnerable. We can help meet immediate needs and address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Please send your offerings to Michelle at the church office or donate online on our website. THANK YOU for your contribution!

Treats Requested for Irving School

Testing will be taking place March 22-24 so if you'd like to help give the students in our neighborhood a break during that stressful time, please consider dropping off some bananas, apples, oranges, individually packaged chips or fruit snacks at 1115 W 5th Street (closed during spring break 3/15-19). Thanks!

You Are Cordially Invited to Help Keep Up the Neighborhood:

Dear Friends,

As you know, the Russell & Snowden Homes are a major part of the story of Waterloo bearing a lot of history. The Friends of the Grout Historic Houses is a group of the Grout Museum District supporters devoted to the care and upkeep of the two historical homes owned by the Grout Museum. Our current goal is to raise funds for the much needed upkeep on painting of these two homes, Rensselaer Russell House & Snowden House.

With budgets so tight, and the cancellation of fundraising in 2020 due to Covid19 we need your support now more than ever.

We want to invite you to our annual St. Patrick's Lunch, this year it has been revised because of Covid, but hope to go back to the brunch in 2022. We have graciously been able to team up with Jameson's Public House at 310 E. Fourth St Waterloo for this year's event. It will take place on two different Saturday's March 13th & March 20th, from 12:00-6:00pm both days. The menu includes a Rubeen & fries for \$15.00. This event is a To-Go meal.

Tickets can be purchased online at gmdistrict.org/lunch2021 or by calling the Grout at 319-234-6357. Please think of our organization and treat yourself and your family to a special Saturday lunch and help us sustain these two special houses. Your support would be much appreciated.

Thank You,

Carrie Buschmann
Secretary, Friends of the Grout Historic Houses



Join the UCC JAM 2021 Virtual Adult Choir

Join the Joint Annual Meeting 2021 (JAM 2021) virtual choir! All congregants and leaders in the IA, NE, SD Conferences are invited to participate. Fill out the form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxJKZrmellIoQ7aXZBIFavXJSygSBUrtuHe9CEKvqq0cH6K8g/viewform>



The JAM choir will be singing a three part arrangement of "Like A Tree" by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan: Listen to the original: <https://psalmimmersion.bandcamp.com/album/psalm-1-cycle>

The last day to sign-up is this Sunday, March 14th. You will receive instructions via email the following Monday and have until April 18th to send in your video. You will get sheet music, practice tracks, score markings, detailed filming instructions, and more to help you learn your part and make the recording. There will also be a few optional Zoom rehearsals where you can ask questions about the piece or process (dates TBD). Haven't seen or participated in a virtual choir before? When it's done it might look something like this!: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpBZeEoC2io>
Questions? Email Aidan Spencer at aidan@ucctcm.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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608 WEST FOURTH STREET
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Congregational Tidings

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