

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 31, 2021

Holy Week 2021

Maundy Thursday Service

April 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service

April 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Worship

April 4, 2021 at 10:30 am

*(Services will be available on both our
Youtube and Facebook pages)*



**Sunday,
April 4th
at
9:00 a.m.**



**Church
parking lot**

Hey, kids of all ages!

You're invited to our Easter Egg Hunt!

Don't miss the fun, games and hot cocoa!

Bring your friends and neighbor kids, too!

Taking Care of Our Family

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



* Please pray for Steve and Liz Thorpe as Steve has entered Hospice while being cared for at home.

* Please keep Ruth Brower in prayers. She underwent emergency shoulder surgery on Saturday at MercyOne to correct a condition that was causing infection.

* Please keep Connie Paul in your prayers. She was hospitalized at Allen Hospital over the weekend.

* Please keep Beth Lauterbach in prayers as she recovers from arthroscopic surgery for a torn meniscus on Tuesday.

* Please pray for Connie Peirce and her family, for the multiple health events they are experiencing - prayers for medical answers and care, as well as spiritual strength for the family.

CREATIVE CORNER

For this week's Creative Corner entry, we have some beautiful fabrics with intricate designs woven by John and Barb Mardis's daughter, Bekah Mardis. She writes this about her work:



"I learned how to weave at a medieval "war" event approximately 16 years ago. My interest was piqued and I've been exploring the different aspects of weaving ever since and teach weaving to beginners. My favorite item to weave is cotton kitchen dish towels. They are so absorbent, and look spectacular on the oven handle, or hanging as a hand towel in the bathroom. On occasion, I will take a commission, but mostly I weave for the peaceful rhythm and clacking of the loom. It's a full body workout, and I get absolutely thrilling enjoyment watching a piece come together that I've meticulously measured and dressed onto the loom."

"The most challenging project thus far has been a woven-in beaded pillow top. Getting those beads woven into the exact

position was so difficult, I was only able to create two rows with beads before my headache was so bad I had to stop for the day! But they turned out gorgeously and were gifted to friends."





MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

With the desire to enlighten and celebrate our church's long history of community involvement and outreach, please enjoy these stories about our journeys with Grin and Grow and Bunger journal buddies:

Brief History of First Congregational UCC and Grin and Grow

A little more than 20 years ago, our church was looking into possible uses for our education rooms beyond Sunday School. Child daycare was an option being considered. A committee led by Doug Casteel was formed to explore the idea. We were fortunate to have Joanne Lane, the Director of the local office of Child Care Resource and Referral, to give us information and guidance in our exploration. It was clear that there was an unmet need for quality childcare and that it would be best for our church to find an existing childcare business that would be interested in locating in our building. Working with Mike Knapp and Grant Price, we learned that Grin and Grow was a successful long-established nonprofit childcare business that had been serving working families in our community. At that time, Grin and Grow operated locations at First Presbyterian Church and the Pinecrest Building in Waterloo. We decided to partner with them, and became the third location of Grin and Grow.

Modifications to our building were needed to meet codes and regulations, as well as equipment to furnish the classrooms and a playground area. A total of \$90,000 was needed, which was raised by members of the congregation. The main entrance would be on South Street, and the office located in the space near the stairway. Classrooms on the first and second floors were modified in addition to the nursery room near the Crossroads. The kitchen upstairs was adapted after many discussions with the Quilters group. Over the years our building has continued to be adapted for the use of Grin and Grow. Many members have contributed financially and as volunteers in many ways to allow Grin and Grow to continue to provide care for children and families. Due to financial constraints and building needs, our church is currently the only location operated by Grin and Grow.

Credit to Ed Dams, Karen Jensen, and Joanne Lane for the details.

Bunger Journal Buddies

It's interesting to have a journal buddy to share their talents whether it is sports or a subject they like the most. They share their family members and we do also. Think about being a journal buddy. It's very rewarding.



Congratulations to Erin Brock-Medhus and Josh Medhus, on the birth of their daughter, *Lauren Evelyn*, on March 2nd!

She is welcomed by big sis, Ada, and proud grandparents, Bob and Pat Brock.

PIPE ORGAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE!!

There is good news and not-as-good news to share for the pipe organ capital campaign. The good news is that we have pledges to cover 2/3 of the \$90,000 goal of the capital campaign. Remember, we are asking the congregation to cover only about 1/4 of the \$340,000 project. Very generous donors are covering the rest. The not-so-good news is that we need \$30,000 in pledges to reach our goal. About half of our church family has not yet taken the opportunity to participate in this important project. IT'S NOT TOO LATE!! We need your generous support, also. The much needed maintenance and the enhancements to our 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!



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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