

# 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)

May 26, 2021

Join us via our Facebook or Youtube channels this coming Sunday for our **Youth Service** at 10:30 am!

We will also be recognizing our two seniors.  
Here is a little bit about them:



## Zoe Lennox

Zoe graduated from Waterloo West High School on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will be attending Kirkwood Community College in the fall to pursue associate degrees in Psychology and Nursing. She would love to find a career in psychiatric nursing! She is excited to be moving down to Cedar Rapids and start a new path. In her free time, she enjoys working out and is excited to gain her certification and start a new job working as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

Over the years, Zoe has been actively involved in Youth Group, has served on the Pastoral as well as Youth Director Search Committees for multiple years, volunteered for Feed the Hungry, served on the Church Mission Committee, and attended missions trips to West Virginia and Nicaragua (which she found to be her most memorable experience during her time in the church; she says it was the experience of a lifetime!). She was confirmed into the church on May 15, 2016.

## Kenny Steva

Kenny graduated from Waterloo West High School on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will be attending Hawkeye Community College in the fall to pursue a two-year degree in Police Science. He plans on becoming a police officer! He is excited to be a recent graduate because he gets to leave high school and go to college as well as transition into adulthood. Kenny recently got a manual-transmission truck, and he has loved learning to drive stick-shift! He has also enjoyed spending time with his grandpa near weekly as they bond over family trucks and do repairs.

Over the years, Kenny has been actively involved in Youth Group, Super Bowl Subs, and the Carnival from a couple of years ago. His favorite memory at the church was the Chili Cook-Off, where he enjoyed all of the spicy foods! He was confirmed into the church on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## WE ARE REOPENING!

Yay! Life is beginning to look a little more normal, and we are eager to be together in person again! Our reopening committee has been meeting via Zoom throughout the year, and will be asking us to take precautionary measures to insure that the most vulnerable amongst us remains safe. We will worship in the sanctuary on June 13 at 10:30 am. The service will be live-streamed and recorded so it is available to folks not able to be with us.

The Common Meeting on June 8, 7:00 p.m. will also occur in person. Committees will gather in the sanctuary for an informational meeting prior to adjourning to their respective committee meetings.

## TAKING CARE OF OUR FAMILY

~ Prayers for Henry & Lynette Doepke's great-granddaughter, Maya and her parents as she is undergoing some testing following a seizure.

~ Ruth Brower is back in the hospital with a blood infection. Prayers for a smooth recovery is appreciated.

~ Russ Towsley will be undergoing bladder surgery on June 1 for bladder cancer. Both he and Carol appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

~ Kathy Franke is undergoing knee replacement surgery this week. We pray for a quick recovery for her.

## WATERLOO RIVERLOOP AMPITHEATRE JUNE 6TH WORSHIP

Just a Reminder that our Sunday Service on June 6th will be at the RiverLoop Ampitheatre in Waterloo at 10:30am. Although this Sunday is typically our annual picnic, we will not be having one this June.

## CREATIVE CORNER

The Creative Corner needs you! We have had some interesting and varied contributions last fall and this spring, a fun way to keep in touch with each other during covid shutdown. Now that vaccinations are helping us resume a more normal life, we will be able to see each other more easily. However, folks are still doing their creative projects or expressions, whatever those may be. We would love for you to share them with us! Please forward them to Michelle at [FCUCCoffice@gmail.com](mailto:FCUCCoffice@gmail.com) or Anne Hoekstra at [annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com](mailto:annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com). Thanks!

## GRADUATES TO HONOR

Please submit names of your family members and loved ones who will be graduating this spring. We would like to acknowledge and honor them.



Please include their upcoming plans following graduation. Please submit this information to Michelle Wolfe so they can be acknowledged in Tidings ([FCUCCoffice@gmail.com](mailto:FCUCCoffice@gmail.com))

### \*\* ZOE LENNOX

Zoe graduated from West High School this spring and will be studying psychology and nursing at Kirkwood in the fall.

### \*\* KENNY STEVA

Kenny graduated from West High School this spring and will be studying police science at Hawkeye Community College in the fall.

### \*\* MEGAN WHEELOCK

Megan graduated as Salutatorian from Valley Lutheran this spring and will be studying musical theater at Viterbo University in LaCrosse, WI in the fall.

Megan is the daughter of Corey & Heather Wheelock and granddaughter of Karen Dew.

John Hooker Leavitt was one of the founding fathers of our congregation. His portrait is found in the Friendship room. In April, I had the privilege of meeting his great great grandchildren, Ralph Leavitt, from IL, and Nancy Leavitt Wilbur, from CO, when they were in Cedar Valley for a memorial service for another Leavitt, Gordon, of New York banker. His ashes are now buried in the Elmwood Cemetery where the original Waterloo Leavitt's are buried. There was an article about Gordon Leavitt in the April 18 edition of the Courier.

[https://wfcourier.com/news/local/watch-now-descendant-of-early-waterloo-settler-buried-at-elmwood-cemetery/article\\_1cd62167-2e28-52f1-a83c-0a8601dd5ef5.html](https://wfcourier.com/news/local/watch-now-descendant-of-early-waterloo-settler-buried-at-elmwood-cemetery/article_1cd62167-2e28-52f1-a83c-0a8601dd5ef5.html)

Although the family is settled across the US, they still have deep roots in Cedar Valley and were most appreciative of seeing the beautiful church that sprung from their ancestor's faith and vision.

This is a picture of Ralph Leavitt beside the portrait of John Hooker Leavitt.

~ Anne Hoekstra

## Leavitt Family Visit



# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS



The Job Foundation is a charitable organization that works with students in the Waterloo Public School System, including Irving, here in our church row neighborhood, who live at or below the poverty level. It is believed to be the only savings-linked conditional cash transfer program in the world that specifically works with children. What that means is the kids in the program are compensated for their performance in school and given a financial education to prepare them for life after graduation. They get their saved money when they graduate but are allowed to spend money along the way as well. Each child is paired with a mentor and attends TJF classes to learn more about finances.

TJF students are 47% less likely to get in trouble at school, they have a 23% higher GPA and miss 35% fewer school days. Most kids give some of the money they earn to charity and 84% save beyond the required amount. This is truly a life changing program. If you are looking for ways to make an impact, please consider joining these other worthy Congregationalists! Call 823-1030 or check out [www.thejobfoundation.org](http://www.thejobfoundation.org) for more info on volunteering or donating.



Dave is always one of the first volunteers to ask "how can I help?" Some families were unable to pick up school lunches for their children. Thank you, Dave Allbaugh, for all the ways you help Job Foundation students! #thejobfamily #volunteer #heartofgold💛



Did you know Craig Mahood is on the Board?



Students with a dedicated mentor have better school attendance and are more likely to fill leadership roles. Thank You, mentor, Greg Hoekstra! The time you donate to youth in our community makes a difference!



Bob Brock is there, too!

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## When "What Ifs" Become "We Cans"

What if we created a church where beliefs were not as important as values...where creeds were not formulated, but virtues...where right conduct and character mattered more than right doctrine and dogma?

What if we created a church where everyone was accepted and affirmed for who they were created to be rather than as who they happened to be at the time...who were loved because of their inherent worth rather than their apparent utility...who were respected for who they were capable of becoming rather than for what they had done?

What if we created a church where learning new ideas, discussing varying viewpoints, and understanding one another despite disparate perspectives served to increase our faith rather than challenge it...served to make us grateful rather than anxious...served to make us more united rather than divided?

What if we created a church where the comfortable were challenged to share out of their abundance, and all members sought for the justice of their neighbors near and far as they would seek for their own...where the Golden Rule was practiced as well as professed?

What if we created a church where forgiveness was the norm, and compassion was the rule...where malice, gossip, and disdain could not remain, and loving-kindness, compliments, and reverence were always sustained?

What if we created a church where we not only professed that we care for all, but followed that up by making people feel cared for and beautifying the natural world around us by showing how we care for it?

What if we created a church where every gift was valued, and every soul was cherished...where opportunities to share talents were available and encouraged, and no one envied another but sought only to contribute their part...where there was no concern for who gets the credit, or any struggle for power, but a genuine appreciation for the work that each other offered?

What if we created a church where there was no prejudice over race, religion, sexuality, disability, or difference, but all were respected and loved as oneself...where no "sacred text" would be used to ostracize or condemn another, and where all saw the commonness of spirit and equity of worth in the heart, mind, and soul of each other?

What if we created a church where we only built each other up, and never tore another down...where all were warm, friendly, hospitable, and welcoming...where each one found nourishment, healing, encouragement, and inspiration?

What if we created a church dedicated to peace-making and non-violence...where the rights of those in other places roused our passion more than patriotism...where the livelihood and flourishing of all peoples and creatures the world over stirred our commitment more than nationalism?

What if we created a church where the emotionally wounded could go for refuge, and the spiritually afflicted could go for nurture...where seekers could find, and doubters could build faith...where cynics would find reason for hope?

What if we created a church that was fun and delightful, invigorating and refreshing...where enthusiasm was rampant and motivation was palpable...where generosity was overflowing and gratitude was ever-flowing?

What if we created a church that cultivated our calling and promoted our purpose...that provided an ambience of identity and a milieu of meaning?

What if we dared to envision that we could create such a church by the grace of that which is greater than ourselves? What if we had that kind of faith?

We can actualize our "what ifs." We can make real this vision. But only when our "what ifs" become our "we cans."

Let's get started!



# June 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6pm - 7pm Youth Gathering	3	4	5
6 10:30 Worship <i>Waterloo RiverLoop Amphitheatre</i>	7	8 7:00 Common Mtg.	9 6pm - 7pm Youth Gathering	10 Meals on Wheels	11	12
13 10:30 Worship <b>In-Person Service</b> 6pm - 7pm Youth Gathering	14	15	16	17	18	19
20/27 10:30 Worship <b>In-Person Service</b> (27th) 6pm - 7pm Youth Gathering	21/28	22/29	23/30 (23rd) 6pm - 7pm Youth Gathering	24 Meals on Wheels	25	26

## Birthdays

**3**  
Todd Ellison  
Phil Martens  
Jennifer Wells

**4**  
Nancy Mahood

**5**  
Becky Ellison

**8**  
Cliff Highnam  
Anne Hoekstra  
Shirley Kappel  
Callie Ann  
Holdiman

**9**  
Zailey Lynne  
Sheridan Casteel

**10**  
Andrew Akin

**11**  
Kay Thuesen

**15**  
Frieda Biesanz  
Jane Young

**17**  
Susan Peters

**19**  
Danielle Conrad

**25**  
Natalie Lindaman

**28**  
Cindy Wells

**29**  
Michelle Wolfe

## Anniversaries

**1**  
Jeff & Peggy Essmann

**4**  
Phil & Becky Martens

**5**  
Craig & Sharon Holdiman

**8**  
Steve & Kay Leary

**11**  
Tom & Courtney (Rickert) McCaffrey

**19**  
Brad & Jodi Casteel

Jim & Nancy Stevenson  
Rudy & Jan Bernhard

**26**  
Brian & Molly (Greene) Bishop

Greg & Anne Hoekstra  
Bruce & Jill Jensen

**27**  
Robert & Jill (Jensen) Mejia

*First Congregational Youth Gatherings!*

# June 2021






## ATTENTION YOUTH!

The following are days to keep on your radar, as we will be gathering outside of the church and having fun!

These dates are June 2, 9, 13, 23, and 27 all from 6pm-7pm!

### Questions?

Contact Abbie at [abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com](mailto:abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 	10	11	12
13 	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 	24	25	26
27 	28	29	30			

*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

Place  
Stamp  
Here