

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 15, 2023

PULPIT SUPPLY

Change of time for service this Sunday--10:45 a.m! Since we are invited to join First United Methodist Church across the street for their Pre-Lenten Mardis Gras Jazz service from 9:15-10:30 on February 19, we will begin our service 15 minutes later than our usual time. This will give folks the opportunity to enjoy worshipping at First Methodist, then make it to our service in the chapel.

This Sunday we again welcome Dr. John Burnight, associate professor of religion at the University of Northern Iowa, to our pulpit. In his teaching at UNI, he emphasizes the reading of primary texts (such as the Bible, Talmud, and Quran), placing them in the context of the time of their writing. He was our guest speaker in September and spoke about the creation stories of Genesis. Laurie Allbaugh will be our worship leader and Karen Jensen will present the mini-message.

Thank you to Rev. Brad Braley for serving us again this past Sunday, and to Craig Mahood for serving as worship leader, and to Kay Leary for her mini-message and Valentine's goodies.



Please join us for our annual Ash Wednesday service next week, **February 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel.** Rev. Jim Altenbaumer will be leading the service with the Chancel Choir leading the congregation in Holden Evening Prayer. Imposition of ashes will be offered for those who would like to participate. This is always a meaningful and solemn introduction to the Lenten Season, a season for reflection and spiritual renewal.

Taking Care of Family...

~ Prayers for John Mardis who has been at the University of Iowa Hospital as of last Wednesday, February 8th and will continue to be there approximately 3-4 weeks. He'll be undergoing CAR-T treatment to help fight the mantle cell lymphoma he's been dealing with for over 3 years. He appreciates phone calls, texts, and emails during his stay.

~ Prayers for Karen and Robert Dew, who continue to deal with health problems, pain, and mobility issues.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The adults will not meet this Sunday. It will resume next Sunday, February 26 at 9:15 in the Friendship Room for discussion of chapter 4, "Raymond Carver" in Listening for God. Newcomers are welcome.

WORSHIP LEADERS WANTED

We have been blessed with many volunteers from the congregation who serve as Worship Leaders each week. We have some open services coming up, and would love to extend an invitation to whoever is interested to assist. Please let Michelle Wolfe or Anne Hoekstra know if you would be willing to volunteer once or several times!

ZUMBA CLASS

A Zumba class is offered by Angelica Rodriguez on the first and third Saturdays each month at 10:00am in our church basement. Which means the next class is this Saturday, February 18th! All ages are welcome.

PANTRY FILLED WITH LOVE

Thank you all for stepping up to fill the Neighborhood Pantries for February. Keep it coming. Remember to add a few items to your cart each week as this is an ongoing project. Want to make a monetary donation? Someone will shop for you. You are the best!

~ Gina Greene

POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

The next 'Potluck with a Purpose' is scheduled for Sunday, February 26th after church. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Don't forget to let Michelle in the office know by February 26th if you have any updates to your family information for our 2023 directory. You can reach her at fcuccoffice@gmail.com.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

The next Food Bank volunteer night is Tuesday, February 21st, from 6-8pm. Please let Diane Highnam know if you can help. Thank you in advance!

MEGAN GREY FEATURED WITH WCFSCO

Megan Grey, who served as section leader for our chancel choir and played in our Touch of Brass Bell Choir will be featured with the Waterloo Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the GBPAC Great Hall at UNI:

CONCERT: MAHLER, SHOSTAKOVICH 5, AND UNI MUSICIANS



A celebration of Cedar Valley talent featuring Megan Esther Grey singing Mahler, a new work by UNI composer Jon Schwabe, and an inspiring side-by-side performance of Shostakovich 5 with Northern Iowa Symphony.



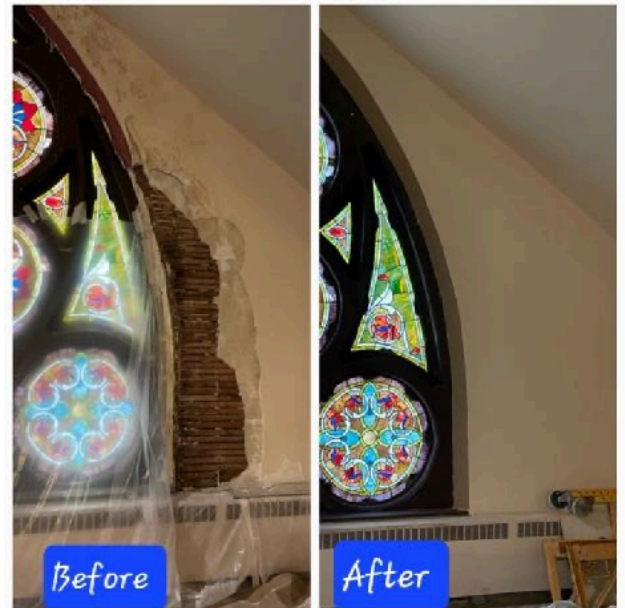
We are invited to join Waterloo First United Methodist Church this Sunday, February 19th at 9:15am (before our worship service) for their annual Jazz Sunday with "The Souls of Dixieland Jazz Band."

(614 Randolph, Waterloo, IA 50702)

CHURCH RESTORATION PROJECT STATUS

Plastering and painting work in the sanctuary is wrapping up. Plastering should be completed Feb 15 and painting on the 17th. The contractor will use the week of Feb 20th to clean the white plaster dust from the nooks and crannies of the sanctuary so that we can hopefully return for worship there on Feb 26th. The contractor will continue working in the South Street lobby and the bell tower stair well. The project is scheduled for completion by March 31st.

~ *Dave Allbaugh*



MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...

[Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley](#)
[Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

Hospital chaplains are called to serve persons of many faiths and persons with no religious affiliation – a ministry that requires sensitivity and a generous spirit. Rabbi Ora Schnitzer has served as a chaplain in many healthcare settings, to persons of many faiths, in Spanish as well as English. She will speak about her work at our [February 21st Women of Faith online meeting](#).

While Rabbi Schnitzer has lived much of her life in the Chicago area, she does have ties to Waterloo.

Her father, Rabbi Mordecai Simon, was the rabbi at Sons of Jacob Synagogue from 1956 – 63. For many years, Rabbi Ora has come to Waterloo to lead the synagogue's High Holiday services.

The opportunity to hear Rabbi Schnitzer speak about her work will be enlightening, inspiring, and most appropriate for our interfaith Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley. Below is the link to this Zoom gathering:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86263760689#success>

Please contact Ratliff@cfu.net for additional information.

Turkey and Syria Need Our Help

Dear Friend:

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise – numbers are pointing to over 5,000 – depending on the source. This is shattering news and adds to the challenges of the war in this area for over a decade.



The UCC has posted a prayer and short statement in response to this crisis. While the earthquake was on the border, the tremors were felt as far away as Lebanon and Cyprus. At this time, we are issuing an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. It is hard to tell what other areas are affected or the extent of the damage from this seismic event.

Amid this current uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial support the United Church of Christ will be there helping those in need. Give generously by clicking [HERE](#). You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444.

Sincerely, Kent Siladi
Director of Philanthropy, United Church of Christ

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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