

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our
church family and friends
March 13, 2024



No matter who you are or where you are on Life's journey, you are welcome here!

PULPIT SUPPLY



Thank you to Rev. Brad Braley for his "Let It Shine!" message last Sunday, to Gina Greene for serving as worship leader and to Paul Greene for providing the mini message.



You can watch the service by clicking on the picture of Rev. Braley.

This Sunday we welcome Abbie Chronister back to our pulpit. Seth Chronister will be our worship leader and Nancy Mahood will provide the mini-message.

Holy Week - Mark Your Calendars...

March 24 - ***Palm Sunday*** 10:30am

March 28 - ***Maundy Thursday***

Simple Soup Supper 6:15pm

Service 7:00pm

March 29 - ***Good Friday Service*** 12:00pm

at Waterloo First United Methodist

March 31 - ***Easter Sunday***

Easter Egg Hunt 9:45am

Worship Service 10:30am



TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Prayers for Greg Hoekstra as he recovers from knee replacement surgery.

~ Update: A prayer request email was sent out late last night for Craig and Sharon Holdiman's niece, Katie who was found unresponsive in her apartment. Unfortunately, Katie passed away early this morning. Prayers of comfort for the Holdiman Family are requested.

~ Thank you for the prayers for Robert Dew as he is recovering from hip surgery. He has finally been able to continue recovery at home.

PANTRY ITEMS

So many ways to share your gifts. Remember those that are hungry. Please help fill the pantry by adding a few extra items to your cart for the pantry and dropping them off in the crossroads. Thank you.

YOUTH NEWS

There will be no youth group on Wed., March 13th or 20th. The next dinner and youth group will be March 27th here at First Congregational at 5:30pm.



Thank you to everyone who gave to the OGHS offering last Sunday. We have received \$275 so far. If you would still like to give to this worthy cause, please mark OGHS on your check and place in the offering plate this Sunday or mail to the church office no later than March 18th.

TRUSTEE MEETING DATE CHANGE

The next Trustee Meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of the month - March 26th at 6pm.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

The church directories will be completed this week and will be available for pick up at church this Sunday, March 17th.

COLLECTION BOXES

You will notice several collection boxes in the Crossroads currently. They are for the following:

~ **Pantry:** We are collecting food items that we deliver each month to help feed those who are hungry.

~ **LoveINC:** This month we are collecting cleaning essentials - Brooms, mops, buckets, sponges, etc.

~ **Job Foundation:** These donations were listed in last week's Tidings and will help kids learn money management by being able to purchase items with "money" they have earned by attending their sessions.

~ **Annual Spring Clothing Giveaway:** Donations of clean, good condition clothing (child or adult) and bedding

IMMERSE COURSE

Iowa Heartland Habitat is hosting an 8-week Immerse course, for those who would like to dive deep into the 8 principles of Christian Community Development: reconciliation, redistribution, relocation, leadership development, empowerment, church-based, listening to the community, and holistic approach.

You will learn from Laura Hoy, CCDA Practitioner and Neighborhood Developer. Her years of experience, depth of knowledge, and wonderful facilitation have made this course an incredible opportunity in the past.

\$30/person for eight weeks of educational content. Learning in an authentic community has been so powerful and we hope that you can join us in seeking the welfare of our cities!

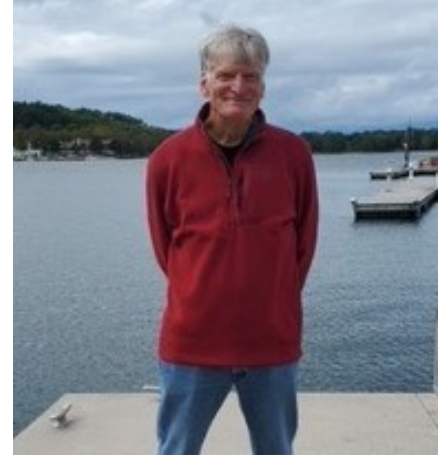
Interested? Contact Jenna Petersen at 319-235-9946 or jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org, or sign up here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ufsEZosrp18Nnhrm4vWiGMbib0Hb9v_oKax7C5d0Tc/edit

Getting To Know You

GETTING TO KNOW: CRAIG DRIVER

I was born and raised in Waterloo. My father, Richard, was a physician, and my mother, Elaine, was a registered nurse before she retired to raise her family. I was the oldest of four children. My parents became members of First Congregational, and I was confirmed at this church in 1956. The Senior Minister at that time was Dr. Charles Jacobs and the Director of Religious Education was Fern Murphy, Kathy Frank's mother. I was born before the end of WWII, but the baby boomers were soon to follow. At that time Sunday School was held in cubicles arranged around the perimeter of a balcony in what is now the choir room, but the baby boomers necessitated the addition of the Religious Education Wing. My secular education included stints at Kingsley Elementary, West Junior High, West High, the University of Iowa, and the Iowa College of Dentistry.



Carol Hinson and I were married while we were students in Iowa City and remained married for over 51 years until her death from cancer. We had three children, Scott, Jeffrey, and Charlotte and three grandchildren, Madelyn Driver, Lucas Backens, and Liam Backens. Both Scott and Charlotte migrated to Arizona, but Jeffrey has remained in Waterloo. After Carol's death I was fortunate to meet Carmen, who is a friend of Jeff's wife, Gyobanna. Carmen and I have now been married four years.

I have enjoyed practicing general dentistry for fifty years in Waterloo, retiring in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dentistry can be stressful, and it can be physically demanding, but it is also interesting and rewarding. There were many changes in the profession during my career from the growth of dental insurance and larger group practices to huge technical changes such as more esthetic materials, digital impressions, CAD/CAM, and implants.

Carmen and I both enjoy traveling and being involved in the lives of our families. Carmen loves to cook and watch movies on Netflix and Hallmark. I enjoy yard work, reading, and eating Carmen's cooking.



ANNUAL SPRING CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY

Date/Time

Saturday, April 13, 9 am until 10:30 am

Location

Royal Legacy Christian Academy (formerly Sacred Heart School), 620 W. 5th St, Waterloo. The give-away will be held in the school gymnasium. Enter off of the W. 5th St. parking lot next to the school. Watch for signs.

Free To Those in Need

Spring clothing from child to adult sizes and bedding will be available



Time to order your Easter Lilies...

Please place your orders by next Monday, March 18th.

PRICE: \$ 14.00 each

Please make checks payable to First Congregational UCC. You may mail your check and this order form to the church, place them in the offering plate on Sunday or call the church office at 234-8927 or email Michelle at fcuccoffice@gmail.com to place your order(s).
Easter Lilies can be picked up after the Easter worship service on March 31st.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Total number ordered: ____ x \$14.00 = _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

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
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