

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our
church family and friends
March 22, 2023



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

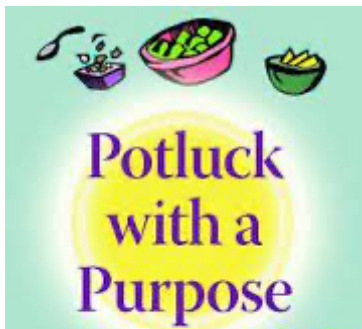
PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Janice Springer for her message Sunday, and for Evie Waack for serving as worship leader and giving the mini-message.

We welcome Jenny Nelson to our pulpit this Sunday. She is the executive director of LoveINC. Her message will be about Jesus feeding the 5000. We welcome her to our potluck afterwards where she will tell us more about LoveINC. First Congregational is a partner with LoveINC. Abbie Chronister will be serving as worship leader, and Gina Greene will provide the mini-message.



POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE



Jenny Nelson will stay to participate in our Potluck with a Purpose following worship this Sunday to share more about our collaboration with LoveINC which helps churches serve their neighbors through resources and relationships. Please plan on joining us in welcoming her with food to share and your own table service if you like.

SEARCH AND CALL UPDATE

We continue to work closely with the Shepherd Staff search firm as they seek out additional candidates for us and conduct initial conversations with them on our behalf. To date, there have been 232 prospects for consideration, 223 have been eliminated (either by the candidate or the search firm), and 9 are in some form of consideration. Weekly meetings with the Shepherd Staff representatives provide updates and discussions about new candidates, as well as progress in discussions with others already in the pool. We have discussed additional incentive options with the Personnel Committee, which can be presented to candidates in the future. As a result of those discussions, we have made a few updates to our UCC profile, as well as updates to the Shepherd Staff Opportunity Profile, which will better reflect our current situation at FCUCC.

The Search and Call committee continues to appreciate the dedication and leadership of the ministers and lay leaders who have preached and lead worship during this interim period. The overall impression is that this has been good for the congregation, as well as the Search committee, to see new styles of worship, sermon topics, and interactions with members of the congregation. We continue to ask for prayers for patience and dedication in our quest to find the next senior minister who will lead our congregation into the future.

~ Prayers for Michelle Holt, Greg, Kaylee, Tristan, and Japhy as they mourn the passing of Judy Cherry, Michelle's mother. Funeral will be at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly, Friday, March 24, 2:00 p.m. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/wccourier/name/judith-cherry-obituary?id=51318777>

~ Prayers for Bonnie Bessman, who fell last week and was in the hospital for 3 days for a head injury and broken rib. She is now back in her apartment. Cards can be sent to Windhaven #34, 5500 S. Main St., Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

~ Prayers for Richard Cook. His heart procedure is scheduled for April 4th.

~ Prayers for Lois Johnson who continues to recover from injuries sustained from a fall.

~ Prayers for Peter Blankenfeld and his family. Pete is now in hospice care. Cards can be sent to Sanford Sheldon Care Center, Attn: Peter Blankenfeld, PO. Box 250, Sheldon, IA 51201.

~ Prayers for John Mardis, who is at the U of Iowa Health Network Rehabilitation Hospital, 2450 Coral Ct, Coralville, IA 52241. **Update:** It is possible he will be released to go home as early as this Thursday!

~ Prayers for Diana Paige to the prayer requests--she is to have another cranioplasty surgery on Thursday, March 23 at U of IA hospitals.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School Adult Sunday School continues at 9:15am in the Friendship Room for discussion of chapter 7, "Garrison Keillor—Aprille" in Listening for God.

JOYCE GAULT PIANO CONCERT SERIES

This series celebrates exceptional piano concerts offered by UNI faculty and guest artists, in honor of former faculty pianist Joyce Gault:

Faculty Recital: Vakhtang Kodanashvili, March 28

This recital will be at 8pm in Davis Hall in the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center

ZUMBA CLASS

The class has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 2 - Palm Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. with Simple Soup Supper preceding

April 7 - Good Friday Ecumenical Service 7 p.m. (at *Kimball United Methodist Church*)

April 9 - Easter Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

SUMMER SERMONS?

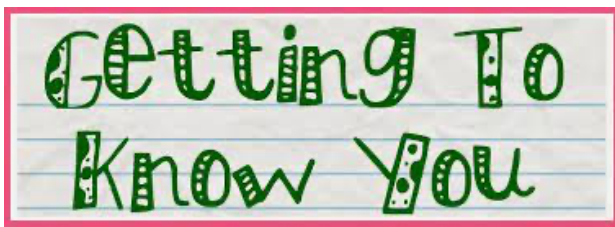
Summer will be here before we know it. If you would like to present a sermon during this season, please let Anne Hoekstra or Michelle in the office know. We appreciate our own congregation and what they have to share.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS

Calling all Food Bank Volunteers! Please join us on Tuesday, March 28th at 6:00 at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank (1605 Lafayette St in Waterloo). You'll enjoy 2 hours of good company, good fun, and an awesome opportunity to help prepare food for distribution to hungry families in our part of the state. We are blessed to have this amazing facility in our community. They depend on volunteers to keep things going smoothly! Contact the church office or Diane if you'd like to participate!

MLK FREEDOM BUS TOUR

Our congregation has been invited to participate in this year's bus tour traveling to four critical cities during the Civil Rights Movement. The dates for this year's trip are November 13-17, 2023. Cost is \$450 per person (\$350 for youth 18 and younger) All questions can be directed to Nancy Culpepper or Director Abraham Funchess at (319) 291-4441.



GETTING TO KNOW:

SUE HUMMEL



Sue (McMurray) Hummel, when she joined the First Congregational family

As you can see, I've been around a while! This church used to have a Children's Bell Choir and that's where I fell in love with ringing. When I got to West High, we also had a bell choir, and we had to memorize our music (hopefully Luke isn't reading this!) Music has been a big part of my life, as a percussionist in orchestras, concert bands, percussion ensembles, and marching bands.

My family consists of husband Dan, dog Lily, and cat Midge. We read a lot and play cards (well, Lily and Midge are still learning.)

I have an Applied Art degree from Iowa State University and loved my years as Art Director at Area 7 (now Central Rivers AEA). Later, a career change, when I became a Veterinary Assistant at Den Herder Animal Hospital. That led to starting my own business, Critter Care Professional Pet Sitters. At the same time, I was a foster mom for animals at the humane society.

My favorite place to be, is our cabin on the Shell Rock River. With a book!

Currently, I'm serving on the Board of Spiritual Growth & Programs. I also deliver Meals on Wheels, and I think a special part of that is getting to know the person in the car with me. There have been many over the years! True fellowship.



Sue Hummel now



Mark Your Calendars...

The Metro Community Concert Association presents *Mark Hayes* -

Composer, Arranger, and Pianist
Monday, May 8, 2023 / 7:00 PM
Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center
\$15 Tickets at the door

You are invited to a Community Choir Concert. Enjoy a night of music featuring nine church choirs, including our *First Congregational's choir*, under the direction of Mark Hayes. Mark Hayes is an internationally known writer, conductor, and concert pianist.



UPCOMING YOUTH SCHEDULE

Our youth has joined a new venture hosted by 3 Church Row churches— First United Methodist, Kimball United Methodist, and First Baptist, Churches. This youth program is led by Rumén Hulmequist. The group (6th-12th grade) meets on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-7:30, rotating each month to one of the participating churches. We are very excited that our youth will be able to join this venture!

Parents of our Youth will receive weekly updates and schedules. Here is the upcoming schedule:

- March 22: Wednesday Night Youth Group at Waterloo First United Methodist from 5:30pm-7:30pm (10 minute parent meeting after youth group).
- March 25: Roller-skating/rollerblading Friday March 25 from 4pm-9pm (*Vinton Skate & Activity Center, 1703 C Ave., Vinton, IA 52349 - \$5.00 admission*).
- April 7: Good Friday Service - Friday, April 7th at Kimball United Methodist at 7pm.

I Know We're All Welcome at the Table, But Do I Have to Sit Next to You? Workshop Conference

This is the title of a book by one of our guest preachers, Rev. Janice Springer, and the title of a Saturday conference we would like to sponsor for our church to host on April 1, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

"How do we stay in community with those whose values drive us crazy? How do we regard our opponents with compassion instead of contempt? How do we love our enemies? We'll learn some tools to help us see the face of Christ in those we meet."

Rev. Janice Springer has served churches in the United Church of Christ for more than 40 years. Currently she is Minister of Spiritual Formation at University Congregational United Church of Christ in Missoula, Montana. Her articles have been published in journals, including *The Christian Century*. She is author of *Nurturing Spiritual Depth in Christian Worship: Ten Practices*. She is spiritual director and has led worship and retreats in the USA and Canada. Janice lives in Iowa and Montana.

Register by March 27 by emailing Anne Hoekstra annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com or Michelle in the office FCUCCoffice@gmail.com or calling 319-234-8927. There will be a sign-up sheet after church this Sunday.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS...



Envelopes were inadvertently left out of last Sunday's bulletins. If you would still like to give to this offering, envelopes will be in this week's bulletin or you can send a check to the church by Wednesday, March 29th. We have already raised \$800 this year but raised \$1118 last year... Let's beat that! Thanks in advance!

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The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will hold their next presentation on April 12th from 7-8pm. Angie Woods, LISW, OSATP, who is a senior social worker with the VA, and was with UPC Psychiatry before the VA, will speak about "*Healthy Emotional Responses and how to deal with your Feelings.*"



Time to order your Easter Lilies...

Please place your orders by the end of March.

PRICE: \$ 14.00 each

Please make checks payable to First Congregational UCC. You may mail your check and this order form to the church or you can fill out an order form (available in the Sunday bulletins and in the library) and place it in the offering plate with your check on Sunday.

You may also 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 April 9th.

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
Here