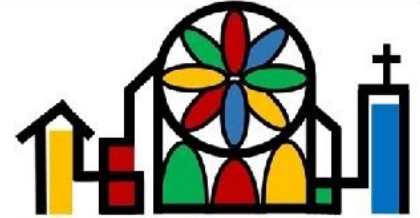


First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

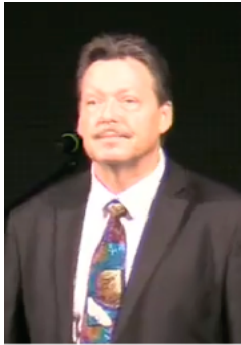
A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends

April 10, 2024



FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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



PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Bill Quibell for filling our pulpit this last Sunday and to Gina Greene for her assistance as worship leader. Those who attended the potluck afterwards enjoyed the presentation by Ed Gruenwald, director of Growing Minds Early Learning Center.

This Sunday we will enjoy our annual Youth Sunday Service which will be led by the Collaborative Youth Group.

Please join us and support them.



Treasurer Report

1st Quarter



FIRST QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of the first quarter of 2024 (25% of the way through the year), we have received 25.7% of our pledged offerings. We have also received almost \$12,000 in past pledge income. This is great news, and I want to thank all who have been so faithful in their financial support.

All board and committee expenses are under budget, and we can be pleased that we have already donated \$5,625 to Our Church's Wider Mission. Our total support for OCWM this year will be \$22,500. As you know, we support a wide variety of local missions as well.

Thanks to all of you our finances are strong, and we can keep the faith alive.

~ Craig Driver, Treasurer

YOUTH NEWS

During April, the collaborative youth group will meet at First United Methodist Church on Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm.

Thank you First Congregational Family!
You donated over \$850 toward the youth fundraiser!

PANTRY

Keep the pantry in mind as you do your shopping and plan your meals. Right now one in twelve people in NE Iowa don't have enough to eat. Your gift will help to provide food to a hungry child, family or senior right here in our community. Help fill the emergency food gap! Please leave food items in the crossroads. Thank you.

NAMI PRESENTATION

Join us at FCUCC tonight, (Wed., April 10th) from 7 to 8pm for an interactive educational program about "Music and Mental Health." It may include music improvisation with a variety of instruments, a songwriting experience, and music-based relaxation.

Presenter Barbara Ashton has been a professor of music therapy at Wartburg College since 2017. She is a board-certified music therapist, has a master's in music, and is currently pursuing a PhD.

ANNUAL SPRING CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

The giveaway is this Saturday, April 13th (9 - 10:30am) at Royal Legacy Christian Academy in the gymnasium. (formerly Sacred Heart School - 620 W. 5th St., W'loo)

~ Last chance to donate is April 12, from 9am to 12pm at the gym - Randolph parking lot (during sorting of clothing/bedding)

~ If anyone would like to help sort clothes Friday morning from 9-12 or contribute a package of 30 gallon heavy duty garbage bags with handles for recipients to carry their selections home, please join us at Sacred Heart (gym entrance off Randolph)!

OFFICE CLOSED

Please note that the Office will be closed from April 12th through April 16th and also on April 19th.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

First Congregational has been chosen by Cedar Valley Chamber Music to host two free concerts:

On Saturday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. "Beyond Debussy: A Program Exploring the Diverse Legacy of Claude Debussy" will feature Hannah Porter Occeña on flute and Josh Graham on marimba/percussion (*See more information about this concert on the back page of this Tidings*).

Then, mark your calendars for Friday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. "A Triptych in Music" will feature Nash Ryder on violin and Sean Botkin on piano.

WOMEN OF FAITH

April is Poetry Month and at our April 16 meeting, Rev. Janice Springer will lead us in exploring how poetry connects us with one another and with our deepest selves. We'll also join in a guided exercise, led by Rita Waggoner, to help us write our own poems on the theme "Where I'm From."

We will meet at 6:30pm at Cedar Falls UCC (9204 University Ave., CF). Coffee and tea provided, so if you can, bring some goodies to share with them. And, of course, you're welcome to bring friends.

ORGAN RECITAL

The American Guild of Organists is hosting a Westminster Presbyterian is hosting an organ recital with performance by Jonah You Knapp on Saturday, April 20th at 4:00pm. The recital is free and open to the public. (1301 Kimball Ave., W'loo)

SENIOR RECITAL

From the studio of Jeffrey Birch, music student, (*and our section lead*) Eileen Gavin will present a voice recital on Tuesday, April 23 at 6pm in Davis Hall, UNI. This event is free and open to the public.

HABITAT BUILD

Thank you! The Habitat Women's Build is set for September 26. A team of 8 will be working on one of the 2 women's build homes at that time. Thanks to everyone that jumped on board and responded so quickly. We are also in the process of scheduling an additional all church build. More info to come!

Getting To Know You

GETTING TO KNOW: ABBIE CHRONISTER

I'm a student at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, sometimes a guest preacher, and a person who dearly loves our two cats, Lewy and Finny (and my husband, Seth, too). Sure, these things describe me, but I bet you'll find something you didn't know about me in the list below!

- In 2023, I read 101 books. I read the most in February (fifteen books) and the least in May (two). The drop in reading in May directly correlates with the release of Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom.
- Last year, I interned at ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries. Now, I serve on their Board and continue to facilitate discussion groups on spiritual and religious harm.
- I'm left-handed and maintain an ongoing list of items designed without lefties in mind. The most recent addition is white-out correction tape dispensers.
- I designed the masthead for the Evansdale & Elk Run Heights Newsletter as well as the new logos for the Evansdale Public Library.
- As a kid, I learned to like vegetables by smothering them in ketchup (even lima beans).



- I'm currently working on a pilot project with the UCC Mental Health Network, where we're creating a youth-led program geared towards uplifting positive interactions in digital spaces, mental health advocacy, and enriching one's spiritual core. It is funded by a grant through Columbia University and the HHS's Partnership Center.
- I have a large collection of fabric gnomes (far too many to count... but I'm certain that at least 20 came from Aldi). One of my favorites holds a sign that says "GNOEL" (akin to 'gnome,' the 'G' is silent).
- As of late March, I am officially a Member in Discernment in the Iowa Conference (which essentially means I'm one step closer to ordination in the UCC)!



BEYOND DEBUSSY: A PROGRAM EXPLORING THE DIVERSE LEGACY OF CLAUDE DEBUSSY

First Congregational UCC will be hosting a free chamber music concert sponsored by Cedar Valley Chamber Music presenting Josh Graham, marimba/percussion, and Hannah Porter Occeña, flute.

The influence of composer Claude Debussy has been pervasive throughout the world of music. Having established a unique approach that became definitive of a

style of French music, Debussy’s pupils and acolytes took his legacy in many directions. The program begins with a well-known work by Debussy, his flute solo *Syrinx*. Many of the works of Olivier Messiaen, especially early in his career, exhibit a style of composition very similar to Debussy, as seen in his work for organ (adapted here for marimba) *O Sacrum Convivium*. Toru Takemitsu was a Japanese composer who combined parts of the French tradition with elements of Eastern music, explored here by his works *Toward the Sea*, which pulls from the novel *Moby Dick*, and one of his works for solo flute, *Air*. Finally, the program includes two works by noted Polish composer Marta Ptaszynska, Professor Emeritus at the University of Chicago. Marta was a student of Messiaen’s in Paris, as well as famed composition pedagogue Nadia Boulanger. The program concludes with a work that was written by Marta for Dr. Graham upon the birth of his son, *Lullaby for Benjamin*.

APRIL 13TH - 7:00PM - FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

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