

# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends

May 17, 2023

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



## PULPIT SUPPLY



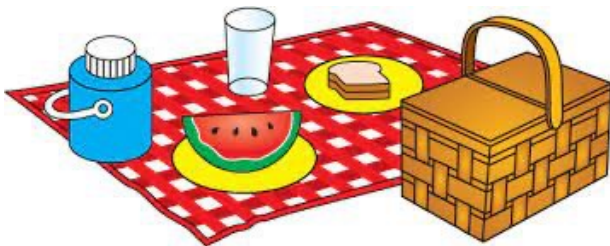
Thank you to Abbie Chronister and Jayne Slaughter for leading worship last Sunday, and to Cliff Highnam for his mini-message. It was good to be reminded how the Holy Spirit “comes to help us, weak as we are” as we celebrated Mental Health Sunday.

This Sunday we celebrate Youth Sunday. The Youth Coalition, led by Rumen Hulmequist, Dakota Hoepner, and Bee Boettcher, will be presenting our worship service. Participants will include our own youth youth and those from our neighbor churches—First United Methodist, Kimball United Methodist, and First Baptist Churches. The service is entitled “Living Faith: Embracing Spirituality in Today Generation”. Sunday School students will also be singing. Those students finishing 2nd grade and above will be receiving their own Bibles. We look forward to seeing everyone as we support our young people.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### CHURCH PICNIC JUNE 4, 2023



The annual church picnic will be held at Lookout Park in Cedar Falls on Sunday, June 4th. Worship will begin at 11 am followed by the picnic. More information to come in next week's Tidings. Please join us as we always enjoy a wonderful day of worship and fellowship!



## PRAYERS FOR...

~ Karen Dew who was hospitalized on Sunday and is going through tests.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are currently studying the book INSPIRED by Rachel Held Evans. We will "recess" for the summer and plan to resume our study in the fall. There are a couple of extra books for those who are interested.

## WANTED: FOOD PANTRY DELIVERY



We need a food pantry "delivery team" for **Friday, May 26**. We need someone (or a team) to deliver the bags from church to the 4 food

boxes in the neighborhoods. This will take about an hour and can be done anytime during the day. Please let Gina Greene know if you can help out.

Thank you.

[ggreene1124@gmail.com](mailto:ggreene1124@gmail.com) or 319-404-8840

## ATTENTION FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS:

Our next opportunity for volunteering at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank is **Tuesday, May 30, from 6-8pm!** Please mark your calendars and let Michelle or Diane know if you're planning on attending! We always have fun and it's a great way to help out our neighbors who are hungry. The Food Bank is an amazing facility in our community and it depends on volunteers to keep things moving forward! Join the Food Crew this month!

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DEDICATION

Join Habitat for Humanity for a dedication for one of their latest home renovations in our Church Row neighborhood! On May 16th at 4pm, the home at 300 Allen St will officially be dedicated to its new owners. Many of our church members helped with the building of this home. If you'd like a tour of the home, Habitat for Humanity is also offering open houses on May 15th and 16th from 12-1pm. We look forward to welcoming our newest neighbors!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



First Congregational will be hosting VBS again this year with several churches participating.

**When:** July 10th to 13th  
from 5pm to 7:30pm.

Meal will be provided each night.

For children ages 4 years (Pre-K) through 5th Grade.

**Curriculum:** "Twists and Turns"

More Information in future Tidings.

**Registration begins June 1st.**

## LAST CHANCE SCHOLARSHIP!



The Scholarship Committee is excited to announce that FCUCC has again received a tuition grant from the Donna Koweil Scholarship Fund. The intention is for current college students who have already completed at least one year of schooling. Preference will be given to those students who are pursuing a degree in the health field.

**Deadline to submit an application is tomorrow, May 18th.** Please contact Michelle in the office for an application.



# Getting To Know You

## GETTING TO KNOW:

### KAY THUESEN



When I moved from Geneseo, Illinois, to Waterloo in 1978 I knew no one in the community so I reached out to FCUCC as my church family... 45 years ago.

One thing about me is that I like to be active, utilize my time, and experience new things. Friends in college called me “predictable” and I didn’t want to be known as that. So, to be less predictable, I tried new experiences at Western Illinois University. I got my scuba diving certification, which not so many kids had done at the time. And, I spent a semester on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana teaching and learning about the culture.



I love to cook and try new recipes from different cuisines. Stuffed squid, anyone? And, travel! My bag is always ready for the next adventure! I’ve learned to pack small and enjoy the destination. We have taken several month-long trips with just a carry-on suitcase or backpack. Always wanting an unusual experience, I even convinced hubby Rich to walk among the lions in Zimbabwe with me!

I do a lot of “ing” things...reading, kayaking, skiing, biking, volunteering, snow shoeing, sailing, and loving my time with our 2 sons, their wives and 2 grandchildren.

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## GRADUATES

It’s that time of year again! Now is the time to let the church office know if you have someone in your family graduating from high school or college. Please submit their names to the church office for publication in Tidings at a later date. Include school they are graduating from and any future plans they may have in mind such as colleges they will be attending.



## MOMENT FOR MISSIONS: STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING



Every year, the United Church of Christ's Strengthen the Church offering supports more than a dozen new and renewing spiritual communities through Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement (CASA) grants. In 2022, a grant sent to Taos United Community Church, a small church in the Southwest Conference allowed the congregants to continue to minister to their community and to each other after they unexpectedly lost their founding pastor to cancer.

Taos United Community Church is one of 15 spiritual communities supported last year by \$225,000 in CASA grants, all made possible because of UCC members' gifts to the annual Strengthen the Church offering, taken traditionally on Pentecost. The missional gifts Taos UCC received not only kept the church community from closing its doors, but also aided in the healing process and allowed them to emerge even stronger from the devastating loss of their founding pastor. To read the entire story on Taos UCC, click this link - <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-wide-gifts-help-strengthen-new-mexico-church-after-death-of-founding-pastor/>.

FCUCC will be collecting this offering on Sunday, May 28th.

*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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*Congregational Tidings*

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