

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our
church family and friends

June 28, 2023



FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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

PULPIT SUPPLY

Last Sunday's worship, led by Laura Hoy whose work in Waterloo's Walnut Community and beyond has been informed by her involvement in the Christian Community Development Association. Laura's educational message was to be aware of the way we "see" or "assess" others. Unfortunately, many of us see others on a vertical ladder such as "good" at the top and "bad" at the bottom. Or rich versus poor. Or "like us" vs. "unlike us". And as a result, we want to associate with only those at the "top" of the ladder. Laura reminded us that Jesus willingly associated with lepers, tax collectors, beggars, and others at what we would call the bottom of the ladder. And if we are to spread Christ's message, we must do the same. She said we need to rotate the ladder to horizontal and be willing to associate with those anywhere on the ladder. She went on to say that the way to do this is with three "P's". Proximity, Posture, and Practice. Proximity means getting closer, both physically and mentally to others. Posture means presenting ourselves to others in an open and welcoming manner, both physically and mentally. And Practice means doing it repeatedly, first to get comfortable with the process and second to make it a part of our behavior every time we meet someone new. Laura also talked about the "gift" of geography that First Congregational UCC has, being part of the Church Row community. She invited us to continue to find opportunities to partner with our community to enhance everyone's way of life through shared ventures--not doing things "for" others, but working "beside". We thank Laura for her insightful message.



This week we welcome Carolyn Ayers, director of Lifestyle Enrichment/Volunteer Services at the Western Home Communities. She has served in various capacities as a lay leader in her church and the community. Assisting her will be Diane Highnam. Cliff Highnam will provide the mini message and special music!

WEEKLY CHURCH ROW PRAYER WALK

You are invited to join weekly prayer walks in Church Row neighborhood on Thursdays at 8:15am! During summer months, we start at the Habitat office parking lot (803 W. 5th St.) and typically pick up trash as we walk. The prayer walks last about an hour. All are welcome - staff, neighbors, volunteers, partners, so please feel free to spread the word!



TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

- ~ Karen Dew asks for prayers for her nephew, Dylan Bjornsen and his family, who was taken off life support on June 25.
- ~ Joan Grimm is asking for prayers for her son Todd who is 59 and in Arizona. Todd had a stroke the day before Father's Day and will be moved to rehab. His stroke affected his left side and mobility. Joan also would appreciate prayers as her doctors explore reasons for her continued fatigue. She remains in good spirits in spite of some loss of vision in one eye.
- ~ Prayers for Sharon and Craig Holdiman and their family, on the passing of her uncle Don in the St. Louis area.
- ~ Our condolences to the family and friends of Jenny Nelson, who died June 21 from colon cancer. She was the executive director of LoveINC and gave the sermon for us on March 26. As we learned from her time with us during the sermon and Potluck with a Purpose, her Christian faith was an anchor and motivator in her life, family, and work.
- ~ Diana Blankenfeld Paige has been released from U of IA hospitals and is now home convalescing. She has been down a long road of surgeries and complications and we pray that she may be restored to health soon.



LITTLE PANTRY ITEMS

Summer is here and kids are out of school. Meals may be a little harder to find. What an amazing job First Church has done filling 4 pantries a month! Let's keep it going. Remember your neighbors when you do your shopping and drop items off in the crossroads. We always need canned meat and healthy snacks.

Thank you Marcia Johnson and Sue Hummel for making our June deliveries and a special thank you to everyone for all your super food donations!

SUPPORTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Gina Greene is offering to chair a neighborhood parking lot sale on August 12th or 19th if there is interest by others to help.

We would need about 3 people who could receive items the Friday before the sale from about 3pm - 7:30pm in the garage, a set up crew of about 6

for 7am - 8am on Saturday, about 6 people to work the sale (8am - 11:30am), 2 cashiers, and a clean up crew.

We could add coffee or lemonade and a few parking lot games for children if there is enough interest from all of you. We would need clothing and household donations from all of you and your friends. (A great cleaning push!)




Please let Gina Greene know if you have ideas and an interest in supporting this in some way. 319-404-8840 or ggreene1124@gmail.com. Thank you.

CHURCH ROW NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION TEAMS

Over the years, several groups have joined forces to address needs in our Church Row Neighborhood. More recently, Habitat for Humanity has targeted this area for housing builds and rehab. They have also partnered with churches and community residents to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. As part of this process, they are organizing action teams to address:

- 1.Social (communication & trust)
- 2.Structural and Safety (street lights, sidewalks, speed bumps, etc)
- 3.Housing and Physical Environment (trash, rentals, rehabs, new houses)
- 4.Park and Beautification (renovating a park)

The role of the Social Action Teams is to study needs in the neighborhood that residents identify as priorities, and explore options for addressing them. The immediate neighborhood will be represented by at least 2 people who live in Church Row. Other participants are representatives of neighborhood churches, businesses, and staff of Waterloo. Each team will meet monthly from July 2023-June 2024 to work on specific goals and objectives in those action areas. Partners will get the opportunity to come alongside neighbors and assist in these areas where neighbors would like to see change. This is an opportunity for our church to work with those living in the neighborhood to positively influence our neighborhood. If you are curious and want to learn more, please talk with Anne Hoekstra or Jenna Peterson (jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12:00 Girl Scouts (Downstairs)
2 10:30 Worship	3	4 (Offices Closed) 	5	6 8:15am Prayer Walk (Meet at Habitat for Humanity every Thursday morning)	7	8 9:00 - Women's Breakfast (Perkins)
9 10:30 Worship	10	11	12	13 Meals on Wheels	14	15 12:00 Girl Scouts (Downstairs)
						
16 10:30 Worship	17	18 7:30am - Men's Breakfast (Village Inn-W'loo)	19	20	21	22
23/30 10:30 Worship	24/31	25	26	27	28 Fill Neighborhood Pantries	29 12:00 Girl Scouts (Downstairs)

Birthdays

Anniversaries

2
Henry Doepke
3
Joan Grimm
5
Brad Casteel
Ross Jensen
6
Jim Johnston
7
Rich Akin
9
Kay Leary
Malcolm Lauterbach
Clausen

10
Lynne Ensworth
Prince Yarngo
Jack Conrad
11
Karen Jensen
13
Lynne Longseth
Hayden Corson
14
Eileen Dams
Charley Corson
17
Cindy Thompson
19
Leah Reisinger

20
Bruce Jensen
23
Laurie Allbaugh
25
Jill (Morris) Jensen
Ada Brock-Medhus
Ila Daniels (Slaughter)
26
Paul Prescott
28
Lee Jensen
30
Ariel Driver
31
Zoe Lennox

2
Christine (Ellison) & Ryan Gallagher
5
Dan & Sue Hummel
12
Sarah & Joe Pavelski
28
Jesse & Amity Buck
30
Roger & Joanne Lane
31
Stan & Sara (Rickert) Faust

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 10th - 13th, 2023 5:00 - 7:30pm Nightly

All children ages 4 years (Pre-K) through 5th grade are invited to attend. Registration has begun! You can register online [<<CLICK HERE>>](#) or pick up a registration form at church. A meal will be provided each night. There are still openings for volunteers who will guide students from one location to the next. Let Michelle, Tim Ahrens, or Sue Hummel know if you are willing to assist.

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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608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

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