

# Congregational Tidings

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



A weekly newsletter



[www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

June 9, 2021



## WE ARE REOPENING!

We are resuming worship in our sanctuary this Sunday. It will be good to be together again in our beautiful sanctuary and be able to hear our recently renovated organ. The service will be live streamed for those not able to come.

*Speaking of reopening...* You can now sign up again for Altar Flowers starting June 13th. Please let Michelle know if you would like to provide Altar Flowers for this Sunday. There will then be a sign-up for future Sundays after that outside the sanctuary. Flowers/plants can be from your garden or florist. It's nice to have the variety that our congregation offers. Please stop by and sign up to secure the special dates in your life!



## GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING IN CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE

For the safety of all, please don't attend if you or your family members are not feeling well. We are requesting the use of face masks while inside church. Please enter together as family groups and safe distance from others. Sanitation stations are available throughout the building. Please go directly to the Sanctuary for seating. Seating will be every other pew with space in between. Please sit only with your family. Offerings can be made entering or exiting, located at the Sanctuary doors. Once service is over the ushers will excuse pew by pew to allow for distancing. There will not be after service inside fellowship at this time. Please exit the building after service.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# TAKING CARE OF OUR FAMILY

- ~ Prayers for Colleen Peirce who has been hospitalized twice in the past few days.
  - ~ Prayers for Ruth Brower as she recovers from a blood infection.
  - ~ Prayers for Russ Towsley as he recovers from bladder cancer.
  - ~ Prayers for Kathy Franke as she recovers from knee replacement Surgery.
- 

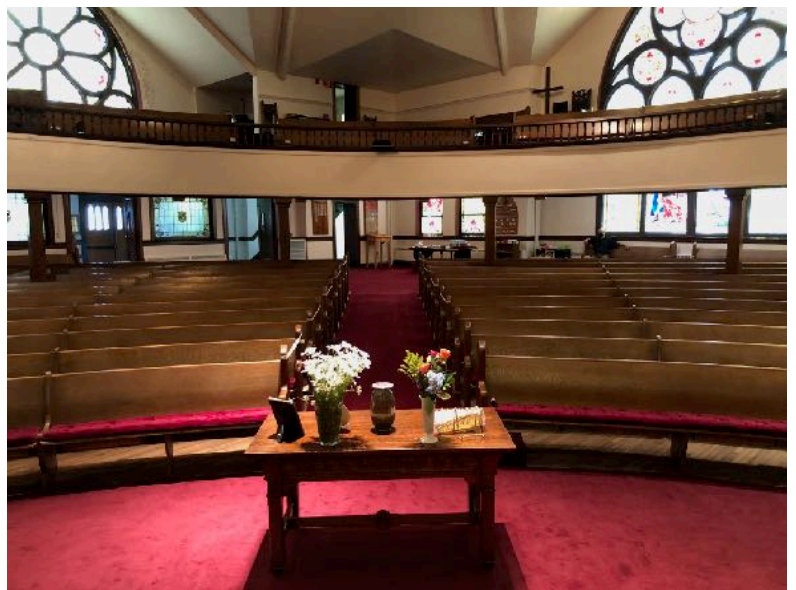
## CONGRATULATIONS, DAVID SHERIDAN!

David Sheridan, a son of our congregation, has been called as pastor to Spring Creek UCC in Rockford, IL and will begin August 1. Congratulations to David, who after a career as an attorney in the Des Moines area, completed seminary at Chicago Theological Seminary and is now a pastor! His parents were Bob and Donna Sheridan, and his sisters, members of the congregation are Ginni Casteel and Becky Ellison. We wish him and his wife the best as he enters this new venture!

David shares this about his faith development and his appreciation of his parents and church family:

"I owe so much to my parents and to the congregation at First Church. For my UCC Marks Portfolio, spiritual biography, I included this paragraph about both - *'During worship, my parents' favorite place to sit was up in the balcony, front row, and center, directly above the main aisle with a clear view of everything. That image is a fair summary of what my parents managed to share with their children about church.*

*Church was important. We needed to show up and take our place. God is just as much present to those up in the balcony, as God is among those down close to the pulpit. In many ways, we had the very best view.'* Standing at the lectern during mother's memorial service, my mind and heart were awash with warm memories. This photo I took before the service that I thought you might enjoy."



Pastor Bret has enjoyed walking with those of you who have done so with him on Monday afternoons. You are welcome to meet with him on Monday afternoons for a walk in a park, or a backyard visit. He will also have trial office hours at the church at the following times barring other scheduling conflicts:



Sundays: after worship until 1 p.m.

Mondays: 1-3 p.m.

Tuesdays: 5-7 p.m.

Wednesdays: 4-6 p.m.

Pastor Bret is available to meet you other hours by appointments if you would call, text, or email him with times you are available Sundays through Thursdays. Fridays and Saturdays are his days off. As always, calling, texting, or emailing ahead to schedule a time to talk is recommended.

Pastor Bret's cell # is 608-370-9472. Email is [revbmyers@yahoo.com](mailto:revbmyers@yahoo.com).

You may also set up Zoom time with him as well.

# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

## MEALS ON WHEELS

It all started when Shirley Kappel asked me to be her partner for Meals on Wheels. I don't know what year it was, but she drove a van and the "new thing" was that a button could be pushed and the back door would slide open. From that first week, I knew it was something I wanted to continue with. Besides the good feeling of delivering food to people in need, I found that a hidden gift was getting to know folks from church, in a one-on-one way. Being in a car with someone for a couple hours formed friendships, beyond saying "Hi" on Sundays in church.



When the pandemic started, Meals on Wheels had to adapt. Instead of the meals being delivered each weekday, they were only delivered on Fridays. The meals were frozen and each box contained a week's worth of meals for each recipient. The local MET bus drivers had time on their hands, so they drove us on our routes, as we sat near the rear, masked, bouncing along. It was a bit of a challenge to get the big boxes up and down the narrow steps & doorway of the bus, but a unique adventure! Hats off to Meals on Wheels organizers, for finding a way to still feed our community neighbors, who feel so isolated. For some recipients, we're the only people they see regularly.

If you're interested in helping with this rewarding experience, please contact Laurie Allbaugh.



# Church Directory

## UPDATE



As we mentioned a few weeks ago, Michelle is working on an updated church directory (*Thank you to those who have already responded with family updates*).

There are a few options available for you to include your family's picture if you would like to:

1. On Sunday, **June 20th and June 27th**, following service, you will have an opportunity to have your family's picture taken here (inside or outside) by Diane Highnam to be included in the directory.
2. Diane is also offering to either come to your house or meet at a park if you aren't able to come to church. If you want to make an appointment, email Diane at [diane.highnam@cfu.net](mailto:diane.highnam@cfu.net).
3. You may submit your own family picture to Michelle via email ([fcuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcuccoffice@gmail.com)) or drop off a picture for us to scan.

We ask for all family updates or pictures to be sent to Michelle by June 30th.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

We hope to have the directories available by mid July.

*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