

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

July 7, 2021

PASTOR BRET'S OFFICE HOURS:

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 and email is revbmyers@yahoo.com. You may also set up Zoom time with him as well.



YOUTH DIRECTOR OFFICE HOURS:

July 8th 1pm - 5pm
July 12th 10am - 2pm
July 13th 10am - 2pm
July 14th 10am - 2pm

*Don't forget to join us
tonight (July 7th at
6:00pm) for youth as we
are doing some science
experiments!*

FROM OUR REOPENING COMMITTEE...

The Reopening Committee is continuing to meet. We want to thank everyone for their patience and their cooperation as we have been doing what we can to keep everyone feeling safe and confident enough to be with our church family.

If you are interested, we use the Black Hawk County website to monitor what is happening outside our building. They look at the various numbers out there and post a daily rating of low, moderate or high. As a committee, we use that rating to determine if we are comfortable meeting inside, or if we need to move to outside. We will continue to meet inside if the rating is low or moderate, and will move to outside if it reaches high.

Black Hawk County has also said that as long as we continue to be as vigilant as we have been, they consider our factors to be low, no matter what the county is registering. We thank YOU for that!

Tim, Greg, Beth

PIANIST COMING TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

The Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival will be held again this July, and First Congregational Church has been selected as a venue for one of the performers, Peter Miyamoto, a pianist, on July 29 for a masterclass, and on July 30 for a recital. More information to follow.

The theme of this year's Festival is "Without Music", a nod to the many performances that didn't occur during the pandemic. There will be 3 full concerts for the season, all performed at GBPAC Great Hall at 7:00 p.m. "Speaking Without Words" is Saturday July 24, "Travel Without Borders" is Wednesday, July 28, and "Nature Without Form" is on Saturday, July 31. As with previous years, other special events, like the one coming to First C, will be held throughout the week.

For more information, go to <https://cedarvalleymusic.org/>

~ *Anne Hoekstra*

GRADUATES TO HONOR

Erinn Lauterbach earned her PhD in Political Science in 2020, just in time for COVID to stop graduation ceremonies. She studied American Political Institutions, policymaking and elite behavior at University of California, Riverside. Erinn is currently starting a second year at UVA in Charlottesville, Virginia, as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Effective Lawmaking, in the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. She was recently recognized by APSA, at the national level, the Best Dissertation Award for Legislative Studies! The award is named for Carl Albert, of the Carl Albert Center for Congressional studies at the University of Oklahoma. She will be presenting there in February. Pretty cool if you are in the political science world of academia!



Michelle is tentatively planning to put the new church directories together next Wednesday, July 14th. If you would be interested in helping assemble them, please email or call the office with your availability that day (fcuccoffice@gmail.com or 319-234-8927).

Thank you in advance!



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Make a Difference Monthly!

In July, we're asking for **box fans**. Many of our under-resourced households don't have access to air conditioning or a fan to stay cool.

Love INC offers box fans per household to help manage the summer heat. If you would like to help meet this need, donations can be brought

to the Love INC office - 2603 Rainbow Dr, Suite 2, Cedar Falls or you can also give a financial gift.

Here is a story of one of our recipients: "Tori" is excited for a new beginning in the Cedar Valley after going through some recent struggles. She has suffered abuse from family in the past and recently fled the situation to provide a safer environment for her and her child. Tori originally went to an extended stay motel, but has now found a permanent residence! Despite these challenges, she continues to stay positive and is grateful to have support from her partner. She is working hard to rebuild her life and get the resources she needs to build a safe and stable life for her family. Because she moved from her previous home suddenly, Tori did not have much to bring with her to the new apartment. There is no air conditioning and her apartment has been pretty uncomfortable in the summer heat and humidity. Love INC was able to provide Tori with a fan to help withstand the heat. She was grateful we were able to meet this need and enthusiastically thanked us for providing a cool home for her and her little one!

9th Annual Love INC Golf Tournament

We had a beautiful day for our 9th Annual Golf Tournament! We always look forward to this event because it brings people from our partner churches and Love INC community together to have a day of fun and fellowship. **24 teams played this year and we raised over \$23,000!** This is our largest annual event and enables us to continue meeting needs in the Cedar Valley!

It's a privilege to do this important work alongside each of you. Thank you for playing, sponsoring, and donating to support Love INC of the Cedar Valley! Our major sponsors included Power & Associates and Thrivent.

Begin Now Summer Session

We kicked off our summer session of Begin Now on June 8th at Hammond Avenue Brethren Church in Waterloo! 16 individuals are participating in either *Affirming Potential* or *Faith and Finances*. While we were used to a larger group before the pandemic, God has been faithful as we re-launch this important part of our ministry. We are excited to see Him work throughout this 10-week session and beyond!

We are still looking for a few individuals or groups to provide a meal for our group of 35 participants, volunteers, and kids this summer! The meal is an important part of Begin Now because it creates a space for community to form and relationships to be fostered. If you are interested in the opportunity, sign up on our website - <https://loveincco.us9.list-manage.com/track/clicku=9d1f908d8c0c82cf94fb251ee&id=7e0d7819c1&e=5faf139ad2>.

2021 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL STATUS



At the end of June, our Church Operating Budget performance is good. We are 50 percent of the way through the year. Our total income is at 45 percent of budget, and our total expenses are at 42 percent. Current Pledge income is at 55 percent, so I want to thank all members for doing a very good job of keeping your pledge payments up to date, and in some cases ahead of schedule. Expenses are under budget because utility costs, maintenance costs and all Board spending is under budget.

In our Annual Meeting in January, the members approved a project to completely upgrade our organ's electronic controls and improve its tonal quality. The Reuter Organ Company, which built and installed the organ in 1979, started disassembly of the organ on 15 February and returned it to service on 5 June. The project was budgeted at \$340,000, with \$250,000 from Memorials and anonymous donors, and \$90,000 from a capital campaign. The \$250,000 has been received. The capital campaign payments can be made over three years. We had 41 members pledge a total of \$90,651 and at the end of June, 19 members have completed their pledge payments. A total of \$44,725 remains to be paid. Thanks to all members who have pledged, with special thanks to those who have completed their pledge payments. Please contact Michelle if you have questions on the Operating Budget or the Capital Campaign.

~ *Dave Allbaugh*
Treasurer

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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