

# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends

October 11, 2023



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



## PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Brad Braley for his message of encouragement--for us to continue looking and working toward the future, the future that God promises. Thank you to Gina Greene for serving as worship leader, and Kay Leary for her mini message.

You can watch the service by clicking on the picture of Rev. Braley.



This week we welcome a new guest minister, Rev. Amy Wiles, to our pulpit. Rev. Wiles served as senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Waterloo for several years and is currently Director of Scholarship Impact at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. Worship leader is Cliff Highnam and the mini message will be shared by Paul Greene.

## 3RD QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you fellow church members. We have done a good job of meeting our financial obligations for the year to date. We are 75 percent of the way through the year, and our offering income totals 76.9 percent of our budget. Fortunately, our income has been adequate to meet continue operating without having to excessively rely on subsidies from our endowment fund. It is wonderful to have endowment funds left to us mostly by past friends and members. However, it is also important to preserve it when possible so that our church can thrive long into the future.

We have been prudent with our expenditures. All board expenses have been under budget. We have made the final payments to our contractors for the repairs of the sanctuary, foyer, and corner tower. This is the third and final year of the Organ Capital Campaign, and almost all pledges for that campaign have been paid.

Soon we will begin our Stewardship Campaign for 2024. Stewardship Sunday will be November 12. Please continue your commendable level of support for our church by completing your 2023 pledge payments and giving prayerful consideration to your pledge for 2024. Michelle will be mailing our contribution statements current amounts for your 2023 pledge payments and the status of your capital campaign payments. Please let her know if you have any questions regarding your statement, the capital campaign, or the church operating budget.

~ Craig Driver, Treasurer



## TAKING CARE OF FAMILY:

~ Prayers for Rick Kiefer, who has been hospitalized in Iowa City for infection related to his cancer treatments.

~ Prayers for those affected by the recent attacks and outbreak of war in Israel, with over 1200 from both Israel and Palestine dead and tensions high in the Middle East.

~ Prayers for Connie Jo Peirce who reports that she is doing much better and has returned to work.

~ Congratulations to Sara Thompson who completed her 4th marathon by completing the Chicago Marathon on Sunday.

## ADULT BOOK STUDY

This week will be our last discussion of the book by Rachel Held Evans, *INSPIRED*. We will discuss our favorite parts of the book and the Epilogue on p. 215. Class begins at 9:15 Sunday morning in the Friendship Room. Participants and would-be-participants are invited to nominate books for our next study. What would you like to read/discuss/explore??? Please share your ideas via email with Anne Hoekstra or Michelle Wolfe, or bring them to class next week. We have had very interesting and enjoyable discussions. And we learn a thing or two too!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The next Trustee Meeting will be held this Tuesday, October 17th at 6:00pm.

## YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group will be held on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:30pm at First Baptist (434 Baltimore Ave.).

We have two other very important and exciting dates for October which are :

1. Saturday, October 14th from 7pm - 9pm. The youth are going on a Haunted Hayride. The address is 100 Waterhawk Road, Evansdale, IA 50707. (Entry Fee and Free snacks included!)
2. RYE 2023: Youth Gathering in Cedar Rapids - Friday, October 27th, 4pm until Sunday, October 29th, 3pm.

You can find more information here:

<https://www.thechurchonnorthland.com/rye-2023.html>

## ANNUAL FALL CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY

Saturday, October 28th ~ 9am until 11am

First Baptist Church (434 Baltimore, W'loo)

Please drop items to donate at First Baptist (weekday mornings) or FCUCC. If you'd like to help organize on October 27th, come to First Baptist from 9-2.



**JOLEY SEITZ**  
SOPRANO  
assisted by Natia Shioshvili, piano

**November 7th**  
**6:00pm**  
**Davis Hall,**  
**UNI**  
**works by**  
**R. Wagner**  
**H. Berlioz**  
**J. Marx**  
**C. Griffes**

## CHURCH ROW CANTATA

Something exciting will be happening for 3 Church Row churches this December!

On **Sunday, December 10th** the choirs and congregations of First Congregational Church, First United Methodist Church, and First Baptist church will be combining in worship and music to celebrate the Christmas season with a performance of Joseph M. Martin's Christmas cantata "Canticle of Joy". The service will take place at First Baptist Church (434 Baltimore St) on December 10th at 10:30am. Please plan to join us for fellowship, worship, and community with our fellow Church Row congregations at this very special worship experience this Christmas season.

# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS



~ A big THANK YOU to all that donated to our CROP Walk! Our group total was \$625. This money will be split between our own Northeast Iowa Food Bank and the global organization Church World Service to help alleviate hunger in the world. We appreciate your generous donations!



~ Join us on TUESDAY, OCT 24 at 6pm for another volunteer opportunity at the Food Bank in Waterloo. It will be the best 2 hours of your week and you'll know that you have helped feed our hungry neighbors. If you've never joined in with this group before...now is the

perfect opportunity! Contact Michelle or Diane and sign up. No experience necessary, just a heart for helping and enjoying fellowship with your church friends as we work together! Sign up today!

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## Hymn Festival at Wartburg

October 13 - 11:30am

Dr. Karen Black will lead a hymn festival, "From the Heights of New Creation: A Hymn Festival Celebrating All the Saints." The concert begins at noon in the Wartburg Chapel on First Avenue Northwest, Waverly, Iowa. Attendees are invited to bring a lunch to the Chapel Commons at 11:30 a.m. prior to the start of the event for a discussion of the upcoming hymn festival at noon.

*From the Waterloo Courier:*

"Assisted by Kantorei, one of Wartburg College's mixed choral ensembles, the hymn festival will showcase several new hymns from the recent Lutheran publication "All Creation Sings," as well as more familiar hymns. The commentary and most of the hymn introductions and accompaniments were written and composed by Black.

"A hymn festival is something between a concert and a worship service. The audience participates through singing as the theme is explored more deeply," Black said. "In this hymn festival we celebrate saints in our lives, both those who have come before us and those in our lives now."

*Anyone who would like to carpool, please contact Anne Hoekstra. We could meet at the church at 10:45 a.m.*

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## Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley on October 17 - 6:30pm

Cedar Falls United Church of Christ (9204 University Avenue, Cedar Falls)

This meeting will be an evening of conversation about objects that hold special spiritual or personal meaning for us. You're invited to bring some small item that holds such significance for you and share your thoughts about it. Don't worry; this isn't a Show & Tell like those you may have suffered through in first grade! The conversation will be held mainly in small groups and you will be free to share as much or little as is comfortable for you. And, since food and drink are aids to good conversation, coffee and tea will be available. If you are able, please bring some cookies, bars, or quick bread to share. (It's still pumpkin spice season.) If you have friends who might be interested in participating in Women of Faith, this would be a fine way to introduce them to the companionship we enjoy.



October 14

*Making All Things New*  
Iowa  
Annual Meeting



Urbandale UCC  
3530 70th Street  
Urbandale, IA 50322

9:30AM - 2PM

Agenda - Click or go to <https://ucctcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-IA-Conference-Annual-Meeting-Agenda-rvsd-8.25.23.pdf>

Register Today - Click or go to [https://triconf.my.salesforce-sites.com/default/CnP\\_PaaS\\_EVT\\_ExternalRegistrationPage?event\\_id=a2CDu00000052XvMAI](https://triconf.my.salesforce-sites.com/default/CnP_PaaS_EVT_ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a2CDu00000052XvMAI)

This is available on zoom as well as in person. Registration fee can be covered by Social Causes & Justice Board. If anyone wants to carpool, please text/call 319-504-3212.

*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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