

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our
church family and friends
November 15, 2023



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

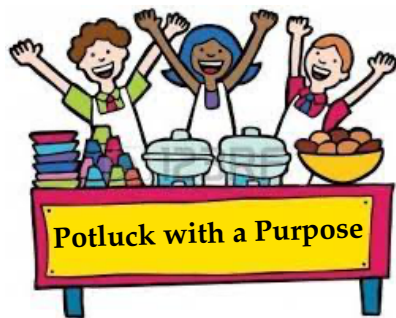
PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you, Abbie Chronister, for leading worship on Sunday, Stewardship Sunday, and Diane Highnam, for serving as worship leader and deliverer of the mini message.

You can watch the service by clicking Here -

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa/videos/639365864820708>

This week we welcome back Rev. Amy Wiles to our pulpit. Her sermon title is "When he saw...", a message about gratitude. Anne Hoekstra will serve as worship leader, and Greg Holt will be providing the mini message.

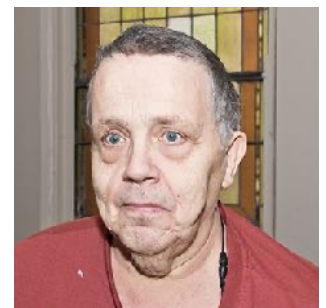


The next 'Potluck with A Purpose' is this Sunday, Nov 19, after church! All are invited! This month's topic: Who's land are we on? Come and learn about indigenous history in the Cedar Valley and current land acknowledgements... What are they for? Who are they for? Leon Deal will lead our discussion and share information about his own background as well as his work raising awareness in the area of land acknowledgements in our community. Looking forward to learning more about this important topic! Join us!



Sadly, our church family brother Donald J. Damon passed away last Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at UnityPoint Allen Hospital in Waterloo.

Don was born December 25, 1951 in Dubuque, the son of Bill and Ilsa Militizer Damon. His brother, Michael, stills lives in Cedar Falls.



Services were held last Saturday, November 11th at Hagarty-Waychoff-Grarup Funeral Service in Waterloo with burial following in Conrad Cemetery in Conrad, Iowa.

Memorials may be directed to the family. You can read his obituary here -

<https://www.hagartywaychoffgrarup.com/obituaries/Donald-J-Damon?obId=29842537#/obituaryInfo>.

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Prayers for friends and family of Donald (Donny) Damon who passed away November 7th.

~ Prayers for Karen Dew, who continues to struggle with health problems, and for her son, Robert, who has been struggling for some time.

~ Prayers for Kevin and Cathy as Kevin faces end of life challenges with his stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

~ Prayers for Hope, Jim and Anita Altenbaumer's daughter, who is undergoing treatment.

~ Prayers for Bonnie Bessman's daughter, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

~ Beth Lauterbach asks for prayers as her close friend, Nancy, died unexpectedly a week ago.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Stewardship Sunday was last Sunday. Thank you to those who have turned in your pledge card already. You can still bring your pledge card next Sunday and put it in the box in the library or you can bring or mail it to Michelle in the office.

ADULT BOOK STUDY

Adults will resume meeting at 9:15am in the Friendship Room on Sunday, November 19. We will begin our next book, by Tish Harrison Warren, "Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep." - Where do we find comfort when we lie awake worrying or weeping in the night? This book offers a prayerful and frank approach to the difficulties in our ordinary lives at work, at home, and in a world filled with uncertainty.

Please let Michelle in the office or Anne Hoekstra know if you are interested in participating and would like a book ordered for you. This Sunday, we will be discussing Chapter 1.

GREETERS WANTED

Don't forget to sign up or just "stop" and be a greeter!

FILL THE PANTRIES...

It is the season of stepping up to feed the hungry. Hunger continues all year long. Can you add some extra food for the pantries on your next trip to the store?



DECORATE THE SANCTUARY

Don't forget to plan to stay for the fun and help decorate the sanctuary **Sunday, November 26, after** church. Thank You!

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.

THE PROUD IMAGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

"A CHRISTMAS OF HOPE"

The Proud Image Chorus will be joined by River City Chorus on Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 p.m. (Doors open at 1:15pm) at Cedar Valley Church (3520 Ansborough Ave., Waterloo) to present a Christmas Concert. All proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit House of Hope.

Tickets are \$10 for adults/\$5 students. Our very own Craig Holdiman is a member of the Proud Image Chorus and you can get tickets from him or by going to: <https://houseofhopeccd.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/13788>.

YOUTH NEWS

~ Our Church is hosting the Wednesday collaborative youth group activities from 5:30pm to 7:30pm during the month of November (No Youth Group on Nov. 22nd).

~ The youth are scheduled to have a fundraiser in the month of December for the holiday season. The staff are in the midst of planning and will give further details soon.

(Pictures are from last week's Youth Group held here at FCUCC)



FROM OUR



SEARCH & CALL COMMITTEE

The Search & Call Committee wants to thank the congregation for their patience and support during the long search process looking for a new pastor. When we began this process 2 years ago, we never imagined that it would go on for so long.

However, just like many positions in our post pandemic times, there are way more churches looking for a pastor than there are pastors looking for a church. We continue to work with Shepherd’s Staff and they are out “beating the bushes.” We will keep the congregation updated as we go through this process.

~ Search & Call Committee

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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