

# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends  
January 8, 2025



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

### This Sunday:

January 12, 2025  
10:30 am

**Brandyn will present  
the message:**

*Justified by Faith*

**Using the text:**

Galatians 3:1-14

**Deacon In Charge**  
Cindy Thompson

To watch last Sunday's  
service you can

[<< Click Here >>](#)

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**Wednesday, January 8**

5:30pm - Bells Practice

6:30pm - Choir Practice

**Saturday, January 11**

9:00am - Women's  
Breakfast at Perkins

**Wednesday, January 15**

5:30pm - Bells Practice

6:15pm - Dinner

6:45pm - *The Gathering*

7:30pm - Choir Practice

### **The Gathering - Food Sign-Up!**

Join us on Wednesday nights starting January 15th as we dive into the stories of **Women of the Bible** and share meaningful fellowship together! To make these evenings extra special, we're asking for volunteers to bring food each week.

Whether it's a main dish, side, or dessert your contribution will make a difference!

 **When:** Wednesday nights

 **Where:** Church Basement

### **SIGN UP HERE:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4CA8AB2EA7FAC52-54238696-meal>

Thank you for helping create a warm and welcoming space  
for study and connection! 🙌



## PANTRY HELP

Imagine being hungry. Of the 46,440 people living in food insecure households in northeast Iowa, over 14,500 are children and 10% are seniors.

You can help make a difference. Don't forget to add a few items for the food pantry to your cart this week. Thank you.

## IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE...

Please send a card to someone from the church. The cards and materials are available in the church library. Send a card as a coffee table Sunday morning and we will mail it for you!

## JOB FOUNDATION STORE

The Job Store is the reward to the 6th-8th graders as they attend their financial lessons each week during the school year. They get to spend their "Job Bucks" quarterly. Connie Jo Peirce is willing to shop for store items if you would like to bring in a donation. **The next Job Store Event is January 15th.** Please bring in your donation by January 8th. Thanks!

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

If you are a chair of a board or committee, now is the time to prepare your reports. Please turn your report in to Michelle in the office no later than January 15th. Thank you!

## TRUSTEE MEETING

The next Board of Trustee's Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 6:00 pm.

## FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

Our next Food Bank night is Tuesday, January 28th from 5:30-7:30! We would love to have you join us. Contact Diane Highnam for more info or to rsvp.

## FLOWER CHART



The 2025 Flower Chart is now available in the library. Please stop by and sign up now to secure the special dates in your life.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We are looking for individuals to join or transition to one of our church boards. Whether you're exploring this for the first time or considering a new role/board, there's a place for you to grow, lead, and contribute.

Not sure where to start or want more details? Diane and Michelle are here to help! They'd love to chat, share more about the boards, and help you find the perfect fit.

Please prayerfully consider where God can use you!



Thank you to everyone who remembered us this Christmas Season with cards, gifts and baked goods! Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated!

*~ Staff of First Congregational Church*

## DIRECTORY PICTURES

Can you believe that some of the pictures in our directory are already 7 years old!? Time sure flies! Diane Highnam has graciously offered to take new pictures of anyone who would like to refresh or add their picture to the church directory. She mentioned that she could take your picture before or after church, Wednesday evenings or schedule at your convenience. You can email Diane at [diane.highnam@gmail.com](mailto:diane.highnam@gmail.com).

You can also submit a picture to Michelle in the office. If a group shot, please make sure that you are all close together to fit in the small 1" picture. Thank you in advance for participating by February 28th.

## CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2024 Giving Statements will be mailed out next week.



# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS...

Happy 100th Birthday to Connie Stevens!

Connie's birthday is on January 29th and she loves to receive cards... You can mail her a birthday card to

5565 Tancho Drive # 202  
Madison, WI 53718



Connie & her daughter, Kay

## What did our Founding Fathers learn from Jews fleeing the Spanish Inquisition?



Isaac Amon, J.S.D. (PhD in Law)  
Director of Academic Research  
Jewish Heritage Alliance

On January 12, 2025 at 2pm, the outstanding documentary, "From Inquisition to Religious Freedom: The Story of Jews and the U.S. Constitution," featuring legal scholar and historian, Dr. Isaac Amon, will be shown at First Congregational Church UCC, 608 W Fourth Street, Waterloo IA 50702.



Revolutionary War Torah Scrolls from Congregation Shearith Israel, desecrated in 1776 when British forces took possession of New York City



Gershom Mendes Seixas (1745-1816), the first American-born spiritual leader of Shearith Israel and a strong advocate for American independence.



Poet Emma Lazarus (1849-1887), a descendent of Portuguese Jews fleeing the Inquisition, wrote: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," inscribed on the plaque for the Statue of Liberty.



This free educational program is co-sponsored by Sons of Jacob Synagogue, the Cedar Valley Interfaith Council, and Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley. Dr. Amon, Director of Academic Research at the Jewish Heritage Alliance, [www.jewishheritagealliance.com](http://www.jewishheritagealliance.com), will join us via Zoom for Q&A following screening.



# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Sunday, January 26, 2025  
Noon

*A potluck will be held right after the church service with the Annual Meeting to follow. Please bring a dish to share and your own tableware.*

*Copies of the 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Proposed Budget will be available the Sunday prior to the meeting for review.*

*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  
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