

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends

January 22, 2025



FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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

This Sunday:

January 26, 2025

10:30 am

**Brandyn will present
the message:**

Walking in the Spirit

Using the text:

Galatians 5:16–26 &
Galatians 6:7–10

Deacon In Charge

Nancy Mahood

****Join us for a potluck and
the Annual Meeting
following the Service.****

**To watch last Sunday's
service you can**

[<< Click Here >>](#)

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Wednesday, January 22

5:30pm - Bells Practice

6:15pm - Dinner

6:45pm - *The Gathering*

7:30pm - Choir Practice

Tuesday, January 28

5:30pm - Food Bank

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: BRANDYN AND MACKENZIE

This Sunday we are excited to welcome Brandyn and Mackenzie Miller into official membership of First Congregational Church. Congratulations!! Please come to the annual meeting and help us all celebrate this great event.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE



This 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 are available in the Crossroads for review prior to the meeting.

WHAT IF YOU WERE HUNGRY?

Most of us can't even imagine real hunger. Thank you for allowing First Church to support our community with emergency food by filling the 4 pantries.

Keep that food coming in- With the cold weather we have depleted much of our "non-canned" goods so please think about bringing easy to prepare foods such as cereal, pancake mix, meats in pouches, mashed potatoes, fruit cups, pasta/rice and granola bars. Thank you!

A special thank you to Anne Hoekstra for making deliveries this week for the pantry.

DIRECTORY PICTURES

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 can take your picture before or after church, Wednesday evenings or schedule at your convenience. You can email Diane at 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.

ARE YOU IN 5TH-12TH GRADE?

YOU'RE INVITED!



Come join us for an exciting new youth group experience starting **Sun, February 2, from 12 PM to 1 PM** at the church!

 What to Expect:

- A welcoming space to connect with other youth.
- Time to ask questions and explore your faith.
- Opportunities to learn and grow together.
- And yes, lunch is provided!

We'll meet every other Sunday starting February 2, so mark your calendars and bring your friends! For more info, contact Pastor Brandyn at fcuccminister@gmail.com

The Gathering - Food Sign-Up!

Join us on Wednesday nights starting tonight 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. **This Wednesday (01/22) we will focus on Esther.**

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! 🙌



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA DANCE MARATHON DONATION OPPORTUNITY

Hi everyone!!!

I'm participating in Dance Marathon this year to help raise funds for the local Children's Miracle Network Hospital to help provide life-saving care to kids in need. I have participated in middle school as well as high school and am so pumped to be helping out at the University of Iowa. Together we can change kids' lives and change the future - but I need your help! Here's how it works:

Miracle Network Dance Marathon is a student-led movement supporting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. All year long, I, as well as so many other Iowa students, raise funds for kids at our local children's hospital. All the donations I collect stay local to ensure that all kids get the care that they need. YOU can be a hero for the patients and their families! Your donation is tax-deductible and will make miracles happen for families who desperately need support. You can click the link below to make a safe AND easy online donation!! Thank you for supporting me! Together, we CAN change the future.

[~ DONATE HERE ~](#)

~ Lucy Prescott



January 30th - 12:00pm - 1:30pm
Teen Center (815 East 4th Street)

Join Habitat for Humanity for a lunch and Learn with Chief Rob Duncan! He will be discussing new technology, officer training, and so much more! Jimmy Johns will be provided!

[<< RSVP HERE >>](#)

**UNDERSTANDING
POVERTY COHORT**



February 6, 13, 20, & 27

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Waterloo Public Library

Habitat for Humanity is hosting "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" by Dr. Ruby Payne. On these four Thursdays, they will be discussing the practical implications of the writing in our local context. Registration is required by January 28th and you must purchase your own book in advance.

[<< RSVP HERE >>](#)

Introducing Our "Pray-Ground" on Communion Sundays!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a "Pray-Ground." A welcoming and interactive space for young children to experience worship in a way that's meaningful to them! Starting on February 2, this special area will be available during our Communion Sunday services.



What is a Pray-Ground?

The Pray-Ground is a designated space in the sanctuary equipped with quiet toys, books, and other types of activities designed to engage young ones while keeping them close to the worship experience. It's a space where children can explore faith in their own way while learning about the rhythms of worship.

Why is it important?

We believe that children are an essential part of our church family, and their presence enriches our worship experience. The Pray-Ground helps foster a sense of belonging and provides an opportunity for them to grow in faith alongside their families.

What to expect:

- The Pray-Ground will be located at the back of the sanctuary, offering children a comfortable space while staying connected to the service.
- Activities that are engaging but not disruptive, ensuring everyone can worship meaningfully.
- Simple projects or activities will be introduced during the children's message, giving kids a special way to connect with the theme of the day.

We hope this new addition will help make Communion Sundays a time of connection, joy, and worship for all generations. Come and see how the Pray-Ground can be a blessing to your family!

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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