


# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our  
church family and friends  
January 29, 2025



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

 [FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

### This Sunday:

February 2, 2025  
10:30 am

Brandyn will be giving  
the sermon using the  
text: Colossians 3:12-17.

**Deacon In Charge**  
Cindy Thompson

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

**Wednesday, January 29**  
5:30pm - Bells Practice  
6:15pm - Dinner  
6:45pm - *The Gathering*  
7:30pm - Choir Practice

**Tuesday, February 4**  
7:30am - Men's Breakfast  
at Village Inn

### LOVE INC

For the month of February,  
Love INC is asking for baby  
essentials.

They especially need wash,  
lotion, wipes, bottles, sippy  
cups and bibs. Please drop  
your donations in the box in  
our church lobby.

### TAKING CARE OF FAMILY

~ Prayers for Cliff Highnam who broke  
his hip playing pickle ball and had a  
hip replacement surgery yesterday.  
Wishing him a speedy recovery!!

~ We have an updated address for **Lois  
Johnson!** You can write her c/o Janice  
Kafer, 266 Benson Dr., Lewiston, MN  
55952.

### 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 contact Diane by emailing her  
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.

### Common Meeting


Just a reminder that the  
Common Meeting will be  
held Tuesday, February 11th  
at 7:00 pm.

### 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, so  
mark your calendars and bring your  
friends! Contact Pastor Brandyn at  
[fcuccminister@gmail.com](mailto:fcuccminister@gmail.com) for more  
information.

### THE GATHERING

Join us Wednesday nights as we study  
the Women of the Bible and share  
meaningful fellowship together.  
We are asking volunteers to bring food  
each week.

You can sign up to bring a main dish,  
side or dessert. Thank you in advance!

**To Sign Up - [CLICK 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 this Sunday, 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!



**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 >>**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>February</b>						1
2 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	3	4 7:30 Men's Bkfst @ Village Inn	5 3:00 - Job Found. 5:30 - Bells 6:15 - Dinner 6:45 - Adult Study 7:30 - Choir	6	7	8 9:00 Women's Bkfst @ Perkins
9 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	10	11 7:00 Common Mtg	12 3:00 - Job Found. 5:30 - Bells 6:15 - Dinner 6:45 - Adult Study 7:30 - Choir	13 6:30 & 8:30pm - Fever Candlelight Concerts	14 10am - Habitat for Humanity Valentine Card Party (Downstairs)	15
16 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	17	18 7:30 Men's Bkfst @ Village Inn	19 3:00 - Job Found. 5:30 - Bells 6:15 - Dinner 6:45 - Adult Study 7:30 - Choir	20 5:30pm - Food Bank Volunteering	21	22
23 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	24	25	26 3:00 - Job Found. 5:30 - Bells 6:15 - Dinner 6:45 - Adult Study 7:30 - Choir	27	28 Fill Neighborhood Pantries	

## Birthdays

**4**  
Teddy Mejia

**5**  
Paul Farmer  
Kathy Franke

**8**  
Steve Peters  
Clark Holdiman  
Jenner Buck

**9**  
Dale Hatinger  
Jonathan Yarngo

**13**  
Regan Casteel

**14**  
Brittney Becker  
Kari Lindaman

**16**  
Aidan Kelley  
Corina Marie Holdiman  
Arlo Prescott

**17**  
Brandon Becker  
Kati (Thompson) Collins

**18**  
Nancy Stevenson

**19**  
Emily Stevenson Still

**23**  
Matt Ensworth  
Gordon Lauterbach

**26**  
Justin Dams

**28**  
Audrey Adams-Sorge  
Julie Kiefer



## JOIN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN RAISING THE ROOF!

This year, Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity is excited to host their annual auction with the inspiring theme of "Raise the Roof." All proceeds support their mission to build and repair homes, creating stronger communities and brighter futures.

Mark your calendar for the Raise the Roof Dinner and Auction on Friday, March 7, 2025, at the Courtyard Marriott in Downtown Waterloo, IA. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for an evening filled with live music, celebration, inspiration, and community. Tickets are \$50 per person.



For more information and to purchase tickets for this event, please go to <https://www.webuildhabitat.org/about/events/raise-the-roof-dinner-and-auction/>.

They are also accepting auction donations from now through February 9th. If you would like to donate an item, please call (319) 235-9946 or email Rylee Petersen at [rpetersen@webuildhabitat.org](mailto:rpetersen@webuildhabitat.org).

*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*

Place  
Stamp  
Here