



## TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

~ Our condolences to Audrey Adams-Sorge and family. Audrey's mother passed away on February 9th. Prayers of peace and comfort! A private family service will be held at a later time.



### FREE MONEY FOR YOUR EDUCATION!

The Scholarship Committee is excited to announce that FCUCC has again received a tuition grant from the Donna Koweil Scholarship Fund. The intention is for current college students who have already completed at least one year of schooling. Preference will be given to those students who are pursuing a degree in the health field.

Deadline to submit an application is May 15th. Please contact Michelle in the office for more information or an application.

## YOUTH NEWS

~ Youth will meet at First Baptist (434 Baltimore, Waterloo) on Wednesdays in February from 5:30-7:30pm.

### IMMERSE 8 WEEK COURSE

**TUESDAYS BEGINNING MARCH 19TH  
11:30AM - 1PM**

Answering the question - *How might we love God and love our neighbor in a way that helps us all heal and grow together as a community?*

This 8 week course will focus on three principles of church-based, holistic neighborhood development reconciliation - redistribution - and relocation

Ready to register? \$30/person - [Click Here](#) or Contact Jenna at [jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org](mailto:jpetersen@webuildhabitat.org) or 319-235-9946.



A special Valentine's Card making event, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, was held Friday in our church basement. Several families from the Church Row Neighborhood attended, and some beautiful Valentine's were made. Thank you to Mary Potter for bringing craft supplies and to Tim Ahrens for providing lunch.

## VALENTINE'S CARD MAKING PARTY



# Getting To Know You

## GETTING TO KNOW: BARB MARDIS



I grew up in the suburbs of Washington, DC. John and I met in college and have always lived in the midwest; we moved to Iowa in 1976, joining FCUCC that fall. We have 3 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters spread out over 3 states.

After completing my MBA degree, I worked at UNI in the College of Business Administration for 26 years, as both an instructor and the IT Director, retiring in 2007.

My favorite things to do are reading and traveling. I love having grandchildren who are old enough to recommend new books and authors – and to sometimes accompany us on our travels! We enjoy beaches, mountains and exploring other cultures. For our 50th anniversary (2018) our children and most of the grandchildren were able to join us in southern Utah for some great hiking in local, state and national parks in the area.

My numerous roles here at FCUCC have included interim Religious Education director (before Cathy Yamashita for those who remember back that far!), webmaster, and member of various boards and committees. Right now I serve on the Board of Creative Ministries and the Endowment Committee and help out “as needed!”



**WOMEN OF FAITH OF THE CEDAR VALLEY**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2024**  
**BANNING BOOKS IN IOWA SCHOOLS**

Book challenges across the country hit a record high in the last academic school year as public schools and libraries were -- and still are -- targeted by continued efforts to censor books. Many objections have been made under the guise of limiting sexual content or protecting "parental rights." Most of the targeted books were written by or about a person of color or a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

At the next gathering of Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley, UNI Professor Joan Bessman Taylor will discuss the current status of access to books and materials in Iowa's schools and the implications of current debates for students, teachers, and families. Dr. Taylor is an Associate Professor of School Library Studies at UNI where she teaches in and coordinates a program for k-12 teachers who want to become teacher librarians – increasingly, a challenging vocation!

The meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. For a link, click on these words:

[Banning Books in Iowa Schools](#) or contact [Ratliff@cfu.net](mailto:Ratliff@cfu.net)

(The link will only work at the time of the meeting)

Meanwhile, keep your eyes, your mind, and your heart open to all our neighbors.



The NE IA Food Bank Empty Bowls event will be held on Friday, March 22nd from 6-9pm at the Hilton Garden Inn. Throughout the event attendees will learn about their mission of providing meals to those in need while having the opportunity to bid on both live and silent auctions. All proceeds directly fund their eight programs that assist the food insecure across northeast Iowa. A meal will be provided and there will be an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets. You can bid on items from the Green Bay Packers, Iowa Cubs, local businesses, and even NCAA Men's Final Four Basketball tickets!

Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss this great event!

**Early bird discount: \$30 per person (through February 16th)**

**Regular Tickets: \$40 per person (after February 16th)**

**For more information and to purchase tickets - <<[Click Here](#)>>**

If you have any questions, or have items or skills to donate for our auction prizes this year, please reach out to Jared, Community Engagement Manager of the NEIFB at [jfeigenbaum@neifb.org](mailto:jfeigenbaum@neifb.org) or 319-235-0507.



The Cedar Valley Hospitality House has opened a new warming center to support the homeless population during the winter months. The warming center will be open January through March nightly from 8pm - 7am, providing a overnight warm and secure place to stay with snacks, clothing, shower facility, and housing assessment for placement.

To raise money in support of this new facility, the Hospitality House is hosting a fundraising 5k walk. This walk will start and end at the warming center, allowing participants to see what they are supporting and to experience the frigid elements that are a daily reality for guests at the warming center. Coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts will be provided prior to the walk and warm soup will be provided following the walk. No need to pre-register.

-- Time: Registration at 9-10 am, Walk at 10am

Registration/Sponsorship Fee: \$30 per walker.

Individual Registration, Pay at the door: \$35

\*\*\*Walkers may individually pay to walk or be sponsored by individuals from the community.

*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

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