

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

TIDINGS

"You are welcome here!"

REMAINING HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 17 - Maundy Thursday

Simple Soup Supper 6:15pm

Service 7:00pm

April 18 - Good Friday Service 12:00pm

at Waterloo First United Methodist

(We have been invited to join their worship)

April 20 - Easter Sunday

(No Sunday School)

Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am

Worship Service 10:30am

"Graves to Gardens"

Scripture Text: John 20:1-18



Deacon in Charge: Nancy Mahood

[Click Here to watch last Sunday's service](#)



THE GATHERING

The Gathering is on a break this week for Holy Week but join us on Wednesday nights resuming April 23 as we share meaningful fellowship. Next Wednesday (4/23) we will be discussing 1 Kings 17:1-24. Click [Here](#) to sign up to bring food!

LITTLE PANTRIES

Food Insecurity is the condition of not having access to sufficient food, or food of an adequate quality, to meet your basic needs. About 47.4 million people are food insecure in the United States,

Please help a neighbor by dropping off canned goods and other easily prepared items for the little pantries.



UCC NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION MEETING



Annual Meeting Worship Opportunity

Our church is honored to host this year's Annual Association Meeting on Saturday, April 26th at 10:00 AM, and we're putting together a special 30-minute worship service to welcome clergy and leaders from across our district.

We're looking for 4-5 worship leaders to help lead during this meaningful time of connection and praise. If you feel called to help lead in prayer, Scripture reading, or other elements of worship, your gifts would be a welcome part!

If you're interested in being part of the team, contact Brandyn by April 23. Let's bless our wider church family together!

We will initially gather at 9:30am with worship led by FCUCC at 10:00am. A business meeting will start at 10:30am focusing on:

- ~ A financial report by Philip Iversen, ~ General Synod delegates from NE Iowa
- ~ Association treasurer reports by: Dixie Laube (Deacon), Corey Larsen and Laura Renault (update on COM).
- ~ Resolutions for General Synod (especially the STAR resolution)
- ~ Boundary Training - geared toward the Small Town and Rural congregations (STAR churches)

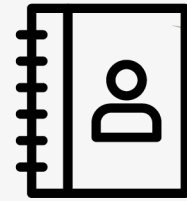
11:50 p.m. - Lunch

12:30 p.m. - Program by Rev. Roberto Ochoa, our new Conference Minister for the Tri Conference **(More on Rev. Ochoa on the back page)**



CHURCH DIRECTORY

The 2025 Church Directories are available to pick up. They will be available in the library on Sunday.



? How many different ways can we feel lost?

? What does it mean to be human?

? How do we find our way home?

Sponsor this concert with a donation to support Bel Canto's continued music, as well as three organizations that point our neighbors in the Cedar Valley toward "home."

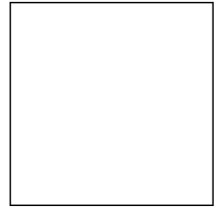


Bel Canto Cedar Valley's Spring Concert, Lost and Found explores the complex emotions of grief, despair, loneliness, and loss. It asks the question and explores the answer: What does it mean to be human? How do we lift ourselves and each other out of darkness? Where does the light begin? Or is it always there, and we just need each other to see it?

In keeping with the theme of this concert, BCCV is partnering with three local organizations focused on offering hope to our neighbors - ThreeHouse Campus Ministries, Cedar Valley LGBTQ+ Coalition, and House of Hope of the Cedar Valley. A donation to this fundraising campaign will support Bel Canto Cedar Valley's mission of cultivating a life-long passion for music, as well as these three organization's missions that point our neighbors in the Cedar Valley toward "home."

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

TIDINGS



CREATE AN ENDOWMENT OF LOVE. PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING OUR CHURCH IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING.

MORE ASSOCIATION MEETING INFORMATION

Rev. Roberto Ochoa serves as the Conference Minister for the Iowa Nebraska South Dakota Conferences (Tri Conference Ministries) of the United Church of Christ. Prior to his calling as CM, Roberto served as the Minister for Ethnic Inclusion and Congregational Support for Rural and Small Town Churches in the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH. He served in that capacity for six- and one-half years.

Roberto served as a lay pastor for a small membership church, Lake View Congregational in Worcester MA for seven years. Roberto is a certified congregational leader coach and Our Whole Lives (OWL) Trainer of facilitators for the UCC. He is an ecumenical collaborator especially with the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America (ELCA), Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), United Church of Canada, Disciples of Christ, United Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church. Roberto also specializes in the vitality and needs of the ethnic identified and congregations of Color, rural and small-town churches and small membership congregations. Roberto is the chair elect for the Rural Church Network (RCN) US/Canada and serves on the board for the International Rural Church Association (IRCA).

Roberto earned his Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School with certificates in Pastoral Care and Social Justice. Roberto is originally from East Los Angeles, CA from Mexican/New Mexican heritage. He is a US Air Force veteran and in his free time, Roberto enjoys being in nature, reading historical/spiritual/science fiction, theatre, and is a foodie always open to trying cuisine from all cultures.