

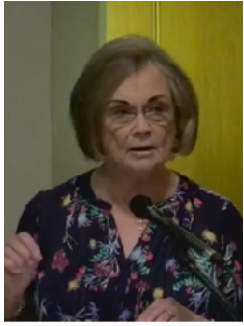
# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our  
church family and friends  
May 15, 2024



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



## PULPIT SUPPLY

Thank you to Rev. Cathy Young for her message on Mary Magdalene last Sunday, to Sue Hummel for serving as worship leader and to Jayne Slaughter for providing the mini message.

**You can watch the service by clicking on the picture of Rev. Young.**  
*(If you would like a printed sermon copy you can request one from the office.)*



This Sunday we welcome our pastoral candidate, Rev. Brandyn Miller to the pulpit! Barb Mardis will serve as worship leader and Rev. Miller will also provide the mini-message.

## Pastoral Candidate Weekend



**We look forward to introducing you to our Candidate, Rev. Brandyn Miller and his wife, Mackenzie this weekend!**

Below is the schedule for the weekend:

- ~ **Saturday May 18 from 7:00 pm – 9:00pm:** This is an opportunity for all to meet the Candidate and his wife at the Snowden House (306 Washington St., W'loo).
- ~ **Sunday, May 19th at 10:30 am:** Join us for our regularly scheduled worship service that has been planned and will be delivered by Rev. Miller himself.
- ~ **Sunday, May 19th immediately following worship:** We will hold an all-church meeting to discuss the candidate and take a vote on the formal recommendation from the Search Committee.

**See you this weekend!**

## YOUTH NEWS

The collaborative youth group will celebrate the end of year with a cook-out at Kimball Avenue Methodist Church at 5:30pm tonight (May 15). Parents, church members and friends are invited to join!



The Strengthen the Church Offering helps congregations like Ridgebury Congregational Church in Connecticut. With the help of the community they were able to found the "The Meetinghouse" which sits between two very diverse towns. The congregation saw an opportunity to bring together youth from both communities for dialogue, wisdom, and collaborative partnership. This new relationship helped students see the potential for change in their lives in their communities. The power of positive change lies in the power of our youth.

Innovative projects like The Meetinghouse happen because generous donors across the United Church of Christ support the Strengthen the Church Offering. Together, through this offering, we support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

## TRUSTEE MEETING

The next Trustee Meeting will be held Tuesday, **May 21st at 6:00pm** downstairs.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL THANK YOU

A special thank you to Jayne Slaughter, Nancy Mahood, Laurie Allbaugh, and Gina Greene for teaching Sunday School this Year. The team decided to work on the foundational Bible stories. A GREAT big thank you to Kenny Steva who faithfully supported the work of our teachers and was our constant for the kids.

## HUNGER NEVER TAKES A HOLIDAY

Grocery prices continue to stay high and hunger continues to be a need. School will be out soon and some of the food programs will not be as readily available to many kids in the community. Fill the pantry. Thank you for dropping off your food donations in the Crossroads.

## FAREWELL POTLUCK

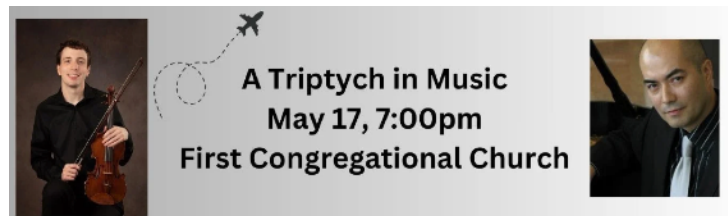
Following service on May 26th we will be having a potluck in honor of the Lauterbach and Allbaugh families. The main dish of walleye and pork loin will be provided but we ask that you bring a salad or dessert if able and your own tableware. Please join us in wishing them well!

## GRADUATES

If you have someone in your family graduating let Michelle in the office know this week. Please submit their names for publication in a Tidings later this month. Feel free to include the school they are graduating from and any future plans they may have in mind such as colleges they will be attending.

## TAKE A TRIP WITH MUSIC - CONCERT THIS FRIDAY, MAY 17 AT 7:00 P.M.

Cedar Valley Chamber Music continues with their spring community outreach series by presenting another concert here at First Congregational Church!



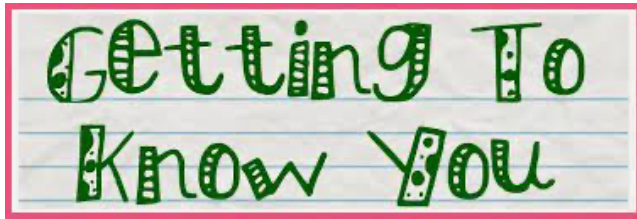
"A Triptych in Music" is a diverse program for violin and piano devised by UNI School of Music faculty Nash Ryder. Joined by fellow faculty member Sean Botkin on piano, they will take listeners on a journey through Europe and the U.S. with works by Francis Poulenc, Grażyna Bacewicz, Amy Beach and a premiere by composer Dawn Avery.

This program is free and open to the public.

## LAST CHANCE...

Just a reminder that we have received another scholarship grant from the Donna Koweil Scholarship Fund. The intention of this scholarship 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 application is today...May 15th!*



## GETTING TO KNOW: CRAIG JENSEN

I've been a member of FCC of Waterloo since 1967 when my family moved to Waterloo from Charles City Iowa. I was baptized and confirmed in the FCC in Charles City. You can see that I have been a life long congregant. My wife Karen and I have had all three of our children, Jill, Joel and Jake baptized and confirmed in this Church.



I graduated from West High in 1971.... that was back when Waterloo was very good in sports. After graduation I attended Iowa State University and graduated with an Engineering degree. I went to work for John Deere and worked in Waterloo for 37 years. I had the opportunity to travel the world with John Deere: I've been to Europe, Turkey, South America, Mexico and Japan.

What I enjoy with our church is that we are family. As we age up and the congregation dwindles I see those of us getting closer and closer to what it means to be a church family. The strength that we exhibit as we work through our obstacles is truly amazing. I look forward to many more years with **my family**.

## WEST HIGH SCHOOL AFJROTC 2024



West High's Air Force Junior Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFJROTC) is raising funds for their program! Church member Eli Lennox says: "It helps me and others with our accountability with being able to learn and organize things with volunteer opportunities. It just helps me and others in many different ways, such as giving us opportunities to do different things in our community to help our community out." Support Eli and this incredible program in our schools by sharing the campaign and donating to the AFJROTC fundraiser at this [link](#) or by scanning the QR code!



## UCC & THE MENTAL HEALTH JOURNEY – IT'S THE W.I.S.E. THING TO DO

The UCC's "Nurture the Soul" webinar series will include a familiar face on Thursday, May 23rd at 2:30pm (central time)! Abbie Chronister and colleagues at the UCC Mental Health Network will be presenting on the Network's W.I.S.E program (welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged), which provides a path for congregations, associations, conferences and nonprofit organizations to join to reduce stigma and promote mental well-being. Come learn how to become W.I.S.E. and hear the stories of those who have taken this journey.

Register for the webinar [HERE](#).

## NAMI PRESENTATION

Join us here at First Congregational Church tonight, May 15th from 7 to 8 pm as Crystal Petersen RDN, LD will discuss "Choose Healthy Eating: How Nutrition Helps your Mind and Body." Crystal is a licensed and registered dietitian and wellness program manager at Grundy County Memorial Hospital. She has practiced dietetics for 38 years in university, healthcare, and community settings. She is currently leading lifestyle change classes to treat pre diabetes and prevent type 2 diabetes. This event is free and open to the public.

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## LOVE INC OF THE CEDAR VALLEY

Love INC is excited to announce an upcoming event, "Jenny's Jamboree", in honor and memory of Jenny Nelson, who passed away last year after serving as the Love INC Executive Director up until her passing. Prior to her passing, Jenny had dreams of hosting a fun-filled event in partnership with Love INC churches for children and families who don't have the financial means to attend. Her dream also included the opportunity for children and their families to learn about Jesus and for them to get connected with churches and a community of believers in a manner that was genuine and "non-threatening" or "churchy".



Jenny's Jamboree will take place on Sunday afternoon, May 19th, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Palmer's Family Fun on Airline Highway in Waterloo. They anticipate 300-350 people to attend.

If your family is looking for a fun event to attend, head out to Palmer's and make a day of it.

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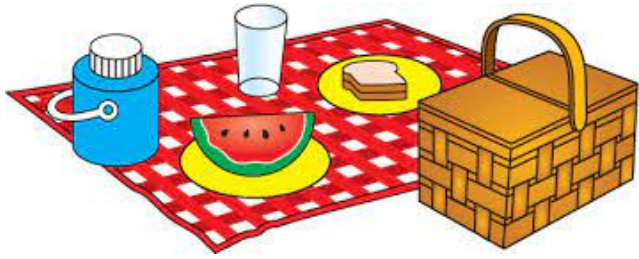
## WOMEN OF FAITH OF THE CEDAR VALLEY

Tuesday, May 21 at 5:30pm

### Walking the Labyrinth

Since ancient times, labyrinths have been used by people of many spiritual traditions as an aid to contemplation, prayer, and discernment. Floralyn Groff Perry has studied labyrinths and visited scores of them throughout North America and beyond. At our May 21st meeting, she will teach us about the history, variety, and uses of labyrinths. We also will have the opportunity to walk the outdoor labyrinth at St. Luke's (For those of us who don't feel comfortable walking it, finger labyrinths will be available).

We will meet at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (2410 Melrose Dr., Cedar Falls). The evening will begin with a look at the labyrinth then move to the fellowship hall for Floralyn's program. You're invited to bring your own "sack supper" to eat. We will then take turns in small groups walking the labyrinth. Coffee/tea and cookies will be available in the fellowship hall following the presentation as we discuss program ideas for Women of Faith in 2024-2025. All ladies are welcome so bring a friend and enjoy this presentation!



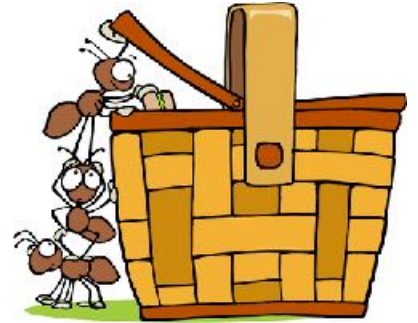
# MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

## CHURCH PICNIC

### JUNE 2, 2024

The annual church picnic will be held at Lookout Park in Cedar Falls on Sunday, June 2nd. Worship will begin at 11 am followed by the picnic. The Board of Spiritual Growth and Programs will provide the chicken. If you are able, please bring a side to share, your own tableware and join us!

We always enjoy a wonderful day of worship and fellowship!



*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*

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