

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our
church family and friends

June 19, 2024

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



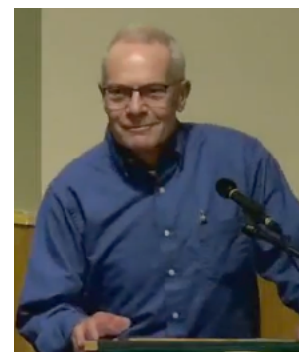
FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

PULPIT SUPPLY



Thank you to Rev. Brad Braley for his message and mini-message last Sunday and to Paul Greene for serving as worship leader. **You can watch the service by clicking on the picture of Rev. Braley.**

This Sunday we welcome Brandyn Miller to the Pulpit! Anne Hoekstra will serve as worship leader and Kay Thuesen will provide the mini-message.



FROM THE MODERATOR...

WELCOME PASTOR BRANDYN!

Our new Pastor is here! Pastor Brandyn and his wife Mackenzie arrived from Michigan at their new apartment located in Cedar Falls on Friday. Their arrival was closely timed with the news that Pastor Brandyn has been awarded ministerial standing for the UCC in the state of Iowa. Brandyn and Mackenzie were in attendance for our Father's Day Church service on Sunday. A "rolls and coffee" welcome organized by Gina Greene occurred on Monday morning of his first day at the office. On Tuesday evening a group of church members helped Brandyn and Mackenzie unload their "U-pods" to move in their belongings to their new address on Maplewood Drive. Join us on Sunday morning, June 23rd for our regular church service and Brandyn's first "official" Sunday in the pulpit!

SHARING OUR CHURCH HOME:

A group of 20-25 UCC congregants who have emigrated from the Marshall Islands will be sharing our facility for an undetermined period of time on Sunday mornings. They will conduct services in their native language of Marshallese, or "Ebon." Their worship time, in the chapel, is scheduled from 10:00 - 11:00A which overlaps the time period of our regular services in the Sanctuary (10:30 - 11:30A). Please welcome our Marshall Islands brothers-in-Christ, as you may encounter them on Sunday Mornings.

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC SIGN-UP

We are looking for people to provide special music on Sunday mornings during the summer while the choir is on break. You can sign up at the link below or contact Michelle in the office and she can let you know what Sunday's are available and take your information. [<< CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP >>](#)



This is the second year we will be having a school supply store for neighbors in the Cedar Valley. This year it will be held at Trinity Bible Church on Friday, August 2nd and at Candeo Church on Saturday, August 3rd. We plan to join with parents of over 100 children to help provide school supplies for the 2024-2025 school year. Parents will purchase a backpack at the event for \$10 and then the kids will be able to use the provided school supply lists to travel through the store.

Love INC needs your help with collecting school supplies. You can scan this QR code that will take you to a list of their biggest needs. Donations can be left in the Crossroads.



Joley Seitz held her recital last Sunday here at First Congregational. It was enjoyed by all who attended. She was accompanied by Morgan List. Thank you Joley and Morgan for sharing your talents!



SINGER SONGWRITER ROSE MARTHA ZARATE MACIAS IN CONCERT AT QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH

Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Waterloo will host a concert on Sunday, June 23, featuring Rosa Martha Zarate Macias, an internationally recognized composer, singer and social activist.

The concert will begin at 6:00pm in Queen of Peace Church, 320 Mulberry St., in Waterloo. It is free and open to the public.

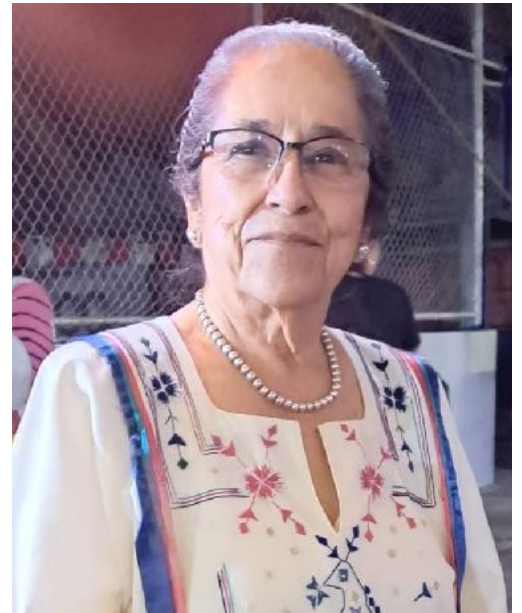
Zarate Macias is a former nun who became a social activist and worked with Cesar Chávez in the struggle for the rights of farmworkers in California. In that effort she composed a number of songs which became famous anthems of the farmworker movement led by Chávez.

In recent years Zarate Macias has devoted her time to being an advocate for living members of the *bracero* ("men working with their arms") brought to the United States under a series of agreements between the U.S. and Mexican governments between 1942 and 1964. Most of the workers sponsored by the *Bracero* agreements were employed in agriculture or on railroads in California and Texas where they were often discriminated against by local communities and unscrupulous employers. Zarate Macias co-authored "Our Grandfathers Were Braceros and We Too", a historical testimony to the *bracero*.

Among Zarate Macias's songs are "Grandpa, Tell Me", "The Singing Lady Is Not Singing". "Oh, How Beautiful Life Is," "Woman on the Struggle", and "There's a Time For Everything".

Zarate Macias will perform in Spanish many of the songs she composed but will be giving an introduction to each song so that those who do not speak Spanish can understand them.

The concert will be livestreamed on the parish website at www.queenofpeaceparish.net, Facebook and YouTube Channel. Fr. Nils de Jesús Hernández, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, said the concert is in preparation for the "Day Without Immigrants" that will be celebrated on July 1 across the State of Iowa.



Church Row
Neighborhood-Wide

RUMMAGE SALE

Church Row Neighbors will be allowed to bring their own items to sell (toys, books, clothes, home goods, bedding, tools, etc).

Our church will be hosting this event for the Church Row neighbors. If you would like to help organize or help with set-up, please contact 319-240-2849

First Congregational Church
Parking Lot

**Saturday, June 29, 2024
9am-2pm**

Hey church!

I am excited to be here in Iowa and start as your pastor. Mackenzie and I arrived in town last Friday (6/14) and have spent some time unpacking, as well as finding our way around town. Even in these few short days here in Iowa, you all have been kind and gracious in supporting us.



As we begin our time together, I want to offer you encouragement and a reminder. In Galatians 6:9, Paul writes, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." For a long time now, with God's help, you have sustained FCUCC. You have put in work and effort, and I know there have been times when you asked yourselves what it was all for and how much longer it would last. My arrival as your pastor may bring feelings of relief, hope, and excitement; you may even feel like a weight has been lifted. Hold onto those feelings for as long as you can! However, don't forget to continue serving and maintaining your willing spirit. The future of FCUCC depends on all of us participating and using our gifts and talents. It is through our partnership that we will see God continue to use our church in ways we cannot even imagine. God is moving.

-Brandyn

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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608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

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