

Congregational Tidings

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



A weekly newsletter



www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

June 16, 2021



WE HAVE REOPENED!

It was great to see our congregational family this past Sunday!
Please join us this Sunday at 10:30am!



GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING IN CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE

For the safety of all, please don't attend if you or your family members are not feeling well.

We are requesting the use of face masks while inside church.

Please enter together as family groups and safe distance from others.

Sanitation stations are available throughout the building.

Please go directly to the Sanctuary for seating.

Seating will be every other pew with space in between.

Please sit only with your family.

Offerings can be made entering or exiting, located at the Sanctuary doors.

Once service is over the ushers will excuse pew by pew to allow for distancing.

There will not be after service inside fellowship at this time.

Please exit the building after service. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Reopening Committee wishes to thank the congregation for following our worship service recommendations. Our first in person service went very well and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again this Sunday!

Vaccinations continue to be our best defense against Covid-19. Please encourage those that you know that haven't yet been vaccinated to do so.

Stay safe and healthy!

TAKING CARE OF OUR FAMILY

- ~ Prayers for Kari Brock, who lost 2 of her barns by fire the beginning of May.
- ~ Prayers for Karen Dew, whose dog, Zelda, died on Sunday.
- ~ Prayers for Henry and Lynette Doepke's friend, Kathy as she once again is battling melanoma.



Congratulations to **FRIEDA BIESANZ**,
who turned 100 years old on June 15.
Cards can be sent to 312 Southbrooke Drive #37,
Lakeview Lodge, Waterloo, IA 50702.

MODERATOR MUSINGS

It was such a pleasure to see familiar faces in worship on Sunday in the sanctuary. It has been 15 months since we have been together in our beautiful space for worship. There have been a lot of changes while we have been away. We have new staff leading worship in the sanctuary. Although Rev. Bret Myers, designated term interim pastor, and Abbie Greene, youth director, have been with us since August/September, this was their first official public worship service in our sanctuary. And it was so good to see them face-to-face as we shared worship.

Our organ has also gone through some major changes with a refurbishing project this spring, and we were able to experience some of its new sounds yesterday. The organ looks the same, but there are many new pipes and digital upgrades, and Hudson will be demonstrating those in the weeks and months ahead through his inspiring and beautiful playing. (A shout-out to Bob Brock for his inspiration, homework, persistence, and dedication to this project—we are fortunate to have you in our midst!)

It was a joyful day, but also a sad one. As I looked around the room, I was keenly aware of faces we will no longer see. We have lost several beloved church members and friends these past months, and we miss them and will continue to miss them. Being together reminded me how important each person is to our congregation. We are family. We care about each other. And as families do after a loss, we must find a way to carry on in spite of our grief.

As a philosopher once said, “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man.” Our congregation continues to change just as the river continues to change. We welcome new faces even as we grieve those who have left us. We have been through 15 months of distancing due to the pandemic. We have figured ways of continuing to be church despite not being together in person. We “carry on” through all our changes with God’s love and guidance, and our love for each other and our church. So here we are, together FINALLY, dear friends, and it’s time to “carry on”.

~ *Anne Hoekstra*



On Sunday, June 20th and June 27th, following service you will have an opportunity to have your family's picture taken here (inside or outside) by Diane Highnam to be included in the directory.

We ask for all family updates or pictures to be sent to Michelle by June 30th. If you would prefer to email a picture please email to fcuccoffice@gmail.com.



Joint Annual Meeting of the TriConference UCC

We are looking for two lay delegates to represent our congregation in attending the Joint Annual Meeting of the TriConference UCC. All congregants are welcome to attend, but we need two lay delegates. Like last year, the event will be held on a completely virtual platform. Rev. Myers has already signed up. For more information: <https://ucctcm.org/annualmeeting/>

Interested persons are to contact Pastor Bret (revbmyers@yahoo.com or 608-370-9472).

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

YOUR MEALS ON WHEELS TEAM HITS THE ROAD



After 15 months of NOT delivering weekday hot meals to our city neighbors, Laurie Allbaugh, Sue Hummel, Kay Thuesen, Barb Mardis, Greg Hoekstra and Cliff Highnam got busy last Thursday to visit old friends and explore new territories. Our church is responsible for 3 routes on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month so if you would like to join us, please call Laurie at 504-3212. We can use help occasionally when the above people are on vacation or have other commitments. Or if those days don't work for you, call Janna Diehl, meals director at the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging, at 319-415-1660. She is standing by Sue in the picture and is looking for substitutes on the other routes on other weekdays. You can get one of the free t-shirts displayed by Greg and a list of all the red light/ speed cameras

throughout the city! This is such a simple, fun, rewarding way to meet and get to know people, feed and help keep the elderly in their homes, as well as a chance to include your friends and children who aren't members of our church in such a valuable community outreach. If any meals are left, you have a free lunch, too!

~ Laurie Allbaugh

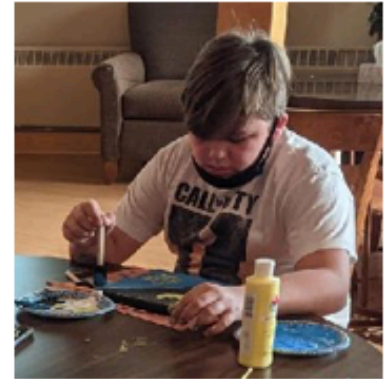


Look at what our youth have done over the last week:

Wednesday we gathered and painted some canvases to be hung up in the youth room in the fall and Sunday we created tie-dye shirts.

Join us next Wednesday the 23rd when we make kites!

~ Abbie Greene



YOUTH DIRECTOR OFFICE HOURS:

Abbie will be hosting office hours Monday the 21st from 2pm-6pm and Tuesday the 22nd from 11am-3pm. Drop in and say, "hello!"

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

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