

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL



TIDINGS



"You are welcome here!"

THIS SUNDAY:

July 27, 2025 10:30 AM
Worship Service

Sermon Title:
Abounding in Joy

Scripture Text:
Luke 11:1-13 & Colossians 2:6-15

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, July 23
(Church)

6:15pm - Dinner
6:45pm - The Gathering

Sunday, July 27

12:00pm - Strategic Planning Meeting with Lunch

Wednesday, July 30
(Miller's Home)

6:15pm - Dinner
6:45pm - The Gathering

July 20 Sermon Recap: Responding to Goodness

This week we reflected on God's goodness revealed in Christ the Creator, Sustainer, and Reconciler. Using the hymn in Colossians 1:15-28 and the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42, we learned that God calls us to live attentive lives rooted in Christ and focused on His presence rather than distraction.

Reflection Question:

What distractions keep you from spending time with Jesus? How can you choose the better part by living more attentively to God's goodness?

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUMMER BIBLE STUDY - JULY 23

We will meet at church on July 23 & the Miller's home on July 30.
Find our Study Guide online here: <https://bit.ly/storyguidesummer>

A NOTE OF TRANSITION: THANK YOU HUDSON

As a congregation, we want to take a moment to recognize and give thanks for Hudson's years of service as our church organist. His music has been part of many seasons in our worship life –lifting prayers, accompanying celebrations, and offering comfort in times of grief. Transitions are rarely easy, and we know that sometimes they come with unanswered questions or mixed emotions. Even so, we trust that God continues to work in and through all things, and we wish Hudson peace and encouragement in the road ahead. In the coming weeks, we'll begin the process of seeking our next organist, and we invite your prayers and support as we move forward.



CONNECT WITH PASTOR BRANDYN

While I'm often around the church, I'm not always in my office. Meetings, visits, and other commitments keep my schedule moving. If you see me around, feel free to stop me and say hello, or drop in if the light is on. If you'd like a guaranteed time to meet, I've set aside specific slots on my calendar.

You can use the link below to schedule a time I know I'll be available: Schedule a Time with Pastor Brandyn: <http://bit.ly/4kROUcT>. I'm always glad to connect, whether for conversation, prayer, questions, or simply to catch up.

Note: Fridays are typically my day off each week.

WHAT IS ONA? WHY NOW?

Friends, I want to announce that we'll be holding a congregational vote on Sunday, September 7 to become an Open and Affirming (ONA) church in the United Church of Christ. Over the next several weeks, I want to walk with you through what that means, why it matters, and what it would look like for our congregation. ONA is a public covenant of welcome for all people – including those of all gender identities, expressions, and sexual orientations. But it is not only about LGBTQ+ inclusion. It's about becoming a church that intentionally welcomes all people – across lines of race, age, ability, background, and more – into the full life of our community.

Why now? Because we believe hospitality is central to the gospel. We believe God is still speaking. And we believe it's time for us to clearly and compassionately declare that whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey – you are welcome here. You're invited to submit any questions anonymously via the question box at church or through the online form here: <https://forms.gle/rXmGKAzuSCzzqnez8>. We'll also be holding two chapel conversations before worship – on August 3 and August 31 at 9:30am – where we'll discuss and reflect together.

In grace and peace,

~ **Pastor Brandyn**



38 Million Neighbors - 17,000 Communities - 42 Years of NNO:
Please plan on joining in so you can be part of these awesome statistics! See you on Tuesday, August 5 from 6:30-8pm in Washington Park (across the street from church).



AUGUST 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship	4	5 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 6:30pm - National Night Out	6	7	8	9 9:00am Women's Breakfast
10 10:30 Worship	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 Worship	18	19 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 6:00pm - Common 7:00pm - Trustees Meetings	20 5:00pm - Job Foundation Orientation	21	22 Fill Neighborhood Pantries	23
24 / 31 10:30 Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30

Anniversaries:

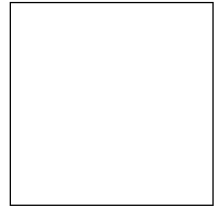
- 5th - Duane & Kathy Franke
Craig & Karen Jensen
- 8th - Paul & Gina Greene
- 18th - Tim & Lynne Ensworth
- 19th - Brandyn & Mackenzie Miller

Birthdays:

- 1st - Diane Paige
John Mardis
Cathy Thiele
- 2nd - Sara Thompson
- 3rd - Michelle Holt
Katinka Keith
Bob Tefft
- 4th - Dave Zellhoefer
- 7th - Demi Daniels (Slaughter)
- 8th - Christian Petersen
Nelle Mae Clausen
- 11th - Marcia Johnson
- 16th - Diane Highnam
- 18th - Michael Thuesen
- 19th - Mackenzie Miller
- 21st - Cole Highnam
Sara Lynch
- 24th - Aaron Petersen
- 25th - Cindy Stevenson
- 25th - Brian Thuesen
Crosby Prescott
Josie Lauterbach Clausen
- 26th - Jim Stevenson
Ryan Waldon
Eva Daniels (Slaughter)
- 28th - Rudy Bernhard
Mary Kay Petersen
Jim Altenbaumer
- 29th - Rocky Petersen

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.

Help us Stock the Stores

Join our host churches in stocking their stores to serve over 200 students with their upcoming supply lists for the 2025-2026 school year!

ship or deliver supplies to:

 **Love INC Main Office**
2603 Rainbow Dr. Ste. 2
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-1264

 **Candeo Church**
1405 Greenhill Rd.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 260-2223

 **Crossroads Community Church**
3622 Hammond Ave
Waterloo, IA 50702
(319) 233-4359

 **Trinity Bible Church**
125 Orchard Dr.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 277-1377



This QR code goes directly to the wishlist

Click the Picture on the left or scan the QR code for the Amazon Shopping List.

This week is the last week to purchase online or drop off any donations at one of the locations listed.

Love INC is looking to help 250 families in need of school supplies. 43 churches are uniting to share the love of Jesus and support our community. Together, we can embody the generosity of Matthew 25:35 in the Cedar Valley.