

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL



TIDINGS



"You are welcome here!"

THIS SUNDAY:

August 10, 2025 10:30 AM

Worship Service

Sermon Title:

Where Your Joy Is

Scripture Texts:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 & Luke 12:32-40

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, August 9, 2025

9:00am - Women's Breakfast
at Perkins



**Wednesday Night Dinner
and Bible Study is currently
on a break.**

July 27 Sermon Recap: Where are you Storing your Joy?

Jesus reminds us that joy isn't found in storing up stuff or building bigger barns, but in being rich toward God. Colossians calls us to set our hearts on Christ and put on a new self marked by love.

Reflection Question:

Where are you looking for joy? What's one way you can live it out this week?



PLEASE NOTE:

**Pastor Brandyn will be on vacation from
August 12 through August 21st.**

OUR PROPOSED ONA STATEMENT



Friends,

This week, I want to share with you the proposed Open and Affirming (ONA) statement for our church. The Board of Trustees and I have spent time in prayer and thoughtful conversation about these words. Together, we believe this is a faithful and meaningful expression of who we are and who we are becoming. We wholeheartedly endorse it and hope to adopt it through a congregational vote on Sunday, September 7.

This vote will be conducted in person by secret ballot. In keeping with our church bylaws, votes must be cast in person on the day of the meeting. Absentee or proxy voting is not permitted.

Here is the statement:

At First Congregational United Church of Christ in Waterloo, we believe every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome people of all gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, and people of every race, age, ability, and background, into the full life of our church.

We know the Christian Church has not always been a safe or welcoming place for everyone. So, with humility and hope, we commit to creating a community rooted in Christ's love, where all are seen, heard, and valued. We believe that through our diversity, we can grow and practice a unity of faith. You are welcome here. You are not alone. You are beloved.

Questions are welcome anytime – you can place them in the question box at church or submit them online here:

☛ <https://forms.gle/rXmGKAzuSCzzqnez8>

You're also invited to our final chapel conversation before the vote on Sunday, August 31 at 9:30am – a space to listen, reflect, and share together.

With grace and peace,
Pastor Brandyn

LET'S FILL THE...



Here's an important but easy way to make a difference in the community. Bring food for the pantry and support to your neighbors.

Here are some ideas for foods to bring- peanut butter, rice, beans, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars (with no chocolate that can melt), crackers, snacks, canned meats/soups/fruits/vegetables (pop-top cans preferred), sealed/unopened drink mixes, etc.

Thank you.

FREE BOOK BONANZA!

As part of refreshing our church library, we've thoughtfully set aside some books that have journeyed with us for many years. While it can feel bittersweet to let them go, we are deeply grateful for the wisdom, comfort, and joy they've brought to our community.



Now, we'd love for these well-loved books to find new homes where they can continue to inspire and be cherished. From now through the end of September, you're invited to stop by the Friendship Room and explore the collection laid out on the table. Please feel free to take as many as you'd like.

New selections will be added each week, so we encourage you to check back often. May these books continue their good work in your hearts and homes.

NE IOWA FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER

Sunday, September 7, 2025 is the 15th annual Checkers Stone Soul Picnic to support the NE Iowa Food Bank's initiatives for children. The event is named after it's founder, Mike "Checker" Michalicek, a local music educator.

Your free will donations benefit the children's programs at NEIFB. The Board of Directors of Checkers Stone Soul Picnic is very pleased to announce that the 2024 event raised \$20,000 for the children's programs of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Thousands of local kids are food insecure, and this year's need is greater than ever!

The Event will be held at Overman Park (316 W 3rd St, Cedar Falls) from 11am to 5pm. There will be live music, children's activities, and food by Blue Barn BBQ!

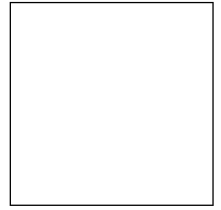
Performing this year are:

- 11:00am - Sugar Daddys
- 12:00pm - Rush Cleveland Trio
- 1:00pm - Katie & the Honky Tonks
- 2:00pm - Deja Blue
- 3:00pm - Free Range Medicine
- 4:00pm - The Beaker Brothers



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.



Over the course of 2 days and 3 time slots, you will get a behind the scenes look at how investments are transforming families and neighborhoods! Enjoy tasty local bites and drinks, hear stories from families and partners, and see the impact we're building - together.

Save the date for August 20 & 21. Join us for our 8:30 am, 12:00pm, or 4:00pm tour. Come 20 minutes early to mingle with staff and enjoy your bites and drinks. The tour will last 1.5 to 2 hours.

Go to <https://www.webuildhabitat.org/about/events> to save your seat today.