

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL



TIDINGS



"You are welcome here!"

THIS SUNDAY:

August 17, 2025 10:30 AM
Worship Service

Sermon Title:

The Kingdom has Come Near

Scripture Text:

Luke 9:51-10:9

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

7:30am - Men's Breakfast at
Village Inn (W'loo)

6:00pm - Common Meeting

7:00pm - Trustee Meeting

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

August 10 Sermon Recap: True joy isn't rooted in what we see or own. It is grounded in the promises of God we cannot yet see. Abraham's life reminds us that living by faith means walking with joyful anticipation, even when the destination is unknown. Jesus invites us to release fear, invest in what is eternal, and live ready. It is the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom.

Reflection Question: Where is your joy anchored today? Is it in something temporary, or in the eternal kingdom God delights to give?

Our Condolences...

WITH LOVE
& SYMPATHY

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Kathleen Kropp (Marsh) on July 29. Kathleen was known by many of us as a friend and past youth director of First Congregational. The funeral will be held on Monday, August 18 in Colorado.

[Her full obituary can be read here.](#)

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Limon Education Foundation (Music Department) at PO Box 297 Limon, CO 80828 or to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (namiowa.org).

WHY ONA MATTERS



One of the questions I've heard during this season is, "Why do we need to say anything at all? Isn't everyone already welcome?"

And it's a good question. Because I truly believe this is a warm and kind congregation. It is a place where many people feel safe and at home. But I also know there are stories we don't always hear. Visitors who come once and don't return. Longtime members who keep parts of themselves hidden. People who wonder, silently, "Would I still be welcome if they really knew me?"

I've talked with folks, here and elsewhere, who have been deeply hurt by churches in the past. Not necessarily by angry words, but by silence. By assumptions. By the absence of any sign that their presence would be not only allowed, but celebrated.

That's why ONA matters.

It's not just about who we are—it's about who might be watching from the margins. It's about saying clearly and lovingly: Yes, you are welcome. Yes, you belong. Yes, this table is for you, too.

Stories matter and if you have a story of welcome or inclusion or the opposite we want to hear it. You're invited to share your own story, if you feel led, whether through a note in the question box or a conversation.

As always, I'm grateful to walk this road with you.

In grace,
Pastor Brandyn

 Chapel Q&A – Sunday, August 31 at 9:30am

 Submit a question or story – <https://forms.gle/rXmGKAzuSCzzqnez8> or in the box!

COMMON & TRUSTEE MEETINGS

The August Meetings will be held Tuesday, August 19 (Board/Committee Chairs please turn in your trustee report to Michelle by Thursday 9am).

Common - 6:00pm
Trustee - 7:00pm

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

The food bank volunteer opportunity for this month has been rescheduled to Tuesday, August 26th from 2-4pm.

On September 9th we will also volunteer at our regular time of 5:30pm. Please contact Diane Highnam for questions or to sign up.

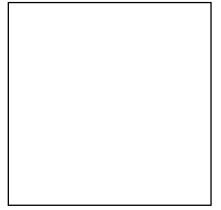
NEIGHBORS NIGHT OUT

Thanks to all who helped with National Night Out! It was a beautiful evening making new friends in our neighborhood



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.

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.