

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL



TIDINGS



"You are welcome here!"

THIS SUNDAY:

August 24, 2025 10:30 AM
Worship Service

KINDNESS

Sermon Title:
Called to Kindness

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

Scripture Texts:
Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Luke 13:10-17

ONA - WHAT CHANGES - AND WHAT DOESN'T - IF WE VOTE YES

Friends, as we approach our vote on **Sunday, September 7**, it's important to be clear about what adopting the ONA statement means—and what it doesn't.

What changes:

- Our welcome becomes explicit and public, especially for those who have been excluded or unsure if church could be a safe space.
- We will be listed as an Open and Affirming congregation in the UCC, helping seekers—especially LGBTQ+ individuals—find a spiritual home.
- We commit to continued learning and growth in hospitality, justice, and the work of love.

What doesn't change:

- Our core theology, grounded in Christ's love and grace.
- Our mission to love God by loving others in word and action.
- Our respect for diverse perspectives and our commitment to community, conversation, and care.

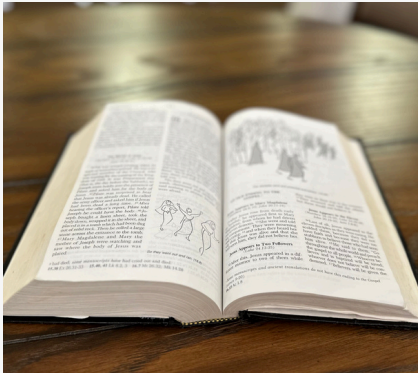
I invite you to bring your questions and reflections—through the question box at church or online here:

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

You're also warmly invited to our final chapel conversation on August 31 at 9:30am for reflection, dialogue, and prayer.

Peace,

Pastor Brandyn



THE GATHERING

We are currently on break from our Wednesday night gathering but watch for more information as we will be starting up again soon!



BOOK GIVE AWAY...

We still have several books that we would love to find new homes where they can continue to inspire and be cherished. Through the end of September, you're invited to stop by the Friendship Room and take as many books as you'd like. New selections will be added each week, so we encourage you to check back often.

Memorial Service for Kathleen Kropp (Marsh)

Kathleen was on staff and a member of St. Paul's Methodist Church. You are invited to St. Paul's for a gathering to remember Kathleen that will include music, reflections, and readings on **Saturday, September 6, at 4:30pm**. Until then, please join us in prayer for Kathleen's son, Max and the rest of her family and friends.

St. Paul Methodist Church
1340 3rd Ave SE,
Cedar Rapids, IA

REMEMBER THE PANTRY

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.

CHOIR & BELLS...



The musical ministries at First Congregational are excited to begin a new year of worship! We would like to encourage anyone who has an interest in helping with our chancel or bell choir to attend our first meeting this Wednesday, 8/20 or next Wednesday, 8/27. Touch of Brass handbell choir will meet at 5:30pm and, until The Gathering resumes, Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30pm. Stop in and let us find a spot for you in our music ministry!

Getting To Know You

GETTING TO KNOW: HENRY DOEPKE



I was born on July 2, 1938 on a farm southwest of Denver IA. I went to a country school – Mt. Vernon #6 - through 8th grade, then to Denver High School where I graduated in 1955. I farmed with my father and then on my own for 36 years.



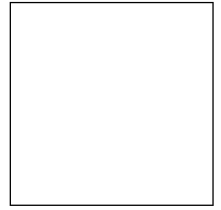
In 1957 I joined the 404th Signal Corps Army Reserves. I served six months active duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, then spent a year Fort Huachuca, Arizona. I later worked at Waterloo Warehouse for 19 years, retiring in 2008.



Getting married to Lynette Simester in 1969 was a highlight of my life. We moved to Denver in 1996 and lived in that house until 2022 when we sold it to my grandson and his family. We joined First Congregational UCC, where I still attend, in November, 2015.

I have two children – a son, James, and a daughter, Sarah. I also have 4 grandchildren and 5 great granddaughters. I lost Lynette in 2023 and now I live in Willow Winds assisted living in Denver.





CREATE AN ENDOWMENT OF LOVE. PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING OUR CHURCH IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING.

JOB FOUNDATION FAMILY ASSISTANCE



As some of you may have heard that the Waverly shelter had caught on fire. One of those families living there happens to be one of our Job Foundation families and they lost all they had in that fire.

Their biggest need right now is clothing for the kids to start back to school. If you can help please contact Seth at Job Foundation (319) 823-1095 and he can let you know what is still needed. They are hoping to get everything this week.

Girl -

T-shirts size 7/8
Pants/Shorts size 7/8
Tennis Shoes size 2-3 (1 pair)
Socks
Underwear

Boy -

T-shirts size Men's Large
Pants & Underwear size 34
Athletic Shorts size Large
Tennis Shoes size 6 Youth