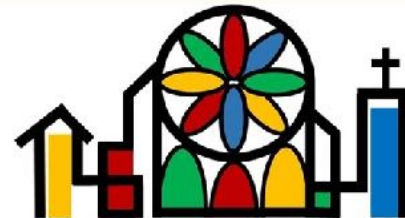


First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends

August 21, 2024



FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY...

- ~ Prayers for Alisha Lennox (Zoe & Eli's mom) who has spinal surgery scheduled in Iowa City for September 27. She has had MS for many years and now has this complication as well. Prayer for her kids as well while their mom goes through these health concerns.
- ~ Prayers for Mitch & Rebecca Coder as they deal with a medical concern.
- ~ Happy Anniversary to Mitch & Rebecca Coder!
- ~ Happy Anniversary to Brandyn & Mackenzie Miller!
- ~ Happy Birthday to Diane Highnam and Mackenzie Miller!

WE HAVE A PANTRY TO FILL...

Reminder ideas to fill the pantry as we offer emergency food for others:

Peanut butter, nuts, rice, cereal, oatmeal packets, granola bars (with no chocolate that can melt), crackers, snacks for kids, canned soups / fruits (pop-top cans preferred), canned meats, new / unopened baby formula, sealed / unopened drink mixes, dried fruit, etc.

** A special thank you to Craig and Karen Jensen and grandsons Teddy, Charlie, and Cooper Mejia for filling the pantry this week.

** Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

WANTED! GREETERS!

Sign up to be a greeter. Take a Sunday morning and welcome your church family, friends and neighbors. What could be more fun?

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OPPORTUNITY

What fun to spend time and get to know our youth. With fall just around the corner - our most precious cargo needs teachers for Sunday mornings. This is a rotation that happens during church after the mini message. Could you give one Sunday a month or be a substitute when needed? Please text 319-404-8840 or email ggreene1124@gmail.com if you are interested in helping or have questions. Thanks for considering this great opportunity.

This Sunday:

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024
10:30 am

Brandyn will present the message and provide the mini-message.

Worship Leader
Diane Highnam

Mini-Message
Brandyn Miller

Deacon-In-Charge
Nancy Mahood

*** **

To watch last Sunday's service you can

[<< Click Here >>](#)

Reminder:

The office will be closed on Fridays for the months of August & September.



September 8th will be a day of celebration in our church! Historically our congregation has called what we will be doing "Rally Sunday." This year we are changing things up and calling the day **Kick Off Sunday**. Many things will be kicking off and a very important one is our Student's Sunday School classes.

On Sept. 8 kids will start out in worship, have a time to be introduced to their classroom, find out what the lessons this year will be like, and then they come back and join the congregation for communion. It is my hope to have all of our kids and youth at this service but I am also realistic about where we are as a church and family schedules. Since this Sunday will be a time to focus on the kids and to kick off Sunday School I would love to have student participation on this day. There are many ways that kids can participate. I'll list some options below and what the task would entail.

Greeters: stand by the front door or sanctuary door welcoming people as they come into worship

Readers: read a bible verse or two or read an opening prayer (we can make these easy to read for any level)

Usher: Help pass the offering plate and bring it up front

Acolyte: carry fire from the back of the sanctuary to the front to light a candle (an adult can help guide)

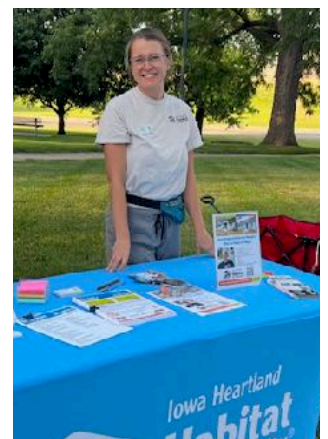
Bulletin covers: draw/color a picture that will go on our bulletins for Sept 8. This is great if kids can't attend the service but want to participate. Just color something related to kick off, our church, Sunday school, etc.. Send a photo of the art or bring the art to Pastor Brandyn by September 1, let him know who the artist is, and it will get put on bulletin covers for service.

If your student (any age) would like to participate, contact me (fcuccminister@gmail.com) to get involved.

-Pastor Brandyn



PICTURES FROM AUGUST 6, 2024



Getting To Know You

GETTING TO KNOW: KAY LEARY

I am a 2nd generation American and very much middle class. I grew up with see-through carpet and second hand clothes, but also knew that my family was full of love. Gramps gave me the ability of having goals, high expectations, respect and responsibility and to give your best 110% effort in everything you do.

I learned my sarcasm and political science info from my oldest brother Eric. Clint helped me with making sure my eyes were always at their best and kept me on my toes to continually improve my sarcasm. My sister Paula taught me how to organize and how to have patience with people I don't like. Neal, the youngest, could always help me through a medical crisis, fix autos, farm, reconstruct house renovations; oh yea, and use that sarcasm well. Mom combined all of that and taught us(me) how to take each person as they came along and how to reconcile differences as she lead by example time and time again.

I went to college in Sioux Falls, SD and graduated as an elementary teacher and minored in music. This is also where I met my husband, Steve, who majored in Health and P.E. I continued with my education at the University of SD. with a master in Special Education. After 6 years of knowing Steve, we got married; I taught 4 years before settling down in Waterloo to teach another 32 years.

Nathan, my one son, grew up playing golf with Steve. I would read in the sun while all this was going on. Every summer for 10 years I hauled Nathan to golf tournaments all over the U.S. This satisfied my love of traveling and taking in the sun immensely.

I now have reverted back to what I loved growing up: watching T.V. shows and movies and enjoying music - singing and playing the flute, as well as listening to an eclectic selection of other forms of music.

To summarize, I would call myself a blender. There's not one thing I do exceptionally, but there are a plethora of things I do well. Oh, yea, and I think that sarcastic wit that's been engraved into my head has popped up in many conversations.

I know that throughout my life God has always been there. Just a constant feeling in my soul. This feeling has continually grown stronger as this church family has also instilled in my heart what it means to follow God. Also... Use Common sense, the brain God gave you, and give life the best of yourself and see what happens! Amen!



Join Us JAM 2024

Friday/Saturday – September 27-28, 2024

Every year the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences of the United Church of Christ (UCC) gather to make important decisions regarding their ministry, business, and future. It is also an important time for us to learn, grow, and celebrate!

JAM 2024 will be held at Countryside Community Church located at 13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha, NE.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2024 JOINT ANNUAL MEETING



Click to register or go to

<https://ucctcm.org/jam2024/>

The Return of School

“After being interviewed by the school administration, the prospective teacher said....

Let me see if I’ve gotten this right....

*You want me to go into that room with all those kids,
correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse,
monitor their dress habits, censor the T-shirt messages,
and instill in them a love for learning.*

*You want me to check their backpacks for weapons,
wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases,
and raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride.*

*You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship,
and fair play, how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, and apply for a job.*

*You want me to check their head for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behavior,
and make sure they all pass their final exams.*

*You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of anything extra
that the student may need and communicate regularly with their parents in
English, Zulu or any other language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card.*

*You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a
few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps.*

During all this aside from teaching and learning, we now need to start on the curriculum”

You can tell some of this is out of date, but the basic premise is teachers are asked to be
the it all for all.....and you know what? Every year teachers go into those
classrooms and think this year I will do and be the best for my students!

Have a great year everyone!!!!

...Thank you to Kay Leary for sharing.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HAPPENINGS...



- * **SITES & BITES:** Over the course of 2 days and 3 time slots, you will see what's new in our Church Row and Walnut neighborhoods, see what we have planned next, and enjoy delicious food and beverages from our sponsors! Save the date for **September 12th and 13th**. Join us for our 8:30 am, 12:00pm, or 4:00pm tour. All tours are sponsored by Rydell Auto, Kugler Construction, and Hawkeye Stages - making the event FREE for all participants! Go to <https://www.webuildhabitat.org/about/events/> to save your seat today.
- * **CIRCLE UP TO BUILD:** Last year we gathered our Builders Circle members and friends to Circle Up with hope... this year we Circle Up to build. Save the date for the breakfast on Oct. 2, 2024. More information coming soon. Need more now? Contact Dusty Wilson at dwilson@webuildhabitat.org or 319-235-9946.
- * **HABITAT HAS A NEW WEBSITE:** Their new website was launched this month! Visit to learn more about projects, women's builds, the neighborhoods they serve, to sign up to volunteer, and learn about the ReStore and more - Click on the Logo above or go to <https://www.webuildhabitat.org/>.

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

Congregational Tidings

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