

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL



# TIDINGS



*"You are welcome here!"*

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## THIS SUNDAY:

September 7, 2025 10:30 AM

Worship Service

**Scripture Text:**

John 15:1-17

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

### **August 31 Sermon Recap:**

Jesus challenges us to rethink honor and humility. In a world where status and recognition often decide who is welcomed first, Jesus flips the script: true greatness is found in humility, and real community is built when everyone has a place at the table. God's Kingdom is not about climbing higher, but about lifting others up, seeing beyond status, making space for one another, and extending grace that welcomes all.

### **Reflection Question:**

Who in your life right now needs you to make space for them – not because they can offer you anything in return, but because God has already welcomed them?

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Sunday, September 7**

**Kickoff Sunday!**

(See more info on last page)

**Tuesday, September 9**

7:00 - NAMI Presentation

**Wednesday, September 10**

5:30pm - Bells

6:15pm - Dinner

6:45pm - Study

7:30pm - Choir

## KATHLEEN KROPP (MARSH) MEMORIAL SERVICE

Please contact the church office if you would like to carpool to Cedar Rapids for Kathleen's memorial service this Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. More information regarding her service can be found [HERE](#).



## THE GATHERING RESUMES

we will resume gathering for dinner together before our evening activities next Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm. Meals are simple, crowd-friendly, and provided by volunteers. Each week has a theme (like sloppy joes, tacos, pizza, etc.), and there are 8 sign-up slots per meal to spread out the work. You can find the sign up online [HERE](#), on the board by the library or by calling Michelle in the office.

Thank you for helping make our Wednesday nights a warm, welcoming time for everyone!



Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings. We are sponsoring these Screenings on Thursday, September 18. Click [Here](#) or call 1-800-324-9458 to schedule your appointment.. Use the promo code **HABC001** to receive all 4 screenings for \$129.

## NAMI Presentation

Katy Delagardelle is a local therapist that believes healing doesn't have to feel awful! Research is proving that the more engaging we can make therapy, the better it sticks. Katy's passion is finding ways to bring playful techniques to adults, so please consider attending this mini demo on how collage and writing can change your life. You will take your collage home. The presentation is Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm here at First Congregational church.

## Growing Minds Fundraiser:

Growing Minds, the child development center located in our church, has received a matching grant opportunity. Ed Gruenwald, Growing Minds director, stated at our last BoT meeting that the Mc Elroy Charitable Trust will match up to \$6,000 for Growing Minds to purchase improvement provisions. Such items include black-out drapes for preschool nappers, classroom furniture and new toys. Contributions by church members to be matched by the grant can be made by contacting Michelle in the office. Church members Karen Jensen and/or Cliff Highnam, who are also on the board of directors for Growing Minds, can answer questions you may have about the grant award.



It's time to get off the bench and back in the game! Join us this weekend as we celebrate **Kickoff Sunday** with the return of choir, Sunday School, and fellowship together at 10:30am. Worship will be filled with energy as we lean into the theme: ***"Building the body of Christ is not a spectator sport!"***

## **Stay for Lunch!**

Come ready to celebrate, reconnect, and step onto the field together. God has called each of us into the game – and there's a place for you on the team!

Any youth interested in helping serve lunch following the service, please meet us at 10am that morning outside the church garage by the playground.

**Come join us and support our youth by staying for lunch after church. Hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans and drinks will be provided.**

✨ You're Invited! ✨



Join us for a magical baby shower celebrating the Overton family on Sunday, September 21 at 12pm, right after service.

A baby registry link is available by clicking [HERE](#) for anyone who would like to bless them with a gift (no pressure!). There's also a food sign-up sheet on the EJS wall at church, organized by category—if you plan to bring something, please write down the specific item to help keep things easy for everyone. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Mackenzie!



## LoveINC Make a Difference Monthly

For the month of September we are collecting personal hygiene items for Love Inc. Items especially needed are deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine hygiene pads.

You can place your donations in the dedicated LoveInc bin at the Donation Station in the Crossroads across from the elevator.

Thank you in advance for your gifts!

## HOW THE VOTE WILL WORK + PRAYER FOR UNITY



This Sunday, September 7, after worship, we'll hold a congregational meeting to vote on adopting the Open and Affirming statement. Here is the statement once more before our vote:

*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.*

### **Here's how it will work:**

- We'll open with a brief review and prayer.
- Members will have a chance to ask any final questions.
- Voting will be by written ballot for privacy and clarity.
- Ballots will be counted immediately, and the results shared before we close.

No matter the outcome, we are a community committed to walking forward in love and grace. Let's join in prayer:

God of welcome and wide embrace,

Guide our hearts as we seek to reflect your love.

Help us to be honest, kind, and courageous.

Make us one body in Christ, united not by sameness, but by your Spirit.

Amen.

I look forward to walking this journey with each of you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Brandyn



CROP Hunger Walk is coming to a neighborhood near YOU on **October 5th!**

Our church is hosting the annual walk and we would love to have you join in the preparations and the walk! On Kick-Off Sunday, we will have a large sign-up sheet available for you to choose what you'd like to help with! There are plenty of jobs and a great way to connect with fellow church members! Bring a friend to Kick-Off Sunday and sign up together! We are doing our part to fight hunger and food insecurity in our community and around the world! JOIN US!



**Scan the QR code above to go directly to our church sign up and donation page.**