

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends

September 4, 2024



FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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

This Sunday:

Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

September 8, 2024
10:30 am

Brandyn will present
the message:

New Things

Using the texts:

Isaiah 43:18-19
and Romans 12:4-6a

Worship Leader
John Mardis

Deacon-In-Charge
Cindy Thompson

*** **

To watch last Sunday's
service you can

[<< Click Here >>](#)

Reminder:

The office will be closed
on Fridays in September.



Join us this Sunday for 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**.

Come to worship to enjoy participation by our youth. Many things will be kicking off and a very important one is our Student's Sunday School classes after the mini-message during worship.

We will kick off the school year with a lunch following the service. Food and fun is provided - we just need you!



Don't miss the excitement!
Please join us this Sunday!
Friends are welcome, too!

TAKING CARE OF FAMILY

~ Prayers for Cliff Highnam's brother-in-law, Victor, who recently had a stem cell transplant for bone cancer. Prayers also for Cliff for safety while in Washington while helping his family on their farm.

~ Prayers for Mackenzie Miller who is recovering from bronchitis/pneumonia.

~ Prayers for Brandyn Miller's father who had eye surgery this past week.

~ Prayers for Teri Graham who is having reoccurring back and leg pain.

~ Celeste Bembry's brother's celebration of life service is now available to watch online. Please click [HERE](#) (or you can go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAzPr9yqBo4>).

FILL THE PANTRY

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.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

SERVE AS WORSHIP LEADER?

Being a worship leader is a great opportunity to serve our church! What seems like an easy task of greeting the congregation and reading a few words is actually a vital piece of worship. The worship leader helps set the atmosphere for the congregation to worship. As the worship leader you will also see the worship service in a new way. There are opportunities to serve in this role coming up. If you've been a worship leader, thought about being a worship leader, or wish you could be the worship leader use this link to sign up - (<https://bit.ly/FirstWorshipLeader>).

SHARE A MEAL ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

It is our hope that Wednesday nights become a time of community and growth. One way to do this is by sharing a meal together. There is an online sign up form to bring a main dish, side dish, or a dessert to our Wednesday meetings. This meal would happen before our class time at 6:15-7:00 PM. If you'd like to contribute to this please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/gatheringmeal>.

WANT TO JOIN A CHOIR?

The handbell and chancel choir practices have begun and you are invited to join! If you have interest in joining either or both, please contact our director, [Luke Overton](#). The choirs have a great group of individuals who would love to include you!

COMMON MEETING

The next Common Meeting will be Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m.
We will first meet in the sanctuary.

NAMI PRESENTATION

A free program about "How to Deal with Crisis Situations" will be held on Thursday, **September 5th** from 7 to 8 pm here at First Congregational church..

Speaker Nick Rosauer, LISW, is the Behavioral Health Services Manager at Allen Hospital and oversees the Mental Health Walk-in Clinic, the Mental Health Emergency Room, and the Intensive Outpatient Program. He has worked for seven years in hospitals as well as providing one-on-one counseling to individuals with mental health concerns. Please contact NAMI director, Leslie Cohn with any questions - (319) 830-6448.

**** END OF SUMMER KAYAKING EVENT ****



What? Kayaking Sunday

When? Sunday, September 15th from 2:00 to 4:00pm

Where? Big Woods Lake (Meet in the South Parking Lot, North East Corner, Kayak launch area)

Details: Bring a kayak or canoe if you have one, your life jacket and don't forget the paddles. Some other things you may want to bring are: Bottled water, sun screen, bug repellent and clothes for water sports and a towel.

Afterwards we will meet at Gary Waldon's back deck for refreshments

(823 Oak Park Blvd., Cedar Falls - Oak Park is across the highway from Thunder Ridge Mall and CVS. The Cenex gas station is on the corner. At the stop light turn right onto Oak Park and go straight. Gary's house is down the road, around the curve. It's the house with the half circle drive in front.)

Please RSVP to Michelle in the office by Wednesday, September 11.

She will need to know the following:

1. How many are participating?
2. Do you need to rent a kayak or do you have one. If you need to rent, are you going to find one to rent or will you need help getting one?
3. Do you plan on coming to Gary's house afterward for refreshments?

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SITES & BITES EVENT



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 their 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.



Dear Church Family,
I have something amazing that I want to share with you.

It's a series of short films that explores the challenge of being "in the world, but not of it." As Christians, we hear that fairly often, but what does it *really* mean? This series, FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD, digs into that question: it's an exploration of Faith and Culture—of how we live as "salt and light" in an imperfect world. The series is thought-provoking, beautiful, and a lot of fun—unlike anything you've seen before.

"Oikonomia" is a Greek word that means "God's Economy of All Things." Over seven episodes, FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD discusses this concept and explores God's plan for creation, the world, and us.

We will spend fourteen weeks watching and discussing FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD. Our first meeting will be September 18 at 6:45 PM right here at First Congregational Church of Waterloo. I hope you'll join me.

Pastor Brandyn

Hello Friend.

My name is Evan Koons. My friends and I made our little film series for you. We're filmmakers, storytellers, professors, writers, and theologians. We wanted to use those skills to talk about the struggle and the beauty of living life faithfully and the way God calls us to, in a complicated world. That sounds kind of heavy, but don't worry: there's also music, puppets, a pretty good bonfire, and lemonade.

your,
Evan

P.S. Check out what the critics are saying!

FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD
Letters to the Endless

"...THE BEST TREATMENT OF FAITH & CULTURE EVER PUT ON SCREEN."
— ANDY CROUCH, CHRISTIANITY TODAY —



Dear Church Partners,

Thank you so much for your support and generosity as we transform lives and the Cedar Valley In the Name of Christ. Together we have accomplished so much this summer:

- Met almost 500 physical needs
- Met \$9,238 in financial needs
- Provided back to school supplies to 240 children

Jesus is on the move in the Cedar Valley. Below are a few events coming up:

- Legends Car Show & Festival September 14, 9am - 2pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 4301 Lafayette Road in Evansdale. All proceeds support Love INC.
- Begin Now, Tuesday nights September 17 - November 19, 5-7:30pm. These are our transformational classes, step into relationships with neighbors across the Cedar Valley and share the joy of Jesus as we grow together.
- Annual Match Campaign September 22 - 28, donations have DOUBLE the impact this week with a goal to raise \$40,000.

Godspeed,

Glen Keith
Executive Director
Love INC (In the Name of Christ)

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 box in the Crossroads. Thank you in advance for your gifts!

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

Place
Stamp
Here