

First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends
September 18, 2024



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

CHURCH KAYAKING EVENT

A big thank you to Gary Waldon who organized a church kayak trip Sunday afternoon at Big Woods Lake!



This Sunday:
Eighteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

September 22, 2024
10:30 am

Brandyn will present
the message:

Oikonomia

Using the texts:

Ephesians 1:7-10 &
Matthew 5:13-16

Worship Leader
Paul Greene

Deacon-In-Charge
Cindy Thompson

*** **

To watch last Sunday's
service you can

[<< Click Here >>](#)

Reminder:

The office is closed on
Fridays in September.



Getting To Know You

GETTING TO KNOW: RICHARD COOK

Hi, my name is Richard Cook. I was born to Harland and Mildred Cook, some of you may remember them. When old enough, I took confirmation class from reverend Dr. Jacobs and officially became a member of the church.

After graduating high school I went to Hawkeye Community College. I graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology and went to work for Mid- Equipment Corporation in Grundy Center, Iowa. I worked there about one and a half years. Due to a low draft number I enlisted in the United States Air Force in April 1973. I studied electronics and communications equipment repair. I was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska. My primary job was to maintain all communications equipment on board the Airborne Command post aircraft until April 1979.

After the Air Force I worked in cable television for several years. I later got a refresher course in electronics. I then worked in Des Moines, Iowa for several years as an electronics technician working on communications equipment for law enforcement, fire and EMS. I moved back to Waterloo in 2000, to help take care of my mom. I continued my work and added tornado siren construction and maintenance. I was medically retired due to a stroke in 2019. These days my companion Bentley and I enjoy being together and chasing rabbits and squirrels.



CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Something exciting is happening this fall--our sanctuary will be the setting for Fever's Candlelight concerts! These concerts are classical or modern music performed in the ambience of candlelight (LED candles only) by a small ensemble. The first concert is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, "Candlelight: A Haunted Evening of Halloween Classics". To date, there are three Candlelight Concerts scheduled for a Saturday each month from October through December. Each evening will include two performances--6:30 pm and 8:45 pm. Links for the various concerts tickets can be found on Facebook or this link:

https://feverup.com/en/waterloo-cedar-falls-ia-us/candlelight?srsId=AfmBOoqonkumwWcK5sHeyOZaImRPI4g08cJWq5bm5uP_XzpSFo_k3TKe

Candlelight Concerts have been produced in the US and internationally by a company named Fever. As you can see from the link above, they are hosting concerts in other Iowa communities as well. Fever contacted us in order to rent our space. Fever chooses the music, hires the musicians (typically local), promotes the event, sells the tickets, and provides workers and security for each concert.

We are looking forward to hearing the concerts and providing a space to folks in the community to enjoy our beautiful sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Seth Chronister, Cliff Highnam, or me.

~Anne Hoekstra



TAKING CARE OF FAMILY

~ Prayers for Gina Greene who is recuperating from surgery.

~ Joyce Weber passed away on August 31st. She was our children's care giver for several years. You can read her complete obituary [HERE](#). A celebration of life will be held on October 5th from 2pm to 6pm at the American Legion Hall (1110 6th Street, Gilbertville, IA).

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>).

"CIRCLE UP TO BUILD" HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BREAKFAST

We have 2 spots left at our table but there is always room for more! Join us for the "Circle Up to Build" Habitat for Humanity Breakfast. What a great organization. The breakfast will be October 2, 2024 from 7:30-9:00 AM. It will be held at Prairie Lakes Church, 1907 Viking Rd, Cedar Falls. We will celebrate Habitat's joys and plans for the future with Homeowners and the Iowa Heartland Team. If you are interested, please contact Gina Greene at ggreene1124@gmail.com. Thank you!

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

Calling all Food Bank volunteers - we have an opportunity to work at the Food Bank next **Tuesday, Sept 24 from 5:30-7:30pm**.

Pizza after if there's an interest! Please let Diane or Michelle know if you're available to help!

CVIC EVENT - "HOW FAITH & FREEDOM FIT"

Would you like to learn more about or discuss the historical and contemporary role of religion in American democracy? Join us this Sunday, September 22nd from 2:15 to 4:30pm as the Cedar Valley Interfaith council presents this free program at the Waterloo Center for the Arts (225 Commercial St., Waterloo). Refreshments provided.

CROP WALK 2024

Save the Date: Our annual CROP Hunger Walk will be held this year on **Sunday, October 6!**

Registration begins at 1:30pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (4000 Hudson Road, Cedar Falls). For more information or to register for the walk online, go to crophungerwalk.org or call our local coordinator: Keith Grader at graberkerk@cfu.net.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is "Mental Health Justice For All!" This year's focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

This year's offering date will be **October 6th** as part of World Communion Sunday.

ANNUAL FALL CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY

Saturday, October 26th ~ 9am until 11am
First Baptist Church (434 Baltimore, W'loo)

Sponsored by the Church Row
Neighborhood Coalition.

Donations can be left in the Crossroads until
Thursday, October 24th.



**Beginning this week join us for
our Wednesday night activities:**

5:30pm - Bells Practice

6:15pm - Dinner

6:45pm - The Gathering (*See Below)

7:30pm - Choir Practice

*Join the Exploration! Christians are always being told to be “in the world but not of it.” But what does that really mean? For the Life of the World is a series of short films that offers a fresh perspective, by exploring oikonomia: God’s surprisingly beautiful plan for his creation, the world, and us.

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>.

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

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Congregational Tidings

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