

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL



# TIDINGS



*"You are welcome here!"*

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## THIS SUNDAY:

**September 28, 2025 10:30 AM**

Worship Service

**Scripture Text:**

Psalm 95

**Sermon:**

BLUEPRINT: the center

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

## September 21 Sermon Recap:

This week we explored Jesus' blueprint for life: love God and love your neighbor. This simple yet demanding call shapes how we live each day. We looked at four ways this vision takes form:

- Sit in God's presence and with others in empathy.
- Stand with courage for justice and compassion.
- Story means sharing honestly and listening vulnerably to shrink the empathy gap.
- Serve with your gifts so others may flourish.

Loving God and loving neighbor are not separate. They are inseparable. Together they give us a direction and a vision for life with God and one another.

## Reflection Question:

Where in your week ahead is God inviting you to sit, stand, story, and serve?

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## ONA UPDATE

Great news! Our congregational vote on becoming an Open and Affirming (ONA) church is complete. Out of 40 votes, we had 38 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstain. What a strong and joyful affirmation of who we are as a church!

Our ONA statement has already been sent to the UCC for approval. We'll keep you posted as soon as we hear back, but for now, let's celebrate this exciting step forward together!

## TIDINGS INFORMATION & OFFICE CLOSED

Please note that the deadline to submit an article for the October 1<sup>st</sup> Tidings is Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am. There will be NO Tidings on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

The church office will be closed September 30 through October 9<sup>th</sup> while Michelle is on vacation. Any urgent needs can be directed to Pastor Brandyn.

## NIN OFFERING

Gifts to Neighbors in Need (NIN) support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. This year we will collect the offering on Sunday, October 5.

## YOUTH HOCKEY NIGHT

Exciting news! There are still a few tickets left for the youth hockey game on September 27<sup>th</sup>! 🏒 Let Brandyn or Mackenzie know ASAP if you want to join the fun. Adults are welcome too, but youth will have first priority on tickets—don't miss out!

## UPCOMING UCC MEETINGS

**Saturday, October 11th** will be the **UCC Iowa Conference 2025 Annual Meeting** (9am-12pm) and **Conference Minister Installation** (2pm-4pm) at Plymouth Church UCC in Des Moines (4126 Ingersoll Ave). You can register [HERE](#) (Zoom option available).

The next **UCC Northeast Iowa Association Meeting** will be at 10am on **Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** at the Pleasant Valley UCC Church in Clarksville (31015 150<sup>th</sup> St.). Let Abbie Chronister know if you want to carpool.

## ANNUAL FALL CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY



Saturday, October 25th ~ 9am until 11am

First Baptist Church (434 Baltimore, W'loo)

Sponsored by the Church Row Neighborhood Coalition.

Free to those in need - Fall/winter clothing from child to adult sizes and bedding will be available.

Donations can be left in the Crossroads until Thursday, October 23rd.

# OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Please Note: Office Closed October 1 - 9, 2025</p>			<p>1</p> <p>3pm Job Found. 5:30pm Bells 6:15pm Dinner 6:45pm Adult Study 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm NAMI Class</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30am (Village Inn) Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5:30pm Food Bank Volunteering</p>	<p>8</p> <p>3pm Job Found. 5:30pm Bells 6:15pm Dinner 6:45pm Adult Study 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00pm NAMI Class</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>9:00am Women's Breakfast</p> <p>1-4pm Open House Rex Boatman</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00pm NAMI Presentation</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3pm Job Found. 5:30pm Bells 6:15pm Dinner 6:45pm Adult Study 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00pm NAMI Class</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30am (Village Inn) Men's Breakfast</p> <p>6pm Common Mtg 7pm Trustee Mtg</p>	<p>22</p> <p>3pm Job Found. 5:30pm Bells 6:15pm Dinner 6:45pm Adult Study 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm NAMI Class</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Fill Neighborhood Pantries</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>FALL festival</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00pm NAMI Presentation</p>	<p>29</p> <p>3pm Job Found. 5:30pm Bells 6:15pm Dinner 6:45pm Adult Study 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm NAMI Class</p>	<p>31</p> 	

## Anniversaries:

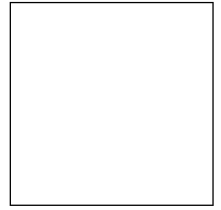
- 5 - John & Barb Mardis
- 7 - Dale & Barbara Hatinger
- 25 - Rich & Kay Thuesen

## Birthdays:

- |                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 - Greg Hoekstra   | 22 - Sarah Peters Pavelski |
| 3 - Ann Zellhoefer  | 24 - Emily Highnam         |
| Carol Towsley       | Landon Kelley              |
| 7 - Rex Boatman     | Marsha Lind                |
| 8 - Melissa Wells   | 26 - Pat Brown             |
| 9 - Lucas Backens   | Emily Lindaman             |
| 16 - George Brown   | 27 - Abbey Martens Abbott  |
| 22 - Bonnie Bessman | Andrew Yarrngo             |
| Jack Koch           |                            |

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
608 WEST FOURTH STREET  
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

# TIDINGS



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



## CROP Hunger Walk is Next **Sunday, October 5th!**

Our church is hosting the annual walk  
and we would love to see you here at  
FCUCC.

- **1pm hot dog lunch**
- **1:30 registration**
- **1:50pm send off**
- **2pm walk begins**

The CROP Hunger Walk is truly about  
us all fighting hunger in many ways  
throughout the world!!

**Come walk with us!**



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