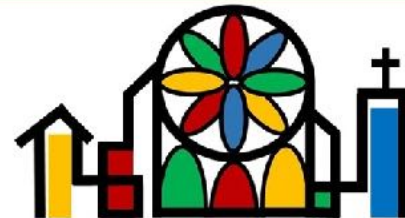


First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends
October 16, 2024



FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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

This Sunday:

October 20, 2024
10:30 am

Brandyn will present
the message:

Seeking God in Work

Using the text:
Amos 5:10-15

Worship Leader
Craig Driver

To watch last Sunday's
service you can

[<< Click Here >>](#)

*** **

Sunday, October 20:

Following Worship -
Stewardship Committee
Meeting

Wednesday, October 23:

5:30pm - Bells Practice
6:15pm - Dinner
6:45pm - *The Gathering*
7:00 - NAMI Presentation
7:30pm - Choir Practice

2024 FALL FESTIVAL

Our annual Fall Festival is **Sun., October 27th**. Activities may include Hayrides, face painting, apple bobbing, yard games, Hot Cocoa, popcorn, apple cider and Chili cook-off, Pumpkin carving/painting, guess the weight of the pumpkin and number of candy corn. More information to come.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

3-4pm. outside activities;
4-5pm. inside activities;
5-6pm. Chili Cook-Off



THIRD QUARTER TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you again, fellow First Congregational members. Thanks to your faithful giving we are on pace to complete our pledge commitments by the end of the year. Our boards and committees have done a good job of managing expenses and at the same time continuing the programming that we have come to expect. We have continued to rely on moderate financial help from the endowment fund. Of course, we wish to preserve and restore our endowment as much as is possible so that our church can thrive long into the future.

Soon we will begin our Stewardship campaign for 2025. Yes, another year has flown by. Stewardship Sunday will be November 10. Please continue your commendable support by completing your pledge payments for 2024 and giving thoughtful and prayerful consideration to your church pledge for 2025. These are difficult times financially since everyone is a victim of the inflation "tax", especially retired senior citizens who cannot ask for a raise. But inflation will affect our church budget as well; so please do the best that you can.

Michelle will be mailing out a statement detailing your 2024 contributions to date and unpaid pledge amounts. Please contact Michelle if you have questions regarding your statement or other church finances. God bless you.



~ *Craig Driver, Treasurer*

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MTG.

The Stewardship committee will meet following the worship service this Sunday, October 20th.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

Please consider joining us on **October 29th at 5:30pm** for the next opportunity at the Food Bank. We will be in the cold room so please dress accordingly.

Contact Diane Highnam to sign up.

WE CAN FILL THE PANTRIES

Next Sunday on October 20 we will share our canned good gifts during the service by bringing canned goods forward as part of our offering. Yes we CAN - fill the pantry. Please bring items like canned meals, soups, meats, beans, fruits and vegetables on Sunday. Pop Top cans are preferred.

Yes we CAN - fill the church and support our community.

CROP WALK

Please turn in any Crop Walk money to Michelle this week or drop in the offering on Sunday.

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. 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>).

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next NorthEast Iowa Association meeting is at **10am on November 2nd** at First Congregational in Hampton, IA (22 1st Ave. SW). The program will be on suicide Awareness. If you would like to carpool, text/email Abbie at (440) 478-0425 or email abbie.chronister@gmail.com.

ANNUAL FALL CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY

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

Sponsored by Church Row Neighborhood Please drop off donations in the Crossroads by Oct. 24.

Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity is looking for people to make a meaningful impact in our local community this season by volunteering.

As volunteers, you are the heart, the hands, and the hammers of Iowa Heartland Habitat. Volunteer teams of up to 8 people are needed to fill our fall schedule and to help get families into their homes for the holidays. We are asking you to volunteer for our Faith blitz event! Blitz days focused on specific teams and group in the Cedar Valley. We plan to have realtors, community candidates, women and minority business owners, civic clubs, farmers, and those with different faith backgrounds out to volunteer. Join us with putting your faith into action.

Would you be willing to join a team and participate in any of the following blitz days? Volunteer hours are 8:30am to 3:30 pm: Nov 18-23.

<https://iowaheartlandhabitatforhumanity.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=92675>

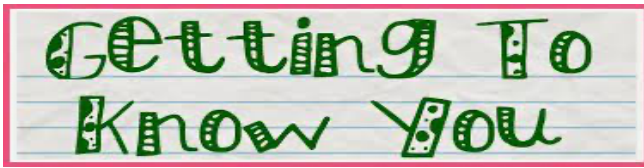
During your team's blitz day, we will have t-shirts for each volunteer, a special Habitat 101 chat to start the day, and a social media post highlighting your team.

In collaboration with other groups this fall, you are helping a family achieve stability, equity, and hope. You'll be making homeownership a reality for a family in your community. We are hoping to have you join us!

~ *Donita Clark*, Partner Engagement Specialist

Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity

803 West 5th Street, Waterloo, IA 50702 | office (319) 235-9946



GETTING TO KNOW: ANITA ALTENBAUMER

I grew up on a farm in southern Illinois. After high school, I started nursing school at Deaconess Hospital in St Louis. While there, I met my beloved, Jim, and we have spent the last 53 years making memories together. I am mother to Jacob and Hope. Some of you know Jacob, as he has volunteered with us at the Food Bank. Daughter Hope is a UCC pastor and lives with her family in northern Illinois. I'm a proud grandma to Henry and Margaret.

As a registered nurse, I worked in hospitals and clinics in Indiana, Ohio, Atlanta and the last 11 years at Peoples Community Health Clinic in Waterloo. Working with that diverse community was so rewarding.

Activities I enjoy are reading, historical fiction is my favorite. Walking, hiking nature trails especially in state and national parks. Travel anywhere is a treat, preparing for a trip to Scandinavian countries in October.

Activities at UNI, theater, music, volleyball and my favorite, women's basketball, are a delight. Twice a week, a friend and I volunteer at the Martin Center, an assisted living facility in Cedar Falls. Weather permitting, we sit outside with residents and share stories. I'm a bereavement volunteer at the Western Home as well. During the school year, I'm a pen pal with 5th graders at Lou Henry School.

Church has always been a part of my life, I grew up in the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church and became a member of the United Church of Christ when I married Jim. Spending time with friends and family, often around the table, discussing life issues and how our faith is affected has been a joy. My views of what church is, and should be, have changed over the years. All of these discussions and interactions have challenged my faith and I think strengthened it.

For the last 2 1/2 years, Jim and I have enjoyed life at the Western Home Community. My life is full and I am grateful.



JOB FOUNDATION



The Job Foundation has 27 middle schoolers this school year and needs help collecting items for their Job Store. The Job Store is the reward to the 6th-8th graders as they attend their financial lessons each week during the school year. They receive "Job Bucks" aka Monopoly money during each weekly lesson based on their participation, behavior, manners/respect shown, etc. At the end of each quarter, they can spend their earned "Job Bucks" at the Job Store as a reward. **Items Most Needed Are:**

Taki's snacks

King Size Candy- Chocolate/
Gummy's/etc

Soccer Balls/Basketballs/footballs

Fake Fingernails/fingernail stickers/
polish

Hair accessories/brushes

Bracelets- any kind

Make up

Blankets

New Winter hats/gloves

Snack Cakes

Personal care products: toothpaste/
body lotion/soap/deodorant/ etc

Flashlights

Batteries

Card Games

Board Games

Fun stuff for tweens/teens

Socks

Stocking Hats

**** Connie Jo Peirce is willing to shop for you if you would like to bring in a donation. She will shop quarterly so if you send a donation after this Friday, she will use it next quarter.**

Otherwise, all material donations should be brought to the Crossroads by October 22. Thank you!

Candlelight

The first of three scheduled Candlelight concerts was held last Saturday here at First Congregational. The next two Candlelight Concerts are scheduled for November 16 and December 14. For information and tickets go to:

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



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
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