

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL



# TIDINGS



*"You are welcome here!"*

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## THIS SUNDAY:

**November 23, 2025**

10:30 AM - Worship Service

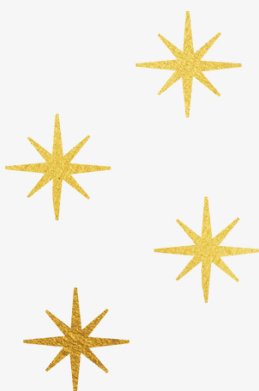
**Scripture Text:**

Ephesians 4:1-6, 32

**Sermon:**

Sent: in community

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Wednesday Night Activities -**

The last two Gatherings for the year will be tonight, November 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

5:30pm - Bells

6:15pm - Dinner: If you'd like to bring something, you can sign up [HERE](#).

6:45pm - Bible Study

7:30pm - Choir

## November 16 Sermon Recap:

Christian hospitality is more than kindness. It is the sacred act of welcoming others because Christ first welcomed us. Romans 15:7 calls us to acceptance, Romans 12:13 to tangible generosity, and Hebrews 13:1-2 to embrace the stranger. Hospitality is not an add-on to faith. It is a way of living that opens our lives to the presence of Christ in every person we meet.

## Reflection Question:

Who is God inviting you to make space for this week?

## CALLING CHURCH MEMBERS!

If you would like to serve on a board or a committee this upcoming year, step right up! It's a good way to get involved in church projects and a great way to be generous with your talents. There are openings in several of the groups. Please contact Diane (319-240-2849 or [diane.highnam@gmail.com](mailto:diane.highnam@gmail.com)). You can also contact the church office.

THANKS in advance!

## STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Stewardship Sunday was last Sunday. Thank you to those who have turned in your pledge card already. You can still bring your pledge card next Sunday and put it in the box in the library or you can bring or mail or call it in to Michelle in the office. We are working on the budget for 2026 and your support is so important! Thank you for being part of the FCUCC family!



## Adopt-a-Family



FCUCC is participating with Bunger again this year for Adopt a Family. Please consider making a donation by mailing your offering or put a check in the offering plate on Sundays with "AAF" in the memo. Thank you again to Connie Jo for shopping for us!

## TIDINGS NEWS:

Please note that the deadline to submit an article in next week's Tidings will be 9am on Monday, November 24. The office will be closed from November 26 through December 3 while Michelle is in Ohio for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**No Tidings on Wednesday, December 3.**



## SENIOR RECITAL

From the studio of Michelle Monroe, senior music student and our very own section lead, Spencer Anderson, will present a voice recital on December 8 at 8pm in Davis Hall (Gallagher Bluedorn, UNI). This event is free and open to the public. Let's support Spencer on his special night!



**Worship is at 10:00am and will be in place of our regular service.**

## CONDOLENCES



Our condolences to Bonnie Bessman at the loss of her brother recently. You can reach Bonnie at (319) 575-5334.

## SAVE THE DATE!



Please plan to stay after church this Sunday, **November 23**, to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Advent is a time of of preparation. Please plan to stay and help. Pizza lunch will be provided. Thanks!



## MITTEN TREE

Our tree will be up in the lobby soon. Please think about picking up an extra set of mittens or other items to keep families warm this winter. Please bring them to the church after Thanksgiving.

On December 14 the choirs and congregations of First Congregational, First United Methodist, and First Baptist churches will again combine in worship and music at First Baptist (434 Baltimore St, W'loo) to celebrate the Christmas season!

Please plan to join us for fellowship, worship, and community at this very special worship experience .





## DON'T FORGET THE PANTRY

Add something extra to your cart as you shop for your holiday meal. Extend some hospitality and share with the community. We have so much to be thankful for.

## FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

Thank you to this group of dedicated Food Bank volunteers who helped pack frozen breakfast sausage for our Cedar Valley neighbors. Our next volunteer dates are December 9 and January 13th, both at 5:30pm.

In Feb, we will gather from 11-1pm for a shift in the Food Pantry, restocking shelves and helping customers. Mark your calendars now!



## THE RETURN OF CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us for an afternoon of joyful singing and holiday cheer for all ages as we visit some of our homebound members to share the sounds of the season. We'll gather at the church on **Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 PM**, go make some joyful noises, then return for cookies and cocoa to warm up afterward. If you'd like to join in, please contact the church office to sign up so we know how many to expect.



## MET CHORALE CONCERT

The Met Chorale will be performing a Ceremony of Carols concert on **Sunday, December 7 at 3:00pm**.

The concert features a guest harpist, UNI Chamber Music, and a carol sing-a-long. Get in the holiday spirit and join us!

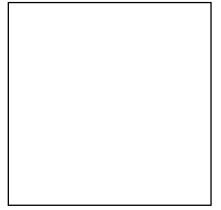
Individual Tickets - \$15  
Family Tickets - \$25  
Student Tickets - \$0  
(with Student ID)

[Buy tickets now!](#)



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.

## CHILDREN'S *Christmas Pageant*

**SUNDAY, DEC 21 AT 10:30AM**  
**ARRIVAL TIME FOR KIDS: 9:30**

*Do you have a kid or grandkid who's ready to don a halo, grab a shepherd's staff, or wag their little sheep tail? Our Christmas pageant is back! Interested? Contact the office for details!*

