

# First Congregational UCC

## TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends  
November 20, 2024



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

### This Sunday:

November 24, 2024  
10:30 am

Brandyn will present  
the message:

*The Wonder of God's Beauty*

Using the text:  
Psalm 65

Worship Leader  
Paul Greene

To watch last Sunday's  
service you can

[<< Click Here >>](#) (1st 1/2)

[<< Click Here >>](#) (2nd 1/2)

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Wednesday, Nov. 20

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

Sunday, November 24:

Sanctuary Decorating  
following worship



## JOIN US THIS SUNDAY TO HELP DECORATE THE SANCTUARY

Please plan to stay after the service this Sunday, **November 24th** to decorate the sanctuary. Music, a light lunch, and fellowship will be provided!



## EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

Here's an exciting opportunity to make a difference! We're looking for passionate individuals to join or transition to one of our many church boards. Whether you're exploring this for the first time or considering a new role/board, there's a place for you to grow, lead, and contribute.

Our boards cover a variety of needs and ministries, each playing a vital role in our church's mission. From planning and outreach to behind-the-scenes support, there's a spot that's just right for your gifts and interests.

Not sure where to start or want more details? Diane and Michelle are here to help! They'd love to chat, share more about the boards, and help you find the perfect fit.

We're excited about what God is doing in our community and hope you'll prayerfully consider being a part of it!



## SEND A CARING CARD

Take a minute to send a card to someone you have been missing at church. The caring cards materials are available in the library. Have a cookie and write a note to send a little joy.

## PANTRY

We give thanks to you- for all your shared gifts. Thank you for sharing your food gifts with others.

Remember the food pantry and bring things that are easy to make and eat such as cereals, instant potatoes, pancake mix, granola bars, canned veggies and fruits, rice, crackers, and canned meats.

## SAVE THE DATE

**December 10, 2024** - International Human Rights Day celebration with our Waterloo Human Rights Commission. More details to come soon.

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

On **Sunday, December 15th** the choirs and congregations of First Congregational Church, First United Methodist Church, and First Baptist church will again be combining 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 with our fellow Church Row congregations at this very special worship experience this Christmas season. This will be in place of our regular worship service. *Please note that the time of this worship is at 10:00am.*

## CHRISTMAS 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 our Growing Minds families warm this winter. Please bring them to the church after Thanksgiving.

## ADOPT A FAMILY

FCUCC will be participating with Bunker again this year. Please consider making a donation. You can mail your offering in or put an envelope or check in the offering plate on Sundays with "Adopt-a-Family" in the memo.

## JOB FOUNDATION 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 get to spend their "Job Bucks" quarterly. Connie Jo Peirce is willing to shop for store items if you would like to bring in a donation. Now would be a great time to donate so she can catch these items on sale! Please put your check in the offering on Sunday marked "Job Store" or mail/bring in your donation to Michelle in the office.

## LOVE INC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The vision of LoveInc's Christmas Stores is simple yet powerful: to give families in need the dignity and joy of choosing Christmas gifts at a discount. It's about more than presents—it's about empowering parents, sharing hope, and representing the love of Jesus. Imagine the impact of a parent finding just the right gift for their child, knowing they are supported and seen by their community!

They need volunteers to call registered families in their phone center. Remote options are available after training at their office. Each volunteer is provided a script of what to say, and how to schedule the family with one of their five stores. They have a staff member to train and assist volunteers.

You can schedule online [HERE](#) or contact them at [info@loveinccv.org](mailto:info@loveinccv.org).

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Our Church Row Coalition has picked Monday, December 2nd as a day to build! There are spots still open if you'd like to join with our neighbors. Please consider helping, even if that date doesn't work, you can check for additional opportunities by clicking [HERE](#).

## WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Young Special Needs Male needs caregiver...

Monday and Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. assist with community employment at Holiday Inn.

Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Go see a movie at the theater.

Thursday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Supervise exercising at Planet Fitness or going to the Dog Park weather permitting.

You do not have to work every day, but would need to work scheduled hours for the day you choose. \$16.28/hr. Call 319-235-3082 for info. Need clean criminal record.

# Getting To Know You

## GETTING TO KNOW: KELLY CONRAD

Hi! I was born and raised in western Nebraska at Scottsbluff.

I received a BS degree in Animal Science at University of Nebraska in Lincoln. I was interested in the meat industry and worked with several companies for about 25 yrs. I came to the Waterloo area in 1989.



I have two teenagers Jack and Jessica, and a daughter Danielle who is 33. I'm employed at the Target Distribution Center. I mow lawns, also, but I'm 62 so I'm slowing down on the mowing. I really like cooking on my pellet grill and sharing with friends and family.

*[Editor's note: Kelly also won First Place in our annual chili cook-off in October! Thanks for continuing to share your cooking with family and friends!]*



**Christmas in Walnut** is again partnering with Love INC, along with other partner churches, to organize the 16th annual Christmas Store at the Waterloo Boys & Girls Club. With your assistance, the Christmas Store will be stocked with donated gifts and toys. The gifts will not be given away, but will be sold at a 75-80% discount. This allows parents the opportunity to shop for their own children this Christmas. We believe the power of exchange helps affirm dignity, empowers parents, and builds capacity and community.

By partnering with Love INC, our goal is to work together cohesively in the community to offer shopping opportunities for people who could use assistance. Christmas in Walnut will provide around 360 tickets for shoppers this year. Christmas in Walnut is a three-fold event: The Christmas Store and The Kid Zone at the Boys & Girls Club, and a complimentary breakfast next door at Harvest Vineyard.

We'd love for you to consider volunteering for this event. Check out the website for many opportunities to volunteer - <https://www.christmasinwalnut.org/ciwwolunteer>. Let's get a group from First Congregational to support this wonderful event in the Walnut Neighborhood! See Diane for more details or to get signed up!

# It's time to order your Poinsettias!!!



It's that time of year! You may fill out this order form and place in the offering plate or call Michelle at the church office. Orders may be placed any time by Sunday, December 15th. (\$15.00 per plant)

We will be ordering live poinsettias and you may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the Christmas Eve service.

Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church (*write "poinsettia" in the memo*).

Poinsettia(s) given by: \_\_\_\_\_

"In Memory of...": \_\_\_\_\_

"In Honor of...": \_\_\_\_\_

*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  
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