

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL



# TIDINGS



*"You are welcome here!"*

## THIS SUNDAY:

**November 30, 2025**

10:30 AM - Worship Service  
1st Sunday of Advent

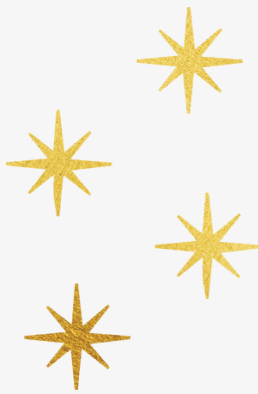
**Scripture Texts:**

Isaiah 40:1-5 & Luke 3:1-6

**Sermon:**

Sent: to prepare

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Admin. Office Closed**

November 26 - December 3  
(No Tidings Week of 12/3)

**Tuesday, December 2**

7:30am - Men's Breakfast @ Village Inn

**Wednesday, December 3**

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

**Sunday, December 7**

3:00pm - Met Chorale Concert

**Tuesday, December 9**

5:30pm - Food Bank Volunteering



Wishing our church family a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

### November 23 Sermon Recap:

This week we explored what it means to be sent to community through Ephesians 4. Paul reminds us that Christian community is where our calling becomes visible. A "worthy walk" is lived out not in isolation but in relationships shaped by humility, gentleness, patience, and love. Unity is a gift of the Spirit that we are called to protect through peace and grace. And the everyday practices of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness reflect the same mercy God has shown us in Christ. When we live this way, our shared life becomes a sign of God's kingdom and a witness to the world.

### Reflection Question:

Where is God inviting you to practice humility, patience, or forgiveness this week so that unity and love can grow in your community?



## 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!



## FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

Our next volunteer dates are Tuesday, December 9 and Tuesday, January 13th, both at 5:30pm.

## MITTEN TREE

Please consider bringing some warm mittens, gloves, scarves, hats for our Mitten tree. Donations can be placed in the donation bin in the Crossroads



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!



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

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

Tickets are \$15 individual, \$25 family and free with student ID. [Buy tickets now!](#)



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 .

**Worship is at 10:15am and will be in place of our regular service.**





## 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.



## 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!*



## HUNGRY? WHAT ABOUT THE PANTRY THIS WEEK?

As grocery prices continue to rise, more and more people may not know where the next meal is coming from. Please help your neighbors by bringing food for the pantry. Item ideas include peanut butter, rice, oatmeal packets, granola bars, crackers, snacks, nuts, baby formula, drink mixes, dried fruit and canned goods such as soups, meats, fruits, vegetables and meals. These can help fill the gap.. Drop your items off in the Crossroads. Thank you!



## CHRISTMAS DECORATING

A great big thank you to those who were able to stay and help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas last Sunday. Take a look around at the beauty of the Christmas season!



# December 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

<p><i>** Please note: the admin. office is closed 11/26 - 12/3</i></p>	1	2 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Village Inn (W'loo)	3 3pm Job Found. 6:15pm Dinner 6:45pm Gathering	4	5	6
7 10:30am Worship Service 3:00pm Met Chorale Concert	8 8:00pm Senior Recital for Spencer Anderson (Davis Hall, UNI)	9 5:30pm Food Bank Volunteering	10 Human Rights Event (Sanctuary)	11	12	13 9:00am Women's Breakfast @ Perkins
14 10:15am Christmas Cantata (First Baptist) <i>No Service Here</i>	15	16 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Village Inn (W'loo) 6pm Common Mtg. 7pm Trustee Mtg.	17 3pm Job Found. 5:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	18 6:30 & 8:45pm Fever Candlelight Concerts	19 6:00pm Growing Minds Christmas Program	20
21 10:30am Children's Christmas Pageant	22	23	24 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS <i>Office Closed</i>	26	27
28 10:30am Worship around Breakfast Tables	29	30				

## Anniversaries:

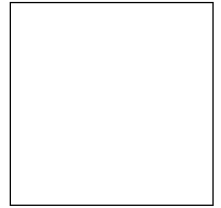
17 - Jeff & Cindy Thompson  
30 - Rocky & Mary Kay Petersen

## Birthdays:

2 - Vicki Ahrens  
7 - Jake Jensen  
10 - Peggy Essmann  
11 - Gyobanna Driver  
13 - Joel Jensen  
14 - Thomas Panicucci  
28 - Dee Vandeventer  
29 - Jeff Thompson  
30 - Jeff Driver  
31 - John Stevenson

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.



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

Please 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 14th. (\$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. Let's fill the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias this year! Order yours today!

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

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

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

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