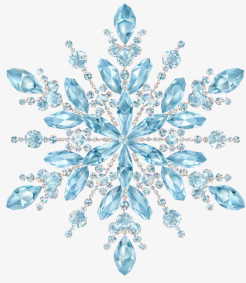


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL



# TIDINGS



*"You are welcome here!"*

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## THIS SUNDAY:

**December 21, 2025**

10:30 AM - Worship Service

Children's Christmas Pageant



*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Thursday, December 18**

6:30pm and 8:45pm - Candlelight Concerts

**Sunday, December 21**

10:30am - Children's Christmas Pageant

**Wednesday, December 24**

7:00pm - Christmas Eve Service

(Touch of Brass Handbells will perform from 6:30 to 7:00pm)



Something magical is returning...

*Children's  
Christmas Program!*

Join us this Sunday at 10:30am! Youth participating in the program should arrive at 9:30am.

# CHRISTMAS CANTATA



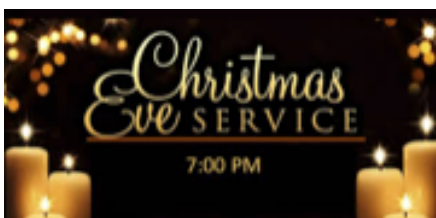
On Sunday, December 14th the choirs and congregations of First Congregational Church, First United Methodist Church, and First Baptist church combined in worship at First Baptist. The music was a beautiful way to celebrate the season with our neighbor churches and community. We look forward to continuing collaborations in the near future. Click [Here](#) to watch last Sunday's combined Christmas Cantata Service.

## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

The Christmas Fund (previously called Veterans of the Cross) has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. If you would like to give to this fund, please place a check marked "UCC Christmas Fund" in the offering plate this Sunday, December 21st.

## DEACON FUND

We are also collecting a Christmas offering to help us assist those in need in our community throughout the year. Offering envelopes will be in your bulletin this Sunday or you may mail in your donation.

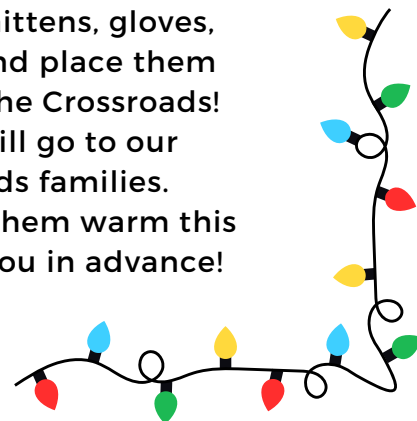


Please bring your family and friends to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Touch of Brass Bells will begin their lovely prelude at 6:30, so come early and grab a seat.

## MITTEN TREE



There is still time to bring donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and place them on our tree in the Crossroads! Donations will go to our Growing Minds families. Let's help keep them warm this winter. Thank you in advance!





### **Around the Table – December 28 at 10:30am**

Join us for our special end-of-year **Breakfast Table Worship** as we gather *around the table* to celebrate God’s faithfulness and look with hope toward the year ahead. This informal service includes breakfast, scripture shared at each table, a brief reflection, and time for conversation with those seated around you.

We invite everyone to **bring a breakfast dish to share**. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Wall so we can make sure the table is full and varied!

After we eat, we’ll join together in a joyful Christmas Hymn Sing—featuring all the Christmas songs we didn’t get to sing earlier this season. Just shout out your favorite, and we’ll sing a verse together!

Come hungry, come comfortable, and come ready to give thanks for all God has carried us through this year. All are welcome at the table.

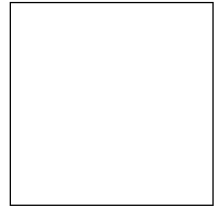
## **GROWING MINDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Growing minds would like to invite the First Congregational family to their Christmas program. This annual tradition typically hosts over 150 neighborhood families and children for a wonderful evening of children singing, dancing, and general merriment. The event is this Friday, December 19 at 6pm. A chili dinner will be served after the event in the basement.



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.



## Last Chance 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 Friday, December 19. *(\$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...": \_\_\_\_\_