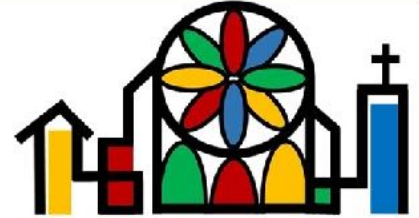


First Congregational UCC

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for our church family and friends

December 24, 2024



FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

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

This Sunday:

December 29, 2024

10:30am

Worship around
Breakfast Tables

To watch last Sunday's
service you can

[<< Click Here >>](#)

*** **

Tuesday, Dec. 24

6:30pm Bells Prelude

7:00pm Christmas Eve
Service



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us for our Christmas Eve service tonight!
Our Touch of Brass Handbell Choir will ring from 6:30 to
7:00pm with our church service beginning right after.

Brandyn

Michelle

Merry Christmas from your
First Congregational UCC Staff!

Luke

Hudson

Kyle

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH SERVICE

There is still time to sign up tonight in the library for this Sunday's *Worship around Breakfast Tables Potluck!* You can also call the office on Thursday to sign up.

We hope you join us for worship this Sunday!

Advent

DEVOTIONAL

Week Four: Love

enter

Matthew 1:22-23

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')."

join

As we approach Christmas, we are reminded that the birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of God's long-awaited promise. The prophecy given to Isaiah centuries earlier was fulfilled in a small, humble child, born to bring God's presence into the world in a new and intimate way. Immanuel, "God with us," is the heart of Christmas—the living promise that God has not abandoned us but has come near.

share

How does the name "Immanuel" impact your understanding of God's presence in your life?

What does it mean to you that God chose to be with us in such a personal way?

Pastor Brandyn

Advent

DEVOTIONAL

Christmas Day

enter

Luke 2:16-20

"So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

join

On this day, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! His coming is the fulfillment of God's greatest promise. The shepherds, upon hearing the good news, couldn't help but share it with others. Today, we too are called to share the joy and hope of Christ's birth with the world.

share

How does the birth of Jesus deepen your faith and your understanding of God's love?

In what ways can you share the good news of Christ's birth with someone today?

Pastor Brandyn



*Happy
Holidays!
~Tim Ahrens*

On behalf of the Board of Spiritual Growth and Programs, we would like to thank the Congregation for their support and contributions to Adopt a Family and the Mitten Tree. This year we provided Christmas Gifts for two Families: A father, his 6th-grade daughter and his mother who are new to the Cedar Valley. And the other is a single mother and her daughter. Both families are struggling with very little. We made their Christmas much brighter with our donations. A special thank-you to Connie Jo for doing the shopping and those members who helped with the wrapping! The Mitten tree items were donated to the Growing Minds (Grin & Grow) Families. Their director, Ed, his staff and the families expressed their gratitude to our congregation!





January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>** Please Note: More Wednesday Night and other activities will be advertised on Sundays and in future Tidings as plans are finalized.</p>			1 New Years Day (Office Closed)	2	3	4
5 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	6	7 7:30 Men's Bkfst @ Village Inn	8 3-4:30pm Job Foundation 5:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	9 9:00 Cedar Valley Interfaith	10	11 9:00 Women's Bkfst @ Perkins
12 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	13	14	15 3-4:30pm Job Foundation 5:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	16	17	18
19 10:30 Worship & Sunday School	20	21 7:30 Men's Bkfst @ Village Inn 6:00 Trustee Mtg.	22 3-4:30pm Job Foundation 5:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	23	24 Fill Neighborhood Pantries	25
26 10:30 Worship & Sunday School <i>Annual Meeting following Worship</i>	27	28	29 3-4:30pm Job Foundation 5:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	30	31 	

BIRTHDAYS



1
Joanne Lane
Jim Thiele
6
Barb Mardis
Julie Thoreen
10
Lois Johnson
David Young
12
Brad Highnam

13
Ted Martens
14
Megan Panicucci
15
Jesse White
Charlie Mejia
23
Jayne Slaughter
24
Steve Maurer

28
Dan Hummel
Craig Mahood
29
Connie Stevens
Zack Steva
30
Luke Overton
31
Craig Holdiman



First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

Place
Stamp
Here

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

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

On Sunday, December 15th 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.

