**Straight to the Point
October 17, 2019**

**Prayer for the Week**

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace in all things,
I want to thank you for the gift of life, for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth that nurtures life,
and for the love of family and friends without which there would be little happiness in life.
I thank you for the beauty of creation of this great Earth, for the joy that the ear may hear,
for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,
and for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.
Everything in my life, and the life that surrounds me
was drawn and created by Your own hand. For this, I am grateful. Amen.

**Daily Gratitude Moment**
At the end of the day, consider:
How did you see the beauty of creation today?

**We are grateful for those who served us last week:**
Jim France for serving as usher.
Ginger France for serving as worship leader.
Susan Johnson for serving as scripture reader                                                      The Moving on Boxes Team for providing snacks for fellowship.

 **Crop Hunger Walk on October 20th**
The 50th Annual Crop Walk will be held on October 20, 2019. If you are interested in walking, see Ellen Shaner at 712-223-0156 or email all4hawks@cableone.net for donation envelopes. If you would like to donate, also please contact Ellen Shaner. The Walk starts at 1pm with check-in just beforehand at Grace Methodist Church on Morningside Ave.They are also collecting canned goods, so you can donate those too. If you have any questions, see Ellen.

**Check out our new website!**
Thanks to Todd Siefker and Jerrod Kiernan we have a new website:

[https://www.1stcongregationalucc.org/](https://firstcongregational.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eebc23259ad371a898720be0a&id=53f931c3d3&e=de62371b35)

It’s still in process and we’re not “google-ized” yet, but we will be soon!

 **Sermon Series: Making a Life - Christianity for the Long Haul**

*“I’ve learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.”* (*Maya Angelou)*
This week we are continuing our 13-week series on Christian living. For centuries, there have been spiritual practices that have sustained Christians through challenging times. This week our focus will be on the practice of Prayer.
Each week there will be handouts accompanying this newsletter (and available in hard copy on Sundays) so that you have the option to create your own Spirituality Binder/File.
This link will get you to the pages on Prayer for your Spirituality Binder/File:
[https://www.1stcongregationalucc.org/](https://firstcongregational.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eebc23259ad371a898720be0a&id=31f256594d&e=de62371b35)
Also, **beginning October 11th, on Fridays from 1:30 to 3:00 pm** we will be meeting at the Pierce Street Café to consider the spiritual practice for the coming Sunday.

**Eat and Trick-or-Treat!**
**Thursday, October 31st – 5 pm to 7 pm**
Free Family Meal
(Taverns & Hot Dogs, Chips, Juice)

Trick-or-Treating throughout the Church building
Games and Prizes!

Hosted by the FCUCC Missions and Education Committees.
'All donations (including cash) are greatly appreciated.'

**Thank you, thank you!**
Thank you from the Moving-on-Box and Missions committees for all the 'treats' and cash donations contributed last Sunday during our 'Treat-for-Treats coffee fellowship. Your continuing support of this important ministry is greatly appreciated!

**“Moving On Box” needs for October**
**While you're at the store, pick up something extra for those in need**

**Most needed: 2- or 3- quart saucepans**     Can Openers
Towels                                                            Cookie Sheets
Cake Pans                                                      Dishes – plates/bowls
Dishtowels/dishcloths                                     Frypans

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
**Ongoing Education Opportunities**
**CHILDREN**(3 years – 3rd Grade)
**NURSERY:**
Sundays, 10:00 to 11:30 am
A well-appointed, happy space is staffed and available for young ones as an alternative to the staying in the sanctuary on Sundays, if that’s helpful. Care is also available at other times, as needed.

**WORSHIP ACTIVITY BOXES**
Pick one up on the way into the sanctuary for some quiet, in-the-pew activities.

**GODLY PLAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL STORY-TIME**
Offered during worship.
After the choir anthem, children will be invited to the Nursery for Bible-based stories and guided play and crafts.

**YOUTH**(Ages 8th Grade – College**)**
**THE ADULTING SERIES**
Meeting monthly after worship on Sundays.
Monthly sessions will include meal and social time, and education, with topics ranging from:  “Basic Car Car” (changing a tire, filling low tires, wiper replacement, using a map), “Sewing and Hemming,” “Understanding Finances,” “Preparing a Fine Meal,” “What to Do When You Feel Sick,” and “Traveling.”
Coming up next: “Halloween Fun.”
Youth will also be working to plan a mission trip.

**ADULTS**
**ADMIRATION SERIES**
Meeting after worship on Sundays (~12:00 noon), in the Parlor.
This is an interactive series for adults and older youth led by our Intergenerational Education Coordinator, Todd Seifker. Each week we will be introduced to ancient and modern examples of Christ-like, faithful living.

**MAKING A LIFE – CHRISTIANITY FOR THE LONG HAUL**
**Fridays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Pierce Street Café (Begins October 11th)**
*“I’ve learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.”* (*Maya Angelou)*
These sessions will complement the current series on the spiritual disciplines that have supported Christian living for centuries. With the weekly handouts (sent with this newsletter or available in hardcopy on Sunday morning) participants will be able to create their own Spirituality Binder (or online file).

**BEER & THEOLOGY**
Sundays, 4:00 pm to 6:00ish pm at Jackson Street Brewing
Gather for a discussion of current theology, philosophy, and life. Led by Chris Schwerin.

**JOY (Just Older Youth) CLUB – Aging Gracefully for Everyone**
Meeting in the early evening, every 1-2 months
Social time, education on topics relevant to aging–up gracefully, healthily, and happily. Each session will include dinner, social time, entertainment/education and devotion.
Although the topics are focused on some age groups, everyone is invited! Bring friends
and neighbors! If it interests you, or you have some expertise, please join us in providing lessons and learning. Contact the CE Crew if you have questions, suggestions or time to help!

**Emergency & Hospital Visits**

When you or a family member are sick, in the hospital, or recovering -- or if you have an emergency -- here’s who to call for care

Jan Nowlen – 712-490-5328
Rev. Anne Dilenschneider is available on Friday and Sunday – 605-906-5404
Rev. Elaine Miller is available on Wednesday and Thursday – 712-258-8278
Donna Popp is available on Monday, Tuesday, & Saturday – 712-251-5535

**Prayer Concerns**

Ailene Hutton                                      Brian Van Berkum
Jason Olson                                        Marly Van Berkum’s sister
Jan Nowlen and family                       Bob and Leone Eidsome
Anne Cleghorn

**The Gift of Hospitality**
Consider making God’s love visible by signing up to provide Sunday morning hospitality. This is an important time for all of us to touch base with each other. If we all volunteer 2-3 times each year, there will be more than enough to share!

**A message from the FCUCC Communication Team**
The FCUCC Communication Team needs 3 more people to serve as members of our Church's Welcoming Team. This involves making a connection with our guests (follow-up note, personal contact) to let them know they are welcome. Please contact Dick Owens at owensrichard24@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this team.

**Stewardship Letter to the Congregation**

           To all of our friends at First Congregational UCC of Sioux City, a sincere Thank You for your continued support of our community and projects.
            As 2019 rolls on, we are asking everyone to continue to support us, and increase your giving wherever possible. Income is down this year, and we need your support to continue to provide ministry and programming for the future. I want to confirm that we have generous donations from members, and we appreciate everything that we receive. However, with the low attendance this year, the offerings are overall very low in comparison to past years.
            Please give as much as you can, whenever you can, so that we can continue our Missions, Charitable Giving, and expand our current programming for children and adult Christian Education programs, and more fun events like Breathing Space, Vegan Cooking classes, support of local agencies, and our ongoing search for a new pastor.
            In addition to our normal passing of the collection plate every Sunday, we also offer many other ways to give to First Congregational UCC. These include mailing in checks, dropping off payments anytime during the week, setting up automatic payments from your bank, and we are introducing a new system for us in an App called [Tithe.ly](https://firstcongregational.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eebc23259ad371a898720be0a&id=c717ea4c18&e=de62371b35).
            Tithely is available as an app on your smart phone or tablet, and available online as a website as well.  [https://get.tithe.ly](https://firstcongregational.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eebc23259ad371a898720be0a&id=8096d894ef&e=de62371b35) is the site to go to to sign up on your computer, or you can simply search for [Tithe.ly](https://firstcongregational.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eebc23259ad371a898720be0a&id=a19d33423e&e=de62371b35) on your App Store for Apple or Android products.  It is a free app, and it’s active now. We have set up an account so that you can go into that app, put in your card or bank info, and give that way as well. That app does charge us a small fee for transactions, and you can choose to pay the fee for us or not. (Example, if you give $100, it costs us $3.30 to process, so if you check the box labeled “pay fees”, you would give $103.30 and the Church would receive $100. If you don’t click that box, then you would give $100 and the Church would receive $96.70).
            And, if you want to help out but monetary giving is not feasible at this time, you can still volunteer and/or join any of our committees to help us grow and find new missions.
            And, as always, please, tell your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors and acquaintances to check out First Congregational UCC anytime! We appreciate any new folks that we can meet and offer them the opportunity to join our community.
If you have questions, please contact myself, Jeff Stellish (treasurer), Chris Schwerin (bookkeeper), or any other member of the Church Council.

Thank you!
Jeff Stellish, Treasurer
treasurer@firstcongregational.net

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**This Week at FCUCC**

Tuesday,10/15                          9:00 am – Stretch & Flex
                                                 12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline
Wednesday, 10/16                   10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group
                                                 6:00 pm – Women’s AA Group Meeting
Thursday, 10/17                       9:00 am – Stretch & Flex
                                                 7:00 pm – Alcoholics Anonymous
Friday, 10/18                           1:30 pm – Making a Life @ Pierce Street Café
Sunday, 10/20                          9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal
                                               10:30 am – Worship followed by refreshments
                                                12:00 pm – Adult Class
                                                1:00 pm – Crop Walk
                                       4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing
                                                6:00 pm – Church Council Meeting
                                                6:00 pm – Zen Meditation Group
 Monday, 10/21                       7:00 pm – Zen Meditation Group
Tuesday,10/22                        9:00 am – Stretch & Flex
                                              12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline

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**Church Office Hours                        Church Contact Information**
Mon & Fri   4:00pm-8:00pm                          712-239-3385                                Wed   4:00-4:30                                  office@firstcongregational.net
Tues-Thurs  1:00pm-5:00pm
Sat    2:00pm-6:00pm (call ahead)

**Church Staff:**

**Rev. Dr. Anne Dilenschneider**, Interim Pastor               605-906-5404 (cell)
leadwithsoul@mac.com

*Pastor Anne will return calls, texts, and emails as soon as she can. She is available in the office on Friday mornings (9:30 am -12:30 pm); she leads Bible Study and visits Friday and Sunday afternoons.*

**Maddie Schwerin**, Church Administrator              office@firstcongregational.net
**Todd Siefker**, Intergenerational Coordinator         tsiefker@gmail.com
**Rick Darrow**, Organist
**Nate Hettinger**, Choir Director                              hettingern@morningside.edu

**Church Directory**

**If you are interested in receiving an updated 2019 church directory please contact our church administrator Maddie at** office@firstcongregational.net **or call 712-239-3385.**

**The “Straight to the Point” Weekly Deadline is Tuesday at Noon!**