



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

4600 Hamilton Boulevard • Sioux City, Iowa 51104 • 712.239.3385  
www.1stcongregationalucc.org • office@firstcongregational.net

## Straight to the Point

December 10, 2019

### Prayer for the Week

#### Lighting the Advent Wreath at Your Home

#### JOY

The third week of Advent we are half-way through our waiting – and because we are rejoicing, the candle we light is pink. This week, we remember the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her she would give birth to a child, Jesus, who would save all people. Joy is the gift we know when we trust and live in the unconditional love God for us.

God wants all of us to experience deep joy. When Jesus was born, God's angel announced to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people – for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." As we light this third candle, we remember that Jesus came to bring God's eternal joy to all people.

*(Light the first and second purple candles, and the pink candle.)*

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming by remembering he came from God for every person we meet, wherever we are. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

### **We are grateful for those who served us last Sunday morning:**

Usher: Darin Johnson

Worship Leader: Ruth Holder

Scripture Reader: Ellen Shaner

Communion Servers: Suzanne Johnson, Eileen Helvig, John Kiernan, Jan Nowlen

Sunday School: Suzanne Johnson

Fellowship: Anne & Gary Shaner and Johnsons

## Prayer Concerns

Ailene Hutton  
Jason Olson  
Bob and Leone Eidsmoe  
Neil Stuart Rosenberg  
Donna Baird

George Owings  
Marly Van Berkum's sister  
Katherine Trautman  
Arlene Baldes

## You're Invited to the Book Group Holiday Gathering Thursday, December 12th at 9:30 am

It's a Holiday Gathering!!! The FCUCC Book Club will be hosting a holiday gathering open to everyone in the congregation! Please come join in fellowship and treats on Thursday, December 12 at 9:30 am. The group meets in the church library and will bring holiday favorite treats to share. We hope to see you there!

## Advent Study @ Pierce Street Coffee Works Fridays, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

From 1:30 to 3:00 pm we will meet to reflect on the week's Advent Scriptures. This season we will allow art to be our springboard into the text. The art pieces for each week's discussion are attached to this newsletter and available on our website at: [www.1stcongregationalucc.org](http://www.1stcongregationalucc.org)

December 13	Isaiah 61:1-4
December 20	Matthew 2:1-12

## Advent Sermons are Available on the FCUCC Website [www.1stcongregationalucc.org](http://www.1stcongregationalucc.org)

## Triskaidekaphobia & Ugly Sweaters! FCUCC Foodie Group Eats at Table 32 on December 13th

This holiday season you *don't* have to suffer from Triskaidekaphobia just because December 13<sup>th</sup> is on a Friday. No! Face your fear and join the church Foodie Group at Table 32 in downtown Sioux City (no "road trip" this month). We'll be meeting at 5:30 pm to enjoy food and camaraderie. As always, it would be a good idea to wear your "stretchy pants" BUT you could also pair them up with an "ugly Christmas sweater," so appropriate and festive for this time of year! If you are interested, please let Constance Popken know so she can give the restaurant a rough count of how many people might be coming. Please consider celebrating this Holiday Season in a fun and delicious way with church friends!

## This Week at FCUCC

Tuesday, 12/10	9:00 am – Stretch & Flex
Wednesday, 12/11	10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group 6:00 pm – Women's AA Group Meeting
Thursday, 12/12	9:00 am – Stretch & Flex 9:30 am – Book Club Holiday Gathering

Friday, 12/13	1:30 pm – Study at Pierce Street Coffee Works 5:30 pm – FCUCC Foodie Group at Table 32
Saturday, 12/14	7:00 pm – AA Group Meeting
Sunday, 12/15	9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class 9:00 am – Missions Committee Meeting 9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am – Worship & Refreshments afterwards 3:00 pm – Zen Meditation Event 4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing 6:00 pm – Council Meeting
Monday, 12/16	12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline 6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group
Tuesday, 12/17	9:00 am – Stretch & Flex

## New Members will Join our Church on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

New members will be joining our congregation on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.  
If you are interested in joining, let Pastor Anne know.

## Our Christmas Giving Tree Gifts are Due this Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

Giving holiday gifts to the clients of Siouxland Mental Health has been a long-standing tradition at FCUCC, and a great way for us to share the spirit of Christmas. Here's how to participate:

- 1) Select a tag from the tree, sign your name on the list.  
Put your name next to the number that corresponds with your tag.  
**SAVE YOUR TAG!**
  - 2) Purchase and wrap your gift. Tape the tag securely onto the gift.
  - 3) Return your gift to the church on or before December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Suggested giving amount: \$25

## Sanford Tex-Mex Fundraiser – Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>

Come join us for the fourth annual Navarrete's Tex-Mex Taco Feed and silent auction at the Sanford Center Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Serving will be from 11:00am – 7:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact: 712-252-0581. Tickets are \$10 each.

## Adopt a Poinsettia for Christmas!

The Church has been decorated with poinsettias this week.  
20 poinsettias are available as a small fund raiser for FCUCC.  
You can adopt the poinsettia of your choice.

There are be two sizes: 24" for \$20.00 and 12" for \$10.00.

**Please let the office know if you would like to adopt a poinsettia.**

As always, in January, you may take your poinsettia home or give them away.

## Christmas Worship

Please save these dates and times on your calendar:

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**  
**December 29<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am Carol Service**

## HyVee grocery receipts and General Mills box tops

There's a collection box for these items in the narthex (the church entry) –  
The box is wrapped in balloon paper.  
We will donate these to a local school!

## 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

## Christian Education Opportunities for All Ages

### CHILDREN (3 years – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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." Youth will also be working to plan a mission trip.

Date to be Set: Our focus will be on simple repairs (sewing buttons, etc.)

January 2<sup>nd</sup>: Our focus will be on Finances and Goal-setting.

## ADULTS

### ADMIRATION SERIES

Meeting before worship at 9:00 am on Sundays 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 LONG HAUL LIVING

Fridays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Pierce Street Coffee Works

*“I’ve learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.” (Maya Angelou)*

These sessions are a complement to the current series on the spiritual disciplines that have supported Christian living for centuries. With the weekly handouts (sent with this newsletter or available on our church website, or in hardcopy form 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!

**Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>: Our JOY topic will be Winter Survival: Food, Exercise & Safety.**

## The Tithe.ly App Option



The financial support you provide allows us to continue our Missions, Charitable Giving, and Intergenerational Christian Education programs. It also helps us support local agencies, the groups that use our facilities, and our search for a new pastor.

In addition to the Sunday offering, there are other ways to give to our church. These include mailing in checks, dropping off payments anytime during the week, and setting up automatic payments from your bank.

**You can also contribute through a simple App called [Tithe.ly](https://get.tithe.ly).**

Tithe.ly is our online, app and web-based giving system. Tithe.ly is convenient because it:

- Accepts debit, credit or bank account info
- Can be set up for a one-time payment, or automatic regular payments
- Can be changed at any time (there are no contracts or commitments)

Go to <https://get.tithe.ly> to sign up online, or download the app on any iPhone/Apple or Android device. Of course, we can always take cash, and checks made payable to First Congregational Church.

(Note: Tithe.ly does charge us a small fee for using the app, but you can opt to pay that fee yourself.)

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](mailto:treasurer@firstcongregational.net)

## Church Office Hours

### Winter Break Office Hours Change

Mon-Friday: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

## Church Contact Information

712-239-3385

[office@firstcongregational.net](mailto:office@firstcongregational.net)

[office@firstcongregational.net](mailto:office@firstcongregational.net)

Website: [www.1stcongregationalucc.org](http://www.1stcongregationalucc.org)

## Church Staff:

**Rev. Dr. Anne Dilenschneider**, Interim Pastor

605-906-5404 (cell)

[leadwithsoul@mac.com](mailto: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 (10:00 am -12:30 pm); she leads Bible Study and visits Friday & Sunday afternoons.*

**Maddie Schwerin**, Church Administrator

[office@firstcongregational.net](mailto:office@firstcongregational.net)

**Todd Siefker**, Intergenerational Coordinator

[tsiefker@gmail.com](mailto:tsiefker@gmail.com)

**Rick Darrow**, Organist

[darrowpipe@aol.com](mailto:darrowpipe@aol.com)

**Nate Hettinger**, Choir Director

[hettingern@morningside.edu](mailto:hettingern@morningside.edu)

## Offering a Warm Welcome

### A message on behalf of the FCUCC Communication Team

Remember to welcome our visitors – before and after worship.

The warm welcome and care we give our visitors is a sign of our own belief that we are loved by God.

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