

4600 Hamilton Boulevard • Sioux City, Iowa 51104 • 712.239.3385

www.1stcongregationalucc.org • office@firstcongregational.net

**Straight to the Point**

**December 24th, 2019**

**Prayer for the Week**

**Alaskan Christmas Prayer**

When we give each other

Christmas gifts in God's name,

let us remember that God has given us

the sun and the moon and the stars,

and the earth with its forests

and mountains and oceans

and all that lives and moves upon them.

God has given us all green things

and everything that blossoms and bears fruit

and all that we quarrel about

and all that we have misused

and to save us from our own foolishness,

from all our sins,

God came down to earth

and gave us Himself. Amen.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." MLK, Jr

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

Worship Leader: Chris Schwerin

Scripture Reader: Steve Lundberg

Fellowship: Jim and Ginger France

Ushers: Darrin Johnson

Flutist: Judy Walker

Special Music: Steve Lundberg

**Prayer Concerns**

Ailene Hutton Kevin Knepper’s father
Jason Olson Marly Van Berkum’s sister

Bob and Leone Eidsmoe Katherine Trautman

Neil Stuart Rosenberg Arlene Baldes

Donna Baird

**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

**Advent Sermons are Available on the FCUCC Website**

www.1stcongregationalucc.org

**This Week at FCUCC**

Tuesday,12/24 5:00 pm – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, 12/25 Christmas Day, Merry Christmas!

Friday, 12/27 **Canceled** Study at Pierce Street Coffee Works

Saturday, 12/28 7:00 pm – AA Group Meeting

Sunday, 12/29 9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class

9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal

 10:30 am – Worship & Refreshments afterwards

 4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing

Monday, 12/30 12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline

 6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group

Tuesday, 12/31  9:00 am – Stretch & Flex

**Christmas Worship**

Please save these dates and times on your calendar:

**December 24th – 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**

**December 29th – 10:30 am Carol Service**

**Christmas Eve Offering**

Our offering that evening will go to the Veterans of the Cross.

This is a fund for UCC Conference pastors who served before there was a pension plan.

**Poinsettia Donations**

Thank you to all who helped to provide the beautiful poinsettias this Christmas season!

Donna Popp, Anne Shaner, John Kiernan, Jan Nowlen, Barb Knepper, Michele Schwerin, Jim and Ginger France, Penny Fee, Ruth Holder, Leon Koster, Jeff and Kevin McCarthy and Julie Ducommun.

**Annual Staff Appreciation**

During worship on December 29th we will be taking a special offering

to show our gratitude for our staff’s effort during the past year.

**Giving Tree**

Thank you to all who donated gifts to the Giving Tree this Christmas Season, your contribution is very much appreciated. A special thanks to the Missions Committee, Ginger France and Donna Popp who helped to organize this event and transport gifts.

**JOY – Just Older Youth – January 9th**

Our JOY topic will be Winter Survival: Food, Exercise & Safety.

**All Church Potluck & Annual Meeting – Sunday January 19th**

Our Annual Church Potluck & Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 19th.

We will be voting on new officers and approving our budget and committees for the coming year.

**REMINDER: All committee reports and other additional annual reports are to be turned in to the church administrator by Friday, January 10th at** **office@firstcongregational.net**

**Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Concert Rehearsals**

Rehearsals will be held at our church at 6:00 pm on Thursdays, January 9th and 16th.

**Everyone is invited to come sing with this community choir!**

Sandra Pearson will be conducting.

**Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Concert**

The Community Concert will be held at our church at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 20th.

Doors will open at 6:00 pm

Our church will be providing refreshments afterwards. Cookies and bars will be welcome.

**FCUCC Serves at the Soup Kitchen**

Monday, January 27th, is our turn to serve at the Soup Kitchen.

Save that date so you can be part of the FCUCC team!

**On Those Sunday Snow Days**

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If you’re unable to come (or worship is canceled) our bills continue to come in. You can help us by mailing in your check, dropping off a payment during the week, or set up an automatic payment from your bank. **You can also contribute through a simple app called****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 contacts or commitments)

Go to http://get.tithe.ly to sign up online, or download the app on any iPhone/Apple or Android device.

**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 – 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 Care” (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 2nd: 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.

**PIERCE STREET ADVENT SERMON STUDY**

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

We 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

**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 9th: Our JOY topic will be Winter Survival: Food, Exercise & Safety.**

**Church Office Hours Church Contact Information**

**Winter Break Office Hours Change** 712-239-3385
Mon-Friday: 1:00pm – 5:00pm office@firstcongregational.net

www.1stcongregationalucc.org

**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 (10:00 am -12:30 pm); she leads Bible Study and visits Friday & Sunday afternoons.*

**Maddie Schwerin**, Church Administrator  office@firstcongregational.net
**Todd Siefker**, Intergenerational Coordinator   tsiefker@gmail.com

**Rick Darrow**, Organist darrowpipe@aol.com

**Nate Hettinger**, Choir Director 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!**