



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4600 Hamilton Boulevard • Sioux City, Iowa 51104 • (712) 239-3385  
www.1stcongregationalucc.org • office@firstcongregational.net

## Straight to the Point

June 2, 2020

### Prayer for the Week

From Pentecost Sunday through the first Sunday in September, in this time of national grief over COVID-19 and racial injustice, our Lutheran and Episcopal sisters and brothers invite each of us to include this ecumenical prayer as part of our daily personal spiritual practice:

#### ***A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God***

*God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence  
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.*

*Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.*

*Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:*

*a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors,  
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.*

*Wherever and however we gather,  
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,  
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

-- Pastor Anne

## **Communion Sunday is June 7, 2020 Let Us Know if Communion Can Come to You!**

We will celebrate Communion on June 7<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of the month. If you are joining us on Zoom, do plan to have bread and juice/wine available for the Communion blessing.

If you are unable to join us on Zoom for Worship, we will make sure Communion comes to you. **Please contact Jan Nowlen or Tiffany in the Church Office if you would like Communion brought to your home!**

## Prayer Concerns

Marly Van Berkum's sister  
Leone Eidsmoe & family  
Mike and Deb Timblin  
Tia Iddings  
Greg Johnson  
Roberta Pendleton's family

Betty Schwerin  
Katherine Trautman  
Ginger France's sister  
Mark Schmedinghoff  
Greg Gregerson's father  
The Bilka Family

## Checking in With Each Other

Remember to “check in” with the person(s) before you and after you in the last church directory. We want to make sure everyone is connected. If you have not completed the Church Directory Update form for our new Directory, now is the time! Help us keep in touch with you during this time.

The form for the directory is also attached to this week's email and on the church website at [www.1stcongregationalucc.org](http://www.1stcongregationalucc.org). Please fill out the form and email it to Tiffany, the church administrator, at [office@firstcongregational.net](mailto:office@firstcongregational.net). You may also print and mail it in, if necessary.

## Communion on June 7, 2020 Let Us Know if Communion Can Come to You!

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## Prayer for Our Way Forward

**The spiritual discipline for our Church Council for April to June is Discernment. Everyone can join the Council in prayer – here's how:**

The question to lay before God each day is:

“Why did God call together — here and now, in 2020 — this group of elders who are engaged in the arts, the community, and personal and spiritual growth?”

Then become silent and listen for the still, small voice of God – the voice that says “do not be afraid” to leave the known ways behind and speaks of the new life and opportunity we are being led into.

For your daily prayer time (30-60 minutes), you may want to:

Sit – dropping down below your opinions and your known experience — and listen for the revelation that is coming to you

Walk – engaging your natural breath and rhythm – and observe the revelation that is coming to you

Attend to the invitation you are beginning to hear in the stillness.

It should be larger than anything you can control or direct.

You will not know the way . . .

**What you bring to the next meeting will be something brand new.**

It will not be something you have shared at Council before.

It will not be something you know how to do.

**It will be something you are willing to give yourself to wholeheartedly –  
and it will necessitate your personal and full participation.**

As one colleague reminded me 9 years ago when I left California, after living there 31 years, to move to a new life in North, and then South, Dakota:

“The proof of God’s leading is that we shall end up where we never intended to go.”

*-- Pastor Anne*

**Thanks!**

Thanks to Michele and Chris Schwerin, Suzanne and Darrin Johnson, Greg Gregerson and Earl Miller for arranging our graduates’ parade! And thanks to Barb Knepper and Jeff Stellish, who helped to facilitate the Scholarship program. It was wonderful to hear Austin, Eli, Phoebe’s essays and plans on Graduation Sunday.

**FCUCC is Closed Until at Least September 1st  
UCC Churches in IA, NE, SD to Stay Closed into the Fall**

I know that the Council’s decision to have our building remain closed until at least September was difficult. I know a number of people were disappointed. However, it is very important to remain closed for the sake of the precious lives of everyone in our community. One more death is one more too many. We are nowhere near being "out of the woods" yet.

Be assured that the decision to open FCUCC’s church building will be made by the Church Council based on direction from our UCC Conference, following guidance from national, state, county and city health departments.

In the meantime, as our Unitarian sisters and brothers have noted: “Although our doors may be closed, our hearts are still open.”

Keep encouraging, caring, and praying for others. Stay home. In order to protect others, wear a mask if you need to go out.

*-- Pastor Anne*

**Keep the Connection -- Join us on “Zoom”**

Todd Siefker will be sending out an invitation link right before each event.

**6:30 pm Wednesday – Weekly Reflection Time**

**9:30 am Sunday – The Admiration Series**

**10:30 am Sunday – Worship, Sermon, & Prayer**

**ZOOM Meetings – Be Sure to Invite Others!**

**Invite your friends to attend the Wednesday night or Sunday morning sessions (and Fridays, once we get started).** Each of us knows people who need connection during this time. You can send

your friends the invitation link or send their emails to Todd so he can send them the invitation. This is a way to reach out and enlarge our caring community!

Before each Zoom session, you will receive an email invitation to the session. By clicking on the link in the invitation, you should gain access to the session.

On Wednesday evenings, at 6:30 pm Todd Siefker will lead a reflection time.

On Sundays, we will host a two-part session beginning at 9:30 a.m. and lasting until 11:30 a.m.

- Todd Siefker will begin with the Admiration Series and discussion at 9:30 am. This Sunday we will begin reading Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*.
- At 10:30 a.m. Pastor Anne will lead a Worship Service.

You can join in at any time during the morning.

## Friday Bible Study with Pastor Anne

We can't meet at Pierce Street Coffee Works, but we can gather at our own tables and meet on Zoom. If you – and your friends – are interested in a Friday study, contact Tiffany in the church office. Let her know if Friday morning or afternoon is better for you.

## Remember to Support FCUCC Financially During this Time!



During this COVID-19 event, having no in-person services has impacted our normal income. Thank you to those who have mailed in checks!

## FCUCC Finances for May 2020

Giving in May amounted to \$6,590, all from mail-in and online giving.

**You can help us stay on track by mailing in your check or setting up an automatic payment 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.

## Moving-On Box Needs

Bath Towels/Hand Towels  
Children's plastic drinking glasses  
Potholders  
Toilet Bowl cleaner/brushes

Fry Pans/Saucepans  
Silverware

## Sanford Center Summer Program

Sanford Center hopes to begin their summer programming on June 8 or 15. As in past summers, FCUCC members are asked to provide cereal and individually wrapped snacks and juice boxes/water for these children. You may bring your items to church and place them in the shopping cart in the front narthex. The church office is open M-F 10-2. OR you may drop your purchases off at the Sanford Center at 1700 Geneva St. IF you would prefer to send a check to the Sanford Center for snack purchases, that would also be appreciated. Please make your check to the Sanford Center and write "FCUCC Summer Snacks" in the memo line.

The mailing address is:

SANFORD CENTER  
1700 Geneva St  
Sioux City, IA 51103

THANK YOU for your support of this important ministry to some of our community's most impacted children.

Missions Committee

## Rummage Sale

For those of you doing your spring house cleaning during this time, there is plenty of room to store things you wish to get rid of. Just bring them to church when Tiffany is in the office (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and she will open the doors for you.

## Sharing Our Community Memories and God Moments

In the spirit of Pastor Al Hohl's book on Prayer we've been talking about the importance of Remembering. To Pastor Hohl, forgetting is not the opposite of remembering. He says that DISmembering is actually the opposite of REMembering. He writes, "...to not remember is to tear apart. What we tear apart runs the risk of being scattered in our imaginations" (Hohl 2020, 172). I believe we would rather not run this risk.

We are starting our own Story Corps Project. We would like your story about how this faith community has benefited your life in written, audio recorded, or video recorded format. Please send them to Todd at [tsiefker@gmail.com](mailto:tsiefker@gmail.com) or back to Tiffany at our church email at [office@firstcongregational.net](mailto:office@firstcongregational.net). In case you need some prompts from Pastor Anne to get started, here are a few that might help:

- I came to FCUCC because . . .
- The person or group here who has made the most difference in my life is \_\_\_ because . . .
- I learned something new here that deepened my faith when . . .
- I was able to make a difference in the community/wider world through FCUCC when . . .
- A time I met God through FCUCC was . . .
- A favorite memory I have of my time with FCUCC is . . .

## Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Anne Dilenschneider, Interim Pastor

Tiffany Watts, Church Administrator

Todd Siefker, Intergenerational Coordinator

Rick Darrow, Organist

Nate Hettinger, Choir Director

## Church Contact Information

(712) 239-3385

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

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

(605) 906-5404 (cell)

[leadwithsoul@mac.com](mailto:leadwithsoul@mac.com)

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

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

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

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

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