

**Straight to the Point**

**October 10, 2019**

**Meditation for the Week**

Throughout all Creation, just beneath the surface,

joining each person to every other person

and to every other thing

in a luminous organism of sacred responsibility,

we discover invisible lines of connection.
 —Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, *Invisible Lines of Connection*

**Daily Gratitude Moment**
At the end of the day, consider:

What connections did you experience today?

**We are grateful for those who served us last week:**

Jack Elder for serving as usher.

Nan Cord for serving as worship leader.

Ellen Shaner for serving as scripture reader.

Barb Knepper & the Hoselton-McCarthy family for providing snacks for fellowship.

Ruth Holder, Jan Nowlen, Suzanne Johnson & Ellen Shaner for serving as communion servers.

Jan Nowlen, Pam Ridgway & Mary Elder, Penny Fee, Ruth Holder & Kathy Fliginger, and so many others who invested the time and energy to make the Rummage and Children’s Closet and Bake Sale event such a success!

Cantabile – the Morningside Women’s Choir – and Nate Hettinger

**Treat for Treats! – Bring them this Sunday, October 13th**

The Missions and Moving on Box Committees are hosting “Treat for Treats” on Sunday, October 13th following fellowship. **Please bring a “treat” for the Moving on Boxes with you on Sunday.** This item can be anything from tissue, to toilet paper, to towels. All donations are greatly appreciated!

**Check out our new website!**

Thanks to Todd Siefker and Jerrod Kiernan we have a new website:

<https://www.1stcongregationalucc.org/>

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/>

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.

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**Road Trip on October 13th**

**13 is NOT an Unlucky Number!**

 Do you suffer from “Triskaidekaphobia”? Would you like to find a “cure”? Well, you are in luck! On Sunday, October 13, there is a very fortunate opportunity for another foodie get-together combined with a short road trip to Vermillion where hungry people can meet at Café Brulé restaurant to partake in food & camaraderie. Café Brulé is not difficult to find because it is right in the heart of downtown Vermillion with plenty of parking next to the café. Carpooling would also be a great way to enjoy the trip up to Vermillion.

 Because this is the fall season when days are getting shorter, we would like to leave from church after fellowship, the adult class, and any other church activities are over. Remember, however, to think ahead and wear your “stretchy clothes” to church that day in order to fully enjoy your eating experience. And . . . just a “heads up” . . . there are a number of breads, cookies, and pastries that you can buy to take home with you, if you would like, to enjoy throughout the week. (Calories are included.)

 Please come and enjoy another “foodie road trip” in order to turn October 13th into a very lucky and delicious day! There is no reason to suffer from Triskaidekaphobia ever again!

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**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.

**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.'

 **“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

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**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.

**Our next session on October 12th at 5:00 pm will be with musician Richard Steinbeck.**

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!

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**Interested in Playing Bridge?**

Bridge Club begins in October. There’s room for more players!

Contact Jan Nowlen for details at 712-490-5328

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**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

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**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.

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**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](http://Tithe.ly).

      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=6b74f7af82&e=da075b983a) is the site to go to to sign up on your computer, or you can simply search for [Tithe.ly](http://Tithe.ly) 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

**Be Part of the Dream Team**

Have you ever wanted to be a part of “The Dream Team”? Well, now is your chance!  The nominating committee is asking you to become a part of the “FCUCC Dream Team” this year by volunteering to be a member of a committee.

This is the year we will be doing visioning for what we want our future to be. We will be shaping and visioning for our committees, our church and for a new pastor in the year 2020.

There are 7 church committees and Pastor Anne tells us you need 8 people committed to an idea to make it successful. Don’t throw away your shot at being on the team!

Think about where you can be most useful and when Michele Schwerin, Lois Darrow, and Dick Owens come calling, be ready to answer for your Dream Spot!!

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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 1:00pm-5:00pm (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!**