

4600 Hamilton Boulevard • Sioux City, Iowa 51104 • 712.239.3385

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

**Straight to the Point**

**January 7th, 2020**

**Reflection for the Week**

We can take this Epiphany time as an opportunity to review our priorities and, like the magi, choose another way, a way that commits us:

              1) to reorient ourselves to living in line with our priorities for the coming year.

              2) to share what we have been given (talents and treasure),

 and, thereby,

              3) to serve others.

To be sure, this is always a challenge. Yet, as the magi discovered, when we face the challenging things in our lives, and the steps we are most hesitant or afraid to take, that’s usually when God is giving us another chance to re-orient and choose a different way.

This kind of reorienting is not simple. It works best if we have each other’s support.

Here are two ways to approach the new year:

1)    What would it mean to choose a “different way” this year?

If you made that shift, what changes would you have to make in your life?

What one small shift can you make now?

2) What if you made New Year’s resolutions by finishing the following sentences:

 I will spend more time with the people I love by \_\_\_\_\_

 I will challenge myself to learn or try something new by \_\_\_\_\_

 I will share my gifts with others by \_\_\_\_\_

 I will cultivate my relationship with God by \_\_\_\_\_

"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: Anne Shaner

Scripture Reader: Ruth Holder

Fellowship: Lois and Rick Darrow

Sunday School: Jay Rosenberg

Ushers: Barb and Kevin Knepper

Communion Servers: John Kiernan, Ellen Shaner, Ruth Holder and Jan Nowlen

**Prayer Concerns**

Ailene Hutton Marly Van Berkum’s sister

Bob and Leone Eidsmoe Katherine Trautman

Neil Stuart Rosenberg Arlene Baldes

Donna Baird Jason Olson

Mike and Deb Timblin

**Christmas Clean Up**

Thank you to everyone who helped take down and clean up the Christmas decorations after service this past Sunday. Your help is very much appreciated!

**Bible 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 Scriptures. This season we will allow art to be our springboard into the text.

* **This Weeks Scripture Reading:** Mathew 3:13-17

The art pieces for each week’s discussion are attached to this newsletter and available on our website at: www.1stcongregationalucc.org

**Sermons are Available on the FCUCC Website**

www.1stcongregationalucc.org

**This Week at FCUCC**

Tuesday, 1/7 9:00 pm – Stretch and Flex

Wednesday, 1/8 10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group

 6:00 pm – Women’s AA Group Meeting

Thursday, 1/9 9:00 am – Stretch and Flex

 9:30 am – Church Book Club Meeting

 5:00 pm – JOY Group Meeting

 6:00 pm – MLK Rehearsal

Friday, 1/10 **ALL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE**

 1:30 pm – Study at Pierce Street Coffee Woks

Saturday, 1/11 7:00 pm – AA Group Meeting

Sunday, 1/12 9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class

 9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal

 10:30 am – Worship & Refreshments afterwards

 1:00 pm – Foodies “After Christmas Slump” @ Shahi Palace

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

Monday, 1/13 12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline

 6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group

**JOY – Just Older Youth – January 9th at 5pm**

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

JOY club (that's Just Older Youth anyone from 18 to 108!) will be meeting for a light soup supper and a program on Tips for Winter Survival!  Tip #1 is:  Get out of the house and spend time with GREAT people!  (That means you and you know who you are!)  We'll start at 5:00 pm in the church dining room, and be finished in time for our singers to join the MLK choir rehearsal! Tip #2 Sing your winter blues away!  Bring your friends and family, we all need some survival tips!

Please RSVP right up until Thursday afternoon, to Maddie, church administrator so we can be sure to have enough to eat!

If you would like a ride, let Maddie know and we will arrange for some carpooling!

**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 THIS Friday, January 10th at** **office@firstcongregational.net**

**Book Club 2020**

The Church Book Blub will meet this **Thursday, Jan 9th at 9:30 am**. We will meet in the church library and discuss “Where the Crawdads Sing”. Join us whether you have read the book or not!  We will be deciding the books to read for the upcoming months, so please bring ideas.

**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.

**Foodies and the “After Christmas Slump”**

**1-12-20 @ 1:00pm**

The holidays are over and the weather is getting colder. Are you in an “after Christmas slump”? A delicious way to pull out of that slump is to eat out with friends.

On January 12, 2020 after church (around 1:00) everyone is invited to go to Shahi Palace (in the Singing Hills area of Morningside) to partake in exotic Indian cuisine and friendly camaraderie. This is a great chance to experience nutritious food from another culture. You’ll feel like you are on vacation with your friends!

So come and join us at Shahi Palace after church on January 12, 2020. It’ll be a wonderful way to begin this New Year! And, as always, remember to wear your “stretchy pants”!

**Kitchen Clean Up/Clean Out**

**Tuesday, January 14th @ 10:00am**

Jan Nowlen and Ginger France are requesting your help in cleaning our church's kitchen and kitchenette. If you are willing to help, please come in on Tuesday, January 14 at 10 am with some rags and rubber gloves. We've heard it said that many hands make light work!

Thank you!

**Backpack Program @ Siouxland Foodbank**

**January 15th 10:00am**

The Backpack Program at Siouxland Foodbank is looking for volunteers to help put together backpacks on Wednesday, January 15th at 10:00am. Please email Maddie, the church administrator if you wish volunteer at office@firstcongregational.net

Your help is appreciated!

**ALL CHURCH RETREAT at FCUCC**

**Saturday – Jan 25th – All Congregation & Council Members**

**Friday evening – Jan 24th – All Council Members**

An all-church retreat will be held on Saturday, January 25th from 9 am – 5 pm at FCUCC.

A leadership session will be held on the evening of January 24th from 6 - 8 pm for all Council members (“old” and new).

This retreat is designed to help us clarify who we are as a unique community, and what our strengths and needs are. Our work together will help the Pastoral Search Committee in reaching out to the right pastor for our church.

Pastor Anne will be leading this retreat. She has led this type of retreat with many churches to help them move forward. She will be working with the Council members Friday evening so we can help with the retreat on Saturday, and be helpful in supporting the Search Committee.

Please clear your calendar and plan on attending. We need everyone’s input to help us see clearly what direction we need to take. For questions, check with Lois Darrow and Pastor Anne.

Lois Darrow – lkd1027@gmail.com

Pastor Anne – leadwithsoul@mac.com

**FCUCC Serves at the Soup Kitchen**

On Monday, January 27th, it is our turn to serve at the Soup Kitchen. They are in need of…

“Prep Shift” runs from 2-4pm and we need 2-3 volunteers to cover this shift.

“Serve and Clean-up Shift” runs from 5-7pm and we need 7-9 people.

We will also need a dishwasher during the serve and clean-up shift from 5-7pm.

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

**Mission Project for January**

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a donation drive for the Soup Kitchen and Erik’s Closet during the month of January. These organizations are supported by donations and are in constant need of additional help.

Canned goods including beef and chicken broth, crackers, paper towels, etc. are more than welcome.
Erik’s Closet needs right now are centered around gloves, stocking caps, sweatshirts, coats and razors.
A receptacle for your donations will be available on the bench near the office.
Please help make life a little easier for those in need.

**Plarn Making with Mayflower February 9th**

On Sunday, February 9th, after worship (time to be determined) our congregation will meet at Mayflower UCC for a special service event. Rev. Jean Morrow will teach us how to make “plarn” — a type of yarn that is made from strips of plastic grocery bags. Plarn is crocheted into sleeping mats for homeless persons. All UCC youth going to the National Youth Event will need plarn because they will be learning to crochet the plarn mats as their service project.

**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.)

**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 SERMON STUDY**

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

We meet to reflect on the week’s 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**

**Mon, Tues & Thurs 4pm-8:30pm** 712-239-3385

**Weds and Friday 10am-1:00pm** 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!**