



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

Straight to the Point

November 13, 2019

Prayer for this Week

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

- "Simple Gifts" by Joseph Brackett (1797-1882)

Daily Gratitude Moment

At the end of the day, consider:
What simple joy did you experience today?

~~~~~

### This Week at FCUCC

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, 11/12   | 9:00 am – Stretch & Flex                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Wednesday, 11/13 | 10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group<br>6:00 pm – Women’s AA Group Meeting                                                                                                                                                               |
| Thursday, 11/14  | 9:00 am – Stretch & Flex<br>7:00 pm – Alcoholics Anonymous                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Sunday, 11/17    | 9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class<br>9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal<br>9:30 am – Missions Meeting<br>10:30 am – Worship with refreshments after<br>4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing<br>4:30 pm – Church Council Meeting |
| Monday, 11/18    | 12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline<br>6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group                                                                                                                                                                |
| Tuesday, 11/19   | 9:00 am – Stretch & Flex                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

~~~~~

Annual FCUCC Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday, Nov. 24th at noon (after worship)
Please invite your friends to join us!

The FCUCC Thanksgiving Dinner is set for Sunday, Nov. 24th at noon after worship. There are sign-up sheets for attending, bringing food, helping set up on Saturday, Nov. 23rd, and helping clean up following the dinner.

Remember to stop in the Narthex to sign up for your choices!

~~~~~

**Sanford Thanksgiving Baskets**

First Congregational has long enjoyed a partnership with the Sanford Community Center. Part of the Sanford Center's program this time of year is to plan for distributing 200 Thanksgiving baskets to families needing help in our community.

The baskets include a turkey, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, and cranberries. Sometimes the Center is also able to include a ham or pie.

Our church would like to assist with this gift of food. We encourage members of our congregation to consider donating to this project. **A sponsorship is \$50.** You may also donate a lesser amount and it will be combined with other's contributions. We would appreciate any gift that you choose.

**Please send your contribution to the church or bring it to church this coming Sunday. Our goal is to raise \$500.** Thank you. Dick Owens

~~~~~

Home Advent Wreaths

We will be providing Advent wreaths and candles for each of our families with children to use at home. And, this year, everyone will have Advent prayers to use at home. **If you would like to order an Advent wreath with candles, please contact the church office by Friday, November 15th.** The cost is \$14.

~~~~~

**Sharing Lunch & Decorating the Church**  
**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> after worship**

**On Sunday, December 1st, after worship, the congregation is invited** to share a Soup, Bread, and Cider lunch. Afterward, we will all join together to decorate the church for the holiday season.

~~~~~


This Sunday we will be 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 Simplicity.**

Each week, a video of the sermon will be posted on our new church website.

In addition, 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 sermon video for the past week, as well as prior sections for your Spirituality Binder/File: <https://www.1stcongregationalucc.org>

Also, **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.

The “Moving-On-Box” Team thanks YOU!

The moving on box needs are sufficient for now. Many thanks to all of you for your generous, continuing support of the Moving-on-Box ministry through the items you have purchased and the dollars you have donated. This makes a tremendous difference for the families we serve in our community.

HyVee grocery receipts and General Mills box tops

There’s a collection box for these items in the narthex – it’s wrapped in balloon paper. We will donate these to a local school!

A Message from the Missions Committee

The October Missions Committee minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office

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

