



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

4600 Hamilton Boulevard • Sioux City, Iowa 51104 • 712.239.3385
www.1stcongregationalucc.org • office@firstcongregational.net

Straight to the Point

January 14th, 2020

Prayer for the Week

The Prayer of Jabaz

(as shared by Rev. Kate O'Leary)
(1 Chron. 4:10)

"O [God] enlarge my border
that your hand might be with me
and keep me from being carved/chiseled
by the world around me."

Or, another version:

O God, let me welcome what I would keep out
that I might experience You within me
and not be shaped
by the world's fears.

This week consider: What helps me follow God instead of the world's fears?

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

Worship Leader: Barb Knepper
Scripture Reader: John Kiernan
Fellowship: Duane and Peggy Hoffmeyer
Youth Sunday School: Suzanne Johnson
Adult Sunday School: Todd Siefker
Ushers: Jan Nowen and Ruth Holder

Prayer Concerns

Ailene Hutton
Bob and Leone Eidsmoe
Neil Stuart Rosenberg
Donna Baird
Mike and Deb Timblin
Earl Miller

Marly Van Berkum's sister
Katherine Trautman
Arlene Baldes
Jason Olson
Chris Schwerin
RoseMarie Dilenschneider

Special Thanks

Lois Darrow and **Barb Knepper** for preparing the annual meeting report packets
Constance Popken for organizing the Foodies event as well as the 14 people who attended
Eileen Helvig for hosting the bridge group
Jan Nowlen and **Ginger France** for leading the Church Kitchen Clean Up

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 4:12-23

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, 1/14	9:00 am – Stretch and Flex 10:00 am – Church Kitchen Clean Up
Wednesday, 1/15	10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group 10:00 am – Backpack Program @ Siouxland Foodbank 6:00 pm – Women's AA Group Meeting
Thursday, 1/16	9:00 am – Stretch and Flex 6:00 pm – MLK Rehearsal
Friday, 1/17	1:30 pm – Study at Pierce Street Coffee Works
Saturday, 1/18	7:00 pm – AA Group Meeting
Sunday, 1/19	9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class 9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am – Worship & Refreshments afterwards 11:30 am – Annual Committee Meeting Following Worship 4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing
Monday, 1/20	12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline 6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group 7:00 pm – Community MLK Concert

Backpack Program @ Siouxland Foodbank January 15th 10:00am

The Backpack Program at The 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 to volunteer at office@firstcongregational.net
Your help is appreciated!

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

Our Annual Church Potluck & Meeting will be held after worship this Sunday, January 19th. We will be voting on new officers and approving our budget and committees for the coming year.

Reminder: Please Bring Salads or Desserts

Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Concert Rehearsal

Rehearsal will be held at our church at 6:00 pm this Thursday, January 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 on Monday, January 27th

On Monday, January 27th, it is our turn to serve at the Soup Kitchen. We need:

- “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.

Sign up so you can be part of the FCUCC team!

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. Please help make life a little easier for those in need by donating:

- Canned goods including beef and chicken broth, crackers, paper towels, etc.
- Gloves, stocking caps, sweatshirts, coats and razors.

A container for your donations is on the bench near the church office door.

ALL CHURCH RETREAT at FCUCC – Date Change

Saturday – Feb 22nd – All Congregation & Council Members

Friday evening – Feb 21st – All Council Members & Interested Others

An all-church retreat will be held on Saturday, February 22nd from 9 am – 5 pm at FCUCC.

A leadership session will be held on the evening of February 21st 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 (and interested others) on Friday evening on how leadership works in organizations. This will allow us to better 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

We're Making Plarn with Mayflower on Sunday, February 9th Helping Youth Help the Homeless

On Sunday, February 9th, after worship 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 crocheting plarn into mats for their service project.

On Those Sunday Snow Days



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](http://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 <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!

Church Office Hours

Mon, Tues & Thurs 4pm-8:30pm

Weds and Friday 10am-1:00pm

Church Contact Information

712-239-3385

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!