



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

## **Straight to the Point**

### **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

#### **This Weeks Reflection**

As Pastor Anne said last week. Lent isn't as much about giving up chocolate as it is about creating a space for God. One thing that can hog up a lot of space in our lives is our unquestioning allegiance to comfort. One of the contradictions of life is that the very thing that can restore and heal us, is also the thing that can ruin us. The seasons of Lent in our lives, whether self-imposed or imposed on us by life itself, means going down that road that heads to the cross. In Lent we realize that there is no resurrection without the crucifixion. Before a new self can be born, it usually has to risk some discomfort. And what is usually overlooked about this uncomfortable process of growth, is that it can lead us to a deeper sense of joy and meaning.

This week as we vulnerably seek to create a space for God to fill, may we find that deeper joy and meaning of what it is to be on that Lenten road to the cross that leads to the resurrection.

#### **Daylight Savings Time is This Sunday!**

Be sure to "Spring Forward" and set your clocks one hour later.  
Do this before you go to bed on Saturday night.

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

Worship Leader: John Kiernan  
Usher: Jay Rosenberg  
Scripture Reader: Suzanne Johnson  
Fellowship: The Morgan and Adams Families  
Adult Sunday School: Todd Siefker

#### **Prayer Concerns**

Marly Van Berkum's sister  
Bob and Leone Eidsmoe  
Mike and Deb Timblin  
John Dilenschneider  
Tia Iddings  
Mike Rozembajgier

Larry Shaver  
Katherine Trautman  
Chris Schwerin  
Mark Schmedinghoff  
Rebecca Watson-Miller

## **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 art is our springboard into the text.

- **This Week's Scripture Reading:** Matthew 4:1-11 (Part 2)

The art pieces for each week's discussion are attached to this newsletter and available on our website at: [www.1stcongregationalucc.org](http://www.1stcongregationalucc.org)

### **New Moving-On Box Needs**

Bath Towels/Hand Towels  
Children's plastic drinking glasses  
Pot Holders  
Toilet Bowl cleaner/brushes  
Can Openers

### **This Week at FCUCC**

Wednesday, 3/4	10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group 5:30 pm – Search Committee Meeting 6:00 pm – Women's AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm – <b>Lenten Service (Followed by Soup and Fellowship)</b>
Thursday, 3/5	9:00 am – Stretch and Flex
Friday, 3/6	1:30 pm – Study at Pierce Street Coffee Works
Saturday, 3/7	7:00 pm – AA Group Meeting
Sunday, 3/8	9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class 9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am – Worship Service followed by refreshments 4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing
Monday, 3/9	12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline 6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group

### **Lenten Worship Services**

Our Lenten Service will be led this Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and will start at 6:30 p.m. This informal service will involve a few thoughts on Lent, and some small group discussions, and followed up with some soup and fellowship.

**Hope to see you there!**

### **COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

1. This virus is contagious but, so far, it's not as deadly as other world outbreaks (MERS, SARS, etc.). 80% of people will only have mild cases, if they get it.
2. To stay healthy, follow flu prevention tips (below)
3. Don't panic — start to prepare, instead
4. Be smart about travel

When it comes to taking care of ourselves, there are some things we can all think and do:

- Practice basic hygiene. That includes:
  - 20-second hand washing, and wash often. That's a long time and It's as long as singing "Happy Birthday" 2 times through, or "Baby Shark" up through the Daddy Shark verse. Regular soap and water are fine; you do not need to use anti-bacterial soap.
  - Sneeze or cough into your elbow or tissue (then throw the tissue away).
  - Do not touch your face (eyes, nose, mouth).
  - Clean and disinfect surfaces and frequently touched objects – for example, remember to wipe your counters with soap and water.
  - Sanitize your doorknobs at home daily.

- Avoid contact with people who are ill.
- Stay home if you are feeling in any way ill.
- Have a supply of easy-to-cook foods and cleaning supplies.
- Have a supply of any prescribed medications.
- You can watch this 15-minute video about how to prepare for and prevent this virus: [https://www.npr.org/2020/02/27/810016611/coronavirus-101-what-you-need-to-know-to-prepare-and-prevent?utm\\_source=npr\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=20200301&utm\\_term=4432890&utm\\_campaign=best-of-npr&utm\\_id=4996822&orgid=309](https://www.npr.org/2020/02/27/810016611/coronavirus-101-what-you-need-to-know-to-prepare-and-prevent?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20200301&utm_term=4432890&utm_campaign=best-of-npr&utm_id=4996822&orgid=309)
- Here are some facts about how the virus does and does not spread: “Surfaces? Sneezes? Sex? How the Coronavirus Can and Cannot Spread” <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/02/health/coronavirus-how-it-spreads.html?referringSource=articleShare>
- There is a non-threatening video about the virus for children at: [https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus?utm\\_source=npr\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=20200301&utm\\_term=4432890&utm\\_campaign=best-of-npr&utm\\_id=4996822&orgid=309](https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20200301&utm_term=4432890&utm_campaign=best-of-npr&utm_id=4996822&orgid=309)
- At church, we will be:
  - Sanitizing doorknobs daily (that includes bathroom stall latches and faucet handles).
  - Coming up with options for Passing the Peace. We may omit it for now, or use other ways to communicate (touching elbows, bowing, etc.).
  - Planning ways to respond to affected families, and individuals who live alone.
  - Considering how to broadcast worship so people can watch from home if they are ill.
  - Posting CDC posters.
- For Communion, we will be:
  - Making hand sanitizer use visible before serving Communion
  - Having servers give out the Communion bread, so only their hands touch the plate.
  - We may consider only giving out bread for Communion

### Admiration Series Update:

Starting this Sunday March 8th, the Admiration Series will be doing a Lenten Study on prayer based on our former Pastor, Al Hohl's book--Heart of Prayer.

Every Sunday from March 8 to April 19 at 9 am to 10am we will be discussing what Pastor Hohl's book means to us. Pastor Hohl will be joining us on April 19 to facilitate a question and answer session on the topic of prayer and the book.

**Hope you can join us!**

### Search Committee:

The Search Committee continues to complete the necessary research and writing to prepare the Church Profile. This becomes the central document that is used to announce the opening of the position of Pastor for First Congregational Church. An important part of that work is to provide quality information to candidates about “who we are” as a congregation, and “what characteristics we desire” in a Pastor. Last Sunday we started a process of surveying the congregation and were pleased that everyone in worship spent time providing information that we will tabulate, then use in the profile. Thank you for your willingness to share your perceptions and opinions candidly and in confidence.

Surveys are a powerful measurement and communication tool. The more people from our congregation that participate, the better the information that comes from the survey. Additional parts of the survey will be a part of our service for several weeks. Because we know that not everyone is available to attend church every Sunday, we are also making the survey available for your completion at home. We ask that you:

- Go to the church website: [www.1stcongregationalucc.org/](http://www.1stcongregationalucc.org/)
- Find the survey,
- Complete and submit.

The information from your survey will be sent to the church and added to the information provided by many other congregants for use in preparing the church profile.

It is the intent of the committee to have this document near completion by the end of March, so we need to be diligent in completing surveys. Please help us meet our timeline by participating in this important step of the search process.

## Church Directory Update

Our leadership team would like to make sure we have to correct contact information about everyone so that you receive church communications, especially during this time of the pastoral search. We would also like to have an emergency contact as well (in the unlikely event that something happens to you while you are at church).

We would also appreciate knowing your favorite Scripture and hymns so we can be sure to use them in Sunday Worship

**The form for the directory is attached to this week's email. Please fill out the form and email it to Maddie, the church secretary, at [office@firstcongregational.net](mailto:office@firstcongregational.net). Or, you may drop it off at the church office.**

There are also physical directory forms you can complete, if that's easier. You can pick them up on the table outside the church office.

## February 2020 Profit and Loss Update:

Total income: \$12,534.00  
Total expenses: \$15,276.38  
NET INCOME: -\$2,742.38

## 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ACTIVITY BOXES

Pick one up on the way into the sanctuary for some quiet, in-the-pew activities.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL STORY-TIME

Offered during worship.

Children are welcome for Bible-based stories and guided play and crafts in the Nursery.

## YOUTH (Ages 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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!

## 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](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.

## Church Office Hours

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

Weds and Friday 10am-1:00pm

## Church Contact Information

712-239-3385

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

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

## Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Anne Dilenschneider, Interim Pastor

605-906-5404 (cell)

[leadwithsoul@mac.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@firstcongregational.net)

Todd Siefker, Intergenerational Coordinator

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

Rick Darrow, Organist

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

Nate Hettinger, Choir Director

[hettingern@morningside.edu](mailto: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!**