



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 February 25th, 2020

Reflection for the Week:

A Lenten Reflection:

Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from fear of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism;
Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives;
Feast on encouragement.
Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion;
Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip;
Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm;
Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety;
Feast on faith.

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

Worship Leader: Anne Shaner
Ushers: Darrin and Suzanne Johnson
Scripture Reader: Jan Nowlen
Fellowship: Donna Popp and Chuck Johnson
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

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

We're Making Plarn with Mayflower on Sunday, March 1st Helping Youth Help the Homeless Please donate your plastic bags and plan to attend!

On Sunday, March 1st, 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.

This Week at FCUCC

Tuesday, 2/25
Wednesday, 2/26

9:00 am – Stretch and Flex
10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group
5:30 pm – Search Committee Meeting
6:00 pm – Women's AA Group Meeting
6:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service **Followed by a Soup Supper**

Thursday, 2/27
Friday, 2/28
Saturday, 2/29
Sunday, 3/1

9:00 am – Stretch and Flex
1:30 pm – Study at Pierce Street Coffee Works
7:00 pm – AA Group Meeting
9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class
9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am – Worship Service followed by refreshments
12:00 pm – Plarn Making at Mayflower
4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing
12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline
6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group

Monday, 3/2

Sermons are Available on the FCUCC Website

www.1stcongregationalucc.org

A Message from the Search Committee

The Search Committee says “Thank you” to Pastor Anne for her leadership and hard work this past weekend conducting the Leadership Retreat on Friday night and the Congregational Retreat on Saturday. Her training and experience in developing leadership skills and in the analysis of strengths/weaknesses in congregations is valuable. We believe the result is a collection of data that helps define First Congregational and will assist the Search Committee in identifying that “right” candidate to fill the position of Pastor. We aren’t done with the analysis but have a comprehensive set of data that we can use to continue that discernment. Additionally, we can share our findings with prospective candidates for our position of pastor and make sure they have a good understanding of who we are and what we are seeking.

Generally speaking, the data indicates our congregation includes those who can lead, organize, account for, and inspire us to worship our Creator, learn about what God wants us to be, and empower us to make an impact as a congregation, community, and part of the world.

If you were in worship this Sunday, you learned more about the Search Committee’s efforts to get feedback from everyone about their experiences as a part of First Congregational Church. Thank you to everyone that spent part of our worship time completing a survey. The plan is to continue this process for the next three weeks, each Sunday spending time completing surveys in topics relative to the organization and strengths of our church as identified during the retreat.

We want to invite others who were not here on any of the four Sundays, to complete the survey. Copies will be available from the church office. In an upcoming Straight to the Point, we will make an electronic copy available that you can complete and return to the office.

All this information will be used – your input is important. The Search Committee believes the efforts will not only serve to define our search for the new Pastor, but that much of what we learn will help define how we continue to be worshipful and inspiring our congregants to be “God’s hands in the world.”

Ash Wednesday Service

Please join us for our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 26th at 6pm. **A light soup supper will be provided following the service.**

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. And we would 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. Or, drop it off at the church office.

-There are also physical directory forms you can pick up located outside the church office.

Thank you!

Card Shower for Ruth Hamilton Green

Ruth Hamilton's 96th birthday is this Saturday, February 29. Yes, she was a leap year baby! Let's shower her with cards for this big event.

Her address is: 5501 Gordon Drive, Evergreen, Skilled Care, Room 119, Sioux City, Iowa 51106

There will also be an Open House to celebrate her Birthday on Saturday, February 29, from 11:30 - 1:30 in the chapel area at the Sunrise Retirement Center.

A message from our Church Treasurer

Two weeks ago, we contacted UCC Accounting to verify that all our payments to the conference have been successfully submitted. Due to past errors, the Conference had 6 different accounts set up for us, which caused some confusion. As of March, 2020, they are updating their software and accounting practices and we will have ONE account going forward. If you have any questions about any payments, please ask Jeff Stellish anytime. Treasurer@firstcongregational.net.

Thank you!

New Moving-On Box Needs

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

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.

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 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!

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

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!