



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

December 3, 2019

Prayer for the Week

Lighting the Advent Wreath at Your Home

HOPE

The first week of Advent we remember the gift of hope we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of a savior who would be born, a king in the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

As followers of Christ, we wait with hope during this season. As we light this candle, we remember that it was from a lowly stable in Bethlehem that Christ began to bring your light into the world. As we light this candle, we are reminded to be alert and to watch for the light of Christ even in the most unlikely places and people.

(Light the first purple candle.)

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the hope you enliven in us. Help us open our hearts to your presence among us – Emmanuel – by looking for the light of Christ in others. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Decorations

A special thank you to all who shared soup, cleaned-up and decorated the church on Sunday.

And a very special Thank You to Greg Gregerson
for providing Christmas decorations to share with the church this year!!

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

Ushers: Darin Johnson & Jim France
Worship Leader: Lois Darrow
Scripture Reader: Suzanne Johnson
Sunday School: Todd Siefker
Fellowship: Leone Eidsmoe

Prayer Concerns

Ailene Hutton	George Owings
Jason Olson	Marly Van Berkum's sister
Bob and Leone Eidsmoe	Katherine Trautman
Neil Stuart Rosenberg	Arlene Baldes
Donna Baird	

This Week at FCUCC

Tuesday, 12/3	9:00 am – Stretch & Flex
Wednesday, 12/4	10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group
	4:00 pm – Communications Team Meeting
	6:00 pm – Women's AA Group Meeting
Friday, 12/6	1:30 pm – Study at Pierce Street Coffee Works
Saturday, 12/7	7:00 pm – AA Group Meeting
Sunday, 12/8	9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class
	9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am – Worship & Refreshments afterwards
	12:00 pm – Worship Committee
	4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing
Monday, 12/9	12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline
	6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group
Tuesday, 12/10	9:00 am – Stretch & Flex
Wednesday, 12/11	10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group
	6:00 pm – Women's AA Group Meeting

New Members will Join our Church on Sunday, December 15th

New members will be joining our congregation on Sunday, December 15th.

If you are interested in joining, let Pastor Anne know.

Advent 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 Advent 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

December 6	Luke 1:26-38
December 13	Isaiah 61:1-4
December 20	Matthew 2:1-12

Our Christmas Giving Tree

Giving holiday gifts to the clients of Siouxland Mental Health has been a long-standing tradition at FCUCC, and a great way for us to share the spirit of Christmas. Here's how to participate:

- 1) Select a tag from the tree, sign your name on the list.
Put your name next to the number that corresponds with your tag.
SAVE YOUR TAG!
 - 2) Purchase and wrap your gift. Tape the tag securely onto the gift.
 - 3) Return your gift to the church on or before December 15th.
- Suggested giving amount: \$25

Adopt a Poinsettia for Christmas!

The Church will be getting Poinsettias this week. CSADV is no longer selling them.

So this year we will buy 20 Poinsettias as a small fund raiser for FCUCC.

You can adopt the poinsettia of your choice.

There will be two sizes: 24" for \$20.00 and 12" for \$10.00.

Please let the office know if you would like to adopt a poinsettia.

As always, in January, you may take your poinsettia home or give them away.

Christmas Worship

Please save these dates and times on your calendar:

December 24th – 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 29th – 10:30 am Carol Service

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 Car" (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.)

January 2nd: Our focus will be on Finances and Goal-setting.

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.

MAKING A LIFE – CHRISTIANITY FOR LONG HAUL LIVING

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

"I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life." (Maya Angelou)

These sessions are a complement to the current series on the spiritual disciplines that have supported Christian living for centuries. With the weekly handouts (sent with this newsletter or available on our church website, or in hardcopy form on Sunday morning) participants will be able to create their own Spirituality Binder (or online file).

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.

The Tithe.ly App Option



The financial support you provide allows us to continue our Missions, Charitable Giving, and Intergenerational Christian Education programs. It also helps us support local agencies, the groups that use our facilities, and our search for a new pastor.

In addition to the Sunday offering, there are other ways to give to our church. These include mailing in checks, dropping off payments anytime during the week, and setting up automatic payments 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 contracts or commitments)

Go to <http://get.tithe.ly> to sign up online, or download the app on any iPhone/Apple or Android device.

Of course, we can always take cash, and checks made payable to First Congregational Church.

(Note: Tithe.ly does charge us a small fee for using the app, but you can opt to pay that fee yourself.)

If you have questions, please contact myself, Jeff Stellish (treasurer), Chris Schwerin (bookkeeper), or any other member of the Church Council.

Thank you!

Jeff Stellish, Treasurer

treasurer@firstcongregational.net

Church Office Hours

Mon & Fri	4:00pm-8:00pm
Wed	4:00-4:30
Tues-Thurs	1:00pm-5:00pm
Sat	1:00pm-5:00pm (call ahead)

Church Contact Information

712-239-3385
office@firstcongregational.net
Website: 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
Todd Siefker, Intergenerational Coordinator
Rick Darrow, Organist
Nate Hettinger, Choir Director

office@firstcongregational.net
tsiefker@gmail.com
darrowpipe@aol.com
hettingern@morningside.edu

Last and Not Least: 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!