



# 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 17, 2019

### Prayer for the Week

#### Lighting the Advent Wreath at Your Home

#### LOVE

The fourth week of Advent we remember the gift of Love we have in Jesus. The light of the candles reminds us of God's love for us. Jesus shows us God's great love; he is God's love in human form.

As we light this candle, we remember that we are called to love like Jesus loves us. As we light these four candles, we are reminded that we are called to share Jesus' love through the ways we treat ourselves and others.

*(Light the first and second purple candles, the pink candle, then the last purple candle.)*

Let us pray: Loving God, we thank you for Jesus who showed us your gift of love. Help us prepare our hearts for your coming by loving others as Jesus loves us. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

Worship Leader: Jay Rosenberg  
Scripture Reader: Nan Cord  
Sunday School: Michele Schwerin  
Fellowship: The Hoselton-McCarthy Family  
Ushers: John Kiernan & Duane Hoffmeyer

### Prayer Concerns

Ailene Hutton  
Jason Olson  
Bob and Leone Eidsmoe  
Neil Stuart Rosenberg  
Donna Baird

Kevin Knepper's father  
Marly Van Berkum's sister  
Katherine Trautman  
Arlene Baldes

## **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.

December 20 Christmas 1914 Luke 2:8-12

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)

## **Advent Sermons are Available on the FCUCC Website**

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

### **This Week at FCUCC**

Tuesday, 12/17	9:00 am – Stretch & Flex
Wednesday, 12/18	10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group 4:00 pm – Communication Committee 6:00 pm – Women's AA Group Meeting
Thursday, 12/19	9:00 am – Stretch & Flex
Friday, 12/20	1:30 pm – Study at Pierce Street Coffee Works
Saturday, 12/21	7:00 pm – AA Group Meeting
Sunday, 12/22	9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class 9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am – Worship & Refreshments afterwards 3:00 pm – Zen Meditation Event 4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing
Monday, 12/23	12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline 6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group
Tuesday, 12/24	9:00 am – Stretch & Flex 5:00 pm – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

### **Christmas Worship**

Please save these dates and times on your calendar:

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**

**December 29<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am Carol Service**

### **Christmas Eve Offering**

Our offering that evening will go to the Veterans of the Cross.

This is a fund for UCC Conference pastors who served before there was a pension plan.

### **Annual Staff Appreciation**

During worship on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> we will be taking a special offering to show our gratitude for our staff's effort during the past year.

### **JOY – Just Older Youth – January 9th**

Our JOY topic will be Winter Survival: Food, Exercise & Safety.

### **All Church Potluck & Annual Meeting – Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup>**

Our Annual Church Potluck & Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

We will be voting on new officers and approving our budget and committees for the coming year.

## Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Concert Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held at our church at 6:00 pm on Thursdays, January 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**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 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, is our turn to serve at the Soup Kitchen.

Save that date so you can be part of the FCUCC team!

## 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 – 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.

#### 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 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.)

January 2<sup>nd</sup>: 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.

#### PIERCE STREET ADVENT SERMON STUDY

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

We 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](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!

**Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>: Our JOY topic will be Winter Survival: Food, Exercise & Safety.**

## Church Office Hours

### Winter Break Office Hours Change

Mon-Friday: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

## 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!**