



Straight to the Point

December 5, 2021

New Choir Director

We are delighted to welcome Noah Towns as our church's new Choir Director! Noah will begin working with the choir on Sunday, December 19, 2021! We are excited to have Noah as his music skills are fantastic- his experience as a vocalist, musician and choir director will be invaluable in building up our Choir and music offerings. Please join us in welcoming Noah to 1st Cong/UCC!!

Congregational Meeting This Sunday

There will be a short Congregational Meeting on December 12, 2021 immediately following the church service. The purpose of the congregational meeting is to approve the proposal received by Buildings and Grounds for a Control System Upgrade for the Heating and A/C system in the church with the funding of the project to come from the Endowment. The Council approved the proposal and is requesting to take up to \$45,000 from the Endowment to cover the costs proposed and any additional expenditures necessary, to include the purchase of a new computer to monitor the system. Funds in the Buildings and Grounds account will be used first for this project before any funds are withdrawn from the Endowment.

November 21st COVID-19 UPDATE

The church council has decided that fully vaccinated people will not be required to wear masks in church. Those who are not fully vaccinated will still be required to wear a mask. The church will also be able to start singing in church. The green tape will still remain in the sanctuary to encourage social distancing. Fellowship will also restart. We are requesting that you use prepackaged food and use rubber gloves to distribute the goodies. We will continue to Live Stream services on Facebook and YouTube.

If you have any questions call Pam Ridgway (712-202-8304) or contact the church office.

Fellowship Time Returns

As of November 28, our Fellowship time after church will resume. The nurture committee will provide the wrapped treats. We need people to sign up to host the Fellowship time starting December 5. Please sign up for a Sunday that works for you. There is a sign up sheet on the table by the front door or give Michael a call and he can fill in your time for the week you can do.

Advent Activity

Mission's committee is hoping everyone will join in and contribute to the boxes under the Christmas trees at church or start your own at home. The Advent boxes will be delivered by the Book Club on December 20th so we need your contributions at church by the 19th. Wrapped boxes are available at church if you need one. Help make Christmas happier for those less fortunate.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans



Staff Christmas Gifts

We would like to honor our Church Staff this holiday season. If you would like to donate towards a gift to our staff, please send your donation to the church and note "Staff Appreciation". The funds received will be prorated and distributed accordingly to staff member's schedule hours and length of employment. Please make sure to send your donations in by December 17th so that they can be distributed before Christmas. For questions, please contact Pam Ridgway, Council President.

Our Giving Tree

Giving holiday gifts to the clients of Siouxland Mental Health has been a longstanding tradition at First Congregational UCC, and a great way for us to share the spirit of Christmas. Thank you for participating! Here's how:

Because of the ongoing pandemic situation, we will be doing our gift giving for clients of Siouxland Mental Health like we did last year.

Instead of having items identified for certain clients, we will be providing \$25.00 gift cards from Wal-Mart and the caseworkers will distribute them to the clients. Those who do not have transportation or who need help in shopping will be helped by their caseworkers.

Therefore, the Missions Committee is asking that if you want to participate in this important mission project you send a check to the church for \$25.00 or multiples of \$25.00 and identify in the memo line that it is for "The Giving Tree". The Missions Committee will then purchase the gift cards and get them to Siouxland Mental Health on Monday, December 13th.

If you have any questions, please contact me: Donna Popp, dpopp1980@gmail.com or 712-251-5535.

Poinsettias

The church will be purchasing 10-12 poinsettias to display at the front of the church behind the pulpit for the Christmas Season. If you would like to purchase one for a family member or to enjoy after the Christmas Season, please send \$20 to the church office and indicate it is for a poinsettia and we will let you know when they are available to pick up.

Why Are we Here?

Responses from our congregation

"In this place I feel safe, loved, and welcomed. I am grateful for the wonderful people here. God is in my church."

"We're here to enjoy fellowship, music, and to hear God's word"

"To praise the Lord and become a better person"

"I don't know"

"We draw together with a community of people with similar views to serve the wider community"

" We have belonged to this church for 63 years since we were married"

"We don't know where else to go"

"To love and worship God. To love and serve others to help them know God"

"Here we can nourish each other so that we can reach out and nourish others"

"I need to learn more how to be like Jesus"

"To be equipped to do God's work"

Admiration Series

Will Meet Sunday at 9:30 during Advent to play games in the fellowship hall before Sunday worship.

HYVEE Receipts

Submitted by Ginger France

HYVEE receipts marked August 1 and later may be saved and turned in at church. They may be put into the balloon wrapped box on the table by the church office.

Moving-On Box Ministry.

Submitted by Ginger France

In supporting the 'gift' of moving on, we fill lives with hope and household essentials for those leaving transitional housing at , Crossroads, Welcome Home, and Women Aware.

MOB Needs:

Small plastic glasses

Dishes/Bowls/Silverware

Saucepans

Cookie sheets

Cake Pans

Toilet paper

Kleenex

Calendars

Laundry Soap

Dish soap



Prayer Requests

Doug Siefker

Sharleen Sorum (Michelle Schwerin's mother)

Thank You, Volunteers!

A big "thank you" goes out to our volunteers who helped with Sunday Services this week.

Fill-in Minister - Rev. Del Olivier
Worship Leader - Anne Shaner
Cantor- Randy Peters
Live Stream - Pam Ridgway/Jerrod Kiernan
Sound/Lighting - Dave Van Berkum/John Kiernan
Screen - Jerrod Kiernan

Directory

Managed by the Office

We are using Instant Church Directory. Printed versions of our directory are available in the narthex or by request. Please inform the office of any directory updates that you would like to include for yourself or your family. You can also pick up one of the directory update forms on the table outside the church office or find it on our website.

To access the directory online visit members.instantchurchdirectory.com and you should be able to create a login using the email listed in the church directory. If you need any help accessing the directory or would like a copy emailed to you, contact the church office for assistance.

Join Us

We invite you to engage and strengthen your faith with these practices:

THE PRACTICE OF WORSHIP: Live Streamed on Facebook and Youtube, and recorded

We Live Stream our Sunday morning worship service via the church's page on Facebook and Youtube at 10:30am on Sunday mornings. Every service is recorded and available to play at any time on those platforms. If you have trouble, please don't hesitate to reach out to the church for help.

THE PRACTICE OF LEARNING: Zoom learning sessions each week 9:30 a.m. each Sunday.

Engage your mind in learning through theological reflection, asking hard questions about God and life, and test your embedded theology to see if that where you want to be.

With Todd Siefker taking over the responsibility of the Sunday sermon and 9:30 a.m. book study, we have temporarily suspended our Wednesday night Admiration Series meetings.

A Closing note about ZOOM:

If you don't have the ability or the equipment to use Zoom or Facebook to participate in these practices, please call the office. We will be happy to help you find a solution to fully participate in the life of the church.

Link to our Youtube where you can watch our services live and recordings of past services:

Click [HERE](#)

FCUCC Finances for November 2021

Updates from Church Treasurer

Giving last month amounted to **\$7,984**, from mail-in, online giving, and Sunday offerings.

You can help us stay on track by mailing in your check or setting up an automatic payment 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. It's 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.

[Remember to Support FCUCC Financially During this Time!](#)

Church Office Hours

11:30am.-3:30pm. Sunday
9am.-1pm. Monday-Thursday

Church Staff:

Michael Danner, Church Office/Organist

Todd Siefker, Intergenerational Coordinator

Jim McCrory, Custodian

Jessica Orr, Nursery Coordinator

Church Contact Information

(712) 239-3385
office@firstcongregational.net
www.firstcongregational.net

office@firstcongregational.net

tsiefker@gmail.com

building@firstcongregational.net

jessica.orr@hotmail.com

First Congregational United Church of Christ

4600 Hamilton Boulevard
Sioux City, IA 51104
(712) 239-3385

Email Us



First Congregational United Church of Christ | 4600 Hamilton Boulevard, Sioux City, IA 51104

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