

August 2017 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
515-832-2232
<http://www.firstcongregationalwcc.org/>

If you followed the events at our latest General Synod in Baltimore (June 30-July 4) you may know that it marked the official beginning of the new “3 Great Loves” campaign of the United Church of Christ. The new website devoted to this campaign (<http://3greatloves.uccpages.org/>) explains the vision behind the idea:

*“The United Church of Christ has a vision of a just world for all. In this world all are welcomed, everyone is loved and justice is inherent. **The 3 Great Loves is the denomination’s opportunity to express how our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation work together to address the inequities in our current world.** Beginning at Synod 2017 and ending at Synod 2019, through the lens of the 3 Great Loves, the United Church of Christ in its many settings of ministry will discern and lift up how we act upon these 3 Great Loves. As we do so, we will tell the story of how we are impacting and transforming the world, as covenantal partners united in common purpose and mission. During these upcoming two years, there will be moments of special invitation to participate in this denomination-wide undertaking. One by one we will focus on each of the 3 Great Loves in service to our communities.”*

The website also posts the stories of UCC congregations who are engaged in the 3 Great Loves. Some of the stories include:

- Woodside church in Flint, Michigan demonstrated their great love of neighbor by distributing over \$50,000 in donations to needy families in Flint, who were behind in their water bills and faced having their water shut off and tax liens placed against their homes.
- St Paul UCC in Chicago offered a summer camp for children at their church, and included 30 refugee children, several children from the south side of Chicago, and 8 Lakota children from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.
- Westmoreland Congregational in Bethesda hosted a refugee support dinner at the church and invited their neighbors and friends. The joint effort of the UCC congregation with Quaker Friends and a Presbyterian congregation will assist three Syrian families in the D.C. area.

As I think of our mission and outreach work here at First Congregational, I realize that what we do is in alignment with these 3 Great Loves. We love our Neighbors through our special offerings, our support of DSAOC, ACE, Beacon of Hope, UDMO and our local food pantries, the Agape Fund and Ecumenical Human Needs (to name a few); we love our Children through our support of Head Start, Youth and Family Services, the Summer Lunch program, and through our commitments to Sunday School and KLAB; we love Creation when we recycle at church, donate to Almost Home, and organize a trash cleanup in town. These acts of love are very much in keeping with the intent of the 3 Great Loves program, and I hope we can share some of our stories with the wider UCC as this campaign progresses. I also hope that this campaign will inspire new mission endeavors—especially hands-on endeavors—in our congregation as we read of other churches’ 3 Great Loves in action.

Friends, summer is drawing to a close, and our fall and winter programming will soon resume. While you are spending your last few weeks vacationing and enjoying some needed leisure, why not give some thought—and prayer—to the 3 Great Loves, and how we at First Congregational can continue to embody these loves in our common life? Why not share your thoughts and dreams with others in our fellowship, and in doing that plant a seed that may grow into another expression of the 3 Great Loves? I am looking forward to what new expressions of love we may adopt here at First Congregational in the next 2 years! –Pastor Craig

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

M 8 am - 1 pm
T 9 am - 1 pm
W 8 am - 12:30, 1 pm to 4:30
Th 8 am - 12:30, 1 pm to 4:30
F 9 am - 1 pm

ATTENDANCE

July 2 45 July 9 70 July 15 40
July 23 43 July 30

Church Staff

Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Pastor
Office: 832-2232 Cell 297-4316
Pastor's email: revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net
Michele Omgig: Admin. Assist. 227-8358
Church's e-mail: administrative.office@fcuccwc.org
Dale Olson: Stephen Ministry Ldr 839-5619
Sunshine Yoders: Choir Director 835-7626
Melissa Hindt: Organist 209-8087
Mary Van Diest: Pianist 832-3754
Curt/Lorraine McCoskey: Cust's. 832-5341
Tracy Wehrhan: Church Treasurer 297-0370
Dale Olson: Financial Secretary 839-5619



PARISH NURSE NEWS

Kids' eye - Q

Before kids head to school, be sure to get their eyes checked. Healthy vision is important for learning. Studies report that 60% of children identified as "problem learners" may suffer from undetected vision problems. August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month. The American Optometric Association recommends a comprehensive eye exam at age 3 before a child enters school; and then every 2 years, unless otherwise advised.

Women's Fellowship

The Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, September 6 at 5:00 pm.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

2 - Bruce Perry
4 - Jessica Fiala
5 - Patty Gescheidler
6 - Vicki (Weissinger) Long
6 - James Van Diest
7 - Richard Tudor II
9 - Caitlyn Gapp
10 - Amy Olson
10 - Addison Marie Stearns
12 - Jan Maxon
12 - Howard Stearns
12 - Vicky Hahne
12 - Tracy (Jaycox) Bahrenfuss
12 - Regan Hollingshead
13 - Sue Hollingshead
15 - Audrey Burtnett
15 - Laurie Epps
15 - Ron Long
16 - Tom Riemenschneider
16 - Samantha DeWitt
16 - LaVonne Osmundson
18 - Andrea Gordon
18 - Debbie Jaycox
19 - Allison Yungclas
19 - Mary Van Diest
19 - Eric Larson
20 - Lieum James Luevanos
21 - Mark Carlson
21 - Mary Worthington
24 - Nick Oberender
26 - Britny Fortune
27 - Shari Rothrock
28 - Bob Weieneth
31 - Betty Ploeger
31 - Margy Wood



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

2 - Carl & Shannon King
11 - Luverne & Verna Bierle
11 - Mark & Jennie Brim
23 - Don & Gretchen Bruner
23 - John & Beth Van Diest
29 - Daniel & Samantha DeWitt
31 - Jason & Amanda Strahl

Summer Giving

It has been brought to the attention of the Cabinet that summer giving is usually below what we need to run the church. This year we have a smaller reserve than we have had in the past. With this in mind we, the Cabinet, ask that even if you aren't able to attend church that, if possible, you try to keep your financial giving on par for the year. Thank you.

THRIFT SALE

September 22 & 23

Fall Cleaning and Sorting

Friday & Saturday, September 22 & 23 -

Women's Fellowship will be conducting their semi-annual Thrift Sale.

Wed. September 20 - We will be accepting those items cluttering up your lives. If you need assistance transporting your items, call Cindy Henning – 297-0422 or email jbhfam@mchsi.com.

Please note - Bring items that are **clean, complete, and in good repair**. We will **no longer accept older TVs** because there isn't anywhere to take them after the sale.

Thank you for your donations and your help making this fundraiser a success.

A Reminder about Hospitalization

If you are hospitalized and want the pastor to know you are a patient, please be sure that you, or a relative or friend, contact either the church office or Pastor Craig. Do not rely on the hospital to contact the church or the pastor on your behalf, even if they ask if you wish for them to contact the church.

Receive Church Updates Through One Call Now:

Our church uses the automated phone messaging service OneCallNow, which sends short voice messages with timely reminders to all members. If you have not been receiving these calls and would like to begin receiving them, please call the church office so we can add your phone number to the OneCallNow database.

Third Saturday Worship service August 19

Our next Saturday evening service is on August 19, beginning at 5 p.m. Our Saturday services are more informal than our regular Sunday services, and dress is casual—come as you

are! Like our previous years' Saturday services, there will be no refreshments following the service, and there will be no Sunday worship services on the weekends of our Saturday services.

Thanks

A huge thank you to everyone who packed the choir loft with "paper and pancakes" for our local church food pantries!



3 Great Loves - Conference Coordinators

The National Office is seeking teams of two people within each conference to inspire collaboration and transformation through the 3 Great Loves initiative. Conference coordinators have flexibility on how they shape their role, but the goal is to gather and share stories about the collective impact of the UCC's justice work. The position description of the Coordinator follows.

If you are interested in this appointment, please contact Conference Minister Rich Pleva at rich@ucciaconf.org.

3 Great Loves Conference Coordinators

The 3 Great Loves initiative is launching at General Synod in summer 2017 and will culminate at the next General Synod in summer 2019. This initiative will lift up the UCC's historic and current love of neighbor, love of creation and love of children. The National Office will issue a call to action around each of these 3 Great Loves and encourage congregations to share their stories, creating a narrative of the Gospel in action and stirring ourselves and each other towards a clearer vision of a more just world for all.

Role of the Conference Coordinators:

We are seeking teams of two people within each conference to inspire collaboration and transformation through the 3 Great Loves initiative. Conference Coordinator teams will have flexibility on how they shape their role, but the goal is to gather and share stories about the collective impact of the UCC's justice work. As people of faith, it is a critical time for us to make our voices heard. We must continue to testify about how we see God working in the world as we seek to change our lives and the lives of those around us. We must be a people of action.

We are looking for Conference Coordinators who are willing to:

- Participate in quarterly video conference calls with the other coordinators from your region to discuss the 3 Great Loves initiative is progressing within the denomination
 - o Initial Webinar: August 2017
 - o Love of Neighbor calls: September 2017 and January 2018
 - o Love of Children calls: May 2018 and September 2018
 - o Love of Creation Calls: To Be Determined
 - o "Thank you" reception at Synod and final call: June/July 2019
- Organize or participate in each of the three National UCC "calls to action."

There will be three "calls to action" over the course of the next two years—one for each of the 3 Great Loves. We will show Love of Neighbor by doing basic needs drives in fall 2017, Love of Children with a school supply drive in fall 2018 and Love of Creation with

walks to raise money for a healthier earth in spring/summer of 2019.

- Interview one (or more) people about their participation in the 3 Great Loves Initiative after each of the three "calls to action" and complete the online reporting form.
- Participate occasionally in the 3 Great Loves Online Community by posting comments or stories.
- Disseminate an online survey to people within your conference as widely as possible

Role of the UCC National Office:

You will not be doing this work alone! The National UCC Office will be here to support and encourage you along the way. Specifically, we will:

- Set up a webinar to explain the 3 Great Loves Initiative and your particular role in more detail, as well as coordinate the quarterly video conference calls.
- Provide clear materials with examples and stories to give you a sense of the creative possibilities in being a Conference Coordinator
- Opportunity to win an iPad and UCC swag
- Opportunity for building your resume. This *extremely* part-time role will allow people to further develop or refine project management, interviewing, and community organizing skills.

For more information, Contact:

Nichole Collins
collinsn@ucc.org
216-736-2102

Treasurer's Report

INCOME	June	YEAR TO DATE
Pledges and Offerings	\$11,928.88	\$87,077.47
Other Income	.00	12.03
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,928.88	\$87,089.50
EXPENSES		
Outreach and Mission	2,012.34	\$9,928.88
Pastoral Services	11,248.42	44,268.64
Maintenance and Repairs	3,870.70	16,672.79
Church Office	3,048.01	17,631.79
Music Ministry	283.25	4,077.75
Christian Education	120.70	312.83
Local Ministry	0.00	30.00
Misc. Expenses	42.50	761.89
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$20,625.92	\$93,684.57

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Address Service Requested

God is still speaking
to everyone in the home of:

