

**Straight to the Point**

**November 5, 2019**

**Thanksgiving Prayer for this Week**

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,

For health and food,

For love and friends,

For everything Thy goodness sends.

* Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

**Daily Gratitude Moment**
At the end of the day, consider:

How were you blessed by God’s goodness today?

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**This Week at FCUCC**

Tuesday,11/5 9:00 am – Stretch & Flex

 12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline

Wednesday, 11/6 10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group

 6:00 pm – Women’s AA Group Meeting

Thursday, 11/7 9:00 am – Stretch & Flex

 7:00 pm – Alcoholics Anonymous

Friday, 11/8 3:15 pm – PRC Committee Meeting

 5:30 pm – Road Trip to RED in Vermillion

Sunday, 11/10 9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class

 9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal

 10:30 am –Worship & Communion; Refreshments after

 4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing

 Monday, 11/11 6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group

Tuesday,11/12 9:00 am – Stretch & Flex

 12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**Road Trip to RED in Vermillion – Friday, November 8th**

This Friday. November 8, 2019, there will be another "road trip/eating-out" opportunity! On that day, anyone who is interested can **meet at the church between 5:30-5:45 pm** in the parking lot & we will carpool to Vermillion. There, we will gather to eat a delicious meal at RED, a restaurant right in the heart of downtown (just a block away from Café Brulé).

This will be the last out-of-town road trip until spring, so try to be a part of this opportunity! (For the next few months, we will be eating at places in the "Sioux City metro area." )

As always remember to wear your "stretchy pants"! I Hope to see you this Friday!

If you have any questions, call Constance Popken.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**We are grateful for those who served us last week:**

Todd Siefker leading Sunday School.

Lois Darrow for serving as worship leader.

Verlee Owens and Ellen Shaner for serving as readers.

Allyson and Todd Siefker for providing snacks for fellowship.

For all who made the FCUCC Eat & Treat Night a success: Suzanne & Darrin & Austin Johnson, Michele Schwerin, Donna Popp & Chuck Johnson, Suzanne Peplani, Todd & Allyson Siefker, Barb & Kevin Knepper, Jay Rosenberg, Julie Ducommun, Jim & Ginger France, Caleb & Eli Miller, Dick Morgan & Kathy Trautman, Jan Nowlen, Nan Cord, Dick Owens, Ellen Shaner, Kelly & Jeff & Zack Hoselton-McCarthy. Also, special thanks to Wendy Clarey for sharing her fabulous haunted house!!

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**Sanford Thanksgiving Baskets – Sign Up this Sunday!**

First Congregational has long enjoyed a partnership with the Sanford Community Center. Part of the Sanford Center’s program this time of year is to plan for distributing 200 Thanksgiving baskets to families needing help in our community.

The baskets include a turkey, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, and cranberries. Sometimes the Center is also able to include a ham or pie.

Our church would like to assist with this gift of food. We encourage members of our congregation to consider donating to this project. **A sponsorship is $50.** You may also donate a lesser amount and it will be combined with other’s contributions. We would appreciate any gift that you choose.

**Please send your contribution to the church or bring it to church this coming Sunday.  Our goal is to raise $500.**  Thank you. Dick Owens

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**Check out our new website!**

Thanks to Todd Siefker and Jerrod Kiernan we have a new website:

<https://www.1stcongregationalucc.org/>

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**Sermon Series: Making a Life - Christianity for the Long Haul**

*“I’ve learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.”* (*Maya Angelou)*

This Sunday we will be continuing our 13-week series on Christian living. For centuries, there have been spiritual practices that have sustained Christians through challenging times. **This week our focus will be on the practice of Study.**

Each week, a video of the sermon will be posted on our new church website.

In addition, there will be handouts accompanying this newsletter (and available in hard copy on Sundays) so that you have the option to create your own Spirituality Binder/File.

This link will get you to the sermon video for the past week, as well as prior sections for your Spirituality Binder/File: <https://www.1stcongregationalucc.org>

Also, **on Fridays from 1:30 to 3:00 pm** we will be meeting at the Pierce Street Café to consider the spiritual practice for the coming Sunday.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**Fellowship Hosts are Needed for November**

Hosts are also needed for the Sundays in November

If you are able to provide this hospitality, please contact Maddie in the church office.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**“Moving On Box” needs for November**

**While you're at the store, pick up something extra for those in need**

**Most needed: 2- or 3- quart saucepans** Can openers

Towels Cookie Sheets

Cake Pans Dishes – plates/bowls

Dishtowels/dishcloths Frypans with lids

**Bring in your HyVee grocery receipts and General Mills box tops**

There’s a collection box in the church library.

We will donate these to a local school!

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner is November 24th**

**Are you planning to come?**

**Who will you invite from our wider community?**

We will need people to help in many ways make this possible.

Plan to sign up!

Details to follow . . .

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Ongoing Education Opportunities**

**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.

**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 Café

*“I’ve learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.”* (*Maya Angelou)*

These sessions will complement 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!

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**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

**Prayer Concerns**

Ailene Hutton Brian Van Berkum
Jason Olson Marly Van Berkum’s sister

Jan Nowlen and family Bob and Leone Eidsome

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**A message from the FCUCC Communication Team**

The FCUCC Communication Team needs 3 more people to serve as members of our Church's Welcoming Team. This involves making a connection with our guests (follow-up note, personal contact) to let them know they are welcome. Please contact Dick Owens at owensrichard24@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this team.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

**Stewardship Letter to the Congregation**

To all of our friends at First Congregational UCC of Sioux City, a sincere Thank You for your continued support of our community and projects.

        As 2019 rolls on, we are asking everyone to continue to support us, and increase your giving wherever possible. Income is down this year, and we need your support to continue to provide ministry and programming for the future. I want to confirm that we have generous donations from members, and we appreciate everything that we receive. However, with the low attendance this year, the offerings are overall very low in comparison to past years.

Please give as much as you can, whenever you can, so that we can continue our Missions, Charitable Giving, and expand our current programming for children and adult Christian Education programs, and more fun events like Breathing Space, Vegan Cooking classes, support of local agencies, and our ongoing search for a new pastor.

     In addition to our normal passing of the collection plate every Sunday, we also offer many other ways to give to First Congregational UCC. These include mailing in checks, dropping off payments anytime during the week, setting up automatic payments from your bank, and we are introducing a new system for us in an App called [Tithe.ly](http://Tithe.ly).

      Tithely is available as an app on your smart phone or tablet, and available online as a website as well.  [https://get.tithe.ly](https://firstcongregational.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eebc23259ad371a898720be0a&id=6b74f7af82&e=da075b983a) is the site to go to to sign up on your computer, or you can simply search for [Tithe.ly](http://Tithe.ly) on your App Store for Apple or Android products.  It is a free app, and it’s active now. We have set up an account so that you can go into that app, put in your card or bank info, and give that way as well. That app does charge us a small fee for transactions, and you can choose to pay the fee for us or not. (Example, if you give $100, it costs us $3.30 to process, so if you check the box labeled “pay fees”, you would give $103.30 and the Church would receive $100. If you don’t click that box, then you would give $100 and the Church would receive $96.70).

      And, if you want to help out but monetary giving is not feasible at this time, you can still volunteer and/or join any of our committees to help us grow and find new missions.

      And, as always, please, tell your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors and acquaintances to check out First Congregational UCC anytime! We appreciate any new folks that we can meet and offer them the opportunity to join our community.

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 Church Contact Information**

Mon & Fri 4:00pm-8:00pm          712-239-3385
Wed 4:00-4:30 office@firstcongregational.net
Tues-Thurs 1:00pm-5:00pm

Sat 1:00pm-5:00pm (call ahead)

**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 (9:30 am -12:30 pm); she leads Bible Study and visits Friday and Sunday afternoons.*

**Maddie Schwerin**, Church Administrator  office@firstcongregational.net
**Todd Siefker**, Intergenerational Coordinator   tsiefker@gmail.com

**Rick Darrow**, Organist

**Nate Hettinger**, Choir Director hettingern@morningside.edu

**Church Directory**

**If you are interested in receiving an updated 2019 church directory please contact our church administrator Maddie at**office@firstcongregational.net **or call 712-239-3385.**

**The “Straight to the Point” Weekly Deadline is Tuesday at Noon!**