

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ



“SUMMIT SPARKS”

May, 2023

563-582-5661

Website: www.summitucc.org

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ
2885 J. F. Kennedy Rd.
Dubuque, Iowa, 52002-1081

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	1 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 1:30pm - Bible Study (In-person)	2 9am - Pause for Pastors @ 7pm - Barbershoppers	3 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	4 6:30pm - Prochaska Zoom	5	6
7 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	8 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 10am - Diaconate 1:30pm - Bible Study (In-person)	9 9am - All Church Cleaning Day 7pm - Barbershoppers	10 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	11 10am - Trustees	12	13
14 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	15 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 1:30pm - Bible Study (In-person) 4pm - Church Council	16 7pm - Barbershoppers	17 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	18	19	20
21 10am - Food Pantry gifts 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	22 Pastor's Vacation 1:30pm - Bible Study (In-person)	23 7pm - Barbershoppers	24 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	25	26	27
28 Pastor's Vacation 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	29	30 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 7pm - Barbershoppers	31 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	1	2	3

Sweet Inspirations ...
“I am the church. You are the church.
We are the church together.”

These are the words from a song I sang as a child and still sing on occasion. I bet most, if not all of you have sung these words as well. This past Lenten season we partnered with First Cong. UCC and Immanuel Cong. UCC on 3 joint ventures which helped build relationships with one another and with God. We had a joint Ash Wednesday service and a joint Maundy Thursday service with a soup supper as a part of both those gatherings and members from each congregation being active participants in those services. Because the Ash Wednesday service needed to be postponed due to icy weather, the members of First Congregational church were unable to join us as they had other commitments already scheduled for the following Wednesday, none-the-less, the intentions were there to be active participants in both services.

That wasn't the only way we joined together for the Lenten season as people of God. People from all three congregations submitted entries for a Lenten Devotional which served as inspiration for people from all three churches and gave people the opportunity to put their faith into words and share it with others. These devotionals were made available both electronically and in hard copy to all three churches, as well as being posted on their websites as a form of outreach. By joining together in this devotional, it gave people an opportunity to go beyond their comfort zone, give voice to their beliefs, and to inspire others with what might have been the words of encouragement, hope, peace or even tough love they needed to hear to carry on in this earthly journey and draw nearer to God.

This past Tuesday the leadership of all three Dubuque UCC churches gathered together once again to share our joys and our struggles and to consider how we might continue to be the church of God beyond our buildings. People were so inspired by the Lenten Devotionals that it was a consensus that not only do we promote that again next Lent, but that we promote that opportunity for Advent as well. At our next quarterly meeting we will pick a theme for that devotional and then promote it throughout all 3 churches. We also made a decision through consensus to have a joint worship service this summer at the Arboretum on August 6th at 10:00 with a Potluck to follow Worship. The Worship leaders of the 3 churches, which may include music directors and lay leaders as well will jointly plan the service. We will also promote this service on our websites as a form of outreach. What a great opportunity to continue to build relationships and listen to how God is calling us to learn from one another, support one another and to be the sent ones together.

At this meeting, we weren't afraid to raise some of the tough questions and at least give some thought to them. One of the realities is that all three churches only offer Sunday morning services and all take place within 1 hour of each other. The question was raised how might we reach more people if someone were to offer a Saturday night service either in addition to or changed from their Sunday morning worship. In doing this would we reach some people who will never get up on Sunday morning but would attend a Saturday evening service and thus be able to share the Gospel with those who might never hear it. In hearing the Gospel, maybe they too will become not only disciples, but be the sent ones and actively participate in the ministries of God. No decisions have been made on any of this, but I believe it is important for us to discern how God might be speaking to us through these questions. I welcome your input on this as well as other hopes you have for participating in the redeeming work of God.

Last Sunday in my reflection, I challenged us to think about our own hopes, the hopes of this church, hopes for our families and this nation and consider what they sound like. I asked us to consider how broad or narrow are those hopes. Then I admitted that when I began here at Summit, I put out a Basket of Hopes for Summit and how I realized that was a very narrow vision. Maybe it would have been better phrased to say, what are your hopes for participating in God's redeeming work for all of creation? It is important that our hopes go beyond survival because survival is useless if it doesn't participate in God's redeeming work to which we have been called. It is also important to maintain hope when struggles challenge our beliefs. So, once again I have put out a Basket of Hope, but this time with our hopes for participating in the redeeming work of God. As you have a hope, I invite you to put it on a card and drop it in the basket for the words of that old song are still very true ...

I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together!

Shalom,
Pastor Karen

MAY BIRTHDAYS: 4 th Doug Watters 5 th Jessica Stepp 7 th Sarah Welbes 21 st Brian Weiss 25 th Josh Orr	26 th Karen Candee Rachael Stumpf 28 th Beth Havlik MAY ANNIVERSARIES: 16 th Greg and Lisa Hansen 27 th Sarah and Kathy Starits-Tayloe 30 th Ellen and Ron Craff
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Important Calendar Dates:

Tuesday, May 9	9 am	All Church Cleaning

Scheduled Committee Meetings Please remember that **ALL committee and council meetings** are open to the congregation.

Monday, May 8	10 am	Diaconate meeting
Thursday, May 11	10 am	Trustees meeting
Monday, May 15	4 pm	Church Council meeting

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2023 via Zoom

Present: Pastor Karen, Steve Bruse, Joanne Van Natta, Ann Herr, Judy Prochaska and Flora Brown
Pastor Karen opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed, Judy motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Joanne seconded and the motion carried.

Trustees:

Merlin provided quotes for two dishwashers. After discussion, it was approved to go with the Web Restaurant Store dishwasher for \$4,829.00 plus tax (free shipping). Merlin will approach Summit Fellowship to see if they would contribute to the purchase of the dishwasher, would also use some Memorial Funds. After a security system problem, Merlin was contacted by our security system requesting that we switch from our phone system to a radio system. A sales person will meet with Merlin. The 2023 real estate assessment was received—the land value jumped by \$200,000.00 and the buildings by \$2,600.00. The handicapped stall toilet in the women's restroom was cracked and has been replaced.

Diaconate:

The committee did not meet in April. They took care of pastoral coverage while pastor was on vacation.

O/M/E:

The blood drive went very well, so we will look into holding another one—possibly holding this one in the evening so there will be more availability for those who are working. Joanne will look into setting this up. During the month of April the OGHS campaign was promoted.

Christian Ed.:

The in person Bible study continues to meet on Mondays at 1:30 pm. They will be starting chapter 14

of the Book of Acts.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Karen had an El Advisory Council Meeting on April 20 via Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8th via Zoom. The services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday all went well, as did the soup supper on Maundy Thursday. Both First Congregational and Immanuel joined us for Maundy Thursday. All three churches participated equally in the readings and snuffing out of the candles for the Tenebrae Service. People who came for just the Tenebrae Service also came back to Fellowship Hall to join in the service of Holy Communion around the supper table at the end of supper. Pastor received a thank you email from a member of First Congregational for the meaningful and inspirational service, as well as, for her leadership in getting the three churches to be in covenant together and establishing better communication. She can't take all the credit there as Beth Boleyn made many of the initial contacts for that but Karen had kept it going.

Pastor preached on the 3rd Word—John 19:25a-27 “Here is your son; here is your mother,” at the Ecumenical Good Friday Service at St. Luke's UMC at 1 pm. Ernie was the reader for the prayer and scripture for that portion of the service. Pastor took vacation from April 14-20th. She shifted it from its original schedule so that she could officiate the Celebration of Life Service for Don Guler who passed away on April 8th and his service was held on April 13th. While she was on vacation, Rev. Dianne Grace filled in for both pulpit supply and Pastoral Care Coverage for emergencies. Before starting vacation, she put together the PP for worship on the 16th and sent out the worship script in the weekly reflection letters and through the emails. The phone was checked by Steve Bruse. She put out several prayer requests, as well as, having some nursing home visits and a hospital visit.

Summit is hosting the Memorial Service for Paul Exstrom on April 29, 2023. He is a member of First Cong. and it is still not safe to use their facility for that purpose, so they asked for permission to use our facility and the Trustees voted to approve that use for whatever honorarium the family wanted to offer as part of our covenantal relationship. Pastor Kaity Kemp will be officiating the service and their janitor will be cleaning up afterwards. Karen will be meeting with Kaity and their office manager Nikki on Tuesday, April 25 at 10:30 am so they can work out the logistics of everything.

The City of Dubuque dropped off a new trash container for us to use for curbside pick up, so from now on we will need to bring the container to the curb and face the grab bar to the curb for garbage pick up. Reminder, the next three church meeting is April 25 at 4 pm in person. Karen has sent out notices to all three churches. Pastor officiated the memorial service for Monica Meissner—a member of Immanuel, on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2 pm at Egelhof, Siegert & Casper Funeral Home and presided over the graveside committal service on Monday, April 24 at 10 am at Linwood Cemetery for both Monica and Bill Meissner(Bill died in 2018 but had not been buried). Karen will be doing the funeral service of Jeaninne Cain on Saturday, April 29th at 1 pm at Egelhof, Siegert & Casper Funeral Home with burial at Memorial Gardens. Pastor will be taking another vacation May 22-May 28th but will do her office hours on May 30th as the 29th is Memorial Day. On May 2nd the UD is hosting Pause for Pastors from 9am—1pm at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library which she plans to attend. Pastor Karen will be starting on Medicare next month—she will just be adding that cost into her salary.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Sparks articles are due this Friday, April 28. Next meeting—Monday, May 15 at 4 pm via Zoom. Joanne motioned to adjourn the meeting, Judy seconded and the motion carried,

Respectfully submitted,
Flora Brown, Clerk



Easter Lilies

Donated By

Joanne Van natta

Kreimeyer/King Families

Neil & Karen Candee

Neil & Karen Candee

Neil & Karen Candee

In Loving Memory of

Husband - Bob Van natta,

Parents - Edward and Helen Rondeau

Siblings - Jim, Donna, Judy & Diane
Rondeau

Kreimeyer/King Loved Ones

Parents - Russ & LeNora Candee

Parents - Edward & Helen Rondeau

Siblings - Brian & Angela Candee
Jim, Donna, Judy & Diane Rondeau



Graduation is Near

If you know someone graduating this year, we would like to help celebrate their accomplishments.

Please submit their name, from where they are graduating,

what degree and or field of major if above high school graduation,

important family relationships to that individual you would like to acknowledge,

and any other activities or accomplishments you would like to acknowledge throughout that journey.

Please submit them to Pastor Karen either in hard copy, a phone call or via email.

Farewell to Donald A. "Don" Guler

"In our end is our beginning ...

In our death a resurrection at the last a victory"

Don's journey on earth began on February 7, 1935

and ended on April 8, 2023

A service celebrating his life was held on April 13, 2023

Contributors: Pastor Karen, Flora Brown (clerk), Merlin Green (editor)