



The
Lamplighter

First Congregational
United Church of Christ

April 2016



Upcoming:

Sunday, April 10th

The First Children's Choir will sing during or 10 am morning worship service.

Wednesday, April 20th

All-Church Meeting Night. All Boards and Committees meet at 7:00 pm and the Church Council meets following Board and Committee meetings at 7:45 pm.



Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

"It is Finished." *Really?*

In Jesus' final moments on the cross, his breathy, exhausted voice utters the words, "It is finished." Theologians have understood this statement as Jesus' recognition that his earthly work was done. That he had accomplished all that God sent him here to do. God's plan was fulfilled. Salvation had become possible. Amazing and unconditional love made known. Jesus had been a good and faithful servant as he bridged the chasm between humanity's brokenness and God's eternal love.

Now it was in God's hands. All that awaited from that moment on was the coming day of resurrection.

I've been thinking about those words, "It is finished." They are not words that I often find myself uttering. In fact, somewhere around the third day of my ministry here at First Congregational United Church of Christ, I

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If you have ever stopped by the church on a Wednesday evening, you will most assuredly have noticed that we have an energetic and lively group of kids that call our church their own. The middle school group is particularly active and faithful in their attendance. They are not afraid to ask questions and are eager to step up and be a part of our church family. That is why we are so excited that several youth from this class have expressed interest in attending the National Youth Event this summer in Florida. National Youth Event is July 26-30 at Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The theme is, rather fittingly, "Believe," from Hebrews 11:1 - "Faith is the confidence that what we **believe** will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."

We will be having an informational meeting on Wednesday, April 6th at 7:00 pm following Walking Wednesday. This

meeting is open to any youth from the church who might be interested in attending and their parents, or anyone interested in helping to fundraise!

To help make this happen, the group and their adult chaperones will be fundraising to pay for transportation and the cost of NYE. A big thank you is extended to Women's Fellowship for helping us with our first fundraiser, the Easter breakfast. The breakfast made approximately \$275 toward the effort. The group has two more fundraiser's already planned and will be discussing other ideas at our informational meeting on April 6th.

The group will start selling That's My Pan items and a selection of homemade freezer meals in the upcoming weeks, so please consider supporting this wonderful opportunity for our youth.



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came to the startling realization that I might never again actually be finished with everything in front of me. I suppose that is the case with most of us in this busy, fast-paced world we are a part of. But particularly in ministry, there never seems to be enough time to “finish” everything there is to do.

There is always one more visit to make, one more sermon to write, one more worship service to plan, one more meeting to attend. For my sixteen years of ministry it has been the norm but it continues to engender an untold amount of anxiety for me as a pastor. As I talk with my colleagues it is the same for them. There are never enough hours in the day to finish everything we would like to get done. Even when we have put in a 60-70 work week (yes, it really happens!) we still feel guilty turning out the office lights and going home when we know there is still something that could use our attention.

Thankfully, I like being busy. I also like being “finished” every once in a while. Unfortunately, that doesn’t seem to happen very often in my world. One of my greatest fears in life is that when all is said and done, I will discover that I somehow didn’t do enough. Does anyone else ever experience that fear? It’s not that I expect to die with lots of regrets, but simply with the notion that there is something more I could and should have done. It’s a very real fear but guess what...

The Good News of our faith is that Good Friday and Easter have already happened. It truly is finished. Forgiveness and salvation and the hope for eternal life have already been realized and are ours for the taking! Yes, indeed, “It is finished.” And this is amazingly good news for you and for me, today and forever.

Blessings

Pastor Corey



Photos Needed

On Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 8th, we would once again like to do a special video tribute to all of the moms and other important women in our lives.

We are requesting all members of the congregation to submit photos of your mothers, grandmothers, daughters who are now moms, and other women who have been like mothers to you.

If you submitted a photo last year, we will automatically include it again unless you wish to replace it with a new one.

Please do not send your photos to the Church or Pastor’s email but, rather, e-mail them to:

eldoraucemothersday@gmail.com

If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your photo, please contact Pastor Corey to ensure it was received and usable.

Prayer Concerns:

Kale Schmidt who remains a patient at the University of Iowa for treatment of lymphoma.

Joyce Young who spent a few days at Mercy Hospital in Mason City after suffering an unexplained fall.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Choir 8:30 am Worship 10 am— <i>Communion</i>	4	5	6 Walking Wednesdays-5:30 pm NYE informational meeting-7pm	7	8	9
10 Choir 8:30 am (Children Sing) Worship-10 am	11	12 Pastor Corey hosts Clergy Excellence Group-10 am	13 Pastor Corey at PLMA-10 a Walking Wednesday-5:30 pm	14	15	16
17 Choir 8:30 am Worship-10 am Young Adult Group-5 p	18	19 Pastor Corey at Clergy Cluster-9:30 am	20 Women's Fellowship-10 am Walking Wednesday-5:30 pm All-Church Meeting Night 6 pm Church Council-6:45 pm	21	22	23
24 Choir 8:30 am Worship-10 am	25	26	27 Walking Wednesday-5:30 pm	28	29	30

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES

April

2nd—Rick Wolcott
 3rd—Paul and Dianne Haywood-a
 Marilyn Cakerice-b
 4th—Steve Perry
 5th—Tyson Isenhower
 10th—Shelly Smith
 17th—Rick and Kari Wolcott
 20th—Malachi Stupp

22nd—Kynna McDonald
 23rd—Barb Herndon
 25th—Kellie Smith
 27th—Mark Smith
 30th—Dallas Brekke

May

3rd—Kristin Brady
 8th—Flo Fisher
 9th—Millie Dagit

12th—Corey and Nicole Larson-a
 Chad McDonald
 19th—Paul Haywood
 21st—Dick Fisher
 23rd—Mike Steinfeldt
 24th—Jami Stupp
 29th—Bob and Susie Liston-a
 31st—Gillian Gear