

April and May 2019  
Algona First Congregational United Church of Christ  
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Sunday Worship 10:00 AM  
Pastor Chris Burtnett  
Home Phone 515-395-3403      Cell Phone 712-269-5719

### FROM THE FRONT PORCH

One of the better known pieces of New Testament scripture is from Matthew 5:3-12. It's from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. It is most commonly referred to as "The Beatitudes." Blessed are: the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, are merciful, , pure in heart, peacemakers, are persecuted for righteousness' sake, when people revile, persecute and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my (Jesus') account. Sound familiar?

There's a similar piece in Luke's gospel in chapter 6, verses 20-26. Luke's version is in Jesus' Sermon on the Plain and contain blessings and woes (warnings). Take some time to read, compare and contrast Matthew's and Luke's versions and then take a look at what retired pastor and current author Maren C. Tirabassi has done with Luke's. She has adapted them to address some of the things we are living through today in what she titles "A Valentine's Day Reading of Luke 6:20-26," which is provided below.

Blessed are you who are poor  
in pink greeting cards and chocolate,  
because you love someone with dementia –  
for God remembers you both.

Blessed are you who are hungry for a love  
forbidden by family or culture,  
by law or religion,  
by damage sustained in heart or spirit,  
or by ICE agents who tear your family apart –  
because God promises you  
the taste of kisses.

Blessed are you who are shunned or bullied  
in person and online,  
for you will have a day  
when you will see yourself in a mirror  
and laugh with joy at your beauty.

Blessed are you when they refuse  
to bake your wedding cake,  
or let you show your love of country  
with military service,  
when they call the child you love –  
"just a foster kid,"  
bar the way of the therapy dog  
who holds your heart together,  
because your wounds do not fit  
their definitions,  
or turn you away in tears  
from an ex-spouse's visiting hours.  
Re-joy in that day, for you understand  
the Corinthians psalm to love  
as more than a link  
on a wedding planner's website.

But woe to you who hoard a loving family,  
rather than sharing it with the lonely,  
for you are consoled now.

Woe to you who expect life  
to be all honeymoon,  
for you won't be resilient to disappointment.

Woe to you who laugh at anyone  
who is unloved,  
or whose love is dismissed –  
for you will never be able to take it back  
when tears teach you wisdom.

Woe to you when all congratulate  
your penmanship in life,  
for you may forget the teacher  
who once told you to make  
a Valentine, not just for those like you,  
but for everyone in class,

no, not the teacher in second grade --  
the one two thousand years ago.

Maren's adaptation is appropriate for any day, not  
just Valentine's Day. Easter is almost here. We'll be  
celebrating the resurrection of the teacher, the one  
two thousand years ago who blessed us all. Let's  
remember how blessed we are, and to be blessings  
too.

## Pastor Chris

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### BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

#### February

- The board continues to be in contact with folk who will take care of the tree removal, boiler room air compressor pressure switch and roof issues to get these taken care of as soon as possible.
- Current officers of the board will continue in their positions. President-Mick Schlievert, Vice President-Greg Buchanan, Secretary-Holly Filson/Heath, Treasurer-Larry Person.
- Our Church is hosting World Day of Prayer on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30.
- Misty Bachman asked if she might have the chalkboard in the Trash and Treasure room on which Olivia wrote "Olivia was here." The board approved her request.
- We have made a number of improvements to our facilities. There are still many others that could be addressed. Some would be at significant cost. The question was raised as to whether endowment funds could be used for some of them. Greg Buchanan will research this and report to the board at the March meeting. The property committee will meet to review the list of items that

could be addressed in the church fellowship/education building and parsonage, prioritize needs and secure estimates for prioritized projects.

- Next board meeting will be March 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### March

- There have been leaks in the sanctuary, ramp, and west entry of fellowship hall as the snow melts. Some have stopped and others are slowing.
- A \$100 donation has been given to help repair the ceiling of the west entry to fellowship hall.
- Maundy Thursday will be observed with a worship service here. Time to be announced later.
- Palm Sunday Brunch is April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- One of the air conditioning units has been damaged by falling ice. Algona plumbing will be contacted to make repairs.
- Greg reported on the possibility of using endowment fund to pay for some of the repairs that need to be made around the church properties. The principal may not be used but any gain from the fund investments could. Care should be used in any consideration of doing this as some gain is already being used occasionally.

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### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report as of Feb 28th

Checking Account \$4,362.11  
Savings Account \$13,650.21

### EASTER LILIES



If you would like to order an Easter Lily there is still time. Please call the Church Office and leave a message and phone number in case of questions.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Trash, Treasure and Bake Sale will be April 26th and 27th. Help will be needed to tag items and set them out our "treasures" We will also need baked items and help the days of the sale. Items are still being taken. Work day to tag items will be April 5<sup>th</sup>.

## FELLOWSHIP REPORT



The Palm Sunday Brunch will be held after worship on April 14th. Bring your table service, a brunch dish to share, and join in! There will not be a Wednesday Fellowship evening in April, nor will there be another potluck at the end of the month.



On Wednesday, May 8th, we plan to work outside and to plant flowers along the sidewalk, weather permitting. We'll follow this with a picnic, inside or out! We will celebrate the kids' last Christian Ed Sunday with a potluck after worship on May 19th. Mark your calendars, and join in the fun!

Fellowship night in February we made Whisper Phones for the Algona Public Library in memory of Olivia Bachman.



## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee is looking for some volunteer help: the lower walls in the secretary's office and Pastor Chris's office need painting. These are the walls below the windows on the west sides of the offices. Anyone interested in scraping and painting the walls please contact Holly Filson/Heath.

Watch your calendars for the annual Spring Cleaning Day. Once the weather warms up and the ground firms up a bit we will be sprucing up the outdoor areas as well as a few indoor places.



CONGRATULATIONS to Carter Bachman. Carter is the son of Misty Bachman and grandson of Don and Becky Marine. He graduates from Algona High School on May 19. Carter plans to attend Waldorf College in Forest City with a major in History and Social Studies Education. We wish Carter much success in his future plans.

## WEEK OF PRAYER

In January our church hosted on Monday during Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare, serve and clean-up for the meal.



## RECIPE

This recipe was requested after one of our March Wednesday Night Fellowship.

### Chicken Spaghetti

3 cups chicken or 4 chicken breasts  
½ cups chopped onion  
1 -28 oz can of cream of chicken SOUP  
12 oz thin spaghetti  
3 TBLS butter  
½ cup celery  
1 ½ cup Velveeta cheese  
1 cup milk  
Grated cheddar cheese  
(Optional – T. Chopped pimentos and mushrooms)  
Cook chicken, remove and cut up. Boil spaghetti in the chicken water. Melt butter and saute' onion and celery. Add chicken, soup, milk, Velveeta cheese, salt and pepper and add drained spaghetti. Put in greased 9x13 pan with grated cheese on top. Bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

## COMMUNITY BOARD OPENING

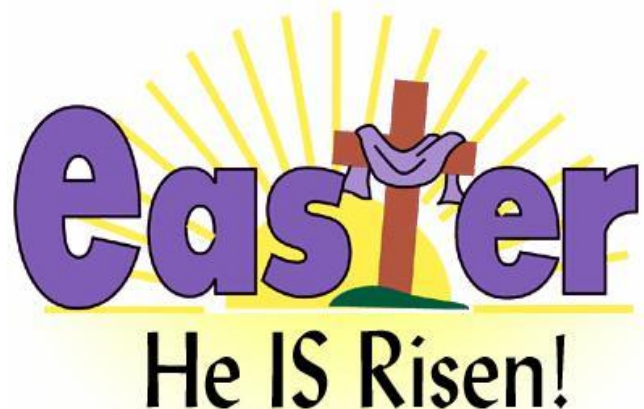
The Kossuth Strengthening Families organization is looking for some new Board members. This is an awesome program providing instruction to help families improve communication as well as helping parents and youth handle stress, peer pressure, and strengthen their family bonds. Board members oversee the workings of the program, advocate for the program, and are involved in some fundraising (presenting to community groups, planning and putting on a BBQ dinner 1x a year). The Board meets once a month during the school year and because the program has been running for several years there is minimal 'work' involved. If you would be interested in serving on the Board, please contact Holly Filson/Heath.

## PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH WHEN:

- a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.
- your group or committee plans a meeting or event, so the date and

time can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.

- either your home, cell or business phone number changes, so we can update the church records.
- you are planning a move, whether locally or out of town.
- a new baby arrives in your family in the family or another church member or friend.
- a member of you family leaves home to attend college or establishes a new residence.
- a church member or constituent dies and the church can be of assistance.



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2019

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|
|    | 1<br>                                      | 2<br>         | 3<br> | 4<br> | 5<br>1 pm Tag for<br>Trash and Sale   | 6<br>Pilgrim Heights<br>Board Meeting   |
| 7<br>9:00am Seekers<br>10:00 am<br>Worship<br>Communion<br>Food Pantry              | 8<br>11 am Ex-OP<br>Fellowship Hall<br>4:30 pm AAUW<br>Fellowship Hall  | 9<br>9:30-11:30 am<br>Pastor Chris at<br>Chocolate<br>Season<br>12:30 pm DAR                   | 10<br>7 pm Board<br>meeting  | 11   | 12  | 13  |
| 14<br>9:00am Seekers<br>10:00 am<br>Worship<br>Potluck Brunch                       | 15<br>11 am Ex-OP<br>Fellowship Hall  | 16<br>9:30-11:30 am<br>Pastor Chris at<br>Chocolate<br>Season                                  | 17   | 18<br>Maundy<br>Thursday   | 19<br>Good Friday<br>7pm<br>Community<br>yworship at 1 <sup>st</sup><br>United<br>Methodist   | 20  |
| 21<br>9:00am Seekers<br>10:00 am Easter<br>Worship                                  | 22<br>11 am Ex-OP<br>Fellowship Hall<br> | 23<br>9:30-11:30 am<br>Pastor Chris at<br>Chocolate<br>Season<br>4 pm Missions<br>and Memorial | 24   | 25   | 26<br>Trash, Treasure,<br>and Bake Sale<br><div data-bbox="1060 1444 1401 1518" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">Pastor Chris at Sioux Falls<br/>COM Training</div> | 27<br>Trash, Treasure,<br>and Bake Sale   |
| 28<br>9:00am Seekers<br>10:00 am<br>Worship   | 29<br>11 am Ex-OP<br>Fellowship Hall  | 30<br>9:30-11:30 am<br>Pastor Chris at<br>Chocolate<br>Season                                  |    |  |   |   |
|  |    |             |  |  |   |  |



2019

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                          | Friday | Saturday                              |
|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
|   |  |  | 1<br> | 2                                 | 3      | 4<br>Northwest Association @ Primghar |
|  |  |  |  |                                   |        |                                       |
| 5<br>9:00am Seekers<br>10:00 am Worship<br>Communion<br>Food Pantry               | 6<br>11 am Ex-OP<br>Fellowship Hall  | 7<br>9:30-11:30 am<br>Pastor Chris at<br>Chocolate Season  | 8  | 9                                 | 10     | 11                                    |
| 12<br>9:00am Seekers<br>10:00 am Worship  | 13<br>11 am Ex-OP<br>Fellowship Hall   | 14<br>9:30-11:30 am<br>Pastor Chris at<br>Chocolate Season<br>12:30 pm DAR<br>6:30 pm Food<br>Pantry Board Mtg | 15<br>7 pm Board<br>Meeting  | 16<br>8:30 Ministerial<br>Meeting | 17     | 18                                    |
| 19<br>9:00am Seekers<br>10:00 am Worship<br>Potluck                               | 20<br>11 am Ex-OP<br>Fellowship Hall   | 21<br>9:30-11:30 am<br>Pastor Chris at<br>Chocolate Season   | 22<br>10 am Clergy<br>Cluster  | 23                                | 24     | 25                                    |
| 26<br>10:00 am Worship  | 27<br>9 am Sefrit<br>Memorial<br> | 28<br>9:30-11:30 am<br>Pastor Chris at<br>Chocolate Season<br>Dead line for<br>June/July<br>Newsletter         | 29   | 30                                | 31     |                                       |

