



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
February 2022



Friends in Christ:

Well, that didn't go as planned.

We resumed in-person worship in the fall. We started singing together as Advent arrived. On Christmas Eve we once again brought beautiful candle light into the sanctuary. We even gathered together on the day after Christmas for the final worship service of 2021.

And then... snow led us to cancel worship on January 2. The Omicron surge led us to pause in-person worship for two weeks. And then for another two weeks.

That didn't go as planned.

It seems as though I've said those words many times in the past two years. Perhaps you have as well. We have learned to adjust and to adapt. We have become good at the conditional, the provisional. Work life and family life, school years and leisure time have not gone as planned.

Recently when my plans seem to crumble so easily, I have recalled the words of the prophet Jeremiah, speaking to the Jewish people in exile, certainly people who knew just how poorly things could go. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Some days those words seem loud and clear.

Some days they are almost completely drowned out by events in the world.

Our plans are important. Working toward making our plans a reality is one way in which we live into hope.

So look for information in the days ahead about our new plans for in person worship as the Reopening Committee reviews the situation on February 3. We want to be together. And we want everyone to be as safe as possible in these days so filled with unknowing.

We'll keep planning. That's what we do.

It's good to know that our plans and our actions are held in the larger plans of God, plans, Jeremiah affirms, for our welfare.

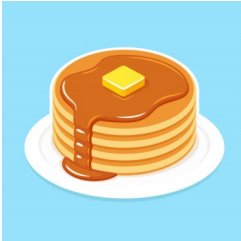
Peace,  
Bill

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### **Be-Loving, Be-Caring, Be-Kind...the Be-attitudes.**

Sunday School students are studying the Beatitudes for Lent this year. We miss you all and look forward to regular Sunday School lessons at 9:15am...every Sunday morning that we have worship. See you soon!



#### **Pancake Supper**

Ash Wednesday (and the beginning of Lent) is late this year. Wednesday, March 2 is Ash Wednesday, and the CE Board is planning on hosting its Mardi Gras Pancake Supper that night. Please watch the announcements for an interesting presentation of this annual event.

#### **Librarian**

The CE Board is looking for a candidate for Librarian. Would you like to help keep our library current? Would you like to purchase and recommend books for our library? Contact Rev. Ann Molsberry if interested.



#### **THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING.**

We received over \$1130. Each year, the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund Offering allows the UCC to assist retired pastors living on limited incomes as well as to supplement small retirement annuities and health premiums and to provide emergency grants to active and retired clergy and lay employees. The mission of the Christmas Fund is to provide assistance dollars in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid.



#### **ALTERNATIVE GIVING UPDATE:**

We received \$2240 for Heifer cards and donations this year. Thanks to everyone to participated in this annual event. Your giving will make a big difference in the lives of people. Thanks to the Mission Board for coordinating the project. And thanks to Ginny Clemons for her calligraphy that makes the cards so special.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

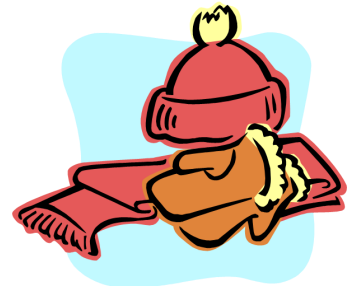
(As with all things as the pandemic continues, these dates, times, and places are subject to change.)

- March 2—Ash Wednesday; Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.
- March 6—First Sunday in Lent; Communion Sunday
- April 10—Palm Sunday—Worship with Distribution of Palms;
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 14 Maundy Thursday—Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 15, Good Friday—Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 17, Easter Sunday—Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.



### THINK AHEAD FOR ANNUAL OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION

Each year in the fall, Congregational UCC joins with other congregations in providing winter coats for people of all ages, especially children. As winter items start to go on sale in the stores, now is a great time to let your dollar go further and purchase coats. Please store them at your home until the fall when they can be brought to the church and then taken to the distribution site.



**YOUR**

**✓OTE**

**COUNTS**

### PETITION FOR AMENDMENTS TO IOWA'S NEW VOTING LAWS

The League of Women Voters of Iowa and eight Iowa-based co-sponsors will present petitions to the leadership of the 89th General Assembly at Iowa's Capitol. The petition, which contains signatures of Iowa voters, urges legislators to repeal sections of the newly-enacted voting laws. Iowa's new voter laws make voting harder, disqualifies voters more easily, shortens the voting time by 31%, makes elections more difficult to administer, and invites interference by political parties in elections.

[Registered voters can sign the petition online.](#)

*Co-sponsors of the petition include: League of Women Voters of Iowa; Common Good Iowa; Des Moines Chapter, The Links, Incorporated; Episcopal Diocese of Iowa; Iowa Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.; Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund; and Sierra Club Iowa Chapter.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



### CHECK IT OUT! THE ANNUAL SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 26 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 10:30AM – 4:00PM

The Shelter House Book Sale has been scheduled for March 26-27. Book donations and volunteer sorting will begin February 14.

**Location:** Old Antique Car Museum – 860 Quarry Road, Coralville

#### Event Dates

Sorting and accepting donations: Monday, February 14 – Wednesday, March 23

Sale: Saturday, March 26 and Sunday, March 27, 10:30am – 4:00pm

#### Volunteering

Sorting Shifts:

Sundays 2:00pm-4:00pm

Mondays 10:00am-2:00pm

Wednesdays 10:00am-2:00pm

Saturdays 10:00am-2:00pm

Signup for sorting shifts - <https://bit.ly/booksale-volunteer>.

#### Book Donations

Accepting: Books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, puzzles

NOT accepting: Magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks, cassettes or VHS tapes, damaged books, Readers Digest condensed books.

Our church has historically been a strong supporter of this sale. At the last sale we earned \$21,000 for Shelter House, working side by side with many other community volunteers. Please begin to get your book donations ready and drop them off beginning February 14. If you need someone to pick up your donations, someone from the volunteer team can come to your home. Donations can be dropped off at Rockwood Hall and a volunteer can take them to the sale site.

John Fieselmann and Donna Hirst are members of the Planning Committee and can answer any questions you have.

#### MILESTONES

Deaths:

Jerry Walker died on December 30, 2021.

Denny Dudley died on January 19, 2022.

We share in the sadness of their families and in the hope of the resurrection.



## CELEBRATING FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/3 Beth Parker  
Grace Stacy

2/10 Courtney Rowe

2/11 McKenzie Brown

2/13 Steve Bowers

2/14 Laura Ghabel

2/15 Sharyn Reitz

2/21 Nicole Pearson

2/23 Ethan Buck

2/24 Eugene Buck

2/25 Andrew Ghabel

2/27 Nicole Neems

2/28 Tom Mittman



**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



**CHURCH STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Visit our Web Site: [www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)

**Pastor:**

Dir of Church School

Music Director

Organist

Office Manager

Financial Secretary

Custodians:

**The Rev. William Lovin**

Rev. Ann Molsberry

Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Jenn Harden

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Douglas Herrera

Claudia Landaverde

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For up to date announcements, check us out on Facebook.