



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
March 2022



Friends in Christ:

Lent arrives in a nation and a world filled with uncertainty.

Covid-19 is spreading around the world—although no one knows how widely or how quickly it will spread or how deadly it will be. *Oh, wait a minute. These two sentences are what I wrote for the March 2020 newsletter. I guess we do know now.*

The pandemic is causing economic concerns, troubling both consumers and the stock market, which is responding with a panicked sell-off. *This too. The market went up. Now we have another panicky sell-off.*

With this news at the forefront, we might tend to forget about climate change, which continues to wreak havoc on the entire globe. *Climate change continues, although it gets pushed to the back of our minds as we focus, rightly, on dealing with the pandemic. And now on the situation in Ukraine calls for our attention. And during all of this, racial justice issues have taken on a new urgency.*

And, of course, we each have our individual lives with all of their demands, all of their concerns, and, yes, all of their *uncertainty* in these days. *This hasn't changed either.*

Lent begins on March 2. Much is the same as two years ago and much has changed in our always changing world and our always changing lives. Our theme for Lent this year comes from a hymn by Percy Dearmer: “Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry.” The end of the first verse gives the theme: “Reply with love to love most high.” We love because God first loved us. In the days of Lent, we are invited to set aside anxious fear and live more consciously in God’s love. We will take these weeks prepare ourselves for the great celebration of Easter—life conquering death, love conquering hate—on April 17.

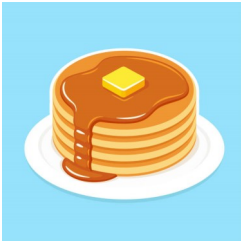
Peace,  
Bill

# 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.



### **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.

### **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13.**

Please remember to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening, March 12, so that you get to church on time.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.



**ONLINE DONATION**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

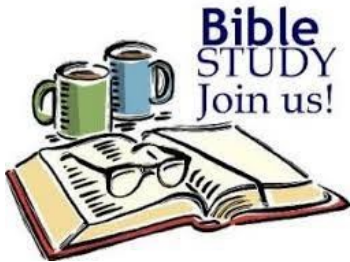
### IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

(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.



### LENT BIBLE STUDY LOOKS AT LUKE



A new Bible study will look at the ministry of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. Together we will watch what Jesus does, listen to what he says, and go where he goes. All of this will lead to an exploration of the last week of his life near the end of the Gospel.

We will meet together by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings from March 9 through April 6. If there is interest, a daytime group could also be formed.

Since the summer of 2020 we have studied several books of the Bible through free-flowing and honest discussions. Please consider being a part of this study as we move together through Lent. If you are interested or have questions, please call Bill Lovin at the church (319-337-4301) or email him at [uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org).

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS FORMING A SAFETY COMMITTEE** to review building security and related issues.

If you would like to be a part of this important work, please talk with Tom Mittman or call the church office at 319-337-4301.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, April 10, we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. For many years now, we have been on the list of Top 100 giving churches.

One Great Hour is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. It began in the Episcopal Church in 1946 when a goal of one million dollars per year was set for World Relief. That year members were challenged to raise “one million dollars in one hour.” Since 1949 this offering has united Christians of many denominations, including the UCC, in a common cause.

This year’s theme, “Love Remains” comes from Paul’s well-known words: “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13) In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others in standing in faith, hope, and love with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. Your generous gift will support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts. You can watch videos about the work that OGHS makes possible [by clicking here](#):

Let us join in this great tradition and give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.

### FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY

Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. Because so many people enjoy the burst of color, our Diaconate invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Tuesday, April 12.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### REOPENING NEWS

As Covid cases fall in Johnson County, the well-being of worshipers and our community is still our greatest concern.

**Masks are required for everyone in the building and we are providing KN95 masks for everyone.** We encourage worshipers to use the masks provided or bring a similar quality mask of their own. We also encourage people to keep social distance from one another in the sanctuary.



There are members and friends who are not ready yet to return to in-person worship. We will continue to live stream the worship service each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. Please choose the option that fits with your comfort level. The streaming address is the same each week.

The video of Sunday's worship service is posted after worship at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>.

**THE ANNUAL NIGHT OF 1000 DINNERS**, organized by the Johnson County Chapter of the United Nations Association celebrates International Women's Day, March 8, 6:00 on zoom. This virtual event will feature multicultural music, dance, art, and spoken-word presentations and will honor three local women-led organizations advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They are Inside Out Reentry Community, Iowa City Compassion, and Open Heartland. All proceeds will benefit these groups plus the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased only at [johnsoncountuna.org](http://johnsoncountuna.org) or by sending a check payable to JCUNA plus email address to JCUNA, 308 E. Burlington Street, #245, Iowa City, IA 52240.

**HOPE LODGE** wants to hire one or two ON-CALL staff who would be available to cover day shifts from 8 am–4:30pm or late afternoon night shifts, from 4pm – 12am. The Lodge is a great place to work, generally low stress and high support, serving guests who are appreciative of the facility during a challenging time in their lives. A successful applicant will be comfortable using computers and willing to learn our data entry program and other office procedures. Hours would range from 0 – 20 hours/week. Most coverage is for planned time off, though there are occasional short notice call offs due to illness or unexpected events. The position pays \$15.75/hour.


Please contact Sarah Ross, Assistant Manager, at 319-248-5400 with any questions. She is happy to speak informally with interested applicants.

**NIGHT OF 1000 DINNERS**  
MARCH 8TH, 2022 6-7 PM

A virtual celebration of International Women's Day with multi-cultural entertainment!

This year's theme is People in Transition and we are honoring Inside Out Reentry Community, Iowa City Compassion, and Open Heartland for their amazing contributions to our community! All proceeds will benefit these women-led groups and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

**TICKETS**  
\$25 for community  
\$10 for students  
Buy online at [johnsoncountuna.org](http://johnsoncountuna.org)

 **UNA USA**  
Johnson County 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

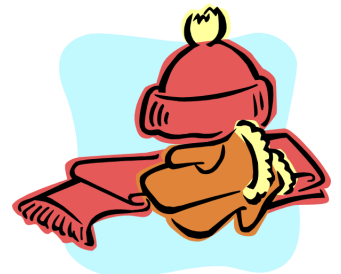
NOT accepting: Magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks, cassettes or VHS tapes, damaged books, Readers Digest condensed books.

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

#### 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.



## CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1 Sandra Lacina  
3/2 Sandra Miller  
3/4 Barb Hanson  
3/5 Lyle Tonne  
3/6 Melissa Reynolds  
3/10 James Jetter  
3/13 Joan Buxton  
Izzy Brown  
3/15 Sylvia Woolums  
3/19 Willem Maybaum  
Morton  
3/22 Nathaniel Savage  
3/23 Isabella Myers  
3/24 Carrie Whitaker  
3/29 Rachel Anderson  
Rebecca Keogh



## FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

*Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983*



Our church prepared **142** bagged lunches at the Free Lunch Program on Monday, January 31, 2022. The FLP dining room is now open with limited seating. Guests can also opt to take and go, as before.

**Thank you so much** to all who volunteered by donating food for this serving day:

Dianne Atkins, Sue Dayton, Bill Dickinson, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, Shelagh Hayreh, Betsy Henson, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Alfrieta Monagan, Linda Muston, Edie Roberts, Laurie Stunz and Rebecca Weatherford

Special appreciation to Betsy Henson, Joan Jehle, Edie Roberts and Laurie Stunz for their valuable onsite support. Our next scheduled serving date is **Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2022.**

*Vicki Thomae*

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 North Clinton Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52245-1700**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



**CHURCH STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Phone: 319-337-4301

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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Contact the Office

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[sharynreitz@gmail.com](mailto:sharynreitz@gmail.com)

Contact the Office

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