



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
May 2022



Friends in Christ—

You will notice that this newsletter is longer than other recent issues—more like those from the “before times.” And we are filling up the space in the Sunday bulletins with announcements about events and opportunities once again. As we continue our reopening process, more is happening.

Yes, the pandemic continues and there is still uncertainty, still a need to mask up and to care for one another. But there are also a growing number of new opportunities, new events, and new possibilities. The new life of spring joins with the new life of Easter and carries us forward.

This month my sermons will explore what we have learned in the pandemic and what we are still learning. At a recent Council meeting I asked members about this. They talked about how we have learned on the go. There have been a lot of quick changes in the world and we have learned to respond quickly. We are becoming a more agile congregation. We have learned how to Zoom and we have learned how nurturing it is to be together. People also spoke of significance of physical things: the sound of the organ reverberating through the sanctuary when the postlude ends, experiencing once again that distinctive “Rockwood Hall Smell.”

I’ve said recently that we are becoming a “Hybrid Congregation”—enjoying all of the gifts that in-person worship and gatherings offer and at the same time offering all of the opportunities that we can online for those who are not ready or unable to be a part of our in-person congregation. In this way we are reaching and involving a growing number of people in ways we never imagined two years ago. This is opening up new possibilities for ministry and mission in the coming years.

What have you learned as an individual during these two years? What do you think we’ve learned as a congregation? I’ll be sharing some of my answers, but I’m especially interested in hearing your answers—and your questions as well. Send me an email, give me a call, or talk to me at church. Together we are making a new congregation for a new day.

What a great time to be a part of Congregational UCC!

Peace,

Bill

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### Vacation Church School (VCS) 2022

The Congregational Church, UCC is planning its VCS to coincide with Iowa City's 51<sup>st</sup> Pride Fest!

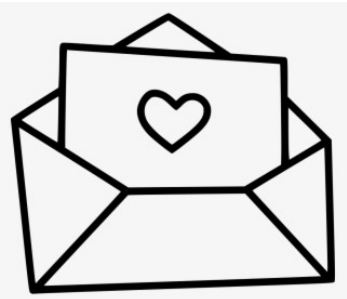
**VCS (for students who have completed preschool-7<sup>th</sup> grade) will be held at our church on Saturday morning, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12noon.**

- Pride Fest begins at 12noon.
- Parents may drop off their children at 9am and pickup them up at 12noon. We will be discussing the meaning of Pride Fest and our relationship to this festival as a church. We will celebrate God's diversity in music, art, and story.
- After VCS...plan on staying downtown and visiting all the Pride booths, eat lunch at one of the many food vendors, and join the Pride parade!



### Cards of Peace and Good Will

Our Sunday School students designed and created more than a dozen cards for peace and good will that have been sent to The Good Samaritan Children's Home of Nagydobrony, Transcarpathia, UKRAINE. I visited the orphanage in 2008 with the Ohio Conference S.A.R.A. (Sharing America's Resources Abroad) organization. S.A.R.A. facilitates the exchange of medical goods, training, and services to Ukraine. The orphanage is on the westside of Ukraine, close to the Hungarian border. I am happy to report that all the children and caregivers are safe and...in fact...are providing care and transportation for refugees from the east of Ukraine into Hungary.



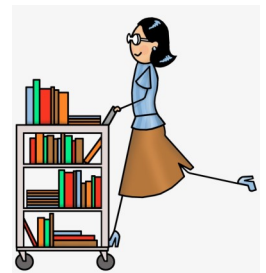
### Patte Henderson is our new Church Librarian

We would like to welcome onto the CE Board our new church librarian, Patte Henderson! Along with this announcement, the CE Board would like to share with church members a new policy concerning the use of the church library and its resources. We are introducing the concept of the church "Reading Room" to *replace* our current understanding of the church "Library".

**Instead of "checking out" a book or resource, members may simply borrow the item from our shelf and return the item to the Return Basket in a timely manner.** Our librarian will continue to maintain our current catalogue *and* catalogue new purchases, but members will no longer have to "check-out" an item by signing a card. Simply borrow the item, read it, and then return it to the "Return Basket" in the library. Patte will reshelve the item.

Patte's tasks will be to keep our books, magazines, and resources up to date. She will catalogue each new book purchase, introduce us to our new purchases through newsletter articles, and consider any recommendations that members might make for purchase.

Please, come explore our church library...and read a good book!



### Last Day of Sunday School Ice Cream Social!

Come Celebrate a successful Sunday school year with games  
...and ice cream for breakfast!

**Sunday, May 29 from 9:15-10am. Worship is at 10:15.**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



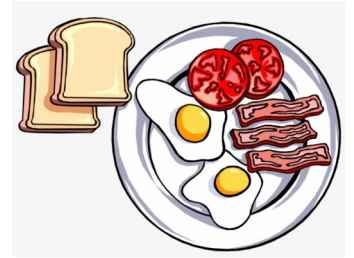
### MEMBERSHIP BOARD NEWS

The Membership Board is working on both new and traditional ways to help church members connect with each other. We are updating the church directory so that people will have current contact information. And look for more information in the weeks/months ahead about two favorite congregational events:

**The All-Church Picnic** will be held on Sunday June 26, in Shelter #2 Upper City Park. .

**And there will be a Progressive Dinner** this fall.

**THE MEN'S BREAKFAST IN MAY** will be held on the third Saturday, May 21. We'll gather at the Waterfront Hy-Vee at 8:00 a.m. Good food, great people. Join us!



**THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL RESUME** on May 19, 11:45 at Monica's. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.

**USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES:** As we continue to reopen, there are new opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

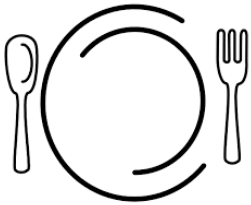
### CHANGE AGENT: AN ONLINE UCC MISSION BOARD SOCIAL CHANGE BULLETIN BOARD— SIGN UP FOR IT!

The Mission Board is responding to requests from the congregation and creating an Online Social Change Bulletin Board. This monthly email publication will be an alert system that will include notices of rallies, petitions, upcoming legislative or policy actions warranting letters or phone calls, protests, important meetings of the school board or city council, each of which has the potential to increase social justice. Highest priority alerts will be local actions, then state actions and national actions. Notices will not support political candidates or parties.

Initially, the mailing is expected to be monthly. Special notices might be appropriate on occasion. We are expecting to send 3-5 notices a month. The postings will be curated rather than comprehensive.

Megan Carnes has agreed to be editor. Regular contributors will be Chuck Connerly (environment), Chuck Dayton (health care and CRC notices), Ray Muston (immigration), Donna Hirst (racial justice), and Jane Kinney (UCC notices). Anyone in the congregation can submit an item to the editor or one of the contributors.

We would be delighted if everyone in the congregation is interested in subscribing. If you would like to receive these monthly mailings send your contact information to Jenn Harden, [uccicadmin@uccic.org](mailto:uccicadmin@uccic.org). Our goal is to begin the mailings in late April or May.



### RETURN TO HOPE LODGE! HELP PREPARE THE MAY 9 MEAL

Before the pandemic our church was providing an evening meal for the residents of Hope Lodge once a month. The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge houses cancer patients (and their caregivers) who are receiving treatment at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Hope Lodge is now back to housing residents but they are not yet allowing volunteers in the building. However, they are welcoming groups to provide an evening meal, enough for 30 people, leaving food off at the door. Our church will be responsible for a meal on May 9. There will be a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall during the month of April. Food will be delivered to Hope Lodge by 4:30 that day and should be in containers (aluminum pans) that do not need to be returned. The address of Hope Lodge is 750 Hawkins Drive (near the Ronald McDonald House). If you have questions about this project, contact Sue Dayton, [cdayton7@mchsi.com](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com) or 351-5886.

**WE'RE SERVING AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM IN MAY.** When there is a fifth Monday in a month, Congregational UCC serves at the Free Lunch Program. Interested in helping in some way? Please email Vicki at [vickithomae@gmail.com](mailto:vickithomae@gmail.com). Thanks!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### CONGREGATIONAL UCC SPONSORS INSIDE OUT SPRING CONCERT—MAY 21



Our church has voted to support the Inside Out Reentry Community in its Spring Concert—*Be an Instrument for Change*—an effort to raise money to aid people returning to the community from prison. Using money from our Engagement Fund, we are an event sponsor at the \$500 Gold Level. The concert is being held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 to 7:30 pm in City Park on the Riverside Festival Stage. Three musical groups, including the Oakdale Community Choir, will perform. Congregational UCC is an event sponsor at the Gold \$500 level. Please join in an evening of music and fun!

Funds raised will be used to further Inside Out's mission to support people involved in the criminal legal system in changing from the inside out in order to promote healing, restore relationships, and achieve success in the community. Services include case management, personalized reentry planning, assistance finding employment, and housing, tutoring, mentoring, and general support. Group programming is offered to provide pro-social activities and build peer support. Support is also provided to currently incarcerated individuals to help prepare and plan for their release. [Inside Out Reentry Community](#) is the non-profit in Iowa City that serves people returning to Johnson County after incarceration. Returning to and becoming an active member of society after being incarcerated is tough, and they strive to give these individuals the support they need to reach their goals and become active members of our community.

### WANT TO HELP SUPPORT NAMI JOHNSON COUNTY...



...but don't want to walk on May 7th? You can now join one of their Virtual Teams and help raise money for NAMIJC!

At NAMI Johnson and Linn Counties, they know that you can't always attend in-person fundraising walks, so they have made a few teams for those who want to help raise money and awareness, but who don't want to walk!

You can now join one of their virtual teams or start one by emailing Katie McCullough ([katie.mccullough@namijc.org](mailto:katie.mccullough@namijc.org)) and telling her what type of virtual team you want to start!

Every member of the virtual team that raises the most money will get a prize after the walk is over!



**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING:** We have received over \$3,200. 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. 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 still give to support this important work. Use the special OGHS envelopes in the pews and put "OGHS" in the memo line of your check.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



### SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE UPDATE

This year's Book Sale event was such a success! Everyone is still reeling from the great turnout and vibrant energy.

The Book Sale far exceeded its \$25,000 fundraising goal, as Shelter House received over \$62,000 in contributions! Thanks to everyone who donated books, helped with setting up the sale, and bought books.

### SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY—MAY 22

On Sunday, May 22nd, the UCCIC Choir will launch another wonderful Special Music Sunday performance of Haydn's "Little Organ Mass." The work will be conducted by Dr. Christopher Nakielski, featuring soprano soloist Marie Von Behren, William Crouch on the organ and several area instrumentalists. A little bit about the work...



This beautiful, miniature mass (approximately 16 minutes) is thought to come from Haydn's stay at Eisenstadt during the winter of 1777-78. He wrote it for the Brothers of Mercy, whose chapel in that town had a very fine small organ that is featured in this mass. He dedicated the work to the patron saint of their order, St. John of God (Sancti Joannis de Deo). The music calls for the limited forces that would have been available to him at the chapel: small chorus, strings without violas, and organ. The work is written in the tradition of the *missa brevis*, in which some of the lengthier parts of the text, particularly in the Gloria and Credo, are telescoped -- *i. e.* the four voices of the chorus sing different words of the text simultaneously. It does not make for a particularly intelligible text, but it does make the movements shorter, a trade-off that some worshipers in the freezing cold churches of the time may have found fair.

This small, intimate mass has always been popular, particularly in central Europe. It conjures up an image of the small country church of the Brothers of Mercy and the quiet, devotional character of their worship. As it ends, it turns inward and gradually dies away at the words *dona nobis pacem* ("grant us peace").

--Program notes by Martin Pearlman

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.**

**IT'S EASY**

When Chuck Connerly and Martha Ann Crawford wrote their Lenten reflection, they invited members and friends to “reply with love” to the Beatles’ song, “All You Need is Love” and help them write the Congregational UCC All You Need Is Love.

They provided two examples:

It doesn't matter who you are or where you go  
It doesn't matter what you say or who you know  
It doesn't matter whether you are high or you are low  
It's easy  
All you need is love, etc.

And members did the rest:

It's okay for you to cry,  
And we all are known to lie.  
Just don't say the big goodbye.  
It's easy....

Jane Murphy

It's OK if you are slow  
It's OK if you are fast  
It's OK if you just don't know  
It's easy

Janet Williams

It doesn't matter if you feel you've lost in the game you've fought,  
It doesn't matter if it didn't happen in the only room you've got,  
It doesn't matter if you just had to throw away your shot  
It's easy

(Apologies to “Hamilton” and the Hawkeyes)

Anna Mary Mueller

When we have more than what we need  
Let's see how many we can feed  
Longer table - not higher wall our creed  
It's easy

The fisherman found a perfect pearl  
No need to polish, cut or whirl  
Its glow God's love for boy and girl  
It's easy

Sharyn Reitz

It's ok to miss those donut holes  
It's ok to yearn for potluck rolls  
It's ok to look for friendly souls  
It's easy

There's something we need that  
can't be lost  
Something we want that can't be  
tossed  
Something we treasure that has  
no cost  
It's easy

Phyllis Ruppert

Floating in a sea of grace,  
No need to kick to stay in  
place,  
“Original Sin” is dumb; be-  
cause God's love is for eve-  
ryone.  
It's easy!

Bob Molsberry

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



ONLINE DONATION

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



### CRC CORNER

Congregational UCC is a founding member of the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC), the local network of faith communities, social service agencies, and advocacy groups. The CRC promotes interfaith dialogue, social justice, community service and dignity for all. The CRC “Common Fund” provides over \$35,000 in annual funding to CommUnity’s *Emergency Assistance Program* for rent and utility assistance in Johnson County. CRC meetings at 10-11 a.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month include an interactive education program.

The March meeting program featured Rabbi Esther Hugenholz, from the Agudas Achim Congregation in Coralville. Her informative and compelling presentation “Antisemitism” explored the origins and impacts of this troubling topic. It can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZuF-ET9wI0>



### JUNE 3—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL

Spring and summer bring great festivals to Iowa City—and close off some of the streets! Sunday, June 3, is the final day of the Iowa Arts Festival. Clinton, Dubuque, and Linn Streets will be closed between College and Jefferson Streets. Access to the church will be available from Jefferson Street and from Clinton Street coming from the north.

Join us for worship at 10:15 a.m., but plan on a slightly longer walk.

### FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

United Action for Youth will be hosting our 17th Annual Festival of Flowers on May 26th and you are invited! The theme of this year's Festival of Flowers event is “Look for the Helpers.” The flower show will feature nearly 100 creative floral entries from community members and professional florists that will be available for purchase in a silent auction. An on-line auction will feature upscale packages such as dinner parties, interior design services, date nights, photo sessions and behind the scenes access to some of Iowa City's most beloved arts organizations. The evening's entertainment will be the Bloomin' Throwdown - a live floral arranging competition! Charcuterie and wine will be provided as part of your reservation.



[Submit Your Floral Entry On-line](#)

[Make Your Reservation On-line](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CELEBRATING MAY  
BIRTHDAYS



5/5	Ed Leighton-Dick	5/19	John Rauer Pat Goeldner	5/24	Kathy Thede-Reynolds Megan Carnes Hanna Leighton-Dick
5/14	Edie Roberts	5/20	Judy Doorenbos Janet Williams Betsy Henson	5/27	Cynthia Kemp
5/15	Elizabeth Groff	5/22	Karen Smith Courtney Nelson	5/28	Robyn Wood Groff
5/16	Gloria Hanson Barbara Sisley	5/30	Oscar Hill		
5/17	Dylan Beerends				

Threshold Choir Presents  
Walking Each Other Home: A Choral Remem-  
brance



On Sunday, May 1, 2022, Threshold Choir, an international choir with 200 chapters around the world, is holding a day of choral remembrance for those who died from COVID-19, their families, and anyone who wants to participate as a community. "Walking Each Other Home" will be held at 1:30 p.m. on May 1 outside of the Friendship Center at Pleasantview Home in Kalona. The choral remembrance will last approximately 30 minutes. Threshold Choir's only chapter in Iowa, Hawkeye Threshold Singers, sings gentle, comforting songs in groups of two to four to people at the threshold of life. The songs are written by members across the globe and represent messages of peace, kindness and love. On May 1, the chapter will sing an array of songs for the community not only to celebrate the lives of individuals who died from COVID-19 but to also provide comfort to one another.

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

MAY 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

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