



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
June 2022



Friends in Christ:

On several occasions in recent months, one member of our congregation has said, “Bill, give me some hope.” I think this member speaks for many of us. Hope can seem hard to come by in these days—but it is what we need. And you have called me to be the one who gives some hope.

So let me start with someone I often turn to in times such as these. Remember how Martin Luther King put it: “There is a great benign Power in the universe whose name is God, and God is able to make a way out of no way, and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. This is our hope for becoming better men and women. This is our mandate for seeking to make a better world.”

Hope asks the question: “What kind of future are we building for ourselves?” In other words, hope is not about positive thinking or wishing hard that something might happen. Hope asks about what we are *doing*.

So, the question comes to each of us as individuals and all of us as a congregation: What kind of future are we building? What action can we take—even today—to bring us closer to our desires? What harvest do we want to gather?

This is not the time for the silence that stifles the outrage we feel.

This is not the time for the silence that stifles calls for change.

This is the time to recover hope in a world that can seem hopeless.

This is the time to recover hope in society that can create so much despair.

Live in hope.

Do not accommodate.

Do not adjust.

Do not back down.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



ALL CHURCH PICNIC—SUNDAY, JUNE 26

Summer is here and it's time for the Church Picnic. Bring your family, bring your friends and join us at SHELTER 2 IN UPPER CITY PARK from

4-7 p.m. Our Membership Board will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and tableware. (If you prefer because of Covid precautions, feel free to bring your own food.) You're welcome to bring games and play equipment, musical instruments, lawn chairs, and anything else that will make for a happy gathering.

PENTECOST IS SUNDAY, JUNE 5

This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey “from ashes to fire.” The traditional color for Pentecost is red. Continuing our tradition, we invite everyone to please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, June 5.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION—JUNE 5:

Every year we recognize the high school graduates in our congregation. This year Mitike Schumm will graduate from City High and Cormac Warren will graduate from West High. Mitike will be attending the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Cormac will attend Cornell College in Mount Vernon. The Diaconate has books available in Rockwood Hall in which you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Mitike and Cormac.

And congratulations to Congregational UCC member, James O'Neal, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in May. It was great to see James and Bin Bin in worship on the Sunday after his graduation.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST—June 5:

The “Strengthen the Church” offering grows the United Church of Christ's future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the “Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God's extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

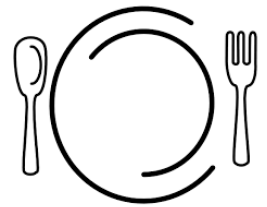


JUNE 5—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL

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.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS SPONSORING A TABLE at the Table to Table 25th Anniversary Dinner on June 8.

The event takes place on **Wednesday, June 8** at the **Celebration Farm** in the Double Round Barn. Weather permitting the event will utilize both indoor and outdoor space. Funds raised from this event will help us rescue more than 130,000 pounds of good food and deliver it throughout the Johnson County hunger relief network. Learn more here: [Table to Table's 25th Anniversary Dinner presented by Hills Bank](#) Want to join with others at our table? Please contact the church office at 337-4301.



Vacation Church School (VCS) 2022

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

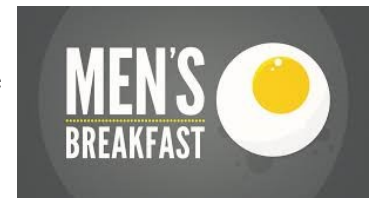
VCS (for students who have completed preschool-7th grade) will be held at our church on Saturday morning, June 18th from 9am-12noon.

- 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!



MEN'S BREAKFAST—June 18

The June Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 15. Watch for details about the location. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends.

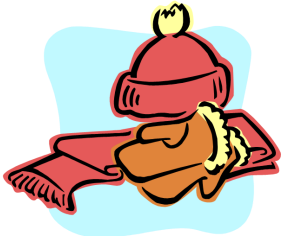


NEEDLES AND SKEINS knitting group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 1:00PM in Rockwood Hall. Bring your project and join us! For information, contact Patte Henderson at (319) 594-785 or pattehenderson@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN HEARTLAND COMMUNITY CENTER DIAPER AND WIPES DRIVE FOR JUNE

The Mission Board is sponsoring a diaper and wipes drive for Open Heartland, a community center for Spanish speaking families here in Iowa City. You are invited to create a clever name for our drive and collection box, but most of all, please drop off diapers in sizes 2, 3, 4, and 5 and training pullups, as well as wipes in the box in Rockwood Hall. They are particularly in need of the larger sizes. Let's delight them with our generosity! Let's all "get behind" the effort.



Looking Ahead to Fall/Winter CRC Distributions

Gifts for Parents, sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) provides many local children the opportunity to select free holiday gifts for their loved ones. **Gifts for Parents will return this year on Saturday, December 3, at St. Mark's Methodist Church.** Edie Roberts and Sue Dayton represent our church on the planning committee for this event.

The Outerwear Distribution, also sponsored by the CRC, will be held October 16-22. Mission Board member Paula Forest represents our church in planning for this event.

It's never too early to be thinking about donations for these events. Keep both events in mind as you do your spring/summer cleaning and sorting. Watch for more information in the early fall about donation containers in Rockwood Hall and sign-up information for volunteers.



Hope Lodge

Thanks to those who contributed food for our Hope Lodge meal in May: Ginny Clemons, Rebecca Weatherford, Lee Wood, Paula Forest, Sue Dayton and Dianne Atkins. Our next date for preparing a meal is **Monday, June 27**. The sign-up sheet will be in Rockwood Hall during June.

MISSION BOARD NEWS

This is an interesting time for all to be serving on the Congregational UCC Mission Board. New volunteer opportunities, educational newsletters, a racial justice course, and money to be distributed are important aspects of our work right now. This is a briefly summary current Mission Board initiatives, along with the names of board members active in each:



1. Coralville Food Pantry \$10,000 donation - Financial documents from the Food Pantry have been reviewed and the Council approved this funding from our Engagement Fund at the May meeting. Bruce Reynolds initiated this effort and prepared the Council request forms.
2. All board members are thinking of a way to acknowledge current volunteer efforts of members of our congregation.
3. Change Agent Newsletter - Donna Hirst is spearheading this with editorial assistance from Megan Carnes and Bill Lovin. (*cont'd*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

4. Racial Justice course - Laurie Stunz and Donna are moving this along with Rev. Dr. Velda Love from the UCC national office.
5. Temple Hiatt's presentation on the gun amendment on the November ballot in Iowa – Provided in August or September - Donna is coordinating.
6. United Action for Youth - Includes donations for summer camping trip, Festival of Flowers and consideration for long term funding for transitional housing. Hope Spragg in leading these initiatives.
7. Donna is leading an initiative to find volunteer Ambassadors to help with racial conflict in the Iowa City schools.
8. Hope Lodge meal was prepared by congregational volunteers and delivered for the residents on Monday the 9th of May.
9. Agape Cafe is requesting funds from CRC members to provide once weekly breakfasts at Old Brick year-round. Chuck is in contact with CRC to clarify financial needs. (*cont'd*)
10. Dream City - Needed supplies for summer program at Purpose Place (Kingdom Center) in the South District. \$1000 donated from our mission funds. Donna is coordinating.
11. Jane Kinney met with Deb Dunkhase at Open Heartland and is coordinating potential volunteer activities in the Hispanic population. Potential monetary donations also under consideration.
12. Little Creations Preschool needs funds for teacher education and kitchen renovations. Donna will find out more and proposes a large donation.
13. Houses to Homes - Chuck is following up
14. Afghan Immigrant project with Faith UCC currently on hold - Chuck

Thanks to each Mission board member for their commitment to this list of great opportunities for our church!

Thank You Sunday School Teachers...you are one of this congregation's best assets!

We have an incredible group of dedicated teachers in our Sunday School. This group of dedicated members show up EVERY Sunday morning to teach and support our younger members, your children. Their primary gift and talent is love...they love these kids! *And they really like each other...to boot!* When I wander through the Sunday School space at 9:15 on any given Sunday morning, I am often overcome with a warm, delightful sense of belonging. Our teachers are checking-in with each other, finding out what's new this week, gathering up their thoughts about the morning's lesson, sharing a good laugh, and offering an attentive ear to the in-coming students as they ask them about *their* week--*their* struggles and *their* successes.

This is what matters.

This is what makes what we offer to our families a rare **gem**...that extra layer of personal concern, protection, and support. Our teachers really care about our students and their path as young followers of Christ. The lesson materials are fun...but a relationship with other caring adults in a community of faith is the special deal you get with us.

Thank You Ed Keogh, Bea Hicks, Tina Koepnick, Hope Spragg, and Sally Strang...you are superheroes!



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Rev. Robert Molsberry to be Acting Conference Minister of Tri-Conference

Dear Partners in Ministry in the Iowa, Nebraska, & South Dakota Conferences,

With joy, the Tri-Conference Board of Directors has affirmed Rev. Phil Hart as Interim Executive Conference Minister. His start date will be August 1st. Rev. Hart has served as Interim Conference Minister in five Conferences of the United Church of Christ and in the Ohio Conference twice. He has also served as a local pastor, Professor of Theology and Communication, Licensed Social Worker, and is a Certified Mediator through the Ohio Supreme Court.

In meeting with the Tri-Conference Board, Rev. Hart said that one of his hopes for the coming year is, "To live out the hope and faith I truly have that God will be with us and guide us all through these times." This commitment to a faith lived out in relationship with others commends Rev. Hart to the Executive Conference Minister position in such a time as this. We look forward to his leadership in the coming months.

To serve in the months between ECM Brigit Stevens' departure and Rev. Phil Hart's arrival the Tri-Conference Board of Directors has appointed Rev. Bob Molsberry as Acting Executive Conference Minister. Rev. Molsberry has served many incarnations of the church over his career including local church ministry in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, community development in Central America, and Conference Ministry in Ohio.

A graduate of Yale Divinity School, Rev. Molsberry has published numerous articles about Central America, and is the author of two books, "Blindsided by Grace: Entering the World of Disability," and "Tour de Faith: A Cyclist's Lessons for Living." These books explore the changes that Rev. Molsberry has dealt with since a hit-and-run accident in 1997 left him paraplegic. Since that time he has been an advocate for disability issues and has made numerous presentations on disability and ministry.

We are excited to welcome Rev. Molsberry into this role.

God's peace be with you,
Rev. Chad E. Savage
President: TCM Board of Directors
Pronouns: he/him/his

AFGHAN REFUGEE BENEFIT CONCERT FAITH UCC—SATURDAY, JUNE 11



Help us welcome a family of Afghan refugees to Iowa City!

Join us Saturday, June 11, at 7:00 for an evening of great local music, deserts, and coffee/tea. We will be accepting freewill offerings and hosting a silent auction for baskets of goodies.

Larry Mossman and Friends and O'Keith and McFiddle (aka Keith Reins and Tara McGovern of Coppers and Brass) will fill the evening with music.

Iowa City Afghan Allies and Faith United Church of Christ have been preparing to welcome a family of Afghan refugees to Iowa City. The church has opened its parsonage to a family, and along with Unitarian Universalist Society IC, is now raising funds to help provide for the family's basic needs. A family has yet to be matched with us here in Iowa City, but it could happen any day.

For more information, please contact Faith UCC at 319-338-5238.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Juneteenth

JUNETEENTH VIRTUAL EVENT

In honor of Juneteenth, the University of Iowa Office of Equity and Human Rights is hosting a two-night virtual event, June 14-15, 2022, based on *High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America*, by Jessica B. Harris, recipient of the James Beard Lifetime Achievement

Award. The book was adapted into a Netflix series, "High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America," hosted by food expert Stephen Satterfield. Watch the trailer [here](#).

About the events:

On Tuesday, June 14, 7-8:30 p.m., Abena Sankofa Imhotep, Director of Sankofa Literary and Empowerment Group of Des Moines, will facilitate a virtual an educational screening of "Juneteenth," episode four of the Netflix series.

On Wednesday, June 15, 7-8:30 p.m., Imhotep will host a discussion of Harris' book.

How to participate:

Both events will take place via Zoom. Participants may register [here](#) (ID: 958 1441 1906). One registration will sign participants up for both the June 14 and June 15 events.

The Iowa City Public Library has copies of "High on the Hog" to support the program. The book is available in both [print](#) and [eBook](#).

The Office of Equity and Human Rights is offering a limited number of complimentary copies of the book if a person has a financial hardship preventing purchasing it. To request a copy, please email humanrights@iowa-city.org or call 319-356-5022. Early requests are encouraged, as the complimentary books will be distributed in the order in which requests are received. For those who would like to participate in the virtual discussions and do not have access to the internet, the Iowa City Public Library will host both virtual sessions in meeting room D at 123 S. Linn Street.



TABLE TO TABLE IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS to help with maintaining their mission of connecting abundance with need in Johnson County. They are incredibly flexible: whatever your schedule is, they can probably work with it! They have volunteers that come in twice a week and volunteers that come in twice a month and both are valuable to the organization. Duties can include: harvesting produce at farms and orchards, driving or riding in T2T vans on routes to pick up and deliver food, helping prep vans for their routes in our shop (move empty boxes around while listening to some tunes!), offering free fresh produce in at-need neighborhoods, and more. If your interest is piqued, check out their website (table2table.org), contact them at volunteer@table2table.org or at 319-337-3400.



ONLINE DONATION

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CELEBRATING JUNE
BIRTHDAYS

6/2 *Fielding Woolums*

6/3 *Jerilyn McCarty*
Paula Forest

6/6 *Gloria Lacina*

6/7 *Ray Muston*

6/8 *Lee Wood*

6/9 *Gavin Nelson*
Renn Morton

6/11 *Derek Willard*

6/16 *Ethel Bloesch*

6/18 *Sally Strang*

6/23 *Donna Bertogli*
Melissa Jensen
Carly Trout

6/25 *Dale Roberts*

6/27 *Ed Keogh*



FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983

Our church served **108** lunches at the Free Lunch Program on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2022. The FLP dining room is now fully opened. 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:

GINNY CLEMONS, SUE DAYTON, DIANE DUNCAN-GOLDSMITH, PATTE HENDERSON, BETSY HENSON, DONNA HIRST, JANE KINNEY, MARCY KUECHENMEISTER, LINDA MUSTON AND EDIE ROBERTS

Extra appreciation to Bill Dickinson, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, Betsy Henson, Kathi Koegle, Edie Roberts and Rick Ruppert for their valuable onsite support. Our next scheduled serving date is **Monday, August 29, 2022.** *Vicki Thomae*



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

COME AND CELEBRATE!



Longtime member Ethel Bloesch will turn 90 years old on June 16. Her family invites you to join in celebrating the occasion at an open house at Oaknoll Retirement Residence, 1 Oaknoll Court, on Thursday, June 16, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Oak Dining Room. For directions please contact Peter Bloesch at peterbloesch55@gmail.com. Parking will be allowed on George Street between Benton and Oakcrest. –
Cards may be sent to Peter Bloesch at 55 Hummingbird Lane, Iowa City 52245.



FRIENDLY REMINDER!

The deadline to submit items for the July newsletter will be **Monday, June 20th.**

VISITNG THE DIVERSITY MARKET on Saturdays, 1:00-7:00, June—July 30, is an excellent way to support our South District neighbors. International food, crafts, art, jewelry. Pepperwood Plaza 1067, Hwy 6.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JUNE 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

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

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