



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
July 2022



Friends in Christ—

As I write this much of the nation is still reeling from what even the *National Review* called “devastating” testimony about the former President’s actions on January 6, 2021.

And much of the nation is still reeling after the Supreme Court’s shocking but not surprising decision to eliminate the Constitutional rights of women.

The war in Ukraine continues as does the pandemic.

Welcome to summer 2022.

Life is neither letting up nor slowing down

Please understand—a busy life can be a joyful life. There is great pleasure to be found in acting and accomplishing and in being with others. It’s part of the created order: Each atom, each galaxy—and all of us in between—are bodies in motion.

Yet the God we encounter in the stories of Genesis is not unrelenting in activity. Even the Creator lets up after six days. And we have been created in the very image of this same God. God rests—and offers the gift of rest to all creation.

Yes, there’s the trap we encounter as we try to slow down in a world built for speed: slowing down can lead to anxiety over what is not being done. And that anxiety in turn will lead us to go even faster as we attempt to catch up once more. So we slow down, not for the sake of slowing down, but so that we might give our attention to the people and events and issues that matter, so that we might better engage with one another for the healing of our lives and the healing of our world.

In a world that is reeling, may you find rest this summer in the God who is the still point of the turning world.

Peace,

Bill

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**OUT OF  
OFFICE**

### **BILL LOVIN WILL BE ON VACATION FROM JULY 8 THROUGH JULY 24**

The Rev. Bob Molsberry will be the guest preacher on Sunday, July 10.  
The Rev. Ann Molsberry will be the guest preacher on Sunday, July 17. Ann is preparing a special worship service—please read her note below:

### **Beatles-themed Worship Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**

Come enjoy a Beatles sing-along worship service Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Why the Beatles?

It's the year 2022, the year of my 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion--1972.

The Bible's John and Paul preached the importance of love in the New Testament. In the 60's and 70's another John and Paul (Ringo and George) shared the importance of love in another century and in another cultural venue. In the spirit of love, we will offer a very much needed experience of Beatles' love in the context of a worship service.

There are many spiritual (and appropriate social justice) aspects of the Beatles music. Common threads of love, helping each other, and living in peace are universal in their music and in our belief as followers of Christ. Their music touched on longing, joy, community, and sorrow. It would be appropriate to reflect on the ways their songs entered our consciousness...the consciousness of our nation and our own consciousness, as believers. For some of us, these great songs and their messages spoke to our lives and changed us for the better.

Can the sacred and secular, classical and popular find intersection in our lives? We say "YES". Music is a wonderful way to express our shared human emotions and spiritual connection. As people of faith, we would like to come together and celebrate God through the music of the Saints John, Paul, Ringo, and George. We hope that this music—familiar to so many of us—will help connect us once again to who we are, who we once were, and who we want to be in the future.



**JOIN US**



**COME VISIT THE  
CHURCH LIBRARY**

**THE CHURCH LIBRARY** has two locations: the complete room of volumes is on the left from the side door of the church. You'll find a large variety of books for children and adolescents as well as for adults. The books are displayed by theme: biography, devotions, sermons, personal stories, social issues and theology.

The sub "library" is in Rockwood Hall where books are displayed by topic. Currently, you'll find books by or about people of color with several titles for children. You'll find a form for donating a book as well as fun bookmarks at the sub-library.

The new library system encourages you to select a book and to take it home to read. When you've finished, please return it to the library basket in Rockwood Hall. There is no longer a need to "check it out," thus an honesty system to encourage an easy way to read a book from our library.

If you have a suggestion for a book theme to be displayed in Rockwood Hall or any other concern, please contact Patte Henderson at [pattehenderson@gmail.com](mailto:pattehenderson@gmail.com).

I hope you'll find our library is full of interesting and helpful books. They're waiting for you!

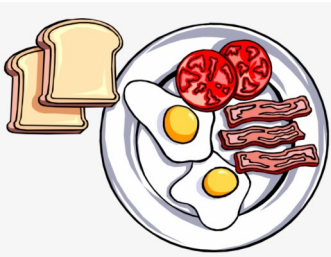
## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**CONGRATULATIONS TO GRACE WHITTAKER** who participated in the May commencement ceremony at Loras College in Dubuque. Grace is a double major and will return for the Fall semester to finish her degrees but was able to walk in May. Her majors are Sociology and History.

### **JULY 3—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA CITY JAZZ FESTIVAL**

Summer brings great festivals to Iowa City—and closes off some of the streets! Sunday, July 3, is the final day of the Iowa City Jazz 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.



### **MEN'S BREAKFAST—July 16**

The July Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 16, at the Waterfront Hy-Vee. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends.

**THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL BE HELD** on July 21, at 12:45 p.m., at Vesta. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.



**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFEREING ON PENTECOST.** We received over \$300 to support UCC new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**HELP SUPPORT THE SCHOOL KIDS IN THE SOUTH DISTRICT:** The Mission Board has signed our church up to provide supper on August 8, 2022 at 5:00 in Wetherby Park.

United Action for Youth and the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition are hosting suppers in Wetherby Park throughout the summer. We will feed approximately 100 people, primarily youth who will have had a strenuous afternoon of structured activities in the park. We've been asked to provide food that kids would like. Families and passersby will also be welcome. We could use help cooking, serving, and/or sharing this community meal with the South District residents. If you are interested in helping, send a note to Donna Hirst, [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu). 2022 has been a very challenging year for kids, and we hope this effort will help the South District kids learn that the community "has their back" and wants their summer to be excellent.

1. Indicate whether you want to provide food, expected dish and servings.
2. Indicate whether you want to help serve.
3. Indicate whether you want to share this community meal.

### OPEN HEARTLAND COMMUNITY CENTER DIAPER AND WIPES DRIVE THIS SUMMER:

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.

If you want to contribute cash to this effort, the Mission Board will do the shopping—just put "Diaper Drive" on your envelope or check. Let's delight them with our generosity! Let's all "get behind" the effort.



**SAVE THE DATE:** The Membership Board is happy to let you know that the **PROGRESSIVE DINNER** will return this fall, on **October 8**. Stay tuned for further details and sign-up information.

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**SIGN UP FOR *CHANGE AGENT*: AN ONLINE UCC MISSION BOARD SOCIAL CHANGE BULLETIN BOARD:** The Mission Board is responding to requests from the congregation and creating an Online Social Change Bulletin Board. This monthly email publication will be a 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. 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).

**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](http://table2table.org)), contact them at [volunteer@table2table.org](mailto:volunteer@table2table.org) or at 319-337-3400.



### TABLE TO TABLE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Nine people from Congregational UCC attended the Table-to-Table banquet and fundraiser held at the Double Round Barn at Celebration Farm. John and Sharyn Reitz, Chuck and Sue Dayton, Loralyn and Allan Hogue, Donna Hirst, Joyce Myer, and Paula Forest shared a table sponsored by UCC. Kevin Koepnick, a Table-to-Table volunteer was the auctioneer for the live auction portion of the program. A born auctioneer, Kevin was able to get the maximum price for the items up for bids. The food was donated by local restaurants. Thanks to the Mission Board for purchasing a table and contributing to this food recovery program. Volunteer opportunities are available by contacting Table-To-Table. (Pictures contributed by Sharyn Reitz)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### GUN VIOLENCE AND THE IOWA CONSTITUTION

The Iowa City Senior Center recently sponsored a series of 4 presentations regarding gun violence and the upcoming Iowa constitutional amendment issue on the November ballot. The first two presentations are available online using the links below. The first contains vital statistics, the second is an introduction by Todd Pettys, UI Law Professor.

America's Gun Violence Crisis: By The Numbers <https://youtu.be/6g2rbKgTbns>

An Introduction to the 2nd Amendment <https://youtu.be/wVHeXorxDMo>



**WANT TO GIVE ONLINE? SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR GIVING APP.**

Your giving makes a world of difference.



ONLINE DONATION

**WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNING.** You can join us online in real time at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. This streaming address is the same each week.



**RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES** are posted after worship on Sunday at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.



### FRIENDLY REMINDER!

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### CELEBRATING JULY BIRTHDAYS



Dean Woodhouse 7/1

Bob Hanson 7/3

Adelaide Birt-Leeds 7/3

Vicki Thomae 7/4

Nadia Spragg 7/5

Bill Lovin 7/8

Benjamin Hofer 7/9

Kathy Fait 7/10

Colin Beerends 7/10

Pam Willard 7/11

Ella Lewis 7/15

Jo Ann Benda 7/18

Claire Ashman 7/19

Nicole Day 7/20

Ruth Kuntz 7/22

Joan Parsons 7/23

Steve Wolken 7/24

David Wilder 7/24

Chuck Dayton 7/25

Marie Von Behren 7/26

Hope Spragg 7/26

Candace Noble 7/27

Mitike Schumm 7/28

Jane Kinney 7/30

Ann Romanowski 7/30

Kathleen Wilder 7/30

Christine Taylor 7/31

Linda Muston 7/31

John Henson 7/31

Stuart Cobb 7/31

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

JULY 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

**[uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org)**

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

[c.nakielski@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:c.nakielski@cornellcollege.edu)

Contact the Office

[uccicadmin@uccic.org](mailto:uccicadmin@uccic.org)

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

Contact the Office

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