



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
August 2022



Friends in Christ—

So, this is Iowa in the summer: blue skies after needed rain; windows and screen doors open to welcome the summer breeze; low humidity and temperatures in the 70's and 80's; birds singing through the days and locusts buzzing through the nights. This is Iowa in the summer? Not every day—but far more often this year than in many that I remember over the past 15 years.

My neighbor waves from across the street and tells me that it looks as though we're in for a change, however. Maybe so. Maybe by the time you read this the heat will have returned. Maybe the humidity will have increased. (It wasn't until I came to Iowa that I learned there was such a thing as "corn humidity," but it is very real.)

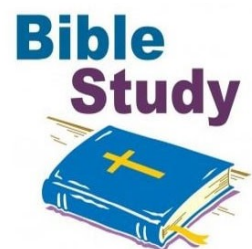
And maybe... Maybe we can simply respond with gratitude for these Iowa summer days that keep coming back, unbidden, undeserved. It is a small thing in a way. But as these are days that are still filled with much uncertainty and anxiety, with much sadness and worry, it works toward our good to receive a gift when it comes to us. It might even work toward the good of the world.

What other gifts are you discovering in these days? How are you receiving them and giving thanks?
Peace,

Bill

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS THIS MONTH

On Wednesday, August 10, Bill will begin leading a Zoom Bible study looking at Paul's letter to the Romans. Together we will explore at least some of the theological depths of this book that is the longest, the weightiest, and the most substantial of all of Paul's correspondence. Stronger fare than usual for the summer, to be sure! Please join us as we take eight Wednesday evening sessions to explore this 16 chapter book.



For two years during the pandemic, we've studied several biblical books. The sessions are informal and no previous knowledge of the specific book or the Bible in general is needed. If you are interested, call Bill at 319-337-4301 or email him at uccicrev@uccic.org and he'll send you the Zoom invitation. We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00- 8:30 beginning Wednesday, August 10.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Rally Day is September 11, 2022 at 9:15!

We want to introduce you to our new Children's Choir Director Majesty Constable! (Children's Choir is for **Preschool-8th grade** and will meet during Children's Church 10:30-11 during worship during the school year. They will prepare music for worship on the last Sunday of each month.)

AND...Come participate in a Scavenger Hunt!
Breakfast will be served!
3-8th graders can sign-up to be an Acolytes!



Every Third Sunday of the Month (3-5pm) Youth Group Gathering!
On **September 18th** at 3pm-5pm our Congregational UCC youth (6th, 7th, and 8th Graders) will join First Presbyterian Church youth for the first time at Mercer Park for a "Getting to Know You" picnic. They will plan joint social and mission gatherings supervised by parents and Anna Sheets of First Presbyterian Church for the third Sunday of every month.

LOOK FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

- Church School for All Ages begins on Sunday, September 11 at 9:15 am.
- The Choir returns on September 11 at 9:00 am.
- Our fall Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 8.
- The UI Homecoming Parade—and our annual curbside cookout—will be held on Friday, October 28.



BABY NEWS!

A daughter, Amelie Qiao Reitz, was born to Benjamin Reitz and Jing Qiao on July 8, 2022. She is the granddaughter of Sharyn and John Reitz, who are spending most of the summer in DC to enjoy and support the expanded family, including Tintin, the red mini-poodle.

A daughter, Victoria Grace Rowe, was born to former Congregational UCC members, Raven and Courtney Rowe, on July 8. Mothers and daughter are all doing well at their home in Dayton, OH.

With sadness and in the hope of the resurrection, we announce the death of Claire Ashman on July 12. We will give thanks for Claire's life at a Memorial Service in the sanctuary on Saturday, August 6, at 10:00 a.m.

With sadness and in the hope of the resurrection, we announce the death of Donna Bertogli on July 27. A member of our congregation, Donna was the mother of Tina Koepnick. Donna's family will gather in Ankeny for a private graveside service.

In
*Loving
Memory*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SERVING THE CHURCH



Every year in January a slate of new members for the various church boards is presented to the congregation for approval. Work to prepare this slate occurs throughout the fall and is managed by the two Council Members At Large, Megan Carnes and Andrea Rauer.

This work is now underway, and we would like to invite all members of the congregation to consider serving on a Board. Serving on a Board is an excellent way to develop close working relations with other members of the church.

What is involved in serving on a Board? Each of the six church Boards meet monthly, often on a week day evening. Each of the boards has different responsibilities, and thus the tasks undertaken by each board are different. For example, the Membership Board plans the church picnic and other fellowship events; the Trustees provide oversight of the church budget and the building.

In addition to positions on church boards, there are also a number of positions representing the church to particular agencies or organizations. Members of the church serve as representatives to the Eastern Iowa Association, the Community Pastoral Counseling Service, the Common Fund and a number of others. As an alternative to serving on a church board, you might serve as a special church representative.

We encourage you to consider offering your name for consideration to serve on a Board. If you would like to discuss any of these options, please contact Megan Carnes at carnesmegan@yahoo.com or Andrea Rauer at amrauer@gmail.com.



STEWARDSHIP BOARD SEEKS AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER

As the Stewardship Board continues to plan for the Fall 2022 Stewardship campaign, we find ourselves a little shorthanded. We are therefore requesting **nominations** of names of individuals who would make an active contribution to planning and implementing this fall's campaign. Please submit names to chairperson Chuck Connerly by August 14 by emailing charles-connerly@uiowa.edu.

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.

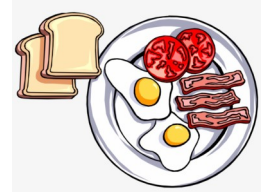
United Action for Youth and the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition are hosting suppers in Wetherby Park in June, July and early August. We will feed approximately 100 people, primarily youth who will have had a strenuous afternoon of structured activities in the park. We are set with food and we welcome everyone to come share this community meal with the South District residents. If you are interested, send a note to Donna Hirst, 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 20:

The August Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 20, 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 August 18th, at 11:45 a.m., at Monica's. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.

SERVING AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

Our church is scheduled to serve at the Free Lunch Program
Monday, August 29.

If you would consider volunteering for this worthwhile event, please email vickithomae@gmail.com and she will email you the sign up sheet.

Thanks so much!



TEE OFFERING Will Be Received on September 18

Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship on Sunday, September 18. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger, worked for TEE in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at www.tee.co.za. Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

Hope Lodge: Our next meal at Hope Lodge will be Monday, September 19. The sign-up sheet will be up in Rockwood Hall in late August.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



PROGRESSIVE DINNER 2022 OCTOBER 8 5:00-9:30 PM
Dinner catered by Olive Garden
Chicken Parmigiana
\$16.00 per person (no charge for children under 18)

We start as a group for appetizers from 5-6, then move in small groups to host homes for the main course from 6:15 – 7:45, and regroup for dessert from 8-9:30.

We/I would like to participate by attending:

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Pam and Derek Willard will host appetizers for the whole group.

Dianne Atkins and Andy Bertolatus will host desserts for the whole group.

Please sign up for one of the following. We/I would like to participate by providing the following:

Providing appetizers for 12 people

Providing dessert for 12 people

Hosting the main course for 8-12 people. Please indicate how many people, including yourself, that you can host. _____ Can host children - yes/no

Please check other options to help us plan:

Bringing children Need transportation

Need accessible location Vegetarian

I/ we can provide transportation for those that may need it.

Make checks payable to Congregational UCC with Progressive Dinner in the note section. Put check and reservation form in the offering plate or drop off at the church by September 15.

For more information contact Sue Dayton: 319-351-5886, cdayton7@mchsi.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL UCC ENDOWMENT FUND



One of the functions of the Stewardship Committee is to administer the Endowment Fund. The basic idea of the Endowment Fund is to have a fund of a sufficient amount so that, without using up the principal amount, its interest earnings can be used for special projects that the Church could not otherwise afford to pursue. A key provision is thus that the principal amount of the fund should be maintained at or above \$100,000 and should in general not be spent so that the full amount of the principal can continue to earn interest that can be spent on new projects.

The Endowment Fund has a long history but easily slips out of view, so the purpose of this statement is to remind the congregation of its existence and to solicit the members' help both in seeking contributions to expand the endowed amount and in developing ideas for the best use of the amounts available for current and future projects. The Endowment Fund was officially established first in 1993 but took some time to reach the \$100,000 mark, at which point earnings on interest could start to be spent on appropriate projects.

Administering the Fund involves several functions. The Stewardship Committee is responsible for monitoring the status of the Fund, soliciting new contributions to principal, and approving proposals for appropriate use of the Fund. The investments of the Fund are, however, managed by the Finance Committee, a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees. Contributions to the principal of the Fund may be made by designated donation or through bequests in wills, trusts, annuities, assigned life insurance benefits, transfers of property, cash, stocks, bonds or other tangible assets. If you are interested in exploring how you might be able to help expand the principal amount of the Fund, please speak with any member of the Stewardship Committee. In December 2019, the Church Council directed that five percent (5 %) of all future unrestricted non-operating budget donations to the Church be directed to the Endowment Fund principal. As a result, the principal amount in the Fund has grown to over \$108,000. The Fund has also accumulated substantial earnings above principal and although the current market fluctuations require extra caution in estimating total funds, the Endowment Fund has at least \$40,000 of spendable earnings and possibly more.

Finding appropriate uses for the amounts above the principal that are available to be spent is an equally important Stewardship Committee function. Church Boards may make requests to the Stewardship Board, which will review the requests and, if approved by a two-thirds vote of the Stewardship Board, they will be forwarded to the Church Council for approval. For funding requests that would violate the "preservation of principal" rule, the approval process requires another step: Such a request also requires a two-thirds vote of a quorum of a congregational meeting. The congregation must be given at least two-weeks' notice of the meeting and the requests must be made available for congregational review at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. In 2014 the Endowment Fund Charter was revised to provide that the Fund may also not be reduced more than twenty-five percent (25 %) in any one year.

In the recent past, Endowment Funds have been authorized for use in paying for web design for the Church [2017-18], the printing of the Church history book [2018], and payments toward the cost of the new elevator [2018]. The Endowment Fund is not meant simply to duplicate the purposes of other funds within the Church's budget, but it is meant to provide funding for projects deemed vital to the church's functions that are not covered by the Church's regular budget. The procedures for applying for and securing approval for the spending of Endowment Funds are set out in a "Policy and Procedure Manual for the Distribution of Endowment Fund Assets." If you have any ideas that might be good uses for Endowment Funds, please do not hesitate to speak with any member of the Stewardship Committee or work through the appropriate Church committee to make a request.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Faith in Action: a JCIC Fund and Friend Raiser

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) invites you to join us at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville on September 8, 2022 from 5:30-8PM.

Co-chairs are Bea Hicks and Donna Hirst.

The goals of Faith in Action are : 1) to raise money for a community organizer to develop grants, assist with community events and actions, and build the community by enlisting new member organizations, 2) to provide an opportunity for the community to share a meal and social opportunities, 3) to celebrate JCIC accomplishments and renew a common purpose, and 4) provide basic information about the current status of JCIC.

The event will include music, a catered meal featuring Mexican and Middle Eastern cuisine, and a silent auction. Attendees will have an opportunity to register their highest priority social justice concerns during “Issues on the Wall”.

Tickets are \$50 per adult. Discounted tickets are available; we want everyone who is interested to attend.

The registration form includes instructions for requesting a discount.

REGISTER:

To register online go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/372529715407> by August 29, 2022.

SPONSOR:

Individual Sponsors are encouraged at 3 levels: 1) Supporter \$100 2) Change agent \$300 3) Transformational \$500.

About JCIC:

The Congregational UCC has been a member of JCIC since its inception in 2017. JCIC has ca. 20 member institutions: Protestant, Jewish, Catholic, Islamic, and secular. Our vision: To build a multi-cultural faith-based community organization that advocates for social justice. Our mission: To organize for social equity, first and foremost for persons of color.

A NEW BOOK FROM TOM MONTGOMERY FATE

Tom Montgomery Fate, the son of former Congregational UCC members Russ and Dee Fate, published his new book in July. *The Long Way Home: Detours and Discoveries*, is a travel memoir that ventures from his small-town upbringing to vastly different cultures around the globe. Tom comes to define “home” not as a physical location, but as a way of belonging. “Migrating birds have an internal compass that allows them to home their way back to their nesting place each spring,” he writes. “For birds, home is both verb and noun—both journey and destination.” The same is true for Fate. Whether he is bobbing in a canoe in the freezing rain with his son on a Canadian lake, praying with Lakota elders in a sweat lodge in South Dakota, pondering the ecology of an old-growth forest in Oregon, or trying to teach English at a small college in the Philippines, these are not stories of arrival. They are detours of discovery, a spiritual wayfinding through the wilderness of time and memory.

Available wherever books are sold in this prairie town.



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



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 **Friday, August 19th.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CELEBRATING AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



8/1 Kate Edwards

8/2 Lexine Schumm

8/3 Georgia Hill

8/5 Bob Stein

8/7 Betty Mather

8/9 Phyllis Ruppert

8/10 Kathleen Day

8/11 Sharon Garton
Shirley Wyrick

8/15 Margaret MacInnis
Fern Weir

8/16 Emily Koepnick

8/17 Whit Jury

8/19 Bill Nusser, Jr.

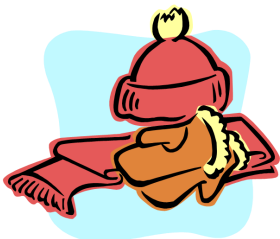
8/22 Jackie Sangster

8/24 Bill Dickinson
Tina Koepnik

8/25 Todd Nelson

8/29 Marge Hoppin

8/31 Betsy Boyd
Donna Hirst



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.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 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

Douglas Herrera

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