



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
October 2022



Friends in Christ:

As the activity of fall gets underway, it feels (even I will say it) more like “normal” around here. This month two beloved traditions return—the Progressive Dinner and the Homecoming Parade Cookout. The children are serving as acolytes, bringing the light of Christ into our sanctuary and taking it out into the world, and coming forward to bring their energy and insight to the children’s message. Adults are meeting around the fireplace before worship to share their lives and explore their faith. Normal—or at least normal as I remember it.

You know that I keep masking up to protect myself and others. I don’t think the pandemic is over. But the goodness of the familiar is returning and I am thankful for that.

I am thankful as well for all that is different, unexpected, and new about these days: the new members who are joining us, the new music the choir brings to our worship, the new opportunities to minister to our community. It is clear that we are not simply “returning to normal.” We are beginning once more, bringing with us some of what is familiar as we move into a future that is filled with promise.

We have come this far by the grace of God and God’s grace and strength will be with us in the days ahead. We have been brought this far so that we might continue looking ahead in ministry and mission. This October—as the leaves turn their brilliant colors before falling, as the harvest begins, as the temperature drops and the night comes earlier—let us open ourselves and our congregation to a new beginning.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Cleaning house? Things we need for Christian Education:

Clear plastic storage boxes/bins with lids, any size. Place them on the shelves that are in the CE Office hallway.

Homemaking magazines with colorful, glossy pictures of food, families, and children (i.e., Women's Day, Better Homes and Gardens, Good Housekeeping, Real Simple, etc.) *Please no National Geographic, Audubon, Nature, or Automotive magazines.* C.E. Office hallway shelves.

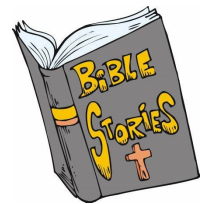
Single use personal-hygiene items for the Blessing Bags: small toothpastes and toothbrushes (from the dentist), **hotel-size** hand lotions, shampoo/conditioners, small size deodorants, hand-sanitizer, and sanitizing wipes, nail clippers, hair elastics, lip balm, razors, combs, and brushes. *Please only new, unopened, and unused items. No food items.* Place them in the brown basket in the Play Zone of Rockford Hall.

Used greeting cards and Christmas cards with Nativity scenes. Place them in the Christmas baskets in the Play Zone of Rockford Hall.

Musical instruments: drums, tambourines, shakers, and rainsticks. Place them on the shelves in the CE hallway.

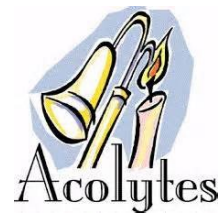
Art Supplies: ribbon, feathers, pony beads, rick-rack, and pompoms. CE hallway shelves.

Sunday School is taking a close look at the Genesis stories: Abram and Sarai, Joseph, and Moses.



Children's Choir (all ages) will share in worship Sunday, October 30th. Come to rehearsals Sunday morning during worship!

We are still looking for 4-8th graders that would like to be **Acolytes**!



Youth Group Gathering Sunday October 16th at First Presbyterian Church at 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA 52245 at 3-5pm. We will be making an apple crisp dessert to take to Catholic Worker House for their dinner. Our "Getting to Know You" Picnic at Mercer Park was lots of fun. We cooked too many hot dogs...so we invited two families in the park to join us for dinner. The Biblical Banquet Table reenacted!

Children's Offerings we will be collecting offerings for **UNICEF** during the month of October. Look for offering envelopes in the Chancel by the Children's Worship bags. Everyone, adults *and* children, please place your offering in an envelope and place it in the Offering Plate during worship.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, *continued*



Nursery

Childcare in the Church Nursery is provided for infants through children 4 years old from 9:15-11:30. Come enjoy adult education classes, adult choir, and even teaching Sunday School!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 2 is World Communion Sunday. **2022 marks the eighty-sixth year of celebrating this day.** World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it and after a few years the idea spread. Through our prayers and music on this day we recognize our connection with Christians in every nation.



TOM MONTGOMERY FATE JOINS US FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND WORSHIP ON OCTOBER 8

Tom Montgomery Fate, the son of former Congregational UCC members Russ and Dee Fate, will lead the 9:15 Adult Education session on Sunday, October 8, sharing his new book [*The Long Way Home: Detours and Discoveries*](#) (Ice Cube Press, 2022). *The Long Way Home*, 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. Tom, the son of former Congregational UCC members, the late Russ and Dee Fate, is a graduate of the Non-Fiction Writing Program at UI. During worship that morning, Tom will read “Detours of Intention” as the sermon. Join us—and bring a friend.



MEN'S BREAKFAST—OCTOBER 15

The October Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, 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. There's no game on this weekend, but you still need to eat breakfast. Join us!

THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL BE HELD on Thursday, October 20th at Mexico Lindo Grill--1857 Lower Muscatine Rd. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

JCIC CANDIDATE FORUM, SAT. OCT. 15, 2:00-4:00, PURPOSE PLACE (formerly the Kingdom Center) - 611 Southgate Ave, Iowa City

Why Attend? 9 candidates will address current hot button issues, especially issues of concern to local low income and people of color. All 4 County Supervisor candidates, Elinor Levin/Jacob Onken for IA House District 89, Janice Weiner for IA Senate District 45, and Christina Bohannon for US House District 1 will attend and speak. Miller Meeks declined to attend.

Each candidate will offer prepared comments during the first hour, and from 3:00-4:00 attendees can have one-on-one discussions with the candidates. By attending you will learn about the candidates, but also support our communities of color in identifying candidates who will work to address their concerns.

Why Volunteer? Because Donna Hirst, Bea Hicks, Sally Strang, and Jane Kinney need assistance with this important event. Because it's a great way to work side by side with other members of JCIC congregations. It's a way to demonstrate solidarity with our South District and low-income communities. We're looking for folks to:

Set up 10:30-12:00 (Jane Kinney in charge)

Welcome 1:45-2:30, (then stay and listen to the candidates)

Children's activities (Bea Hicks is in charge)

Door prize table (sign people up, assist with announcing winners, listen to the candidates)

Parking assistance

Food: we're serving take home bags (after the candidates speak)

Sally Strang is enlisting volunteers to bake cookies.

Please contact Donna Hirst, donna-hirst@uiowa.edu about volunteering, and contact Sally about cookies, sallystrang@mchsi.com.



WARM WINTER WEAR DISTRIBUTION (WWWD) ON OCTOBER 16-22

The Consultation of Religious Communities will host its annual Warm Winter Wear Distribution (WWWD) on October 16-22. This event will be held in the new winter shelter at the far east end of the Guide Link Center, 340 Southgate Ave, Iowa City.

We are looking for donations of new or gently used outerwear for children and adults. Please begin collecting clean items and keep them at your home until further notice. Our highest priority is: winter coats & jackets of all sizes, and other outerwear (snow pants, hats, gloves / mittens, winter scarves, warm socks & winter boots / shoes). We will also gladly accept sweaters, sweatshirts & sweatpants. Please begin collecting needed items.

Carefully presort donated items, removing anything not listed here.

We'd appreciate donations of a box or two of large, strong lawn and leaf bags that can hold several coats for the shoppers. **We also need to borrow a dozen sturdy coat racks.**

And save the week of October 16 - 22 for volunteer opportunities as follows:

October 16 – set up & begin receiving donations (Sunday, noon - 4 p.m.)

October 17 & 18 – continue to receive donations, sort items & set up (Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

October 19–21 – distribution of clothing (Wednesday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 6:p.m.).

October 22 – distribution of clothing (Saturday, 9 a.m. – noon); Clean-up, noon to 4 p.m.

Like last year, we will be requiring both volunteers and shoppers to sign up via Sign-up Genius. **For more detailed instructions and to access the Sign-up Genius for Volunteers click on: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-warm1>**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



AND WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GIFTS FOR PARENTS (G4P) EVENT that will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church on December 1st through 3rd. G4P provides holiday gifts for low-income children to give to their parents or other adults important in their lives. Gifts, new or gently used, might include: artwork, jewelry, coffee mugs, kitchenware, tools, car safety items, board games / puzzles, Hawkeye items, etc. We can't use clothing with sizes, but hats, scarves, mittens, etc. are fine. We look forward to a joyful season of giving!

For further questions, contact John Barr at BarrJohnO@sau.edu

RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 23

One of the joys of in-person worship is navigating the challenges presented by downtown events. The 47th Annual Run for the Schools will be held on October 23. Some streets to the south and east of the church will be closed. College St. will be shut down from Linn St. to Muscatine Ave. Gilbert St. will be shut down from Burlington St. to Washington St. Dodge St. will be shut down and southbound traffic will be rerouted on to Washington St. Governor St. will be shut down and northbound traffic will be rerouted on to Burlington St. **The church and the parking lot will both be accessible.** It might take a few extra minutes to get to church that morning. Plan accordingly, but plan to worship with us. Race maps can be found [here](#).



HOMECOMING PARADE AND FESTIVITIES—FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28!

Big Grill, Mission Board Drink Sales.... and Parade!
Best Seat in Town-corner of Clinton and Jefferson!

The Parade starts at 5:45. Hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers may be purchased from the Big Grill on the Corner. The Mission Board will have drinks for sale. Please contact Rick Ruppert to help with the Big Grill from 4/4:30 until parade time. We welcome both experienced and first timers to participate with the brat sale. As always, we'll need set up, cooks, wrappers, servers, cashiers and tear down.

URGENT PLEA FROM THE JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK AND A WAY TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF CLAIRE ASHMAN

Our church received an urgent plea from Julia Winter, Director of Development at CommUnity for assistance with food donations, as well as monetary donations to purchase food in bulk. As you can imagine, the number of households served during these difficult times has steadily increased, as the government assistance shrinks and inflation is on the upswing. Also, HACAP's supply of bulk foods to order has decreased. Monetary gifts stretch much farther, however clients are very pleased by the random food donated which helps provide variety. Every donated food item must display a nutrition label to be offered. The Mission Board will have an ongoing donation box in Rockwood Hall, with a list of suggested items. Please consider canned protein sources, pastas, cereals, rice in small bags, boxed meal items, and personal care items. The needs change weekly. Monetary donations can be contributed on the website [Donate \(builtbycommunity.org\)](http://Donate(builtbycommunity.org)) which also includes a printable form and address to mail a check. Needs change frequently, and Jane Kinney or Paula Forest can provide suggestions if needed. Claire Ashman devoted many volunteer hours to the food bank, so this will be a soulful way to honor her legacy.

The food bank also is in need of volunteers every week. I, Jane Kinney, would like to encourage you to volunteer there! There are options for times with no client contact, but I can tell you, interacting with the clients is personally a gratifying experience for me, and for the past year my weekly shift is one of the highlights of my week. As well, the staff and volunteers are an uplifting, fun group with to work. I believe it could be for you too! Speak with Paula Forest or me if you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 6

Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes “All Saints Sunday.” This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday in order to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. This year the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson will again lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship.



WE WILL RECEIVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7.

NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING IN ADVENT—CRAFTS ARE WELCOME!

The Mission Board is planning to offer an in-person Alternative Giving fair on Sundays in Advent. We would like to identify people who would like to offer crafts or other items for sale. If you have an idea for a sale item please contact Laurie Stunz (laura-stunz@uiowa.edu). If you knit, please consider making mittens and scarves for the Mitten Tree. Donations of mittens and scarves will be directed to the Iowa City Schools



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE TEE OFFERING IN SEPTEMBER.

We received over \$600 to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South 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. **You can still give—please put “TEE” on your check or envelope.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: 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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY MORNING?

This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to lead them in worship. Bill Lovin provides the material. You provide the spirit. Contact Bill if you are interested or would like more information.



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

Your giving makes a world of difference.



ONLINE DONATION

FRIENDLY REMINDER!

The deadline to submit items for the November newsletter will be **Wednesday, October 19th.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1—Margaret Beck, Andrea Rauer

10/3—Willis Sisley

10/4—Bob Jury

10/5—Jason Beerends

10/6—Roger Jensen

10/7—Bob Ashman, James Savage

10/8—Martha Ann Crawford, James Robinson

10/11—Dick Kruse

10/12—Ginny Clemons

10/13—Marnie Campbell, Vernetta Knapp, Joyce Myer

10/18—Becky Hoefler

10/19—Elizabeth Oakes

10/24—Yvette Jury

10/27—Patricia Hansche, Anna Mary Mueller, Tim Strang, Betty Stein

10/31—Peter Bloesch



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER 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

Children's Music Director

Office Manager

Financial Secretary

The Rev. William Lovin

Rev. Ann Molsberry

Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Avery Nabholz

Jenn Harden

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

uccicrev@uccic.org

anmolsberry@gmail.com

c.nakielski@cornellcollege.edu

Contact the Office

avery-nabholz@uiowa.edu

uccicadmin@uccic.org

sharynreitz@gmail.com

Custodians:

Douglas Herrera

Claudia Landaverde

Contact the Office

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