



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
November 2022



Friends in Christ:

November arrives with the last brilliant trees of autumn and the first bare trees of winter. The night comes early and for those who are morning people the sun once more rises by 6:00 a.m. We start this month with our annual All Saints jazz worship service, briefly acknowledging Veterans Day before our Thanksgiving gatherings, and we finally arrive on November 27 at the first Sunday in Advent.

These days are a time of mixed feelings: Joy and anticipation. Gratitude. Sorrow and melancholy. Regret. With the changing seasons, with the awareness of how our lives have changed and are changing, many are finding these days are filled with new and unexpected challenges.

Where can we take our sadness? Where do we go with our anguish?

I've often thought that on any given Sunday, a good 50% of the people who come to worship are on the verge of tears. We walk through those big red doors bringing family problems, trouble at work, concerns about illness and death. While some tend to stay away from worship when life is rough, this church is actually just the place where we need to go at such times.

There are few places left outside of the church where we can bring our weary souls and find some rest. There are few places left outside of the church where we can cry and know that our sorrow is accepted and respected.

Paul writes of God as the very "Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, the One who comforts us in our affliction." In mercy God does much more than help us to feel good again and get on with our lives as they always have been. God comforts us—that is, God gives us strength in adversity—so that we in turn might bring strength and consolation to others as God's agents in this weary world.

The mercy of God is an empowering force that calls us forward into God's new creation. This mercy forgives us for the wrong that we have done. This mercy forgives us for the good that we have failed to do up to this point. And even more, it then lifts us up and turns us toward the new day that is dawning, so that we might wait for the salvation of the Lord, the wholeness and well-being that God gives. This mercy tells us: All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.

Be kind to those you encounter in these days. Your kindness might make all the difference to someone else. And if life is hard right now, come and join others in seeking the God of all consolation.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

News from Christian Education



Sunday School is taking a close look at the Bible stories about Moses and David. There is **No Sunday School** on Sunday, November 27th.

Children's Choir (all ages) Children's Choir will share on **Sunday, December 11th** at our Christmas Pageant. Come to rehearsals Sunday morning during worship!



Christmas Pageant



Youth Group Gathering Sunday, November 20th. We will host the Youth Group at our church and introduce the idea of Geocaching! We will go on a "scavenger hunt" downtown Iowa City.

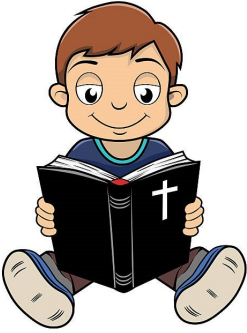
Children's Offerings we will CONTINUE our offering collection for UNICEF during the month of November. Look for offering envelopes in the Chancel by the Children's Worship bags. Everyone, adults *and* children, please place your offering in an envelope and place it in the Offering Plate during worship.



Childcare in the Church Nursery will be extended one hour during the months of November and December for infants through children 4 years old from 9:15-12:30 to accommodate the extra choir rehearsals for Special Music Sunday which will be on Sunday, December 18th. Come enjoy adult education classes, adult choir, and even teaching Sunday School!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

News from Christian Education, *continued*



Parents and Grandparents, are you looking for a Christmas gift idea? We have pre-viewed a selection of Children's Bibles from our church's library shelves and put them on display in the Sanctuary. These picture Bibles range from "beginner reader" to "advance reader". Enrich your "faith at home" experience by sharing these timeless stories with your children. *These books are available for purchase on Amazon.*

Faith at Home. Occasionally, I will share an email with our church school families titled **A Faith at Home Practice, weaving faith into our daily lives.** I share practices with parents that might be helpful in introducing faith elements into their families' daily lives: bath-time, sickness, saying goodbye. Time is a very expensive commodity these days and sometimes we just have to squeeze in a little God-talk as we walk the walk. I recommend two books: **Faithful Families** by Traci Smith and **Practicing Our Faith** by Dorothy C. Bass. I use these books like cookbooks. I like to read through them and pick and choose what will work for me and my family.

You don't have to have special training or a PHD or be ordained to benefit from these anointings, blessings and prayerful moments.



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN OCTOBER



Peter Bloesch grew up in this church, and has always had many wonderful memories of it. Starting in the 1980's, he embarked on a spiritual journey and visited many other churches, but none of them felt like home the way this church did. So, after attending here this past Easter, he had an epiphany and knew in his heart that he should return to this church and call it home once again. He's thrilled to be back, and feels especially blessed to be worshipping with his parents again. Peter grew up in Iowa City and worked at the University Law Library for 25 years, before retiring three years ago. He's also been a composer his entire adult life and is enjoying spending more time on it these days.

Darcie Hutzell is a longtime Iowa City resident, a UI grad, a mom to Fielding, a freelance writer, and an avid reader. She enjoys walks, baking, cooking shows, and spending time with her family.

Julie Wittig has lived in Iowa City for almost four years. She began worshipping at the Congregational UCC in August 2019. A native of California, Julie worked in government in Sacramento and later for Lockheed Martin. Beyond government and the private sector, Julie managed a music store in Phoenix, AZ and in Mason City, IA. Now retired, Julie is an active member of the Johnson County League of Women Voters, Sierra Club and the Senior Center Dance Team. Tennis and travel are her favorite hobbies. She is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley with a B.A. in Linguistics.

Rebecca Weatherford's childhood was spent on a farm in Armington, IL. Her family then moved to Rockford, Rochelle, and Lincoln, IL. Her family came to Iowa City 25 years ago. She has a step-daughter and son-in-law in the St. Louis area, three adult daughters (Lemme, SEJH, and City grads) and four grandchildren. Rebecca graduated from Drake and was a pharmacist for 47 before she retired in July.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



RETURN TO STANDARD TIME

Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clocks back an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 5. Get some rest and join us for Worship on November 6 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 a.m.—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

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. This year we will remember **Claire Ashman, Donna Bertogli, Denny Dudley, Jerry Walker**, and two former members, **Dianna Coberly** and **Wayne Balmer**. 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 to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. Our friend, the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson, will lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please join us on Sunday, November 6, for this special time of worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



WE WILL RECEIVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6.

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.



SERVE AT HOPE LODGE! HELP PREPARE THE NOVEMBER MEAL

Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be **Wednesday, November 9**. There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

Our congregation occasionally provides an evening meal for the residents of Hope Lodge. The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge houses cancer patients (and their caregivers) who are receiving treatment at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Dinner will be served at 5:30. Volunteers are now able to be inside Hope Lodge. Those who bring food are welcome to stay and help serve, eat with the residents, and help clean up. 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 or 351-5886.



GIFTS FOR PARENTS (G4P) RETURNS

Gifts For Parents 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! (*cont'd*)



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Donations can be brought to our church during November or taken to St. Mark's on Thursday, December 1, beginning at 9:00 a.m.. Volunteers will be needed on Thursday, Dec. 1 and Friday, December 2 for sorting and set-up, and on the day of the event, Saturday Dec. 3. Please keep an eye out for the volunteer sign-up genius which will be publicized in the coming weeks.

Edie Roberts and Sue Dayton represent our church on the Gifts For Parents committee, and can answer any questions you might have. If you need to drop things off at the church at an off time, contact Edie.



MEN'S BREAKFAST—NOVEMBER 19

The November Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 19, 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, November 17 at Thai Spice on Gilbert St.
Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.



THANKSGIVING CLOSING

Please note: The Church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24 & 25, in celebration of Thanksgiving. Please have any material for the November 27 bulletin to the office by Tuesday, November 22.

GIVING FOR A NEW BEGINNING

Pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2023 were sent out in early October. If you misplaced yours or did not receive one, please contact the church office. If you have received a card, please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the church as soon as possible. Your deeply considered, prayerful support will help us to continue our Church's mission in downtown Iowa City.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

LOOK AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Normal. New. Our Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations will bring the familiar and the unexpected as we continue a time of New Beginning. As we move toward this special time, here are some dates to keep in mind:

- November 27—First Sunday in Advent; Lighting of the Advent Candles begins.
- December 4—Second Sunday in Advent; Communion Sunday
- December 11—Third Sunday in Advent; Children's Pageant
- December 18—Fourth Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday
- Christmas Eve is Saturday, December 24.
- Christmas Day is Sunday, December 25—Worship at 10:15 a.m.



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY IS SPONSORING A UKRAINIAN FAMILY and is looking for help with miscellaneous tasks. The father, Ahmad Alhroob, came here last July to start a Jordanian Fellowship at UI Hospital's Neonatal unit. His home country, Jordan, is paying him to be here, but the salary is limited. Ahmad's wife is Ukrainian and had to flee to Germany with their two daughters, 8 and 10. It was too expensive there and there was no school, so the mother and daughters went to Jordan. They will be arriving in Iowa City soon.

The following help is needed:

1. Volunteers to take them to the food bank and grocery store for items the bank doesn't have, such as milk
2. Find winter clothing and boots for the family
3. Find furniture through Houses into Homes, etc.
4. Locate kitchen items, including plates, glasses, pots and pans
5. Help them find an apartment
6. Provide transportation to appointments
7. Tutor English
8. Money to pay first month's rent and a security deposit, estimated at \$2,000.

If you are able to assist with any of these tasks contact Sally Hartman, sallyhartman@hotmail.com, 319-621-3618. The Mission Board will be getting updates about this effort.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

WARM WINTER WEAR UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's event a success. They gave away a total of 1867 coats from Wednesday, 10/19, through Friday, 10/21. This consisted of 1325 coats for children (sizes 3 mo - size 18, boys and girls.) and 542 coats for adults (sizes S - XXXL, men and women). All scarves, boots and gloves were given away. They had a total of more than 300 families represented, and many of the individuals were shopping for a minimum of 8 people.

Unfortunately, they had to contact those who had hoped to shop on Saturday because they were all out of popular clothes. Most of the items were actually gone by Thursday afternoon. They were unable to meet the needs of at least 95 children from sizes 10 - 18, especially 14/16/18 (including both boys and girls). Adult coats were in demand, and they could have used many more coats of all sizes.

28 brand new coats for children, sizes 2 and 3 (and a couple size 4/5), and the few remaining hats were given to the Catholic Worker House, which supports many immigrant families.

Thank you to the more than 80 volunteers who spent time sorting, organizing, and serving as shopper assistants. This help was invaluable. Many individuals signed up to assist, and some service organizations were represented among the volunteers.

Donations were received from a large number of faith communities and individuals. A more detailed report will be available later.

Are you missing a jacket? An LLBean, brown heavy denim, corduroy collar, with sunglasses in a pocket. It was left in the office of the winter shelter. Carolyn has the jacket and the owner can contact her at carolyn.otis@gmail.com



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, November 16th.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1	Frank Zlatnik
11/7	Scott Hansche
11/8	John Fuller
11/10	Michael Seidl
11/11	Jeanna Otto
11/13	Amy Lewis
11/14	Terri Macey
11/15	Sara Murph David Schoonover
11/16	James Keogh
11/18	Ann Leefers
11/20	Marcia Kuechenmeister
11/26	Lila Rose MacInnis-Baumert
11/29	Hayden Beerends Kevin Richards



FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983

Our church served **140** lunches at the Free Lunch Program on **Halloween Monday, October 31, 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:

Dianne Atkins, Chuck & Sue Dayton, Randee Fieselmann, Betsy Henson, Donna Hirst, Linda Muston, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts and Rebecca Weatherford

Extra appreciation to John Fieselmann, Betsy Henson, Edie Roberts and Rick Ruppert for their valuable onsite support. Our next scheduled serving date is **Monday, January 30, 2023!**

Gratefully, Vicki Thomae

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Counselor Joins CPCS

Dear participating member congregations, I am writing to introduce myself as a new counselor at CPCS. My name is Ken Fate and I am pleased to begin working with CPCS as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) in the state of Iowa. I am currently accepting clients at our office at 30 North Clinton St, Iowa City.

I retired as a school teacher, coach, principal and counselor in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. Following a career in education, I have 10 years of experience as a LMHC, 5 years part-time in Cedar Falls and 5 years full-time in Cedar Rapids. My experience has been working with children, adults, families and couples with relationship and developmental concerns. This includes coping with the stress of adjustment disorders, anxiety, and depression. My orientation to counseling focuses on the strategies of cognitive behavioral therapy, family systems therapy, play therapy, mindfulness techniques and brief therapy.

While I am not a trained spiritual counselor, I will be taking course work in that area soon. In the meantime, my counseling with CPCS will be as a traditional LMHC helping people who are looking to address behavioral and emotional concerns that they are experiencing in their lives. I am currently seeing clients in the office.

I am an active member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Iowa City participating in choir, men's Bible study and team chair of our companion parish relationship with Same Cathedral Parish in Tanzania. My wife Mavis, is a retired nurse from the U of I. I have two daughters who are married and live in Fort Collins and Minneapolis. I enjoy biking, tennis, golf and traveling with our small camper and Bella, our spunky Labrador retriever.

I am willing to come to your congregation and do an adult forum or other presentation as you deem appropriate. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions, would like to discuss an issue of concern or make a referral.

Peace, Ken

CPCS
30 North Clinton St.
Iowa City, Iowa 52245
319-337-2519



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

AN UPDATE FROM SHELTER HOUSE



Dear Friend of Shelter House:

This work is a lot of things. It is nourishing. It is exhausting. It is necessary. It is never the same. It provokes tears of joy and of sadness and of frustration. Every day, this work is something a little different, but one thing it is guaranteed to be? A roller coaster.

2022 has been a roller coaster.

This has been a year without the safety of a federal eviction moratorium. A year that has seen the gradual emptying of coffers designated for rapid rehousing and eviction prevention. A year of variants—Omicron, Delta—each of which reminds Shelter House staff that we are and always will be on the frontline of every crisis, whether it be economic, political, public health, or a terrifying mix of these.

And whether despite or because of it all, we have much to celebrate.

In June, [Shelter House opened 501 Southgate](#), a 36-unit apartment building providing permanently affordable housing with available support services to individuals in our community exiting chronic homelessness. Thirty-six apartments with 36 leases for 36 people in our community who no one else would house. Now they are home.

In September, Executive Director [Crissy Canganelli was recognized with the State's highest award for a housing advocate](#): the Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa award at the Iowa Finance Authority's annual Housing Iowa Conference.

Three weeks later, Shelter House representatives made the trek back to Des Moines to accept the [Iowa Architectural Foundation's Community Enhancement through Architecture Award](#). This award was not something we expected, and we were humbled by the jury's observation: "Shelter House has grown to meet the challenges of homelessness in their community, and their emphasis on well-designed architecture is an expression of the respect they hold for the people they serve."

This is what it is all about, isn't it? We can cite statistics and data and show you charts and graphs—[and we will, we promise](#)—but *this* is what it is all about. Meeting people where they are. Treating them with the dignity and respect they deserve as humans living through a hard time in a hard world.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



CHURCH STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

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Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org

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Dir of Church School

Music Director

Organist

Children's Music Director

Office Manager

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