



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
March 2023



Friends in Christ:

A couple of weeks ago a member sent me an email with the subject line: “A Needed Sermon Topic?” Well, I’m always open to sermon topics and indeed, sometimes I need one. So I was glad to get this.

The member was concerned about the ways in which we are constantly bombarded with information, much of it “bad news” about some disaster or tragedy. We’re not really designed as human beings to take all of this in. For example, for most of history, an earthquake killing thousands in another part of the world might never be known by countless others. Distant wars were just that—distant.

Now we know everything that happens as it happens. And the result, this member said, is compassion fatigue. We can become worn out by hearing about and caring about and responding to the myriad events that come to our awareness. “Compassion fatigue,” this member concluded, “just might make a good sermon title.”

I kept thinking about this and found myself thinking about it during the offering on Sunday. I was holding one of the One Great Hour of Sharing banks that I was planning to give to the children during the children’s message. I looked down at it and saw the surprising words of Paul to the Galatians: “So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up...” (Galatians 6:9) Wow!

Maybe compassion fatigue has been with us for a much longer time than we might imagine. We can get overwhelmed. Paul suggests that we set our sights beyond what is right in front of us and look toward the harvest to come. And he urges us to work for the good of all when the opportunity comes.

This is why a congregation—*our congregation*—is so important. We do get tired. We experience compassion fatigue. But we have others who can help us when we are down so that we can help others when they are down. We keep encouraging generosity in one another because there are plenty of opportunities to work for the good of all. There is some wisdom here for Lent this year. I need to keep thinking about this and I invite you to do so as well.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

News from Christian Education



Sunday School will learn about the many ways Jesus represented himself to us through bread, water and servant leadership.

Children's Choir (all ages) Children's Choir will rehearse every Sunday during Children's Church. The Children's Choir will share on **Sunday, March 26th**, the last Sunday of the month.



Youth Group Gathering **Sunday, March 19th** at 3-4:30. Our church will **host** the gathering this month.

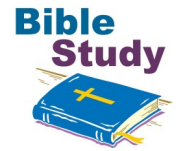


Childcare in the Church Nursery is offered every Sunday 9:15-11:15 for folks to attend adult education, sing in the Choir, teach Sunday School, and attend worship. Come enjoy adult education classes, adult choir, and even teaching Sunday School! The choir will continue to have extended after-worship practices for Music Sunday...which is Sunday, April 30th. We will continue to offer **extended childcare after worship** in the nursery until then.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

STUDY OF ECCLESIASTES CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH

During the season of Lent, Bill Lovin is leading a Bible study looking at the book of Ecclesiastes. As with our other studies in recent years, this is held on Zoom (to allow for interstate and international participation) and meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30. We are exploring two chapters of Ecclesiastes each week. There's still time to join the group as we continue through the five Wednesdays of March.



Please talk with Bill, call him at church (319-337-4301) or email him at uccicrev@uccic.org for more information or to let him know you are interested and he will send you the Zoom invitation.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

- March 5—Second Sunday in Lent; Communion Sunday
- April 2—Palm Sunday—Worship with Distribution of Palms; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 6 Maundy Thursday—Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 7, Good Friday—Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 9, Easter Sunday—Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.
- April 30—Spring Choir Music Sunday
- Study of Ecclesiastes, each Wednesday: March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, April 2, we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. For many years now, we have been on the list of Top 50 giving churches. (*cont'd*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The inspiration for year's theme, "It's Time to Share," comes from Paul encouraging the early Christians to help and care for others: "So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all." Galatians 6: 9-10 (The MSG)

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

You can watch videos about the work that OGHS makes possible [by clicking here](#):

Let us join in this great tradition and give generously.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 12.

Please remember to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening, March 11, so that you get to church on time.

HOPE LODGE:

Our next two Hope Lodge dinners will be March 20 and May 22. If you would like to participate see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall for the March dinner. If you have questions, contact Sue Dayton, cdayton7@mchsi.com



WOMEN'S LUNCH—MARCH 16

The March 16, women's lunch will meet at Thai Spice, on Gilbert, on March 16 at 11:45AM. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—MARCH 18

The March Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 18, 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. Join us!



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY

Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. Because so many people enjoy the burst of color, our Diaconate invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Tuesday, April 4.*

CPR AND AED TRAINING: We will be offering free CPR and AED training to the congregation over the next few months. The training will consist of watching two 2-minute videos, watching demonstrations of CPR and AED use and getting the chance to practice. Trainings will be offered at various times. Sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall (Under the Upcoming Events Bulletin) and Dianne Atkins will set up the schedule to make sure everyone gets a chance. Weekday and evening sessions will be in March and April, Sundays after worship will start in May. You can learn to save a life in just a few minutes.



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE SPECIAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF OFFERING IN FEBRUARY. We received over \$3,800 to help with efforts in Turkey and Syria.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SACRED CONVERSATIONS TO END RACISM: 1.5 day Intensive Workshop on Zoom March 24-25, 2023

The Congregational UCC Mission Board is sponsoring a 1.5-day workshop on Zoom for members of the congregation. Our instructor will be Rev. Dr. Velda Love; information follows. **If you are interested in registering send an email to: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu.**

"Our world is a neighborhood. . . We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Martin Luther King, Jr., March 31, 1968

The United Church of Christ is guided by its faith and values, believing in, and affirming the full humanity of all people. However, we know that xenophobia, anti-BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) racism, anti-sexual orientation, and non-binary gender identities remain barriers to seeing and accepting all people as equal and worthy of respect.

"Race is not Real. Race does not exist biologically nor anthropologically, neither is there any reference to race in the 66 canonized books of the Bible. Race is neither scientific nor sacred. Race is an artificial social construct, and it serves a social function.

Racism is Real. Racism originates from the unholy belief that there are human groups with particular social and physical characteristics that make them superior or inferior to another human group. – *Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ*

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Velda R. Love
February 2017 - Present

Lead for Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice; Minister for Racial Justice
United Church of Christ National Setting

Education

- 2006 Master of Arts in Theological Studies
North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL
§ Social Justice and Public Theology
- 2016 Doctor of Ministry Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL
§ African Centered Pedagogy and Social Transformation

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Friday, 6:00-8:30, March 24 Workshop I: EXPLORING OUR BEGINNINGS THROUGH HISTORICAL AWARENESS

- Cultural historical education: Pre-Human & Pre-Colonial Existence
- Human migration
- A History: The Construction of Race and Racism
- The Doctrine of Discovery: Domination and the Christian Church

LISTENING TO CULTURES BEFORE COLONIALISM

- The Impact of Intergenerational Trauma
- Our Siblings: North American Native Americans
- How You See Me

Breaks and small group dialogues will be scheduled to ingest and process the learnings from the workshop.

Saturday, 9:00-3:00, March 25 Workshop II: REFRAMING CHRISTIAN NARRATIVES: TRUTH-TELLING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- The Origin of Race in America
- Dismantling the Myth of Race
- Cultural Theologies
- Understanding the Bible

HEALING: RESTORATION EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- Overcoming Blind Spots
- Don't Put People in Boxes
- What Does the Lord Require?

CHRISTIAN CHURCH WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE:

- Strategies for a movement towards justice for all
- Community affirmation and agreement

Preparation for the workshop will include some pre-work, prereading and viewing resources. Information will be shared as individuals register.

UCC-JCIC CORE TEAM: SUPPORTING THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) is a multi-cultural, faith-based community coalition whose mission is to advocate for social justice and equity, first and foremost for persons of color.

Our congregation has had a "Core Team" supporting the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition since we joined the coalition in 2019. Thirty members of the congregation are currently members, and they receive general updates about activities of the organization and opportunities to support or volunteer throughout the year. Fewer than 1 update email is sent a month; we have a commitment that there will not be regular or irregular meetings. If you would like to be added to this group and receive the mailings, send an email to donna-hirst@uiowa.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE MARCH 25-26 860 QUARRY ROAD

Mark your calendars for the 2023 Book Sale! This two-day sale will be hosted on Saturday, March 25 and Sunday, March 26 from 10:30am-4:00pm, both days, at 860 Quarry Road, Coralville.

Each year, Shelter House creates a wonderland of adventure, mystery, and curiosity at the annual Book Sale. Tens of thousands of used books are generously donated by members of the community and sold at low prices to support Shelter House's critical work. This is truly a community fundraiser: many community members donate books, volunteer for, and shop at the Book Sale.

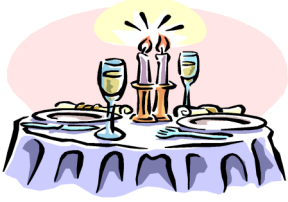
If you have gently used books, CDs, and DVDs, vinyl records, and puzzles, they can be dropped off at 860 Quarry Rd, Coralville **starting Sunday, February 19th**. Donation times will be *Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays* from 10:00am-2:00pm, and *Sundays* from 2:00pm-4:00pm. The book sale could not be done without the help of volunteers. This year is no different. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help sort and organize books and other donations, and prepare the space for the big sale. There's over a hundred slots we need to fill. Add your name to one or more slots today! Sign up today at: bit.ly/booksale2023.

Community sponsors are one of the many reasons Shelter House's Book Sale is such a fun and engaging event. Become a sponsor and make your contribution at www.shelterhouseiowa.org/donate, or email T'Shailyn Harrington at tshailyn.harrington@shelterhouseiowa.org for more information.

Sponsorship Opportunities:	
Library Giant	\$500
Epic Poet	\$250
Novelist	\$100
Sonneteer	\$35

If you have many books to donate, you can take them directly to the site. You can also drop off books at Rockwood Hall and John Fieselmann or Donna Hirst can take them for you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



JOIN THE JOHNSON COUNTY UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FOR "NIGHT OF 1000 DINNERS," an international buffet on International Women's Day to honor local organizations advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at Mercer Park Aquatic Center & Scanlon Gym, 2701 Bradford Drive, Iowa City.

This year's theme is Sustainable Development Goal #15: Life on Land. The event will honor Grow: Johnson County, Field to Family, and Great Plains Action Society. The program will feature international music, dance, spoken-word performances, and some surprises. The event will have in-person and virtual options. Tickets are \$25 for community members or \$10 for students. Donate or purchase tickets here. You will have an option to purchase an in-person or virtual ticket. Ticket purchasers and donors will receive a Zoom link for the event.

MILESTONES

Baptisms:

During worship on Sunday, February 19 we baptized Madelon Mae Josten, the daughter of Jody and Nick Josten.



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 March newsletter will be **Friday, March 24th.**



March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 - Bible Study, 7PM	2	3	4
5 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	6	7 - Board of Christian Education, 6:30PM - Mission Board, 7:00PM	8 - Bible Study, 7PM	9	10	11
12 - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	13	14	15 - Bible Study, 7PM	16 - Women's Lunch @ Thai Spice on Gilbert St., at 11:45 am	17	18 - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
19 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service - Youth Group, 3PM	20	21 - Membership Board, 5:30PM - Deacons, 6PM - Stewardship Board, 7PM - Trustees, 7PM	22 - Bible Study, 7PM	23	24 - Zoom Racial Justice Workshop, 6 -8:30PM	25 - Zoom Racial Justice Workshop, 9am-3pm
26 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service - Zoom coffee hour, 7pm	27	28 - Church Council, 7PM	29 - Bible Study, 7PM	30	31	

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1 Sandra Lacina
- 3/4 Barb Hanson
- 3/5 Lyle Tonne
- 3/6 Melissa Reynolds
- 3/10 James Jetter
- 3/13 Joan Buxton
Izzy Brown
- 3/15 Sylvia Woolums
- 3/19 Willem Maybaum Morton
- 3/22 Nathaniel Savage
- 3/23 Isabella Myers
- 3/24 Carrie Whitaker
- 3/29 Rachel Anderson



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH 2023 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

Custodians:

The Rev. William Lovin

Rev. Ann Molsberry

Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Majesty Constable

Jenn Harden

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Douglas Herrera

Claudia Landaverde

uccicrev@uccic.org

anmolsberry@gmail.com

c.nakielski@cornellcollege.edu

Contact the Office

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sharynreitz@gmail.com

Contact the Office

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