



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
May 2023



Friends in Christ:

One of the nice things about Easter is that it just keeps going.

We are given the “twelve days” of Christmas and then the tree and decorations come down, the candles are extinguished, and we are left with the cold of winter.

Easter, however, lasts for fifty days in the springtime of the year. Those of you who are familiar with the calendar of the church year know that Easter is a “season” stretching from Easter Sunday until the day of Pentecost (when we celebrate God’s gift of the Holy Spirit). Traditionally, Congregationalists haven’t had much to do with the church year although in the past 50 years or so we’ve come to a new appreciation special days and times. Now when Easter arrives, we give ourselves seven weeks to reflect on the meaning of the resurrection for our lives and our world.

And, really, that’s just the beginning. Each Sunday in the year is actually a “little Easter”—an occasion to celebrate God overcoming death in Jesus Christ and the small and large ways God continues to overcome death in our lives and in our world. Each week we are reminded of God’s powerful, life-giving love.

In one of my favorite parts of Bach’s *Easter Oratorio*, Peter and John sing: “Laughter and merriment attend our hearts, for our Salvation is risen.” Now is a time for rejoicing together and laughing together and worshipping together.

Peace,

Bill

P.S.—The color for Pentecost Sunday is red. Please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, May 28.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### News from Christian Education

#### THE GRAND FINALE!

Our last day of Sunday School and celebration **Ice Cream Social** will be on **Sunday, May 21st**. This marks the end of our school year. Come and have cake and ice cream for breakfast served to you by the Board of Christian Education!

We will honor and recognize our Acolytes at worship on this morning by presenting them with Acolyte Pins.

We will see you next year on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Have a fun and safe summer break!!



**Children's Choir** will share for the last time this year during worship on **Sunday, May 21st**.

#### Youth Group 2023

Youth Group will meet for the last time this year at the Presbyterian church on **Sunday, May 21st from 3-4:30**.



**Childcare** will be provided through the summer for worship from 10:00-11:30.

**Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday, a special Sunday set aside to celebrate the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church.** Hope Spragg will be creating a special installation of the Holy Spirit using her Storyteller's Tree that was first presented to our congregation at our Christmas Pageant...and you get to participate!

Look for a table set up in Rockford Hall with supplies for you to use to decorate your own version of a Bird of the Holy Spirit. Hope will use the birds to re-create her Storyteller's Tree for Pentecost Sunday.



#### **Vacation Bible School Date Announced! Make Room on Your Calendar!**

Vacation Bible School will be at our church during PRIDE WEEKEND 2023.

**Come celebrate with us on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-12.**

We will have a conversation about PRIDE and why it is important to this church. We will watch the award-winning Canadian film "Sticks and Stones" and talk about why PRONOUNS matter.

We will decorate and EAT Rainbow cupcakes AND make a Rainbow Windchime to take home.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### News from Christian Education, *cont'd*



#### The Circle of the Church Year

I invite you to take a closer look at the Christian Education Bulletin Board in Rockwood Hall. It is a display of our church school curriculum from this past year.

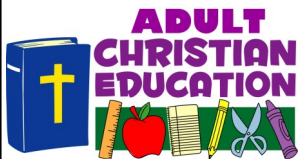
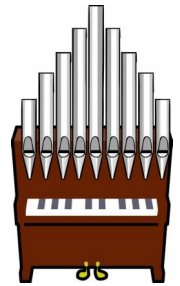
I created the curriculum, gleaned from my experiences as a teacher and learning theory, our UCC theology, and my seminary education.

The **Circle of the Church Year** is a three-year curriculum based on the chronological flow of Scripture and the Liturgical calendar of the church year. This is year One. It is based on teachers needing background and a brief, *one-page* Biblical interpretation of the lesson and the children needing a hands-on experience to learn. We've used art, music, drama, cooking, and poetry to reinforce the lessons. Enjoy!

### Church News:

#### THIS YEAR MARKS THE 15TH YEAR OF THE DEDICATION OF THE ORGAN.

Bill Dickinson has two bound volumes of photos of the removal of the old Wicks and the installation of the Casavant including many photos of the organ at the Casavant factory. Also in these volumes are all of the details of the purchase and Casavant's original renderings of the organ and console. These volumes will be available in Rockwood Hall.



#### ADULT EDUCATION SESSIONS CONCLUDE A YEAR OF EXPLORING POLARIZATION AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

Since last September our Sunday morning adult education sessions have been considering how we talk with each other in this polarized time. Among other resources, we've watched several videos from Princeton Theological Seminary's "Future of American Democracy" series.

We'll wrap up our sessions on the first three Sundays in May, considering "Does Institutional Christianity Have a Future?" with Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President of Sojourners, and Rev. Dr. Russell Moore, Public Theologian at Christianity Today. They discuss the ongoing role Christian institutions play in supporting the project of democracy, and how political binaries work against our identities as siblings in Christ.

We'll also listen as Princeton Theological Seminary faculty discuss the impact of polarization on students, campus culture, the classroom, and how theological education offers a way forward., in "Is Life Together Still Possible? Polarization and Princeton Seminary."

Join us in Rockwood Hall on May 7, 14, and 21, at 9:15 a.m.

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS SPONSORING A TABLE at the Table to Table Annual Dinner on May 3.** The event takes place on **Wednesday, May 3**, at Celebration Farm in the Double Round Barn. Celebrate the impact T2T's food recovery efforts make in our community and learn more about how you can be involved. Weather permitting the event will utilize both indoor and outdoor space. Funds raised from this event will help us rescue more than 130,000 pounds of good food and deliver it throughout the Johnson County hunger relief network. Learn more [here](#).

Want to join with others at our table? Please contact the church office at 337-4301.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### WOMEN'S LUNCH—MAY 18

The May 18th women's lunch will meet at Big Grove Iowa City on Gilbert St. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

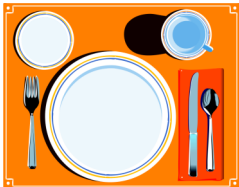


**THE MEN'S BREAKFAST IN MAY** will be held on the third Saturday, May 20. We'll gather at the Waterfront Hy-Vee at 8:00 a.m. Good food, great people. Join us!

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Every year we recognize the high school graduates in our congregation. This year Ben Hoefer will graduate from West High. Ben will attend The University of Iowa starting in August and plans to study engineering.

The Diaconate has a book available in Rockwood Hall in which you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Ben. We will recognize Ben during worship on May 28.



**SERVE AT HOPE LODGE IN MAY:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be May 22.

If you would like to participate see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

If you have questions, contact Sue Dayton, [cdayton7@mchsi.com](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com)

### PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 28

We will celebrate Pentecost on May 28. This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey “from ashes to fire.” Pentecost marks God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. We invite everyone to please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, May 28.



### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 28

What does church mean to you? Mission? Compassion? Community? Praise? Prayer? Peace? There are as many different answers as there are people. But the value at the heart of every answer is the same: Love. The church is love.

Each year we receive a special offering that helps the church’s love to grow and thrive. The “Strengthen the Church” offering grows the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the “Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God’s extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church.

On *Sunday, May 28*—Pentecost Sunday—we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**WE'RE SERVING AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM IN MAY.** When there is a fifth Monday in a month, Congregational UCC serves at the Free Lunch Program. We'll be there on Monday, May 29. Interested in helping in some way? Please email Vicki Thomae at [vickithomae@gmail.com](mailto:vickithomae@gmail.com). Thanks!



**Free Lunch**



### **JUNE 4—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL**

Spring and summer bring great festivals to Iowa City—and close off some of the streets! Sunday, June 4, is the final day of the Iowa Arts 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.

### **SAVE THE DATES!—ALL CHURCH GATHERINGS**

The Membership Board is looking ahead to a couple of much-loved congregational events and we want you to be a part of them. Mark your calendars now and look for more information in the months ahead about:

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC—Sunday, June 25, in City Park

PROGRESSIVE DINNER—Saturday, October 14, at lots of locations



### **CHANGE AGENT: AN ONLINE UCC MISSION BOARD SOCIAL CHANGE BULLETIN BOARD CELEBRATES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY—SIGN UP FOR IT!**

A year ago, the Mission Board responded to requests from the congregation and created an Online Social Change Bulletin Board. This monthly email publication is an alert system that includes 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 are local actions, then state actions

and national actions. Notices do not support political candidates or parties.

*Change Agent* is sent out monthly. The postings are curated rather than comprehensive.

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).

### **SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE UPDATE**

This year's Book Sale event was yet another success! Everyone is still reeling from the great turnout and vibrant energy.

The Book Sale exceeded our fundraising goal, as Shelter House received over \$60,000 in contributions! Thanks to everyone who donated books, helped with setting up the sale, bought books, and the seemingly endless sorting of books into categories. Keep tuned for 2024 sale notices next fall. If you discover you are moving or otherwise have an immediate need to store books for the sale, contact John Fieselmann or Donna Hirst.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING:** We have received over \$3,500. 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 100 giving churches. Your generous gifts support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts.



**AS ALLIES FOR LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS AND AN OPEN, WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION, THE MISSION BOARD HAS FORMED AN LGBTQ+ STUDY GROUP.** The group will look at ways to raise congregational awareness of Iowa's anti-LGBTQ legislation and the potential harm, intimidation and coercion of vulnerable individuals. We will present opportunities to support and act as allies in our community and state. For questions or more information, see the display in Rockwood Hall or speak with a Mission Board or LGBTQ Study Group member: Hope

Spragg, Linda Muston, Paula Forrest, Martha Ann Crawford or Rebecca Weatherford.

**USHERS, GREETERS, HOSPITALITY AND LITURGIST OPPORTUNITIES:** Sunday morning brings an abundance of opportunities to be involved in making the morning a time of joy and renewed energy. Everyone is invited to greet people coming to worship, to usher, to lead the congregation in worship 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.



**DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY?** (We know, it's an old joke, but it never gets tired, does it?) We have recently made new keys and are working at getting a better list of people who have keys. If you have a key to the church, please contact Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, at (608) 807-7195 or at [kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kd Richards1958@gmail.com). Thanks.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEE SOMETHING—SAY SOMETHING:** If you notice something in the building that needs attention—a leaky faucet, a loose railing, etc.—please let the church office or Trustee Chairperson, Kevin Richards, know right away. You can reach Kevin at (608) 807-7195 or at [kd Richards1958@gmail.com](mailto:kd Richards1958@gmail.com). Thanks.



**See something.  
Say something.**



**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 June newsletter will be **Friday, May 19th.**



# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> - Board of Christian Education, 6:30PM - Mission Board, 7:00PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service—Communion	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> - Membership Board, 5:30PM - Deacons, 6PM - Stewardship Board, 7PM - Trustees, 7PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> - Women's Lunch @ Big Grove Iowa City, at 11:45 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
<b>21</b> - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service - Youth Group	<b>22</b> - Serve @ Hope Lodge	<b>23</b> - Church Council, 7PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> - 9:00 Choir - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service—Pentecost Sunday	<b>29</b> - <b>Church Office Closed—</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> - Serve @ Free Lunch Program	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### CELEBRATING MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/5 Ed Leighton-Dick

5/14 Edie Roberts

5/15 Elizabeth Groff

5/16 Gloria Hanson  
Barbara Sisley

5/17 Dylan Beerends

5/19 John Rauer

5/20 Janet Williams  
Betsy Henson

5/22 Karen Smith  
Courtney Nelson

5/24 Kathy Thede-Reynolds  
Megan Carnes  
Hannah Leighton-Dick

5/27 Cynthia Kemp

5/28 Robyn Wood Groff

5/30 Oscar Hill



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

MAY 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](http://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](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.