



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
June 2023



Friends in Christ:

Summer sneaks into Iowa City early. In mid-May the sidewalks begin to empty out as students head home or to other summer destinations. Parking around the church suddenly opens up and stopping by during the day or coming to a meeting at night is a little easier. This year I watch from my window as workers tear up the sidewalk on Jefferson St. and dig and –what *are* they doing over there?

All of this and June is just beginning. Soon even warmer days and shorter nights will be here along with the crowds and music that the festivals down the street bring. It's summer and I want to relax. I will relax. And my guess is that you will find some rest and renewal in these days as well.

At the same time, I know that this is a year of rebuilding here at Congregational UCC, or the first of many years of rebuilding. My responsible, non-summer-self quotes scripture: “Go to the ant, thou sluggard” (Proverbs 6:6), telling me to keep busy during these summer months. Do not waste time. Seize the day. Make hay while the sun shines.

It is summer, however, and so I also remember that “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1). As summer begins, I am keenly aware that God is at work in us and among us and through us. And so, we can relax as we rebuild. We can let the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Life that we celebrated on Pentecost, continue the good work that has begun.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

News from Christian Education

After bomb threats, Iowa City school district removes book targeted by anti-LGBTQ Twitter account

Iowa City Press-Citizen, March 30, 2023

This Book is Gay is coming off the shelves at Northwest Junior High and other Iowa City Community School District libraries following a Twitter blast aimed at the Coralville school that administrators believe was linked to a pair of bomb threats. The school had to be evacuated on consecutive days last week while police searched it. No explosive devices were found. The Libs of TikTok Twitter account, which has 2 million followers and is known for its anti-LGBTQ stance, published a Tweet on March 21 that denounced the school for having the book, which it said promotes “gay sex”. It generated hundreds of responses, many of them graphically homophobic.

Update: On May 18, 2023: “This Book is Gay” was returned to Iowa City schools libraries after going through a reconsideration committee.



We have added the following books in this genre to our church library:

This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson

What is the T? A guide to all things Trans and/or Binary by Juno Dawson

George (aka Melissa) by Alex Gino

Gender Queer a Memoir by Maia Kobabe

All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson



PRIDE 2023 Vacation Bible School at the Congregational UCC is cancelled. But all is not lost! All the material that would have been covered in this setting will be shared during Children's Church at worship this summer.

Church News

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.



WOMEN'S LUNCH—JUNE 15

The June 15 women's lunch will meet at Monica's in Coralville. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



MEN'S BREAKFAST—JUNE 17

The June Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, June 17. We'll gather at the Waterfront Hy-Vee at 8:00 a.m. Good food, great people. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. Please join us.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC—SUNDAY, JUNE 25

Summer is here and it's time for the Church Picnic. Bring your family, bring your friends and join us at SHELTER 12 IN LOWER CITY PARK from 4-7 p.m. Restrooms and parking are near the shelter. Our Membership Board will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and tableware. You're welcome to bring games and play equipment, musical instruments, lawn chairs, and anything else that will make for a happy gathering.



SUMMER JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 2, is the final day of the Iowa City Jazz Festival. We'll mark this occasion with a jazz worship service at 10:15 a.m. Our good friends in the Dick Watson quartet will provide the music. Join us—and bring a friend!

THANKS!

The Membership Board would like to thank all who helped make the April 30th New Member Brunch such a success. There were 90+ attendees, and 45 members recognized as joining the church in the past 15 years. Thanks to Vicki Thomae, John and Randee Fieselmann, Rebecca Weatherford, Chuck Dayton, John Johnson, Kevin Richards, Rick Ruppert, and others who helped set up extra tables at the last minute. Special thanks to Randee Fieselmann for her interesting presentation about our beautiful Tiffany Window.



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFEREING ON PENTECOST. We received over \$800 to support UCC new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development.

MISSION BOARD NEWS

AS LGBTQ PEOPLE AND THEIR ALLIES 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



MISSION BOARD MEMBERS ARE INVITING YOU TO PARTICIPATE WITH THEM AND OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS ON THE SATURDAY, JUNE 17, IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL EVENTS.

There will be a sign-up sheet on a clipboard circulating in Rockwood Hall during coffee hour with opportunities to be in the *parade* and work at the *booth*. Please join us! As LGBTQ people and their Allies and consistent with our welcoming, and affirming commitment, a display in Rockwood Hall continues to present timely opportunities and information supporting our efforts. If you have ideas, interest or concerns, visit with any of the subcommittee members: Hope Spragg, Linda Muston, Rebecca Weatherford, Julie Wittig, Paula Forest, Martha Ann Crawford, or Dianne Atkins.

HAPPY NEWS FROM THE CONSULTATION OF RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS (CRC)

The CRC met on May 17 and passed a motion that will allow the CRC to remain active with a revised organizational plan. This will include fewer meetings and fewer officers. John Barr (First Presbyterian), Ryan Downing (Faith UCC) and Jill Michel (First Christian) will co-convene meetings and set meeting agendas. They will each take responsibility for promoting three areas of emphasis: Community Projects (John), Social Justice (Ryan), and Interfaith Activities/Relationships (Jill). **There will be a Winter Clothing Distribution this year** (October 8-15). There will not be a Gifts for Parents event this year. The CRC will continue to promote and encourage donations to the Common Fund. Currently, CRC representatives from our church are John Fuller and Sue Dayton.



THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE MAY 22 HOPE LODGE DINNER Darcie Hutzell, Fielding Woolums, Sally Strang, Rebecca Weatherford, Dianne Atkins, Andy Bertolatus, Ginny Clemons, Linda Muston, Chuck Dayton, Sue Dayton, Julie Wittig, Marsha Lowe, and Diane Dahl-McCoy. Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, July 17. Watch for a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983; Our 40th Year!

Our church served **125** lunches at the Free Lunch Program on **Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2023.**



Thank you so much to all who volunteered by donating food for this serving day: Dianne Atkins, Bill Dickinson, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, Donna Hirst, Edie Roberts, Rebecca Weatherford and Julie Wittig

Additional thanks to Bill Dickinson, Betsy Henson, Kathi Koegle, John Reitz, Edie Roberts and Rick Ruppert for their valuable onsite support.

Our next scheduled serving date is **Monday, July 31, 2023!** *Vicki Thomae*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

All Church Food Drive for the month of June –

In response to the message below from the CommUnity Food bank, the Mission Board has agreed to have an all-church food drive throughout the month of June. Members and friends may bring the needed items to the church and place them by the big peanut butter jar in Rockwood Hall. Items will be taken to the food bank during the week. Alternatively, you may take the food yourself to the back door of the CommUnity Food Bank in Pepperwood Mall. Monetary donations at CommUnity are also welcome.



Our last food drive effort was wildly successful, so let's do our part once again to help meet this need.

From CommUnity:

Have you seen us in the news lately? We've been spreading the word to local media outlets about the dire need for donations to the Food Bank.

CommUnity Food Bank is currently distributing about 6,000 lbs. of food to around 200 households per day, and we're on track to hit a service record in fiscal year 2023. The previous record was 52,703 total visits in fiscal year 2017, and the Food Bank is projected to exceed 60,000 total visits by the end of June.

Many local families are not eligible for other assistance programs, and the Food Bank is their only source of groceries each week. But what we're currently able to provide is just not enough. **They need more food per visit than we're able to give, and without help, the situation is only going to get worse.**

In addition to an increase in visits, in-kind donations of food products are down 43% compared to last year. Both the decrease in donations and increase in Food Bank visits are due in large part to inflation. **As food prices continue to rise, more families are finding themselves in need of extra assistance,** and donating groceries to the Food Bank is becoming more expensive.

We need your help to provide our neighbors with adequate food for their families. Thank you for your ongoing support of our organization, and more importantly, for supporting our community.

The most-needed items include:

Financial Donations	Baby Formula
Canned Fruit in Juice	Rice and Pasta
Peanut Butter	Hearty Soups and Stews
Canned Meat	Toilet Paper
Baby Diapers	Laundry Detergent

**NEW SONG EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 912 20TH AVE., CORALVILLE,
WILL HOST AN ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE (AVP) MINI-WORKSHOP
FOR THE PUBLIC
ON SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 10 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**



Intensive AVP workshops, usually 20 hours over 3 days, were held in most Iowa prisons for nearly 20 years prior to the pandemic, as well as in some local schools. AVP is now being re-introduced in our area in hopes of resuming that work. More information about AVP can be found at [this](#) link, as well as the sign-up for the June 17 mini-workshop. We hope you'll come and see what AVP has to offer and consider getting involved.

Dorothy Whiston
Interfaith Chaplain, Inside Out Reentry Community
Spiritual Director, Soul Friends Ministry
319-321-7920

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



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.



WANT TO GIVE ONLINE? Scan the QR code for our giving app.
Your giving makes a world of difference.



ONLINE DONATION



DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY? 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 kdrichards1958@gmail.com. Thanks.

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 kdrichards1958@gmail.com. Thanks.



**See something.
Say something.**

FRIENDLY REMINDER!

The deadline to submit items for the July newsletter will be
Friday, June 16th.



June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 - 10:15 Worship Service - Children's Church During Worship	5	6 - Mission Board, 7:00PM	7	8	9	10
11 - 10:15 Worship Service - Children's Church During Worship	12	13	14	15 - Women's Lunch @ Monica's in Coralville, at 11:45 am	16	17 - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
18 - 10:15 Worship Service - Children's Church During Worship	19	20 - Membership Board, 5:30PM - Deacons, 6PM - Stewardship Board, 7PM - Trustees, 7PM	21	22	23	24
25 - 10:15 Worship Service - Children's Church During Worship	26	27 - Church Council, 7PM	28	29	30	

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CELEBRATING JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/2 *Fielding Woolums*

6/3 *Jerilyn McCarty*
Paula Forest

6/6 *Gloria Lacina*

6/7 *Ray Muston*

6/9 *Gavin Nelson*
Renn Morton

6/11 *Derek Willard*

6/16 *Ethel Bloesch*

6/18 *Sally Strang*

6/23 *Melissa Jensen*

6/25 *Dale Roberts*



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JUNE 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

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Contact the Office

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