



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
July 2023



Friends in Christ:

Joy. Hope. Expectation. Energy. Excitement. All of these are increasing among us through the spring and into the early summer.

After our Easter celebrations in early April, our choir offered a performance of “Illuminare” that, along with many others, I found to be nothing less than a genuine religious experience. (You know I don’t usually talk this way.) This was followed by our first shared meal in Rockwood Hall in over three years. Randee Fieselmann talked to the large gathering about our past in a way that opened up the future—it was as though together we were looking toward the distant horizon in our Tiffany window.

In May we wrapped up our Christian Education year—the second for the children and the first for the adults since 2020. We said good-bye to members who are moving way even as we welcomed new faces and more people in our worship on Sunday mornings. An active group imagined new involvement in Pride Fest (see the photos in this newsletter) and in June our participation gave countless people a look at the welcoming, liberal Christian community that we are. And we wrapped up June with what might have been our largest picnic yet!

During all of this, our mission to people in Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty has been developing even as we begin to make new connections internationally (more below). In this time of rebuilding, active members are finding meaningful ways to connect with one another and to be involved in the ministry and mission of our congregation. We need to continue to reach out to members and friends who have been away for any number of reasons, so that they might find a renewed sense of belonging and purpose in our congregation. And we need to open ourselves to the changes in our life together that new members will make possible.

In short, half way through 2023, we continue to discern and discover the new things that God is creating and doing among us, with us, and through us. This is never a simple or easy task.

But we continue in this work together, finding new ways to talk openly and honestly with each other, new ways to meet together, and new ways to worship, pray, and learn together. This means making additional progress in becoming a hybrid church—with both an in-person and an online presence: for example, expanding our technological infrastructure so that meetings can better include all people, improving our website capabilities to allow for better communication between members.

This is our joyful task in these days. And with Paul, I am convinced that by the power at work within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. (Ephesians 4:20)

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

News from Christian Education

Happy Birthday Congregational UCC of Iowa City O&A!
Twenty years ago, on July 1, 2003, we became an Open and Affirming Congregation.

(See the official certificate at our **PRIDE TABLE**)

The first Conference ONA Resolution was passed by the Historic Massachusetts Conference in 1984. At the next General Synod, the resolution was reconciled with wording from the Rocky Mountain Conference. The resulting ONA Resolution was adopted by the UCC's 15th General Synod in 1985.

The Open and Affirming movement officially began in the United Church of Christ in 1985.

As of December 2022, according to the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition (openandaffirming.org), more than 1,800 UCC congregations with 370,000 members (about 35 percent of all UCC churches) are officially designated as Open and Affirming. Twenty-one of the UCC's 38 regional conferences, most new church starts, all seven seminaries affiliated with the UCC and several UCC-related campus ministries have adopted ONA statements, or "covenants."



Church News

STAY COOL, STAY WARM

SUPPORT THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO REPLACE OUR AIR CONDITIONERS AND FURNACES

The 6 AC units on the roof of the Education Wing are 25 years old. These units are paired with 6 paired furnaces that control the climate in the Sanctuary, Rockwood Hall and the Offices. The 6 furnaces were installed in 1998 as well. In mid-June, one of our 25-year-old air conditioning units stopped working. The six AC units are mounted on the east portion roof of the Christian Education building on the south side of the sanctuary. Replacing a unit requires the use of a crane and Iowa City requires traffic control as the crane has to be on Clinton Street, which adds to the expense. In recent years our six furnaces have needed a lot of extra maintenance.

Evaluating all of this, our Trustees have decided that the best, most prudent, and most cost-effective approach is to replace all of the air conditioning units and furnaces this summer.

Major repairs are never anyone's favorite discussion topic. But out here in the real world, stuff breaks. And important stuff needs to be fixed. While we do have the flexibility to replace some units now and some later, the more times our HVAC contractor has to come out, and the more times we need to hire cranes and control traffic, the higher the overall cost goes. No way around that.

The cost for this is estimated at around \$75,000. While we will be able to use some of our savings for this, our Church Council has approved a small Capital Campaign to raise the balance of funds. In this way we can solve an immediate problem before it worsens.

People have and will ask if we received multiple bids. We did not and the main reason is the Church's over 30-year history with Brandt Heating and Cooling. In 1998, when this equipment was installed the original bid extremely high so other contractors were contacted. Brandt determined many of the commercial equipment and upgrades in the other bid was unnecessary and his recommendation saved us significantly! Brandt has always been extremely fair to us and gives us priority service when it is needed. Their knowledge of our building, the duct-work system and use of less expensive paired residential equipment and technology have served us well and saved us money. Our history and experience with Brandt Heating and Cooling and their straightforward and honest approach is something we place a high value upon.

More information about this project will be provided in July. When we first installed air conditioning 25 years ago, it came as a gift from a long-time church member. This time all of us can be a part of providing and upgrading this essential equipment. In the weeks ahead, please consider how you might give to support this campaign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



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. This is made possible through a generous gift from Chuck Connerly and Martha Ann Crawford. Our good friends in the Dick Watson quartet will provide the music. Join us—and bring a friend!

JULY 2—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA CITY JAZZ FESTIVAL

Summer brings great festivals to Iowa City—and closes off some of the streets! Sunday, July 2, is the final day of the Iowa City Jazz 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.



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY, JULY 4, in celebration of Independence Day.

WOMEN'S LUNCH—JULY 20th

The July 20th women's lunch will meet at Basta, in downtown IC on Iowa Ave. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.



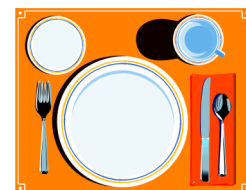
MEN'S BREAKFAST—JULY 15

The July Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 15. 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.



HELP AT HOPE LODGE THIS MONTH

Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, July 17.
Watch for a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.



THANKS TO ALL who contributed to the CommUnity Food Bank in our June collection drive. Your generosity has been very helpful to the food bank this past month. We will consider another drive possibly sometime later, but feel free to drop off items at CommUnity yourself if you desire. Food, paper goods, and diapers are all needed. Thanks to Kevin Koepnick and his Table To Table truck for picking up the items at the church and delivering them to Community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



WOULD YOU LIKE A GIVING STATEMENT? PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW

We are now half way through 2023. It's the time of year when some people like to see what they have given and to make sure that their giving to our church is current. If you would like a half-year financial giving statement, please contact Jenn Harden in the church office at 319-337-4301 or send her an email at uccicadmin@uccic.org. She'll be glad to send out a statement.

And thanks again for your generous giving as we rebuild and move forward!

STEWARDSHIP BOARD NEEDS YOUR HELP TO SPEND ENDOWMENT FUNDS!

Spending money wisely can be as hard work as accumulating it in the first place. Last year we circulated a statement explaining how the Endowment Fund has again accumulated funds comfortably above the minimum amount of \$100,000, at which point earnings on interest on the fund may be used to fund projects vital for the Church's functions that cannot normally be covered by the Church's regularly budgeted funds. You can review that statement on the Stewardship page of the Church's [website](#). Please help us put that money to work by suggesting projects that could be funded.

In the recent past Endowment funds have been used to pay for web design for the Church, the printing of the Church history book, and as part of a number of funds tapped for the new elevator. If you have an idea for a use that might qualify, please let one of us on Stewardship know or work through any other Church committee to submit a request for Endowment funds. Thanks.

Stewardship Board: Chuck Connerly (Chair), John Fieselmann, Jerelyn McCarty, John Reitz, Derek Willard; ex officio: Rev. Bill Lovin, Kevin Koepnick, Sharyn Reitz

CHURCH COUNCIL APPROVES GIFT FROM THE HALE FUND

At its June meeting, our Church Council approved a request from the Mission Board to give \$2000 from the Hale Fund to The UCC Global Ministries' Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Empowerment Fund.

Charles and Lenore Hale were members of UCC Iowa City until moving to Seattle in 2004. Charles Hale was a prominent scholar in Mexican and Latin American History. They both sang in the choir, and music was important to them. The Hale Fund has been used in the past to support our music program. At the Mission Board's retreat in February, members agreed to strengthen our congregation's support for international mission work. Since Charles Hale's area of expertise was in the history of Mexico and Latin America, we discussed matching his interests with our board interest in international ministries.

The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Empowerment Fund is a fund for the support of partners in the region where needed most. When a partner faces unforeseen circumstances, the Latin American and the Caribbean Empowerment Fund can be used to provide presence and accompaniment through the necessary resources. Gifts to this fund empower communities, partners, and projects in Latin America and the Caribbean to expand their ministry work as they continue to serve their neighbors. When there is a priority, this fund can bolster support to stand in the gap. More information about the Empowerment Fund can be found here: <https://www.globalministries.org/project/latin-america-and-the-caribbean-empowerment-fund/>

Global Ministries is the common witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Our two denominations have a formal partnership through which Disciples Overseas Ministries and the UCC's Wider Church Ministries share common staff, budget, programs/projects, and governance in our presence and witness with international partners throughout the global community. More information about Global Ministries can be found here: <https://www.globalministries.org/>

The Latin America and the Caribbean office currently work with dozens of partner churches and ecumenical organizations in 20 countries, responding together to God's call to serve all of creation. Global Ministries accompanies partners as they develop innovative ministries through prayer, the sending and receiving of missionaries and financial support; Global Ministries is accompanied by our partners in the exchange of ideas and lasting friendships that come with the many People-to-People Pilgrimages that take place every year in this region.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CHURCH COUNCIL APPROVES USE OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS FOR NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM SHELTER

At its June meeting, our Church Council approved the request of the Stewardship and Mission Boards to use endowment funds to support the Domestic Violence Intervention Program's (DVIP) New Shelter Project. We will give \$5000/year over five years, a total of \$25,000.

The Mission Board recognizes that the overall mission of our church is to strengthen the weak and support the faint hearted. This includes housing, food, security, and safety for all. Our church mission statement says "we work and pray for peace and justice and fullness of life for all people."

The DVIP building project fits our mission well. The new shelter will have approximately 65-70 beds. This will allow DVIP to serve approximately 700 victim-survivors annually in their emergency shelter, doubling their current capacity. The current emergency shelter is at capacity 365 days out of the year. The new shelter will provide more accessible, private, and inclusive spaces for victim-survivors to heal and allow DVIP to better serve victim-survivors by providing privacy for intakes and counseling. The new DVIP shelter will also have spaces for the larger shelter community to come together for group counseling, youth activities, special events, and group meals.

Gifts over \$25,000 will be recognized via DVIP social media channels, press releases, website, logo/name displayed at the public launch party on August 31st, 2023, and have the opportunity to participate in our naming rights to various parts of the new shelter.

You can learn more about the work of DVIP and their new shelter at <https://dvi Iowa.org/>.

WELCOME STUDENTS IN AUGUST

When the UI Fall Semester begins in late August, Congregational UCC will once again welcome the new and returning students. The exact dates and details are still in the works, but this will be a new and reimagined event designed to let students know who we are, what we value, and how they might find a spiritual home here while studying at the University. More information will be available in late July and early August. In the meantime, if you have suggestions or would like to help with the planning, please talk with Martha Ann Crawford, Allan Hogue, or Bill Lovin.



PRIDE PARADE KICKS OF IC PRIDE FEST—SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Thank-you to everyone who helped with the Iowa City Pride Fest. There were more than 20 members of the church family participating and a good time was had by all. The ice water served in rainbow striped cups shared at our booth was most appreciated and more than 100 bookmarks with our Tiffany window picture and information about our church were distributed. The comments left on Post-a-Notes were heartening as the visitors shared what Welcoming and Pride means to each contributor. These are still on display in Rockwood Hall. It was a day of spirited participation and a result of teamwork by so many in the congregation on behalf of our historic commitment to inclusion of all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



No deadwood in our group



Here comes the truck!



Moderator Tina Koepnick leads our delegation.

COMING THIS FALL!

JOIN US FOR THE JCIC DINNER IN SEPTEMBER

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) is having a Faith in Action Friend and Fundraiser on September 7, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville. Bea Hicks and Donna Hirst are co-chairs of the event.

Our church is purchasing a table for 10. If you'd like to attend, please send a note to Jenn uccicadmin@uccic.org and copy Donna at donna-hirst@uiowa.edu.

Congregational UCC will also be a sponsor of the event, working to help meet the goal of the Fundraiser, which is to create a Faith in Action Fund of up to \$30,000 to fund local initiatives to promote racial justice, build community, and provide youth with healthy, engaging activities. JCIC's 2023 and 2024 priorities are Gun Violence Prevention, Health Care including Mental Health, and Education. A flyer with more details about this fund is posted at the church.

Bea and Donna also invite you to consider an Individual donation toward the Faith in Action Fund. If you are interested, checks can be sent to Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, Bea Hicks, Treasurer, PO Box 966, Iowa City, IA 52240. Please put "2023 Faith in Action Fund" in the Memo Line. You can also give online at <https://organizeiowa.com/donate/>. Thanks!

TEE OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 18

Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship on Sunday, September 24. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger, worked for TEE in South Africa. 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 United Congregational Church of South Africa. For more

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE: After a great reboot last year, the Membership Board is happy to let you know that the **PROGRESSIVE DINNER** will return this fall, on **Saturday, October 14**. Stay tuned for further details and sign-up information.

THE WINTER WEAR DISTRIBUTION sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Congregations will be held this fall. Set up, distribution, and clean up will occur from October 8-15. If you'd like to serve on Leadership Team for this event, please contact Carolyn Otis carolyn.otis@gmail.com



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 kd Richards1958@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 kd Richards1958@gmail.com. Thanks.



**See something.
Say something.**



FRIENDLY REMINDER!
The deadline to submit items for the August newsletter will be **Friday, July 21st**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

WHERE'S THE JULY CHURCH CALENDAR?



It's summertime! And that means most of our boards and committees and the Church Council are taking a little time off for rest and renewal as we prepare for a late summer and fall filled with opportunities for ministry and mission. The calendars for the months ahead will fill up fast, but July is kind of empty. So rather than print a calendar, please note the following:

July 15	Men's Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.
July 17	Serving at Hope Lodge
July 18	Stewardship Board Zoom Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
July 20	Women's Lunch
July 31	Serving at the Free Lunch Program

And, of course, we'll worship each Sunday at 10:15 a.m., with Coffee Hour following. And nursery care, the children's message, and Children's Church will continue on Sundays during the summer. We look forward to seeing you!

To All Dear CUCC Friends,

My sincere thanks to all who sent get well cards to me in the past months! It's very endearing to receive notes that cheer and give support in times of discomfort and discouragement, so I am especially grateful for your supportive and cheery messages! They continue to help with the healing process.

Love in Christ,
Patte Henderson



CELEBRATING JULY BIRTHDAYS

Dean Woodhouse 7/1
Bob Hanson 7/3
Adelaide Birt-Leeds 7/3
Vicki Thomae 7/4
Nadia Spragg 7/5
Bill Lovin 7/8
Benjamin Hoefler 7/9
Kathy Fait 7/10
Colin Beerends 7/10
Pam Willard 7/11
Ella Lewis 7/15
Jo Ann Benda 7/18
Nicole Day 7/20
Ruth Kuntz 7/22
Joan Parsons 7/23
Steve Wolken 7/24
David Wilder 7/24

Chuck Dayton 7/25
Marie Von Behren 7/26
Hope Spragg 7/26
Candace Noble 7/27
Mitike Schumm 7/28
Jane Kinney 7/30
Ann Romanowski 7/30
Kathleen Wilder 7/30
Christine Taylor 7/31
Linda Muston 7/31
John Henson 7/31
Stuart Cobb 7/31



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY 2023 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

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

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