



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
August 2023



Friends in Christ:

One day in the middle of July, a young man appeared at the door to my study. He'd found his way upstairs, but he was looking for the Chapel, having seen the sign, "Meditation Chapel Open Monday-Friday," on the north side of our building. I took him back downstairs, turned on the lights, and told him that he could stay as long as he liked. Sometime later he came back upstairs just to say thanks—thanks to this congregation for providing such a needed space.

Others seem to be finding the chapel as well. This is another indication that our ministry and mission here on the corner are developing in new and renewed ways. We are not "getting back to normal." We are not "getting back to the way things were." We are not "getting back" anywhere. We are moving forward—offering who we are and what we have as a congregation to the community around us.

Over the years, a number of people—some students, some not—have used our chapel throughout the week, some of them writing notes of thanks or words about themselves in the notebook that we keep there. It provides an important place of quiet and rest in our often noisy and crowded community.

While a cross is predominantly displayed, ours is an interfaith chapel. Muslims have used it for their daily prayers. Buddhists have chanted there. My guess is that atheists and agnostics have occasionally found solace in the quiet and beauty of that space. It is a "house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7)

Peace,

Bill

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed from Monday through Wednesday (and possibly on Thursday) of the week of July 31 as we remove the old furnace and air conditioners and install new ones. On Monday, 7/31 at 7:30 a crew of two from Brandt will be on site to disconnect all equipment and ready the A/C units on the roof for removal. On Tuesday, 8/1 the crane will show up and remove the units from the roof and lift the new ones into place. A full crew will be on site to do the install 8/1 and 8/2. The plan is to have all of this done by quitting time on Wednesday 8/2 but if not, then by Thursday 8/3 at quitting time.

Because people will need to be going through the office to get to the furnace room for that work, we are closing the office from Monday through Wednesday (and possibly Thursday). Jenn will not be at the church on these days. Bill will be working from home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

News from Christian Education

Rally Day September 10, 2023

9:00 NEW TIME! HOT BREAKFAST!

9:15 Sunday School Class-time

10:30-11:15 Children's Choir (Preschool-7th Grade) during worship.

Acolytes (4th Grade-Confirmation) sign-up!



Sunday, September 10th (3-4:30pm) Youth Group Gathering!

Congregational UCC youth (6th, 7th, and 8th Graders) meet at First Presbyterian Church for our 2023-2024 **Kick Off Event**.

Church News

WELCOME STUDENTS THIS MONTH

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 the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you have suggestions or would like to help with the planning, please talk with Martha Ann Crawford, Allan Hogue, Ben Copeland, or Bill Lovin.



In
Loving
Memory

WITH SADNESS AND IN THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION, WE ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF MARGE HOPPIN on Monday, July 17. A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary at 3:30 on Tuesday, August 15. A visitation time will begin at 2:30 and a reception in Rockwood Hall will follow the service.

WITH SADNESS AND IN THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION, WE ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF CANDACE NOBLE on July 11. Candace sang in the choir and was also a member of the Chamber Singers. A memorial gathering was held at Lensing Funeral Home on July 20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S LUNCH—AUGUST 17

The August 17th 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.



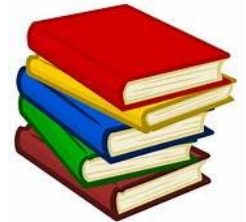
MEN'S BREAKFAST—AUGUST 19

The August Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 19. 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.



FROM MARILYNNE ROBINSON'S LIBRARY TO OURS

When Congregational UCC member, Marilynne Robinson, sold her house in Iowa City this spring, she generously gave several of her reference books to our church library. These include the *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, the Jewish Publication Society's *Torah Commentary*, John Calvin's *Commentaries on Scripture*, and Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* along with many other volumes of history and theology. These books are now available in our library and can be used for Bible study and other research. We are grateful for these gifts which will be of use for many years to come.



SERVING THE CHURCH



Every year in January a slate of new members for the various church boards is presented to the congregation for approval. Work to prepare this slate occurs throughout the fall and is managed by the two Council Members At Large, Megan Carnes and Andrea Rauer.

This work is now underway, and we would like to invite all members of the congregation to consider serving on a Board. Serving on a Board is an excellent way to develop close working relations with other members of the church.

What is involved in serving on a Board? Each of the six church Boards meet monthly, often on a week day evening. Each of the boards has different responsibilities, and thus the tasks undertaken by each board are different. For example, the Membership Board plans the church picnic and other fellowship events; the Trustees provide oversight of the church budget and the building.

In addition to positions on church boards, there are also a number of positions representing the church to particular agencies or organizations. Members of the church serve as representatives to the Eastern Iowa Association, the Community Pastoral Counseling Service, the Common Fund and a number of others. As an alternative to serving on a church board, you might serve as a special church representative.

We encourage you to consider offering your name for consideration to serve on a Board. If you would like to discuss any of these options, please contact Megan Carnes at carnesmegan@yahoo.com or Andrea Rauer at amrauer@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

COMING THIS FALL!



JOIN US FOR THE JCIC DINNER ON SEPTEMBER 7, 5:30-8:00

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) is hosting a Faith in Action Friend and Fundraiser. Our church has purchased a table for 10 and we've already filled it! The Mission Board is discussing getting a 2nd table. Last year 20 Unitarians attended the event.

We can do better than 10.

If you are interested in supporting JCIC by attending the Sept. 7 event, send a note to donna-hirst@uiowa.edu and/or Jenn at uccicadmin@uccic.org.

If you can't attend, but would like to make a donation:

Pay by check to: Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, Bea Hicks, Treasurer, PO Box 966, Iowa City, IA 52240.

Put "2023 Faith in Action" in the Memo Line.

Or for credit card or PayPal: <https://organizeiowa.com/donate/>.

TEE OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 24

What is TEE?

TEE stands for the Theological Education by Extension College 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](#). From its start, TEE was open to both men and women and to people of all races.

Our annual 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. Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at www.tee.co.za.



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 at

carolyn.otis@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Progressive Dinner



PROGRESSIVE DINNER 2023

OCTOBER 14

5:00-9:30 PM

Dinner catered by Olive Garden

Lasagna

\$20.00 per person (no charge for children under 18)

We start as a group for appetizers from 5-6, then move in small groups to host homes for the main course from 6:15 – 7:45, and regroup for dessert from 8-9:30.

We/I would like to participate by attending:

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Caroline Tolbert & David Dowling will host appetizers for the whole group.

Steve & Sue Wolken will host desserts for the whole group.

Please sign up for one of the following. We/I would like to participate by providing the following:

___ Providing appetizers for 12 people

___ Providing dessert for 12 people

___ Hosting the main course for 8-12 people. Please indicate how many people, including yourself, that you can host. ___ Can host children - yes/no

Please check other options to help us plan:

___ Bringing children ___ Need transportation

___ Need accessible location ___ Vegetarian/Gluten Free

___ I/ we can provide transportation for those that may need it.

Make checks payable to Congregational UCC with Progressive Dinner in the note section. Put check and reservation form in the offering plate or drop off at the church by September 24.



RUTH AND KEN KUNTZ AND THEIR FAMILY WISH TO THANK FRIENDS AT CUCC for attending and/or sending greetings for Ruth's 90th birthday celebration. Thank you to the church for giving Ruth the idea of asking guests to consider bringing a food item instead of cards and other gifts. The response was overwhelming - 234 pounds of food and other items! We are feeling very blessed.



Endowments

Stewardship Board and Church Council Approve Two Church Endowment Fund Proposals

In June, the Stewardship Board and Church Council approved two proposals for spending a portion of the interest earned on the **Church's Endowment Fund**. The first proposal, from the Mission Board, was to contribute \$25,000 over five years to the Iowa City Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) building fund. DVIP is mounting a \$6 million Finding Safety, Building Hope capital campaign to build a new emergency shelter in Johnson County for victims of domestic violence in an eight-county area. DVIP's current facility is operating at full capacity with continued growth in the number of individuals needing DVIP's services. Members of the Stewardship Board and Church Council were in full agreement that this investment in DVIP will greatly benefit the community by helping to meet an important need. With this gift, Congregational Church is one of only two Iowa City churches to contribute to DVIP at this level.

At the same June meetings, the Stewardship Board and the Church Council also approved a proposal, presented by Bill Lovin and Marie Von Behren for \$2,000 to purchase choral music (\$1,000) for the choir and organ music for organist Bill Crouch. Our choir under the leadership of Chris Nakielski has demonstrated skill in bringing new choral music into the church, thereby enriching the worship experience. This purchase will enable the choir to present one new anthem per month. In similar fashion, Bill Crouch has given us wonderful organ music for many years and the \$1,000 will enable him to purchase more organ music to add to his and the church's repertoire.

Both these gifts represent our Church's investment in activities that resonate with our overall mission for both our church and our community. The Stewardship Board continues to encourage individuals and church boards to suggest other ideas for expanding our overall mission in ways that are like these. And we also encourage individuals who would like to contribute to these kinds of investments to consider making a gift to the Church's Endowment Fund. If you are interested, please contact Chuck Connerly, Stewardship Board chair.

KAREN GEORGIA THOMPSON BECOMES FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD UCC



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

On Monday, July 3, The General Synod of the United Church of Christ elected the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman, and the first Black woman, to lead our denomination as General Minister and President. A Jamaican immigrant, Thompson is the third person of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination.

“As I stand here before you as your newly and duly elected General Minister and President, I stand here as a Jamaican immigrant woman, a mother and a grandmother, a sister and a friend to many,” Thompson said. “... The enormity of this moment will be with me for many years to come.”

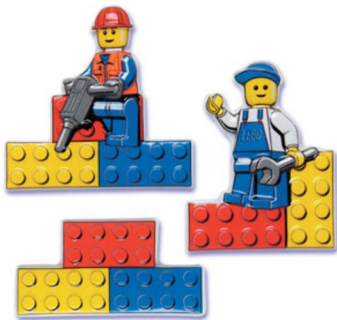
Her election took place at the UCC’s 34th General Synod in Indianapolis, with 626 delegates voting for her election, 43 against and seven abstaining. She starts her new role August. 1. In a prayer after the vote, surrounded by her family, she recalled Synod’s theme, quoting Revelation 21:5 — “Behold, I am making everything new.”

Thompson has been serving as Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive for Global Ministries since 2019. She has served in the National Setting of the United Church of Christ since 2009, previously as minister for racial justice and minister for ecumenical and interfaith relations. Prior to joining National Setting staff, Thompson served on staff of the UCC’s Florida Conference, as a church planter in Florida and in family ministries in New York.

Thompson holds a doctorate in ministry, with a dissertation in religious multiplicity among African Caribbean people, from Seattle University; a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary; and a master of public administration degree from North Carolina Central University.

As the UCC’s current Officer for global concerns and interfaith relations, Thompson speaks frequently about building connections on all levels. “Being church means we are locally rooted and globally focused, connecting the issues we see in ways that allow us to bring justice to the world,” she has said.

(This article is based on an article by Tiffany Vail, a General Synod newsroom volunteer, who is the director of media and communications for the Southern New England Conference. You can read the full article [here.](#))



VOLUNTEER AT LEGO COMPETITIONS AT THE TIFFIN REC FEST, IOWA CITY FARMERS MARKETS, AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In collaboration with the Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition and the Greater Iowa City Homebuilders Association, the Housing Action Team of the Johnson County Livable Community for Successful Aging’s Policy Board initiative will host Lego Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) design competitions at community events.

They are looking for volunteers to help staff their Lego building competitions for kids! Instructions will be provided before your shifts, but the primary premise is to supervise the site and help children create Lego ADUs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

(cont'd)

They are looking for volunteers to help staff their Lego building competitions for kids! Instructions will be provided before your shifts, but the primary premise is to supervise the site and help children create Lego ADUs.

These competitions are to inform the public regarding the community benefits of allowing ADUs within zoning and building code. Policy changes to minimize lengthy application processes, decrease high fees, and eliminate harsh regulations associated with the development of ADUs will increase the supply of this more affordable type of housing for individuals 50-plus.

The Johnson County Livable Community Housing Action Team is a recipient of an AARP 2023 Community Challenge Grant. The funding will be utilized to implement a marketing program regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) utilizing LEGO design competitions among students at public events and public locations including Tiffin REC Fest (8/5), Iowa City Farmers Market (8/5, 9/2, 10/7), the Solon Public Library (Late August, TBD), the North Liberty Public Library (Late September, TBD), and the Coralville Public Library (Late October, TBD).

Sign up [here](#).



THANKS TO ALL who helped with the July 17 Hope Lodge dinner: Rebecca Weatherford, Marsha Lowe, Andy Bertolatus, Sue and Chuck Dayton, Jane Kinney, Sally Strang, Sharyn Reitz, Linda Muston and Patte Henderson. The next Hope Lodge dinner will be September 25. Watch for the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

HOUSEWORKS WORKS FOR THE CHURCH!

Please consider taking your gently used housewares to Houseworks, at 1800 Stevens Drive in Iowa City. We receive a percentage of the sales of all items brought in to our account number: **21026, under UCC of N. Clinton Street.**

This is a win-win situation where you do some downsizing and the church kitchen/garden account is upsized. Gloria Hanson is the church contact for our Houseworks account, and checks in periodically to collect our share of the sales. Easier than a church rummage sale! Keep it in mind!



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 September newsletter will be Friday, August 18th.

Friendly
Reminder

CHURCH CALENDAR

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 - Diaconate, 6:00PM	2	3	4	5
6 - 10:15 Worship Service - Children's Church During Worship	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 - 10:15 Worship Service - Children's Church During Worship	14 - Mission Board, 7PM	15 - Marge Hoppin Memorial Service, 3:30PM - Stewardship Board, 7PM (zoom) - Trustees, 7pm	16 - Membership Board, 5:30PM	17 - Women's Lunch @ Monica's in Coralville, at 11:45 am	18	19 - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
20 - 10:15 Worship Service - Children's Church During Worship	21	22 - Church Council, 7PM	23	24	25	26
27 - 10:15 Worship Service - Children's Church During Worship	28	28	29	30	31	

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



CELEBRATING AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Kate Edwards

8/16 Emily Koepnick

8/2 Lexine Schumm

8/17 Whit Jury

8/3 Georgia Hill

8/19 Bill Nusser, Jr.

8/5 Bob Stein

8/22 Jackie Sangster

8/7 Betty Mather

8/24 Bill Dickinson
Tina Koepnik

8/9 Phyllis Ruppert

8/25 Todd Nelson

8/10 Kathleen Day

8/31 Betsy Boyd
Donna Hirst

8/11 Sharon Garton
Shirley Wyrick

8/15 Margaret MacInnis
Fern Weir

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 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

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