



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
September 2023



Friends in Christ:

What a great time to be in Iowa City!

Activity has increased Downtown and on UI campus, and Congregational UCC has picked up the pace as well. Students are everywhere, including in our worship services on Sunday morning. On the corner of Clinton and Washington, music blasts out as Pancho's announces their presence. On the corner of Clinton and Jefferson, the Clinton Street Trombone Quartet provides the music for our student welcome.

And there's this:

The other day I went downtown, and as I approached the church on my way back, a group of 4-6 university women gathered themselves in front of our church sign on Clinton St. It seemed to be an unusual choice of a location, but they seemed to want to make sure that our sign was the backdrop for the quick video they took of themselves. And they ended by shouting: "We're gonna be all right!"

As with much that occurs around the University, I didn't really understand why this happened or what it meant. But the exuberance was great.

Because I'm the kind of person who looks for a deeper significance in all that puzzles me, as I thought about this, it occurred to me that they might have simply been angels—you know, messengers of God. (Wings not required.) And the message was shouted out to all of us who gather on this corner if we have ears to hear: "We're gonna be all right!"

The challenges of the recent years are breaking into new opportunities for ministry and mission, new ways of understanding who we are as a congregation, and a new exuberance of our own.

What a great time to be a part of Congregational UCC!

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

News from Christian Education

Rally Day is September 10, 2023 at 9:00!

Note New Time...BECAUSE...we will be serving a hot breakfast Sunday morning at 9:00 to 9:15. The kitchen will close at ***precisely 9:15*** so Sunday School classes can begin on time.



On Sunday afternoons (3-4:30pm) Youth Group will gather!

On **September 10th** from **3-4:30** our Congregational UCC youth (Grades 5-8) will join First Presbyterian Church youth again this year at First Presbyterian Church on Rochester for their 2023 “Kick-Off” event. We will plan monthly, joint social and mission gatherings supervised by Ann Molsberry, Tom Mittman, Sally Strang (and any parents) along with Anna Sheets of First Presbyterian Church.

The Board of Christian Education wants to support your children throughout their church life, their worship, & their ministry to us:

- Children and parents are invited to Breakfast at 9:00 & Sunday School at 9:15.
- Confirmation will begin.
- Children (Grades 4-12) are encouraged to sign-up to be Acolytes.
- Children ***with their parents*** are encouraged to sign up to be Ushers, Greeters, & Liturgists.
- Children of all ages are welcome to share Communion with us.
- Children of all ages are encouraged to give their offering during THE SERVICE OF GIVING during worship.
- Children of all ages are invited up front for a **Children’s Message**. After the Children’s Message, children may remain in worship, leave for the Nursery, or join the **Children’s Choir** held upstairs *during worship*.
- Children (Infants-K) are invited to our nursery from 9:00-11:30 (and/or anytime during the education hour and worship.)
- Youth (Grades 5-8+) are invited to Youth Group.

Friends in Christ:

WE WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MAUI WILDFIRE RELIEF EFFORTS during worship on Sunday, September 3.



BILL CROUCH HAS BEEN OUR ORGANIST FOR TWENTY YEARS. Please join us as we celebrate together during a special coffee hour after worship on Sunday, September 17.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR THE JCIC DINNER

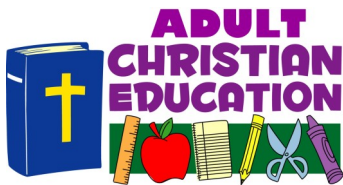
The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) is having a Faith in Action Friend and Fundraiser on September 7, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville. Bea Hicks and Donna Hirst are co-chairs of the event.



Our church has purchased two tables for 10 and we're ready to get another table if more people want to join us. 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/>

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!



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Our 2023-24 Sunday morning adult education series begins on Sunday, September 10. On that day, we'll meet around the fireplace to reconnect after the summer, consider where we are as individuals and as a congregation, and discuss where we'll be going in the year ahead.

On Sunday, September 17 and 24, Allan and Loralyn Hogue will share what they learned on their trip to the Iona Community in Scotland earlier this year. Founded in 1938, the Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community of men and women from different walks of life and different traditions within Christianity.

TIME TO JOIN THE CHOIR

Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir begins its season on Sunday, September 10, with a rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. and we will sing during the 10:15 worship service. This year's "Choir Round-up" will take place after worship that morning. From there we meet each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. sharp for a one-hour rehearsal before the worship service. Whether you're a long-time member or the new kid on the block, WE WANT YOU! The Congregational UCC choir is a wonderful group of people who work hard at making great music. You'll be sure to enjoy this experience. Questions? Please get in touch with our choir director Dr. Chris Nakielski at cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu.



WOMEN'S LUNCH—SEPTEMBER 21st

The September 21st women's lunch will meet at Thai Spice on Gilbert St. 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—SEPTEMBER 16

The September Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, September 16. 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 before the Game or however you will spend your day.



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.

OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER WILL BE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25.

Please see the sign-up sheet posted in Rockwood Hall. Contact Sue Dayton at edayton7@mchsi.com with questions.

We will also serve at Hope Lodge on November 13.



SHELTER HOUSE ANNUAL BBQ BASH THIS MONTH

Shelter House is gearing up for their 2023 BBQ Bash! They invite you, your family, and all of your friends to join them for another year of delicious food, great music, yard games, and a genuinely good time in support of Shelter House's life-saving work in our community. They are thrilled to continue their partnership with Pop's BBQ, whose incredibly talented pitmasters will be cooking up something special just for Shelter House supporters. Homebrewed will be back for 2023 to perform their foot-stomping rockabilly music. Grab a ticket, load your plate, and enjoy refreshing drinks from Big Grove Brewery at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 22 from 5:00-7:00 pm. You don't want to miss it.

Tickets are on sale now at www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/ (\$50 for adults and \$15 for youth).

FURNANCES AND AIR CONDITIONERS WERE REPLACED IN EARLY AUGUST HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP NOW



Two months ago, the Church Council voted to conduct a capital campaign to defray part of the \$70,000 cost associated with replacing our 25-year-old heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. As steps were being taken to launch the capital campaign, we learned of a substantial gift made to our church with the intent of covering more than half of the cost of the new system. Upon hearing this good news, both the church's Trustees and Stewardship boards met and agreed that under these circumstances, a capital campaign was no longer needed—in effect, its goals had been met with one very generous gift. *(cont'd)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Consequently, on Tuesday, August 22, the Church Council met and canceled plans for a capital campaign. This is good news!

Because the remaining balance of the cost for the new heating and cooling system will be paid for out of the church's reserve funds, the Church Council still encourages individuals and families to make gifts to the HVAC Fund. As Trustees chair Kevin Richards said on Sunday, in a 155-year-old church, there will continue to be numerous expenses associated with our building. These include tuckpointing north and west sides of the church, replacing windows and window frames in Bill's office, replacing windows in the Community Pastoral Counseling Service (CSPS) office, replacing the sink by the CSPS bathroom, tearing out the old kitchen in the Education wing, installing a new toilet in the Education wing, installing new lighting in the chapel, applying lots of paint to the east wing exterior, upgrading the largest service panel, making repairs at the church's entrance—repairing the ornate trim that surrounds the door as well as the north bottom side of the door which has some rot, and completing other projects as well.

As much as possible, therefore, the church appreciates individual contributions toward the new HVAC equipment so that the church's "rainy day" funds can be saved for a rainy day. Thanks, as always, for your generous giving.

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

NEW STUDENT WELCOME AUGUST 20-21

On two wonderful, if hot, days in August, we welcomed new and returning students to Iowa City and let them know that our church can be a spiritual home for them while studying here. Led by the Membership Board and the Deacons, we handed out ice pops and microwave popcorn packs that had our logo and “Thanks for poppin’ in” on them. On Sunday after worship, the Clinton Street Trombone Quartet provided music. On Monday, our choir director, Dr. Chris Nakielski, showed a recording of the May performance of “Illuminare” by the choir. We talked with hundreds of students and everyone had a great time.

Thanks to John Johnson for the photos.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

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

Our church served **155** lunches at the Free Lunch Program on **Monday, July 31, 2023.**

Thank you so much to all who volunteered by donating food: **Dianne Atkins, Diane Dahl-McCoy, Bill Dickinson, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, Donna Hirst, Linda Muston, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts, Rebecca Weatherford and Julie Wittig**



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

Our next scheduled serving date is **Monday, October 30, 2023!** *Vicki Thomae*

LOOK AHEAD TO OCTOBER:

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 1 is World Communion Sunday. **2023 marks the eighty-seventh year of celebrating this day.** World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it and after a few years the idea spread. Through our prayers and music on this day we recognize our connection with Christians in every nation.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER—OCTOBER 14

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.** More information and a registration sheet are in this newsletter.



THE WINTER WEAR DISTRIBUTION

The annual clothing 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

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service- Communion	4	5 - CE Board 6:30 PM; Mission Board 7:00 PM - Stewardship Board 7:00 pm (Zoom)	6	7 - JCIC Dinner 5:30 @ Unitarian Universalist Society	8	9
10 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	11	12	13	14	15	16 - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
17 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	18	19 - Membership Board, 5:30PM - Deacons, 6PM - Trustees, 7PM	20	21 - Women's Lunch @ Thai Spice on Gilbert St, at 11:45 am	22	23
24 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	25 - Serving at Hope Lodge	26 - Church Council, 7PM	27	28	29	30

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



9/3—Kathi Koegle, Noam Morton

9/16—Shirley Woolums

9/5—Renn Morton, Sophie Neems

9/19—Lenore Maybaum

9/6—Kevin Koepnick, Jasper
Morton, Alison Seidl

9/21—Noel Carver, Matt Spragg

9/7—Robyn Hepker, Liliana
Lewis, Doug Parsons

9/26—Bruce Reynolds

9/28—Cindy Parsons, Gail Zlatnik

9/9—Patte Henderson

9/29—Mike Groff, Cormac
Warren

9/10—Haleigh Nelson

9/12—Dean Logan

9/13—Charley Platz

9/15—Nathaniel Lovin, Jean
Willard

FRIENDLY REMINDER!

The deadline to submit items for the October newsletter will be
Wednesday, September 20th.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER 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

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