



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
October 2023



Friends in Christ:

When we welcomed the University students in August, we handed out ice pops, a small—and free!—gesture of refreshment on hot summer days. A lot of students received them gladly, some stopped to talk, and they all went on their way.

One student, however, came back. He had gone downtown on several errands. An hour or so later, he returned to the church with a box of ice pops and gave them to us so that we could continue handing them out to other students.

This student was a living example of what we have known around here for some time: generosity leads to generosity.

As we grow the possibility of generosity in our individual lives, we grow that possibility as a congregation as well. We start to discover that together we live in the presence of a loving God who gives to us in abundance and invites us to similar generosity. We begin to relax a little and trust in the God who provides. We develop our financial resources—the gifts and offerings that come to us—not out of a spirit of fear for tomorrow but out of a spirit of hope in the future that is in God's hands.

One study suggests that no more than 3% of people in a congregation give because of the urging of the minister. So, I'm not encouraging you to give. I do want to encourage you to grow in generosity, however. As a congregation, we need people who are growing the possibility of generosity. We need people who are generous in teaching others about the love of God. We need people who are generous in compassion and caring. We need people who are generous in hospitality and welcome. We need people to share with newer, younger members their own history of generosity before God.

Thanks for being part of this congregation of warm-hearted people who are growing in generosity. Let's continue to learn from one another—and from the students around us.

Peace,

Bill



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### CELEBRATING BILL CROUCH'S 20 YEARS AS OUR ORGANIST

On Sunday, September 17, we celebrated Bill Crouch's twentieth anniversary as our church organist.

At the suggestion of Bill Dickinson, who, along with his late husband, Rod Malcolm, donated the Casavant organ to Congregational UCC in 2007, we are naming Casavant 3867 THE CROUCH ORGAN in recognition of the Musicianship and Dedication of William D. Crouch on the 20th anniversary of his arrival in our lives as a congregation. We will be placing a plaque in his honor on the organ console so that we will all have an elegant reminder that Bill truly is a special part of our Church history.



During the presentation in Rockwood Hall, Marie Von Behren, chair of our Music Committee and a long-time friend of Bill's said: "Bill is a credit to his exceptional instructors, and his talent and hard work are evident in the gifts he shares with us here.

"Those gifts are almost too numerous to list. We all get to enjoy that he has mastered both the piano and the organ, the touch for each being very different. He brings skill and true artistry to every performance, never missing a note, let alone a service. But behind every Sunday, there is so much unseen. In addition to his full time employment, Bill prepares. All of us have some idea of what it means to get ready for a test or a speech, but Bill goes above and beyond. The music he selects is always a perfect compliment to the service of the day. He practices the choir music or solo accompaniments to make our programs beautiful and seamless. When we have special music Sundays he will prepare choir accompaniments, orchestra parts and his own part, learning it all so the choir is well prepared for the music and accompaniment to come.

"Reading is its own skill, and Bill is the best. He can absorb the music put in front of him at an incredible rate, a challenge we place before him all too often and that he rises to without complaint. When we are rushed or have failed to prepare, Bill plays so well that he makes *us* look good. As if all of this behind-the-scenes work was not enough, Bill has kept his own musical library in service to the churches where he has played at his own expense. (*cont'd*)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

We have rectified this somewhat with money from the Endowment Fund for his use to purchase scores and expand his selections, but in this regard we are still in his debt.

“Bill has adapted to the various choir directors over his years with us, and they all appreciate his work which makes theirs so much easier. He is always attentive, listening and anticipating, knowing where the rehearsal will go, what needs repetition, not only going to the right phrase, but likely giving a little musical hint on the troubling passage if the choir members care to listen. Whether rehearsing with a soloist, small group, choir, or orchestra, Bill’s comprehensive preparation truly enables the final product to come together and shine.”



HELLO

NEW MEMBERS

### EIGHT NEW MEMBERS JOINED OUR CONGREGATION IN SEPTEMBER

**Diane Dahl-McCoy and Jamie McCoy** have lived in Iowa City for many years. Diane is a violinist who performs with Orchestra Iowa and Jamie is a urologist at Mercy Hospital. Diane’s interests include reading, kayaking, tennis, and cooking. Jamie kayaks as well, and also enjoys birding and hiking. He is especially interested in climate advocacy.

**Carson and Tim Fixmer** moved from Cedar Rapids to North Liberty in 2020. They have owned a media company for 13 years and currently publish the world’s largest industrial woodworking magazine. They have three adult children, one of whom lives in Iowa City with her family, including Tim and Carson’s eight- and five-year-old grandsons. Tim’s interests include guitar, golf, and woodworking. Carson enjoys reading, knitting, gardening, and trying new recipes for vegan cuisine. She has experience as a volunteer in various non-profits, has been a board member at Planned Parenthood of East Central Iowa and has been an ISU Master Gardener since 2009.

*(cont’d)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bill Lohss** is retired from ACT. He is known to many here already as he has attended Congregational UCC for many years. Bill writes, "I've finally had the opportunity to make it official by becoming a member."

**David McCartney** is the University of Iowa Archivist, emeritus. He retired from that position last year after serving for 21 years. He is originally from Charles City, IA, and was baptized at First Congregational Church there. David and his husband, James Petersen, live in Iowa City. His interests include reading, hiking, and history.

**Curt and Linda Svalstad** moved to Solon five years ago to be near their son and his family. Before that they lived in Des Moines and were members of Plymouth Congregational there. Linda has a BA and MA in music from the University of Iowa and Curt's MFA in choral conducting is also from UI. They both had careers in music education, sang at Plymouth UCC for decades, and can currently be found in our choir loft on Sunday mornings. They share a common interest in riding trikes.



### 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.

### FUN UI HOMECOMING VOLUNTEER/BAKING OPPORTUNITY!

The Mission Board will sell cookies and warm drinks during the U of I Homecoming Parade Friday, October 6. We are asking for donations of one dozen homemade cookies or bars that are \$1 (larger) size. Items do not need to be individually wrapped but please bring a display card labeling what type and if they contain peanuts or tree nuts. Baked goods may be dropped off in the kitchen between 9-1 or 5-5:45 the day of Homecoming. We also need volunteers to sell the cookies and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or you can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944ACA82FA7FDC16-cookies#/>



### Progressive Dinner



### THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER IS OCTOBER 14

The Progressive Dinner, our annual "moveable feast" in the fall, will be held on Saturday, October 14. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Dayton or call the church office at 319-337-4301.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2023 WARM WINTER WEAR DISTRIBUTION**

The Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) will be distributing free warm winter clothing for community members in need of assistance. Because COVID-19 is once again on the rise, the format for 2023 will be very similar to the protocol that was used in the past. Masks are recommended but not required.

Location: 340 Southgate Avenue  
Far East end of the building (The Winter Shelter)

### **Volunteers are needed for three days of sorting and organizing!**

**10 volunteers needed for 3 hours on Sunday, October 8 (1 - 4 p.m.)**

**7 volunteers needed per 3 hour shift**

**Monday, October 9 and Tuesday, October 10.**

**9 - noon; noon - 3 p.m.; 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. (please arrive 15 minutes early)**

**Shopping Begins Wednesday, October 11 - Ends on Saturday, October 14**

**Volunteers are needed for all shifts on Wednesday through Saturday.**

**Hours: 9 a.m. - noon; noon - 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. W-F**

**9 - Noon on Sat. (Clean up 12 - 3)**

### **Volunteers are needed to assist shoppers each day.**

Volunteers will serve as guides. They will keep the space organized & restock the tables.

Following health guidelines, we plan to keep the number of people in the space distanced and safe. Masks are recommended for shoppers and volunteers.

**You are invited to sign up for *multiple shifts* during the distribution period. [Link for the Volunteers - Sign up today!](#)**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-warm4>

All clothing donations should be brought to 340 Southgate on Monday or Tuesday, October 9 & 10, between 9 and 6. Limited street parking is available on Southgate, and behind that end of the building. Please **DO NOT** park in the spaces directly in front of the building, as these slots are for the shoppers.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST—OCTOBER 14**

The October Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 14, at the Waterfront Hy-Vee. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. There's no game on this weekend, but you still need to eat breakfast. Join us!



**THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL BE HELD** on Thursday, October 19 at Tuscan Moon in Kalona. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### BOOK CLUB

Donna Hirst has been a member of a racial justice book club for many years. It began in person but has been on zoom for some time. They are just completing *1619* and in November we will be starting *Tears We Cannot Stop: a Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson. If you are interested in joining a racial justice book club, this is a great group, and you could explore this book with them. The book club meets the third Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8:00. Please contact Donna Hirst for more information.



### FAITH & DEMOCRACY: CHALLENGING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM FORUM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
1340 3rd Ave SE, CEDAR RAPIDS

*In-person and virtual options*

Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush, President and CEO of Interfaith Alliance, will lead a forum on the rise and impact of Christian Nationalism in our nation and communities. Join the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa to learn about Christian Nationalism and its far-reaching impact as well as a conversation on actively addressing it at the national, state, and local levels.

Presenter: Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush  
President and CEO, Interfaith Alliance

*Reservation details to follow. The Interfaith Alliance says: [Watch our website](#) for updated information.*

### RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 29



One of the joys of in-person worship is navigating the challenges presented by downtown events. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for the Schools will be held on October 29. Some streets to the south and east of the church will be closed. College St. will be shut down from Linn St. to Muscatine Ave. Gilbert St. will be shut down from Burlington St. to Washington St. Dodge St. will be shut down and southbound traffic will be rerouted on to Washington St. Governor St. will be shut down and northbound traffic will be rerouted on to Burlington St. **The church and the parking lot will both be accessible.** It might take a few extra minutes to get to church that morning. Plan accordingly, but plan to worship with us. Race maps can be found [here](#).

### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 5

Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes “All Saints Sunday.” This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday in order to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. This year the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson will again lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship as we give thanks for the lives of Sandy Boyd, Lee Wood, Marge Hoppin, and Candace Noble.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**WE WILL RECEIVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING ON  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**



**NIN** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

### **THE NEW FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

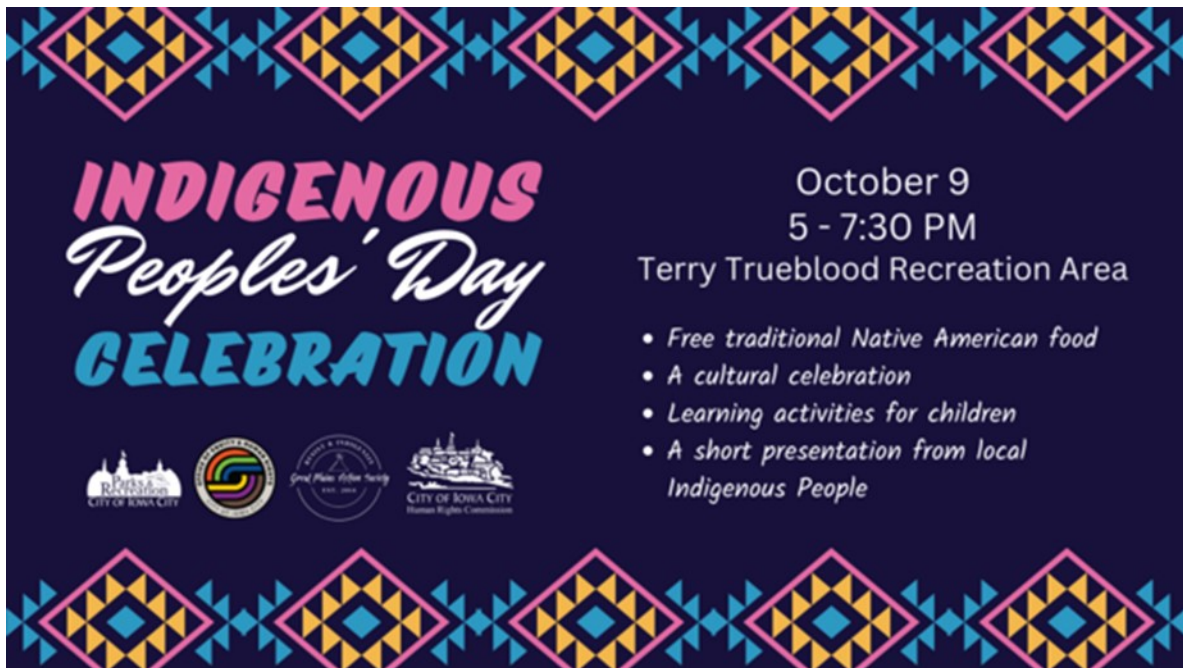
We received a major gift from a family in the congregation to help pay for the new units. Many other members would like to be a part of funding this project. Your gifts to the HVAC Fund will mean that we will need to use less of our reserves for this project. Thanks for your generous giving.

### **THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE TEE OFFERING IN SEPTEMBER.**

We received over \$300 to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South [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 UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at [www.tee.co.za](http://www.tee.co.za). **You can still give—please put “TEE” on your check or envelope.**




## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**INDIGENOUS**  
*Peoples' Day*  
**CELEBRATION**

October 9  
5 - 7:30 PM  
Terry Trueblood Recreation Area

- Free traditional Native American food
- A cultural celebration
- Learning activities for children
- A short presentation from local Indigenous People





**USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES:** opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, 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.

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY MORNING?**

This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to lead them in worship. Bill Lovin provides the material. You provide the spirit. Contact Bill if you are interested or would like more information.

## LATE BREAKING NEWS

### **HOPE LODGE**



Thanks to those who helped prepare and serve our Hope Lodge dinner in September: Ginny and Bryan Clemons, Diane Dahl-McCoy, Jane Kinney, Shelagh Hayreh, Linda Muston, Andy Bertolatus, Rebecca Weatherford, Darcie and Fielding Hutzell, Sue and Chuck Dayton. The next Hope Lodge dinner will be November 13. Watch for the signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Our Advent Potluck returns this December. Plan now to join us in Rockwood Hall after worship on Sunday, December 10.



Save  
the  
Date!

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service-Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> - CE Board 6:30 PM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> -Homecoming parade	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> - Mission Board 7:00 PM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> - Progressive Dinner
<b>15</b> - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> - Membership Board, 5:30PM - Deacons, 6PM - Trustees, 7PM - Stewardship Board 7:00 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> - Women's Lunch @ Tuscan Moon in Kalona at 11:45 am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
<b>22</b> - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> - Church Council, 7PM	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



10/1—Margaret Beck, Andrea Rauer

10/3—Willis Sisley

10/4—Bob Jury

10/5—Jason Beerends

10/6—Roger Jensen

10/7—Bob Ashman, James Savage

10/8—Martha Ann Crawford, James  
Robinson

10/11—Dick Kruse

10/12—Ginny Clemons

10/13—Marnie Campbell, Vernetta  
Knapp, Joyce Myer

10/18—Becky Hoefer

10/19—Elizabeth Oakes

10/24—Yvette Jury

10/27—Patricia Hansche, Anna Mary  
Mueller, Tim Strang, Betty Stein

10/31—Peter Bloesch

**PLEASE  
NOTE...**

**GIVING STATEMENTS** will be sent out in early October.

### **FRIENDLY REMINDER!**

The deadline to submit items for the November newsletter will be  
Friday, October 20th.

Friendly  
Reminder

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

OCTOBER 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

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