



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
November 2023



Friends in Christ:

It has been the summer and autumn of Taylor Swift and Beyoncé, whose concerts have drawn countless fans, whose appearances have dominated social media, and whose energy and talent truly astonish. They remind us, if we needed reminding, of the vibrancy of youth and the power of music, even as both performers are moving toward middle age—or *through* middle age, depending on how you define it.

And yet, in the autumn of the year, in the autumn of some of our lives, many of us are hearing a new yet familiar sound as the Rolling Stones release their first album of new material in nearly two decades. While I've never been a major fan of the Stones, some of the first guitar licks I learned (and used in my garage band many years ago) were from "Satisfaction" and "Jumpin' Jack Flash." Back in the late 70's I read an article in which someone described the group (metaphorically) as "arthritis"—you know, elderly, over.

Now here they are, rocking out, rocking on, even as Keith Richards deals with actual arthritis. While David Bowie once warned: "Look out you rock and rollers, some day soon you're gonna get older," Mick and Keith and Ron keep going—and going well, calling to mind the words of the Psalmist: "They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent." (Psalm 92:14)

I've been reading recently about the concern of many theater companies, classical music organizations, and art museums about their audiences growing older and fading away. They are concerned that younger people are not filling these dwindling ranks. The same concern is often voiced in churches, even in this church. "We're an aging congregation," people say with an ominous tone.

The Consultation of Religious Congregations (CRC) recently held its annual winter-wear distribution. They gave out over 1500 coats to over 370 households. As always, members of Congregational UCC were instrumental in this event. And, you guessed it, most of the volunteers from most of the congregations were far closer in age to Mick Jagger than to Taylor Swift.

And here's the great part: one child who came with a parent was overheard saying, "These old people are really nice." They are. We are. Still bearing fruit.

Various studies keep telling us that children and youth need

- Places that include children and youth and treat them as ends in themselves.
- Places that are warm and nurturing.
- Places that are multi-generational.
- Places that encourage spiritual and religious development.
- Places that reflect and transmit a shared understanding of what it means to be a good person.
- Places that are oriented toward the equal dignity of all persons and to the principle of love of neighbor.

That's who we are here at Congregational UCC. That's who we are becoming at every age.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

News from Christian Education



Sunday School is taking a close look at the Bible stories about the Prophets. There is **No Sunday School** on Thanksgiving weekend Sunday, November 26th.

Children's Choir (all ages) Sunday School will share our **Christmas Pageant** on **Sunday, December 17th**. Come to rehearsals during November Sunday School and Children's Choir during worship!



Youth Group Gathering Sunday, November 26th. UCC will host the Youth Group at 4-5:30. We may be helping with the distribution/sorting/organization of winter coats for kids at Open Heartland. Stay Tuned.

Children's Offerings We finished our offering/collection for **Heifer Project** in October. On Sunday, October 29 we will **Trick or Treat for UNICEF** during Coffee Hour. We would like to remind everyone, adults *and* children, to please place your Sunday School offering in an envelope and place it in the Offering Plate *during worship*.



Childcare in the Church Nursery will be extended one hour during the months of November and December for infants through children 4 years old from 9:00-12:30 to accommodate the extra choir rehearsals for Special Music Sunday which will be on Sunday, December 10th. Come enjoy adult education classes, adult choir, and even teaching Sunday School!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



RETURN TO STANDARD TIME

Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clocks back an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 4. Get some rest and join us for Worship on November 5 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 a.m.—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

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. This year we will remember **Sandy Boyd, Lee Wood, Marge Hoppin, and Candace Noble**. 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 to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. Our friend, the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson, will lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please join us on Sunday, November 5, for this special time of worship.

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.

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2024 were sent out in early October. If you misplaced yours or did not receive one, please contact the church office—319-337-4301. If you have received a card, please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the church as soon as possible. Your deeply considered, prayerful support will help us to continue our Church's ministry and mission in the Iowa City area and around the world.

SERVE AT HOPE LODGE! HELP PREPARE THE NOVEMBER MEAL

Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be **Monday, November 13**. There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. Our congregation occasionally provides an evening meal for the residents of Hope Lodge. The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge houses cancer patients (and their caregivers) who are receiving treatment at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Dinner will be served at 5:30. Those who bring food are welcome to stay and help serve, eat with the residents, and help clean up. The address of Hope Lodge is 750 Hawkins Drive (near the Ronald McDonald House). If you have questions about this project, contact Sue Dayton, cdayton7@mchsi.com or 351-5886.



MEN'S BREAKFAST—NOVEMBER 18

The November Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 18, 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. Join us!



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL BE HELD on Thursday, November 16th at Mexico Lindo Grill & Cantina in Iowa City—across the parking lot from Joann Fabrics (Sycamore Mall)—at 11:45AM. Please call or text Martha Ann 319-855-8340 at to reserve your spot.

THANKSGIVING CLOSING

Please note: The Church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23 & 24, in celebration of Thanksgiving. Please have any material for the November 26 bulletin to the office by Tuesday, November 21.



“UPPER ROOM” REMODELED

The east-side upstairs room has been remodeled. This room has been used by the Community Pastoral Counseling Service for decades. CPCS is in a time of transition, so it seemed to be a good time to give the space a new look. It will be a place to meet, a place for musicians to use before events in the sanctuary, and a place to offer hospitality to everyone.

Thanks to Connie Parsons, Tina Koepnick, and Sharyn Reitz for their work on this project. And thanks to everyone, whose generous giving made it possible.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Hola Open Heartland Elves!

We're so grateful to you for helping with our work to support Latino immigrant families during the holiday season!

With your help, Open Heartland is hosting our 5th Annual Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 10th where we'll be gifting presents for the whole family, homemade cookies, fresh fruit, and cash for each family to spend however they feel best accommodates their individual needs (rent, groceries, medical bills, etc.)

Below are options for giving.

Please consider sponsoring a family by purchasing gifts from their Wish Lists.

It would also be a tremendous help if you could make a monetary donation to help us give our Open Heartland families some financial relief over the holidays.

Purchase gifts for a
Family of 4 people
Family of 5 people
Family of 6 people
Family of 7+ people

Contribute with monetary support
\$50., \$100, \$150, \$250, or \$500
Monetary donation payment options:
VENMO @ Open-Heartland
Mail check: Open Heartland
P.O. Box 3357
Iowa City, Iowa 52244-3357



OPEN HEARTLAND CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITY

If you would like to sponsor a family of 4, 5, 6, or 7+ people, please contact Deb Dunkhase at Open Heartland by Monday, November 6 or directly email their special email account just for holiday giving: openheartlandholiday@gmail.com. Indicate how large a family is desired, and Open Heartland will respond with the list of items from the family, then the shopping can begin.

Other options for the Alternative Giving period in our church is a monetary donation, payable to Open Heartland, PO Box 3357 Iowa City, IA 52244. Last year OH was able to give each family a gift of \$100 to spend on what the family determines is needed.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING FOR CHRISTMAS—CRAFTS ARE WELCOME!

The Mission Board is ready to help you with your Christmas giving. Our annual Alternative Giving Fair will be held in Rockwood Hall after worship on November 19 and December 3 & 17. We would like to identify people who can offer crafts or other items for sale. If you have an idea for a sale item or would like to help in other ways, please contact Laurie Stunz (laura-stunz@uiowa.edu). If you knit, please consider making mittens and scarves for the Mitten Tree. Donations of mittens and scarves will be directed to the Iowa City Schools.

Think outside of the box and let your giving help others. Gifts can be made in honor of friends and family to the Heifer Project, Habitat for Humanity and Church World Service. In late November/early December we will put up the Mitten Tree and have gift tags available for Project Holiday, CommUnity Crisis Center and Toys for Tots.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOK AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Each year brings festivity and celebration as we move through Advent and the joy of Christmas. Mark your calendars so that you can be a part of these special events:

December 3—First Sunday in Advent; Lighting of the Advent Candles begins; Communion Sunday.

December 10—Second Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday; Advent Potluck in Rockwood Hall after worship.

December 17—Third Sunday in Advent; Children's Pageant.


December 24—Fourth Sunday in Advent; Worship at 10:15 a.m.

Christmas Eve is *Sunday*, December 24—Christmas Eve candlelight worship service; Christmas Fund Offering; Gala reception follows.

December 25—Christmas Day; Church office closed.



Bring your friends for an unforgettable night of trivia
in support of those reentering
the community after incarceration!



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
7:00 - 9:00 PM
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
2355 OAKDALE RD, CORALVILLE, IA 52241

Book in advance:
\$20 Individual
\$100 Team of 6
\$25/person at the door
www.insideoutreentry.com

INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY TRIVIA NIGHT: Thursday, November 9, 7-9 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd., Coralville. This event is open to the community. Tickets for individuals or tables of 6 are available in advance at <https://bit.ly/2023IOTrivia> or click on the QR code! Tickets are also available at the door.

RECLAIM ARMISTICE DAY

Veterans For Peace invite you to join us to reclaim the spirit of the Armistice and welcome our honored guest David Swanson, Saturday, November 11. We gather at 10:30 AM at the Weatherdance Fountain Stage on the Iowa City Ped Mall. Bugler Roscoe Porch will sound Assembly prior to the start and sound Taps after the bell ringing at 11:00, then David Swanson will talk about how "The World Needs an Armistice Day." Refreshments and Pizza immediately following at the Iowa City Public Library where Swanson will deliver his main address: "A Global Monroe Doctrine Needs a Global Armistice." This event is Free and open to the Public.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



“It’s warmer out here”... it’s the Winter Outerwear distribution update!

Thanks to the generosity of the Mission Committee via the larger church mission and donations from church members and friends and volunteers, children and adults will be warmer this winter. I was able to buy 14 heavy men’s coats, 13 women’s coats and 12 youth coats. I also bought 94 very warm stocking caps, 39 pairs of warm adult gloves and 18 pairs of thermal socks. Unfortunately, we ran out of coats (specifically in larger youth and adult sizes), gloves, hats and gloves early in the distribution. Those who received clothing items were so grateful and thanked the volunteers .

If anyone would still like to contribute to the clothing distribution, please contact me- I have learned where the “needs” of our community are.

Thanks again for making this a warmer winter for many.
(a more detailed summary will be coming soon from the CRC leadership team.)

NEW FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS WERE INSTALLED LAST SUMMER. AS YOU ENJOY THE WARMTH OF THE SANCTUARY, 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.



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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service - Confirmation class, 4:00	6	7 -CE Meeting, 7:00pm - Mission Board, 7:00pm	8	9	10	11
12 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	13	14 -Membership Board, 5:30pm - Deacons, 6:00pm - Trustees, 7:00pm - Stewardship Board, 8:00pm	15	16 - Women's Lunch @ Mexico Lindo Grill in IC at 11:45 am	17	18 - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
19 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service - Youth Group, 4:00pm	27	28 - Council Meeting, 7:00pm	29	30		

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



11/1	Frank Zlatnik	11/15	Sara Murph David Schoonover
11/7	Scott Hansche	11/16	James Keogh
11/8	John Fuller	11/18	Ann Leefers
11/10	Michael Seidl	11/20	Marcia Kuechenmeister
11/11	Jeanna Otto	11/26	Lila Rose MacInnis- Baumert
11/13	Amy Lewis	11/27	Caroline Tolbert
11/14	Terri Macey	11/29	Hayden Beerends Kevin Richards

FRIENDLY REMINDER!

The deadline to submit items for the November newsletter will be Friday, November 17th.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER 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

uccicrev@uccic.org

anmolsberry@gmail.com

c.nakielski@cornellcollege.edu

Contact the Office

uccicadmin@uccic.org

sharynreitz@gmail.com

Contact the Office

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