



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
 United Church of Christ  
 APRIL 2015



Friends in Christ:

In spite of all the cold of recent months, we have made it through to spring once more. In spite of all the pain and sorrow so many in our congregation have borne in recent months, we come this month to Easter once more. Spring is something of a holy symbol, a visual sign each year of an ultimate reality: that life does conquer death; that our wintry hearts can thaw; that God can bring something new out of barren circumstances. In these days we stop and look—even the trees and ground are telling the good news of God’s “Yes” to all creation.

The beauty of spring informs our Easter joy; the life of spring tells us something of Easter resurrection. And both spring and Easter will lead us into the depths of God, which the process theologian Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki tells us “are joy, beauty, resurrection, and life.”

Just as both Easter and the arrival of spring—real spring—cannot be pinned to any single day, Resurrection cannot—and will not—be confined to any one season. Because there is no set date for Easter, we are reminded each year that Resurrection can happen any time.

Resurrection happens anytime you discover God’s power working in you to bring you out of death and into life:

When you discover the grace to forgive, even though you’ve been hurt...

When you discover the strength to live by your deepest values instead of selling out to the highest bidder...

When you discover the hope that allows you to continue after disappointment or tragedy...

When you discover the courage to stand up for yourself, for others, to seek justice, to do the right thing rather than what’s convenient...

When you discover an abundance moving you to unexpected generosity...

Resurrection is happening regardless of the time of year or the day of the week.

Easter speaks to us of something greater than spring. It tells us something we want to hear, something we need to hear, because it speaks to us as adults who know the weariness, the pain, the profound loneliness, the confusion, and the fear of living. As one person put it: “In the midst of our desolation, we find the risen Christ, triumphant over death and still shockingly alive, present to us in ways we cannot understand much less explain. In Christ we find vibrancy of life and a firm compassion that does not deny our suffering but transforms and illumines it.”

Resurrection invites us to look beyond the beauty of spring.

The cross speaks of God standing with us in the flux of events—and God is a sure presence in difficult times.

The resurrection speaks of God being always ahead of events and is therefore the great ground of hope for the world, bringing forth the new and the unexpected, transforming life in ways we might never imagine.

Christ is alive in the world, leading us with the good news of a new power unleashed on the earth.

Peace,

*Bill*

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES AT CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

- March 29.....Palm Sunday-Worship with Distribution of Palms, 10:15 am
- April 1.....Midweek Musical Meditation at 12:30 pm
- April 2.....Maundy Thursday-Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 3.....Good Friday-Worship service at noon.
- April 5.....Easter Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m., Easter Breakfast follows. Festival Easter Service with Brass and  
 .....Choir at 10:15
- April 12.....Second Sunday of Easter-the sacrament of communion celebrated in worship.

## **MIDWEEK MUSICAL MEDITATIONS CONCLUDE ON APRIL 1**

2015 marks the seventh year of our popular Lenten Musical Meditations series. The series concludes on Wednesday, April 1, at 12:30. Marie Von Behren will sing, accompanied by Richard Bloesch on the piano. Patrick Zubiante will also join Marie and Richard for one song. These midday recitals are free and open to the public. Please join us and bring a friend.

## **WELCOME NEW CHURCH MEMBERS**

Six new members joined our congregation in March. We are glad to welcome them. Here's some information to help you get to know them a little better.

Tarin Bell grew up in the UCC church in Jewell, IA. She is a teacher in the Iowa City Community School District and coaches volleyball and softball. She enjoys reading, boating and being with friends and family. Tarin lives in Tiffin.

Danielle Weipert also works for the Iowa City Community School District and the Coralville Recreation Center. She enjoys sports, traveling, and boating. Danielle lives in Tiffin. She and Tarin will be married at Congregational UCC in November.

Brian Whitehead is from Oklahoma and the first Whitehead to leave the state in four generations. He has a degree in English from the University of Oklahoma and a Masters in Literary Studies from UI. Brian is the Associate Dean at Kaplan University in Cedar Rapids. He's played guitar for about 20 years and particularly enjoys Led Zeppelin. He's a handy guy and likes fixing just about everything. Raised a non-denominational charismatic evangelical on the buckle of the Bible belt, he was confirmed in the Episcopal church in 2004 and feels very at home in the UCC. Brian is married to Lauren Whitehead. They are the parents of Robin and Holly, who Brian says are gifts to him every day. The Whiteheads live in Solon.

Lauren Whitehead spent her early childhood in the Midwest before moving to Oklahoma when she was 12. She met Brian at the University of Oklahoma, where she received her Bachelors degree in English Education. She and Brian moved to Iowa in 2004. Iowa has become her true home and she has the tattoo to prove it. Lauren has a Masters in American Studies and half of a doctorate in literacy education. She taught developmental reading and writing courses at UI and Kirkwood and now writes the English Language section of the SAT exam. Lauren founded and served on the steering committee for the nonprofit Friends of Iowa Midwives. She likes mystery novels, writing, crocheting and having long conversations with her daughters. Robin is 7, in first grade, and likes art. Holly is 5, in pre-school, and likes singing and performing.

After worshipping here for several years and becoming familiar faces, John and Ruth Ann Holmes are happy to be new members.

## **FILM: CONSIDER THE CONVERSATION 2: STORIES ABOUT CURE, RELIEF, AND COMFORT**

April 16, 2015 is National Healthcare Decisions Day, a nationwide initiative to encourage individuals to express their health care wishes, and for providers, family, and friends to follow them. To bring attention to the day and topic, the Senior Center and Honoring Your Wishes will show the Emmy-nominated documentary, "Consider the Conversation 2: Stories about Cure, Relief, and Comfort," on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Assembly Room. The film sheds light on the important role communication plays in helping both patient and doctor navigate the murky waters of severe chronic disease.

All are invited to join us at this event to learn about the importance of starting health care conversations early. To reserve your seat, contact Emily Light at 319-356-5224 or [emily-light@iowa-city.org](mailto:emily-light@iowa-city.org). The Senior Center is located at 28 S. Linn Street in Iowa City.

Honoring Your Wishes is a community-wide advance care planning initiative under the leadership of Iowa City

## **BE A PART OF THE NATIONAL OPEN AND AFFIRMING GATHERING IN CLEVELAND JUNE 24-25, 2015!**

The Coalition's National ONA Gathering meets in Cleveland June 24 and 25—right before General Synod! Get your Synod experience off to a great start with this family reunion for our nationwide ONA community, with inspiring worship and music, unforgettable preaching, workshops to strengthen ONA ministry in your congregation, and an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones!

2015 is the 30th anniversary of the historic General Synod resolution endorsing the Open and Affirming movement! It's our 30th birthday! Since then, we've grown from six to 1,200 congregations, from 0.1 to 25 percent of the church, from congregations with a total of 1,000 members to nearly 250,000! Celebrate our growth, and renew your commitment to grow the ONA movement until we reach all 5,000 congregations in the United Church of Christ. We've an inspiring line-up of speakers: Bishop Dwayne Royster, founding pastor of Living Waters UCC in Philadelphia, PA, will preach at our opening worship Wednesday night. The Rev. Dr. Maritza Angulo de González is our keynoter on Thursday. She is pastor of Manantial de Gracia (Spring of Grace) UCC in West Hartford, CT, a leader in the Council for Hispanic Ministries, and a member of the UCC's board of directors. The Rev. Dr. Edward Davis is keynoter at the Synod ONA Banquet Friday night. Conference Minister for the UCC's Southern Conference, Dr. Davis is a leader in the "Moral Mondays" movement in North Carolina and an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ rights in the church and beyond.

These speakers and our program of informative workshops will help your ONA congregation discover new ways to reach out to LGBTQ seekers and to connect your ONA covenant to wider movements for justice, inclusion and peace. We'll offer two workshop tracks: one for ONA churches, and the other for congregations planning or starting an ONA process. The full schedule will be posted in April.

<http://openandaffirming.org/news/ona-gathering/>

### **NAMI**

The 2015 NAMI Walk will be held on Saturday April 25 at 10 a.m. (registration from 9-10) at the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, 4213 Sand Road. When mental illness strikes your family, you need a place to go for help. Proceeds from the Walk enable NAMI of Johnson County to create a welcoming community of support for people living with mental illness and their families and friends in Johnson County. Their programs are essential to care and treatment, offering support groups, classes, lectures and other programs, all free of charge. Ruth and Ken Kuntz will be participating in NAMI Walks to honor their adult daughter who has a long history of bipolar disorder. You may pick up a donation envelope in the fellowship hall in order to collect funds from family and friends. If you are unable to participate in the walk itself you may give a check made out to "NAMI of Johnson County" to Ruth Kuntz, our CUCC team captain. For information on donating to our CUCC team online, call Ruth at 887-5231.

### **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED—MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY, MAY 1**

Church Women United will celebrate May Friendship Day at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2675 E. Washington St., Iowa City, from 10-12:30 including a salad luncheon with a short program, "Journey of the Caregiver."

We will be assembling hotel stay care packages for the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Materials needed for this include: peanut butter, graham crackers, Ritz-style crackers, canned foods with pop-tops—hearty soups and meat, fruit snacks, granola bars, bottled water/juice boxes, personal products-maxi pads, facial soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, comb/brush, quiet toys for children, new underwear/sox (adult and children). Please do not feel like you need to bring every item listed. A plastic container will be in Rockwood Hall for the collection of your donated items. These packages are given to women and children when they must stay in a hotel due to the shelter being full. Please note that the Bible study will be at New Horizons United Methodist Church on April 16 at 10 am.

We hope you can attend the Bible study and May Friendship Day.

### **SUMMER CHURCH CAMP - PILGRIM HEIGHTS**

Camps are available for all ages throughout the summer at Pilgrim Heights. The campground is 1 1/2 hours west of Iowa City (between Tama and Marshalltown). Check out the brochure on the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall. Please e-mail Barb Hanson if you have questions. [barb.hanson@gmail.com](mailto:barb.hanson@gmail.com)

## **OLD CAPITOL CRITERIUM HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26**

The arrival of spring brings renewed activity in downtown Iowa City—Friday evening music, movies on the Pentecrest, and more. Some events occur on Sunday morning and impact traffic patterns and parking around Congregational UCC. The Old Capitol Criterium, the annual bike race, will be held on Sunday, April 26. Traffic will be rerouted and street parking will be limited. All of this means that it will be a great morning to walk a little farther to worship! Start out a little earlier—or ride your bike—and join us for worship that morning at 10:15.

## **SUNDAYS AT FOUR SESSION CONCLUDES ON APRIL 19**

The final concert in the 2014-15 Sundays at Four season will be held on Sunday, April 19, featuring Ahreum Han, organ. As always, the concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be received to support a local charity. Please bring a friend or two and join us in the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m.

David Campbell and Todd Yaniw, who played here in March, sent us the following note: “Thanks for having us perform at Sundays at Four! It was a delightful experience for us both.

## **FELLOWSHIP HOUR - EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIRLY TRADED COFFEE**

Many of us enjoy a cup of coffee after church downstairs in Rockwood Hall. The Choir and Adult Education attendees enjoy it a little earlier in the day, too! We purchase our Fellowship Blend coffee in bulk from the Equal Exchange Fairly Traded program, and it is more expensive than standard brand. That’s why you see a basket with a yellow sign on the serving table downstairs for donations to offset this cost. We enjoy the coffee and support a good cause at the same time.

The Equal Exchange program works with local farmers and co-ops in many countries to obtain great coffee that benefits these growers directly. The Mission Board started our program and we support it not as a fundraiser, but as a direct purchaser to help this program. We use the coffee on Sunday, at church meetings, and we sell it to our congregation via our monthly Equal Exchange sales of coffee, tea, and chocolate sales after church. Please thank Martha Ann Crawford, our very own barista, for coordinating this effort. You will often see Chuck and Robert helping out too. Please consider contributing to our support of local farmers and co-ops around the world by dropping some change (or bills) in the coffee basket on Sundays!

## **SOFA TABLE**

The Membership Board would like to add a sofa table to the inside left wall of the Narthex. A sofa table is wide, but has a narrow depth and could fit in nicely. If anyone has an extra, please call/email Sharyn Reitz. Many thanks! (354-3138 or sharynreitz@gmail.com).

## **THINK AHEAD FOR ANNUAL OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION**

Each year in the fall, Congregational UCC joins with other congregations in providing winter coats for people of all ages, especially children. As winter items go on sale in the stores, now is a great time to let your dollar go further and purchase coats. Please store them at your home until the fall when they can be brought to the church and then taken to the distribution site.

## **LOOK AHEAD: SPRING WORK DAY—SATURDAY, MAY 2**

Join us for our annual spring clean-up day on Saturday, May 2. We’ll start to gather at the church around 8:00 a.m., and we’ll get to work both inside and outside our building, sweeping away the winter and looking forward to the warm days of summer. There’s a lot to be done—and everyone, men and women, boys and girls, are invited to participate. Everyone can do something. We usually wrap up most of the work by noon. So come when you can, leave when you must, and be a part of this fun annual event!

## **FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY**

Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. This year the Diaconate is seeking more color and invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Wednesday, April 1.*

# SERVING THE CHURCH IN 2015



In The Congregational United Church of Christ we all share in performing duties for the worship service.

A list is provided each month for the assignments of Greeters, Ushers, and Hospitality.

Please arrive one-half hour before services, which begin at 10:15 a.m.

**If you cannot serve on the assigned date please call someone else on the list to arrange a swap with them.**

April	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
5	Ryan Downing Jen Sherer	Stuart & Deborah Cobb John & Randee Fieselmann	Edie Roberts Annette Michaels
12	Marge Hoppin Pat Goeldner	Scott & Patricia Hansche Roger & Melissa Jensen	Richard Valentine Kathleen Clark
19	Joan Jehle Shelagh Hayreh	Robert & Barbara McFarland Ed & Jody Murph	Anna Mary Mueller Fern Weir
26	Kenneth & Ruth Kuntz	Christine Taylor Gerald Swails Michael & Joyce Myer	Darin Wells Diane Olson

**If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone,**

**Please call the assigned**

**Deacon of the Month—Vernette Knapp 319-621-5633**



Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, April 18, 8:00 a.m.  
Midtown -200 Scott Ct., Iowa City

## Women's Lunch



# APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Palm Sunday		Please have flower donation "in memory of" to the office by April 1 so that it can be put in the Easter bulletin Thank you	1 Foreign Relations Noon Music Meditation 12:30 pm Psalm Study 1 pm Led by Rev. Lovin Rockwood	2 Maundy Thursday 7 pm Worship, CO.ommunion, and Tennebrae	3 Good Friday Service Noon	4 Confirmation Class 1-3 pm
5 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 7:30 am followed by Easter Breakfast Brass/Choir/Rehearsal Toddler Care Worship Children's Church Chinese School	6 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	7 Trumpet Practice 6-8 pm Mission Board 7 pm Diaconate 7 pm	8	9 Foreign Relations Noon Voices of Soul 6:30-8:30 pm	10	11
12 Choir Toddler Care Church School for all Ages Worship/Communion Chinese School	13 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	14 Trumpet Practice 6-8 pm CE Board Library 7 pm	15	16 Women's Lunch 11:45am Café Azul Foreign Relations Noon Voices of Soul 6:30-8:30 pm	17	18 Men's Breakfast 8 am Mid-Town East 200 Scott Ct., Iowa City
19 Choir Toddler Care Worship Children's Church Chinese School 1:30-4 pm Last Sundays @ 4 for the season Ahreum Han, Organ	20 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	21 Membership 5:30 pm Trumpet Practice 6-8 pm Trustees 7 pm	22	23 Foreign Relations Noon Voices of Soul 6:30-8:30 pm	24	25 NAMI Walk 10 am
26 Choir Toddler Care Church School for all ages Worship Children's Church Chinese School 1:30-4 pm	27 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	28 Stewardship 4 pm Church Council 7 pm	29	30 Voices of Soul 6:30-8:30 pm		

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Wayne Balmer William Hoefler Ellis Chen
6	Jerry Walker Anne Weir
7	Delmar Brown Ross Nusser
8	Michael Kempf Clinton Thomae
9	Grace Whittaker
10	Charles Nusser
11	Nate Beckmann
12	Mary Lea Kruse
14	Elizabeth Deifell Owen Ford
15	Patricia Myers Magill Schumm
17	James Searls
19	Ann Ghabel
20	Amanda Bouma
21	Diana Durham Keith Brautigam
22	Randee Fieselmann Bruce Guither
24	Merideth Smith
25	Theresa Messlein Lesley Smith James Bayless Jacob Koepnick
26	Anna Whittaker
27	Robert McFarland Joshua Woolums
28	Jason Sisley Ryan McBride
30	Oscar Lewis

## ADULT BOOK REVIEW

"On God's Side; What Religion forgets and Politics hasn't Learned about Serving the Common Good" by Jim Wallis

In this book the author shows how left and right, religious and non-religious, Christians and those of other faiths may find common ground working for the benefits of our communities, our neighbors, and our world. Wallis writes "Our life together can be better. It's time to hear and heed a call to a different way of life, to reclaim a very old idea called the common good."

In his book Wallis discusses with wisdom and clarity crucial issues that we must grapple with in the decade ahead: economics, ecology, polarization, peacemaking, the role of government, and more.

"On God's Side" is divided into two sections. Part one is "Inspiring the Common Good" and Part two is "Practices for the Common Good". The author ends with 10 personal decisions to help foster the common good.

Jim Wallis is president and CEO of Sojourners and editor in chief of Sojourners magazine.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee

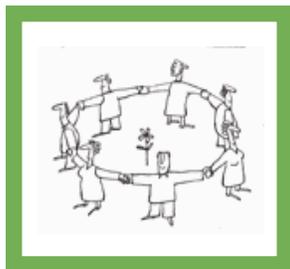


# Our Mission Board

**Action** makes our faith come alive.

**Pray, be a friend, offer words of support or comfort, give goods-time-talent-resources.**

We are one conduit through which you, our church members, help others.



- “Thank you for your generosity and gift to Table to Table. Your donation of \$121.00 in support of our programs. Thanks to your support, we were able to keep wholesome, nutritious food from going to waste. We know that our efforts are only possible because of the contributions we receive from generous donors like you, and we thank you again for believing in and supporting our mission.
- Thank you for taking part in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, the original kids Helping Kids campaign! Your gifts of \$7.13 in November and \$564.24 in December 2014, ensures that UNICEF can make a better world for the world’s most vulnerable children. UNICEF donations help provide; Lifesaving vaccines and insecticide-treated bed nets, Emergency relief following natural disasters, Educational opportunities, and School-in-a-Box kits and much more. Thanks again for your generous support.

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## On Our Calendar

### **Sundays at Four Concert - April 19**

The free will donations received at this concert, by Ahreum Han, organ, will support a local charity that will be determined at the next Mission Board Meeting.

### **Equal Exchange Coffee Sales - Ongoing**

You will often find coffee, tea, chocolate, and other good things available for purchase after our worship service, usually on the first Sunday of the month, This will however resume after Easter. Martha Ann Crawford is currently coordinating these sales and can answer any of your food questions.

### **The Center for Worker Justice - Ongoing**

The Center for Worker Justice (CWJ) pursues economic justice, assisting low wage workers regardless of gender, race, and immigration status. Our church qualifies as an "ally" of the Center because of our past financial and personal support. Jen Scherer serves on the CWJ board. Recent CWJ projects include 1) a successful court action on behalf of an immigrant worker in a wage-theft case, 2) an ongoing effort to establish and distribute the "Community ID" photo-identification card, 3) an unsuccessful effort to convince the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) to release Max Villatoro, and 4) a petition in support of raising the minimum wage. The CWJ is urging all residents of Johnson County to apply for the Community photo-ID card to be used locally for identification. This card will especially benefit anyone who doesn't carry a passport or driver license, such as many elderly, disabled people, immigrants, people who can't afford a car, etc. Jen can provide the application, as well as the minimum wage petition.

### **Max Villatoro - Ongoing**

Max Villatoro, a native of Honduras, has lived in the US since 1995, is father to a family of 4 children (all US citizens), and has been serving as a pastor at the First Mennonite Church in Iowa City. He was arrested by ICE agents two weeks ago with no opportunity to say goodbye to his family. CWJ sponsored a rally of over 200 people (including several from our congregation) on 3/19, where we marched with his wife and family on the Ped Mall. Many made phone calls to ICE on his behalf, and several articles protesting the forced separation of Pastor Max from his family, church, and community appeared in the press. Nevertheless, he was deported. In the weeks to come his congregation is coming up with how the community and their church can help support Mr. Villatoro. Watch in the upcoming bulletins for more information.

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER



**Parking Information**

Parking is available evenings and all day Sunday at the IMU or North Hall Parking Ramps.

Ask your usher for a voucher (or get one from the church office).

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

10:15 a.m.      Worship  
11:15 a.m.      Fellowship

Church Office is open Tuesday - Friday 8-4pm

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor:**                    **The Rev. William Lovin**

Music Director:            Patrick Zubiate  
Organist:                    Bill Crouch  
Office Manager:            Amy Engrav  
Financial Sec.              Sharyn Huriaux Reitz  
Custodian:                  Eddy Ghumm

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

Tuesday—Friday.....8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Phone:** 319-337-4301

**E-mail:**

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Office Manager.....[uccicsec@uccic.org](mailto:uccicsec@uccic.org)  
Financial Secretary.....[sharynreitz@gmail.com](mailto:sharynreitz@gmail.com)  
Music Director.....[uccicmudir@uccic.org](mailto:uccicmudir@uccic.org)

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