



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
AUGUST 2016



Friends in Christ:

For most of my life, church buildings have gotten a bad rap. They were often regarded as burdens on congregations, requiring money and maintenance, rarely open, and of little use. For most of my life as an ordained minister, I've seen things differently. Church buildings present opportunities and possibilities; they are open at all sorts of times for members and nonmembers alike. Yes, they do require money and maintenance, but I'm convinced they are well worth such resources.

Our building is open throughout the week for prayer and meditation, for community groups, and activities of the congregation. Our Clinton Street garden provides a small space for calm renewal and conversation. And it has recently become a Pokéstop! Beyond all of this welcome, events of this summer have confirmed the importance and the value of church buildings in general and of our building in particular.

Many people referred to the Pulse nightclub in Orlando as a "sanctuary." It was a place where people could go and be themselves and be accepted for who they were. It was a place of safety, a place of welcome, a place of hospitality toward all people.

And that sanctuary was violated.

When sanctuaries are attacked, the sanctuary we offer is even more important.

As those who have covenanted to walk together in the ways of Jesus Christ, we are sent out among the unwelcoming and the inhospitable to announce the good news that the realm of heaven has come near. Jesus, of course, is not talking about someplace where all good people will go when they die if they just do this or believe that. The realm of heaven is the new reality that is seen when strangers are no longer cast out but are welcomed in, when the image of God is seen and accepted in all people. It has come near. God's rule is in the midst of being established in the world that God created and loves.

Whenever he talks about the realm of heaven, Jesus is pointing toward the great value of this earth and of our lives before we die. Jesus is pointing toward the great value of each human being created in the image of God. We are called to announce this as good news. And our building is a very concrete way of doing that. It is a place of welcome, acceptance, love, and hospitality for all.

Strangers walk into this space and say, "What a beautiful sanctuary!" And it is—but the windows aren't all Tiffany, and we have chairs stacked up like a seating warehouse and music stands like a practice room, and the cork floor is crumbling and the walls are held in place by metal rods. When they say how beautiful this place is, they are giving expression to a feeling that there is something special, something significant, important, powerful in this place—that is a place where the Spirit of God bears the fruit of love; this is a place of sanctuary where all people are valued as they are.

Congregationalists have always wisely placed ownership of church buildings into the hands of a local congregation. The United Church of Christ does not own our building. We do. And that means that we can care for it as it needs caring, we can use in ways that we regard as appropriate, we can open it to all people at any time. It is a wonderful gift that we have received from previous generations of faithful members. It is a wonderful gift that we give to the Iowa City community.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE COMMON FUND OF LAST RESORT APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2016

During this quarter, the Common Fund assisted 100 households with an average of \$103.64 to provide help with utilities or housing. Without this assistance, a single father of one whose spouse passed could have had his water disconnected; a woman who had money stolen could have lost her housing; and a woman with a series of health issues would not have been able to secure housing.

Total amount expended: \$10,363.80 Total number of households served: 100 (226 including other Crisis Center funds) Average number of households served each week: 8 (18 including other CC funds) Average number turned away each week: 2 Average amount per assist: \$103.64

Needs Fulfilled: Maintain Water: 26 Maintain Housing: 28 Maintain Electricity/Gas: 46

WELCOME BACK TO STUDENTS

On August 19 & 20 our congregation will again welcome students to Iowa City and the new school year with cookies and lemonade. Many students walk by our front door that first weekend before classes begin and we want them to know they are welcome here in our church. It is hard to pass up a free cookie, so we have a chance to speak with many students.

The Membership Committee needs volunteers for two shifts - from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm—both Friday and Saturday. We will also need cookies. If you have not provided cookies or bars recently this would be a great time to help with the baking. Baked goods should be brought to the church kitchen by 10:30 am on Friday, August 19.

Please contact the church office if you are able to help in person or with cookies.

FREE LUNCH ON AUGUST 29, 2016

It's our turn to host the Free Lunch in August. A sign-up sheet has been posted in Rockwood Hall.

It is always a wonder to me that so many of us come together to provide well over one hundred tasty, healthy, meals, and do so with generosity, hard work, and laughter.

We always have fun working together and an added plus is the number of diners who take the time to pass on their sincere appreciation. **Please consider signing up to bring food and/or to help serve.**

Edie Roberts



THANKS AGAIN!

Thanks to everyone who generously gave to the special ToGather Together offering on July 17 to provide school supplies for Johnson County students. We “gathered” \$1320. If you would still like to give please put “ToGather Together” on the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope.

The annual CROP Walk was held in April and we recently heard about the generous giving of our congregation. We increased our giving by \$561! In 2015 our church's total was \$805.00. It was \$600+ in 2014.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES UPDATE

THANKS to your generous support, Ten Thousand Villages of Iowa City will be opening permanently at 105 S Dubuque St (on the ped mall between Herteen & Stocker and Textiles) this Fall! Plan your fall and holiday shopping accordingly... we can't wait to see you there! In the meantime, would you like to get involved? Villages Iowa City is recruiting for the following:

****In-store Volunteers **Board of Directors member with financial background **Hiring for a Store Manager.** To learn more, please email iowacity@tenthousandvillages.com, or call Alicia at 330-310-3750.

MEMBER GATHERINGS

The Women's Lunch will be held on August 18 beginning at 11:45 at the Northside Café on the corner of Market and Linn Streets. Please contact the office to reserve your seat. The men will gather on August 20 at The Hamburg Inn beginning at 8:00 am.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

We will return to our 10:15 am worship time on Sunday, August 21.

FRESH FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall for anyone who would like to provide flowers for worship. Flowers can be given in memory or honor of loved ones or in celebration of special events such as birthdays and anniversaries. This information will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Flowers can also be given simply for the joy and beauty that they bring. Questions? Please contact Jane Murphy at 351-9079 or at murphyjane51@gmail.com.

AFTER WORSHIP HOSPITALITY

The Membership Board wishes to encourage Church members to especially extend hospitality to visitors and new comers after services. Try to bring them to Rockwood Hall to meet our extended church family. Please sign for a specific Sunday. Thank you.

OUR HISTORY IS UNFOLDING!

As many of you know, members of the Iowa City Congregational UCC are undertaking a project to write a history of the last 50 years of the church, with the intent of completing the history before our 150th anniversary in 2018. A steering committee (composed of Bryan Clemons, John and Randy Fieselmann, Donna Hirst, and Pam Willard) and subject-area committees have been formed to do the work of this endeavor. Excellent progress is being made in extracting significant information from our "archives" (ie: past annual reports and meeting minutes). The book is planned to be a narrative account, using stories from members to illustrate the extensive undertakings and perspectives of this church in our community.

The steering committee recognizes that we may have overlooked some of you whose memories and insights, if shared, would make valuable contributions to the information being collected. If you are interested in being interviewed and haven't been called, please contact Jane Murphy (murphyjane51@gmail.com or tel: 351-9079).

(Continued next page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

Finally, please take some time to write down an anecdote or story that may be added to our collection. It can be about a crucial event, a turning point, a humorous situation, a saying that you thought particularly meaningful or a person you admire(d) --- whatever you wish. These ideas are only examples to be used as springboards for creating your own unique contribution. All such submissions will be included in an archive associated with the book, and some may be used in the 2017 church history publication. We will appreciate all contributions and urge you to participate. Submissions should be sent to Jane at the above email address or can be relayed in person, in writing or by phone as appropriate.

LOOKING AHEAD

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- Church School for All Ages begins on Sunday, September 11 at 9 am.
- The Choir returns on September 11.
- The UI Homecoming Parade—and our annual curbside cookout—will be held on Friday, September 30.
- Our fall Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 29.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON – SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

We want you to come to lunch! The Membership Committee and Women's Fellowship are working together to plan a Saturday Fall Luncheon on September 24. We hope that women whose work or family responsibilities preclude joining the Women's monthly Thursday luncheons will plan to attend. We would like to hear your preferences as we plan this event. We have reserved the church for that day, but other venues are possible. No matter where we meet or what we eat...it will be a pleasure to be together on the only non-home game Saturday of September!

Please respond to the church office and Nan Martin will forward your views to our small committee. Just let us know how you feel about the following questions and add any other thoughts.

Claire Ashman, Women's Luncheon Coordinator
Phyllis Ruppert and Sharyn Reitz, Membership Co-Chairs

- *Gather at church, home, or restaurant?*
- *Potuck, eat out, or cater in?*
- *Would you like a short program? Do we have any young musicians who would like to play?*
- *Anything else?*
- *Would you plan to attend?*
- *If luncheon is at the church, would you need childcare?*
- *Any other ideas?*

UPCOMING MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Black Hawk Chamber Music Festival will return to UCC on September 10, 12 and 17. The *Broken Consort* concert will feature Renaissance Chamber Music, including the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Works by Merula, Frescobaldi and others for bassoon, flute and theorbo will “exhibit the rampant mannerism and virtuosity which spanned the turn of the 17th century”. The concerts are open to the public with a donation to the BHCMF encouraged.

Our Children's Library

"Nerdy Birdy"

Written By Aaron Reynolds

Illustrated by Matt Davies

“In this ornithologically themed story of social hierarchy and acceptance, it’s Eagle, Robin, and Cardinal’s world—all the other birds just live in it. Bespectacled, allergic-to-birdseed, Nerdy Birdy, is resigned to being dissed or dismissed until he discovers a band of “nerdy birdies” just like him—‘At least half of them had inhalers,’ writes Reynolds. ‘And most of them liked to play World of Warcraft.’ But when a hulking female vulture shows up, Nerdy Birdy discovers that his fellow outcasts can be just as clannish and snobbish as the cool guys (‘Where are her glasses?’ ‘And have you heard what she eats? Blech!!’). There’s no missing the messages about groupthink and staying true to oneself, but Reynolds also includes lots of fine, goofy jokes at the bro birds’ expense (Eagle’s talents include throwing a football, while Cardinal excels at posing). And Davies draws laughs throughout with page after page of witty, Searle-esque drawings; his elegant, scraggly artwork has a comic timing all its own.”

—Publishers Weekly

“Nerdy Birdy is a picture book written by Aaron Reynolds and illustrated by Matt Davies. Nerdy Birdy likes reading, video games, and reading about video games, which immediately disqualifies him for membership in the cool crowd. The cool birds are the eagle, robin, cardinal, and so on. The good looking and athletic birds, and Nerdy Birdy just does not fit in. When he’s at his lowest point, Nerdy Birdy meets a flock just like him. He has friends and discovers that there are far more nerdy birdies than cool birdies in the sky. However, there is still another lesson to be learned.

“Nerdy Birdy is a great book about being yourself, finding your own tribe, and not excluding those that do not have the same interests as yourself. So many children and adults start off like Nerdy Birdy, trying to fit in with the “cool kids”. However, once they find people that share their interests but are not necessarily “cool” they have much more fun and realize there are many more of us that do not fit in with the cool crowd than do. I like that Reynolds did not leave it there, which most authors seem to do with feel good stories about misfits finding friends, he took it one step further and shows the tribe of nerd birds treating a bird that was not a cool bird, but not like them either, as badly as they had been treated. Nerdy Birdy does the right thing, and forges a fantastic friendship. The book just made me happy on several levels.

“Nerdy Birdy is a fabulous book for story times, both at home and in class or library settings. It is a good mirror to some of the adult conflicts going on now, where outcasts find their tribe and then treat those that do not match their image of friends horribly. It happens too much, and maybe if children and adults alike were a little more like Nerdy Birdy we would all be happier.” —Sharon the Librarian (blog)

Look for this book (and others) on the library shelves in Rockwood Hall. Explore the rest of our library for additional worthwhile reading.

Edie Roberts
Children's Librarian



Serving Our Church

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 the service, which begins at **9:15 am**.

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

Please let the Deacon of the Month, **Kathy Fait**, know of any changes.

She can be reached at 319-541-4551 or mom2hdal@yahoo.com

AUGUST	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
7	<p>Ethel Bloesch Ann Aschoff</p>	<p>Darrin Wells Diane Olson Kathleen Clark Richard Valentine</p>	<p>Stuart and Deborah Cobb</p>
14	<p>Patte Henderson Sharon Garton</p>	<p>Dale and Patty Roberts Scott and Patty Hansche</p>	<p>Pat Goeldner Ann Gabel</p>
21	<p>Amy and Cyndy Woodhouse</p>	<p>Bill Dickinson Shelagh Hayreh Margaret Beck John Johnson</p>	<p>Martha Connerly Donna Janes</p>
28	<p>Mark and Carrie Whittaker</p>	<p>Dwight, Connie, Mittke and Temesgen Schumm</p>	<p>Robert and Claire Ashman</p>

AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 - Organ in Use 8pm	2 - Diaconate 6:30 pm - Christian Ed 7pm - Mission Board 7pm - Organ in Use 8pm	3 - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon - Organ in Use 8pm	4 - Organ in Use 8pm	5 - Organ in Use 8pm	6 - Citizen-ship Class 10am
7 - Communion Worship 9:15am -Solo: Betty Mathers and Laura Paarman (flutes) - EEC Sales	8 - Organ in Use 8pm	9 - Organ in Use 8pm	10 - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon - Organ in Use 8pm	11 - Organ in Use 8pm	12 - Organ in Use 8pm	13
14 -Last Worship @ 9:15am Solo: Ken Kuntz (organ)	15 OFFICE CLOSED - Organ in Use 8pm	16 - Stewardship 4 pm - Membership 5:30pm - Trustees 7pm - Organ in Use 8pm	17 -CRC Meeting Rockwood Hall 9am - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon - Organ in Use 8pm	18 - Women's Lunch at ___ 11:45am - Organ in Use 8pm	19 -U of I Student Wel-come 11am -Organ in Use 8pm	20 - Men's Breakfast at Hamburg Inn 8am - U of I Student Wel-come 11am
21 - Worship 10:15am -Solo: Sarah Fairfield & Ama Mothershed - Shake the World Fund-raiser 1:00pm	22 - U of I and IC Public Schools begin - Organ in Use 8pm	23 - FRC Lunch Noon - Church Council 7pm - Organ in Use 8pm	24 - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon - Organ in Use 8pm	25 - Organ in Use 8pm	26 - Organ in Use 8pm	27
28 -Worship 10:15 am - Solo: Brian Umlah	29 - Host Free Lunch Pro-gram 11am - Organ in Use 8pm	30 - Organ in Use 8pm	31 - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon - Organ in Use 8pm	Sept 1 - FRC Lunch Noon - Organ in Use 8pm	Sept 2 - Organ in Use 8pm	

Happy Birthday



8/2 Lexine Schumm

8/5 Bob Stein

8/6 Katy John

8/7 Betty Mather

8/9 Phyllis Ruppert
Tom Sandersfeld
Scott Mittman

8/10 Kathleen Day

8/11 Shirley Wyrick
Sharon Garton
Ryan Downing

8/13 Denny Dudley

8/14 Joseph Romanowski
Nan Martin

8/15 Fern Weir
Amy Woodhouse
Joey Landsee

8/16 Emily Koepnick

8/17 Whit Jury

8/19 Bill Nusser Jr.

8/21 Maxwell Parsons

8/22 Jacqueline Sangster

8/23 Lindsay McFarland

8/24 Tina Koepnick
Bill Dickinson

8/25 Todd Nelson

8/29 Margery Hoppin

8/31 Donna Hirst
Betsy Boyd

To all of you!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 2016 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

9:15 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Fellowship

Church Office is open Monday - Friday 9-3pm

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Rev. William Lovin
Music Director:	Chris Nakielski
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Director of Church School:	The Rev. Patte Henderson
Office Manager:	Nan Martin
Financial Secretary:	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz
Communication Assistant:	Christina Patramanis
Custodian:	Eddy Ghumm

HOW TO CONTACT US

Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm
Phone: 319-337-4301

E-mail:

Minister.....uccicrev@uccic.org
Office Manager.....uccicsec@uccic.org
Financial Secretary.....sharynreitz@gmail.com
Music Director... christopher-nakielski@uiowa.edu
Dir of Church School..... uccicce@uccic.org
Communication Assist.... .cpatramanis@yahoo.com

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org