



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

February 2014



Friends in Christ—

I want to thank the congregation for your kind and generous gift at Christmas. It is difficult to fully express my gratitude, not only for this gift but also for the ongoing gift of your call to me to be your pastor. But it is deep and heartfelt.

This January came with chilling cold and with a series of challenging pastoral issues. As you know, much of what I do (or any pastor does) is done quietly and kept in confidence. This has been important to me throughout my career and I value what can rightly be called this sacred responsibility.

I do want you to know, however, that our congregation is a place of care for members and nonmembers alike. Throughout the year, I have the honor of extending that care and support on behalf and in the name of the entire congregation. T

Much has been written about the demands of the pastorate and how the stress takes its toll. Again, I am grateful for this congregation. I know that as I do my work, the pastoral support committee of the church council is always there to listen, to advise, and to pray. And the support and prayers of all members carries me through times of challenge. All of you make this a healthy place for ministry.

So, with affection and gratitude, I thank you—for your gift and even more for the treasure that you are.

Peace,

Bill

SERVING THE CHURCH 2014

FEBRUARY

In The Congregational Church, 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.

February	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
2	Glenna Cobb Connie Parsons	John Byrn & Heidi VanWieren Lowell & Jan Dendinger	Darin Wells & Diane Olson
9	Jane Kinney Edie Roberts	Tim & Nicole Barker John Fuller	Bryan & Virginia Clemons
16	Diane Coberly Ethel Bloesch	David & Elizabeth Deifell	James & Diane Jetter
23	Michael & Joyce Myer	Scott & Patricia Hansche Michael & Robyn Groff	Dwight & Connie Schumm

**If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone,
please call the assigned
Deacon of the month—John Fieselmann (319-354-0292)**



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**
SATURDAY,
February 15, 2014
8:00 a.m. at Sunny Restaurant
630 Iowa Ave.



WOMEN'S LUNCH

Thursday February 13, 2014
11:45 at Basta
Please call the Church office to
RSVP

FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Betty Maher 12:00-1:30 Tom Maples Recital 5p.m.
2 Choir 9:00 Child Care/ Toddler Class 9:00 Church School 9:00 Sun. School Worship 10:15 Chinese School Sunday's @ 4	3 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	4 Mission Board 7:00 p.m.	5	6 Foreign Relations	7	8 Betty Maher 12:00-2:00 (Sanctuary)
9 Choir 9:00 Child Care/ Toddler Class 9:00 Church School 9:00 Sun. School Worship 10:15 Chinese School And Potluck 4-6	10 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	11 Foreign Relations Diaconate 7 p.m.	12 New Member Class 7:00 p.m.	13 Women's Lunch 11:45 Basta	14	15 Betty Maher 12:00-2:00 (Sanctuary)
16 Choir 9:00 Child Care/ Toddler Class 9:00 Church School 9:00 Sun. School Worship 10:15 Chinese School	17 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	18 Trustees Steward- ship 7:00 p.m.	19 Mark Reagan Rehearsal 7:00-9:00 New Member Class 7:00	20 Foreign Relations	21 Mark Reagan Rehearsal 7:00-9:00 p.m.	22 Betty Maher 12:00-2:00 (Sanctuary) Mark Reagan Recital 7p.m. Reserved 4:30-8:00 p.m.
23 Choir 9:00 Child Care/ Toddler Class 9:00 Church School 9:00 Sun. School Worship 10:15 Chinese School Science/ Religion Lecture 4:00	24 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	25 Church Council 7:00 p.m.	26	27 Foreign Relations Membership 7:00 p.m.	28	



BOOK REVIEWS OUR CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Here is another of the new books that has been added to our children's library.

Psalms for Young Children is written by Marie-Hélène Delval and illustrated by Arno.

This picture book will appeal to children from ages 4 to 8. "Author Marie-Hélène Delval hand-picked 40 Psalms and paraphrased them in simple words young children can easily understand.

She was careful to choose Psalms on topics children can relate to, but never dilutes the powerful emotions found in the original biblical text. For example, here is her paraphrase of Psalm 4:

'God, when I'm in my bed at night, I think about you. And then I'm not scared of anything. I can fall asleep quietly and in peace.'

And Psalm 51:

'When I do something wrong, forgive me, God. I want to feel like I've just been washed in clean water. I want to be like brand-new snow. I feel so happy when you forgive me.'

And Psalm 69:

'When I am sad, it feels like I'm underwater, like I'm stuck in the mud, or at the bottom of a dark hole. Pull me from this dark place, God! Save me! I need your help!'

The concept is a good one; Psalms are out of reach for most younger children, but Delval does a great job making the ups and downs of the Psalms relatable for kids. I also appreciate that children of many ethnicities are depicted.

—*Christian Children's Book Review*

"Joy, wonder, sadness, regret—the Psalms display the full richness of our emotions. In *Psalms for Young Children*, children can also express their feelings to God. Combining simple yet powerful images with equally simple but powerful text, this gentle collection paraphrases the Psalms so young readers can experience different emotions toward God. For example, Psalm 18 becomes 'God is like a warm, dry place during a storm. He protects me from things that might hurt me.'" — christianbook.com
Please feel free to look over all the selections in our church library. We have many books of interest to children, older youth, and adults.

Eddie Roberts
Children's Librarian



- 2 Noralee Balmer
- 3 Beth Parker
Maile-Gene Sagen
Keo Hoang
James Sangster
Matthew Gabel
- 5 Steven Hanson
- 6 John Hughes
- 7 Michael Romanowski
- 8 Larry Parsons
- 10 Frank Snider
Courtney Rowe
- 14 Cindy Jo Garten
Laura Gabel
- 15 Sharyn Reitz
- 16 David Balmer
- 20 Jeremy Ford
- 21 Nicole Pearson
- 22 Mary Bryant
- 23 Ethan Buck
- 24 Eugene Buck
- 25 Andrew Gabel
Michael Parysz
- 26 John Byrn
- 27 Nicole Neems
Christopher Reitz
Taylor McBurney
- 28 Thomas Mittman



CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE by Girl Scout Troop 5561 –

Members of Girl Scout Troop 5561 are requesting your help with a year-long service project to support literacy. The troop is collecting gently used children's books for the Family to Family program sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities. A collection box will be in Rockwood Hall through February 16th. All donations will be delivered to the Family to Family program director for the February meeting. Thank you very much for your support of this service project. Nicole Day – Junior Girl Scout Troop 5561

NEW MEMBER

Shelagh Hayreh was one of ten new members who joined our congregation in November. Shelagh grew up in Scotland and graduated with an M.A. in Classics from Glasgow. A long-time resident of Iowa City, she came to the United States in 1973 and worked as a hospital administrator. She enjoys gardening, travel, her involvement with the International Women's Club, and her work as a small claims administrator.

SUNDAYS AT FOUR PRESENTS QUAD CITIES CHORAL ARTS, JON HURTY, CONDUCTOR, FEBRUARY 2

We are excited to welcome the Quad City Choral Arts to our Sundays at Four series. A versatile and highly skilled ensemble, this auditioned group performs a wide variety of literature from choral chamber music to major choral works with orchestra. Members are as varied as the music they sing. Many singers are music teachers or choir directors in the area while others represent a variety of professions. This program will include diverse selections, including Benjamin Britten's beloved *Rejoice in the Lamb*. Although the Super Bowl is also on this date, the concert will be over in plenty of time to return home for kick off. A free will offering will be collected and the proceeds will benefit Shelter House.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—FEBRUARY 15

All men are invited to our monthly breakfast—no agenda, just good company, good conversation, and good food. On February 15 we'll meet at Sunny's Restaurant (formerly Lou Henri), 630 Iowa Ave., Iowa City. We gather around 8:00 a.m. and leave when we're done.

LOOK AHEAD TO LENT

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Our Board of Christian Education is reviving its tradition of a Pancake Dinner that evening. The Board will be serving pancakes from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Rockwood Hall. At 7:00 everyone is invited to the Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary.

UCC PROGRAM SUPPORTS IOWA CITY CENTER FOR WORKER JUSTICE

Near the end of 2013 we got the good news the Center for Worker Justice learned that they will be receiving a United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need grant of \$1300 for 2014. Jen Sherer and Bill Lovin were involved in the grant application process.

The Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa (CWJ) is a membership-based organization that unites low-wage workers across race, ethnicity and immigration status to pursue social and economic justice through education, leadership development, issue-based organizing, direct services, and community alliances.

The Center for Worker Justice seeks to improve Eastern Iowa communities by coordinating projects to address injustices in areas such as: workplace conditions, civil rights and discrimination, and access to education, housing, health care, transportation, and legal services.

The Center is currently prioritizing four main project areas: workplace justice, civil rights of immigrants, access to education, and the need for affordable housing.



ARC OPPORTUNITIES

The Arc of Southeast Iowa is a non-profit organization committed to being a leader in offering information, services and advocacy to individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and community.

Arc is currently looking for applicants in the Iowa City area to work, play and build friendships with individuals with disabilities in their homes and in the community. Their Direct Care Professionals have the opportunity to work with children and/or adults around our community and receive training from The Arc of Southeast Iowa.

This is a flexible, part-time position with good pay for a good cause. This is a great opportunity especially for retirees who want to give back or those looking for some extra hours. If you are interested in helping our community while getting paid please contact Adrienne Sullivan at 319-351-5017 or by e-mail at adriennesullivan@arcsei.org.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CLASS

You are more likely to encounter someone in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. *Anyone* can take the 12-hour Mental Health First Aid course, sponsored by the Veterans Rural Health Resource Center.

Two 6-hour classes, February 19 & 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Coralville Library. Pre-register by February 12. Contact Stacy Wittrock, stacy.wittrock@va.gov, 319-338-0581 ext. 3540 or Peggy Loveless, mhedspecialists@gmail.com, 319-351-3134.

THE SOUND OF FRIENDSHIP DESSERT CONCERT—FEBRUARY 8

The annual Compeer Sounds of Friendship Dessert Concert will be held February 8 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1300 Melrose Ave, Iowa City. Tickets for this fun-filled evening are \$20 for adults, \$10 for Jr. and Sr. High students, and \$5 for elementary students. Kids younger are free! Tickets are available at the door or at West Music in Coralville, 1212 Fifth St. or at the Community Mental Health Center, 505 E. College St., Iowa City.

INTERFAITH MOMS

Now in its second year, [Interfaithful Moms Gathering](#) is a fellowship of mothers representing diverse faith and religious backgrounds. Mothers of many ages are listening, learning, and reflecting on topics relevant to issues of faith and motherhood while establishing transformative relationships. Gatherings incorporate speakers, stories, discussions, and activities that weave together themes of motherhood and faith.

Gatherings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 9:30-11 am at First Presbyterian Church. Current participants include women from several of CRC's member organizations and attendance includes about ten participants at each gathering.

For more information, please contact Amanda Edwards at 319-930-0742. <http://interfaithfulmoms.com>
www.facebook.com/InterfaithfulMoms

SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE IN MARCH—YOU CAN HELP NOW

For the past sixteen years, an annual used book sale has raised money to support Shelter House. The book sale has become an ecumenical event, thanks to the many congregations, individuals, and the Shelter House Board who help make it possible each year. The 2013 book sale will run for two days: Saturday March 1 and Sunday March 2.

Once again, the Consultation of Religious Communities invites our participation. Opportunities include:

- Bring used books to the church, where they will be stored until the first week of February, at which time they can be brought to the sale site. CDs and DVDs are also welcome. We are NOT ABLE to accept donations of magazines, encyclopedias, condensed books, textbooks, puzzles, or games.
- Sturdy boxes are needed for collection, transport to the site, and for storing remaining books after the sale.
- Sponsors are needed to cover the expenses incurred (paying the utilities at the site, newspaper ads, printing posters, hiring Shelter House clients to move book boxes, etc.). Sponsorship is \$25.00. Tax deductible checks can be made out to Shelter House, with memo designation to "Book Sale" and sent to Sarah Fletcher at Shelter House, 429 Southgate Ave., Iowa City, IA, 52240. All profits from the book sale will go to the Shelter House Operating Fund.
- Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks: sorting books prior to the sale, publicizing the sale, helping with set-up and/or clean-up, packing up books after the sale for transport to storage.
- For more information or to help with the sale, contact Sarah Fletcher at Shelter House, 338-5416, ext. 202.

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 start to 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.

FAMILY TO FAMILY PROGRAM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The CRC's Family-to-Family Partnership Program needs volunteers for the next Family Night. They are looking for 10-15+ volunteers from faith communities to help facilitate Family Night for next month or the coming months (4th Thursdays). Family Night helps connect neighborhood families, helps parents access educational programming and resources, and provides supervised, creative activities for children of all ages. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve meals (and provide it if you can), supervise children, and clean up. Next month's Family Night will be a Resource/Volunteer Fair held on Thursday, January 23 from 6 - 9 PM. Detailed guidelines will be given for those interested in volunteering. Please contact F2F AmeriCorps member Abby Jessen for more information or to volunteer: (319) 329-1492 or family2familyic@gmail.com.



E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you are receiving the newsletter by mail, and you have an e-mail address, please call the church office 319-337-4301 to give me your e-mail address. Thank you

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2014 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

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: **The Rev. William Lovin**

Music Director: John Hughes
Christian Ed Dir. Megan Beardmore
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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Financial Secretary.....sharynreitz@msn.com
Christian Ed. Dir.....megan-beardmore@uiowa.edu
Music Director.....uccicmudir@uccic.org

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org

