

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ January 2014



Friends in Christ:

Martin Luther once spoke of the coming of Christ as "the wonderful exchange." Our wretchedness for God's blessedness.

I do hope that you got what you wanted for Christmas. Even if not, we can take some comfort in the hope of the old song: "Sometimes, you get *what you need*."

Our wretchedness for God's blessedness. The wonderful exchange.

The good news of Christmas is that God has indeed given us what we need. God has fulfilled, if not our "Christmas wishes" at least our deepest hopes. The wholeness, the fullness of life that God brings in Jesus Christ might not be what we wanted—but it is what we need.

For years I have carried in my Bible a prayer that was written by an unknown Civil War soldier.

I asked for strength that I might achieve; I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of human beings. I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I had asked for, but everything that I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered; I am, among all people, most richly blessed.

I do hope that you got what you wanted for Christmas.

But the good news that we celebrate in these days—and really, all year long—is the reality that we do indeed get what we need—God with us, Emmanuel.



SERVING THE CHURCH 2014



Happy New Year

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.

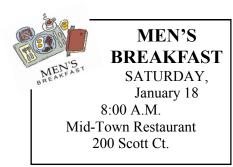
If you cannot serve on the assigned date please call someone else on the list to arrange a swap with them.

January	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY		
5	Judy Doorenbos Donna Hirst	Stuart & Deborah Cobb Mark McBurney & Tracy Taylor	Laura Stunz Ann Aschoff		
12	Cindy Parsons Connie Parsons	Jason & Jeanna Beerends Eugene & Jeannie Clark	Eugene Buck Elizabeth Oakes		
19	Maile Sagen Mary Shepherd	Todd & Courtney Nelson Shirley Woolums Betsy Boyd	John & Randee Fieselmann		
26	Bruce & Kathy Reynolds	Raven & Courtney Rowe Karen Smith Tina Koepnick	Ann Ghabel Fern Weir		

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

<u>please call the assigned</u>

Deacon of the month—Meg Bayless—319-351-5947





JANUARY 2014									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday V	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
			Church Office Closed	Chinese School New Year Cele- bration 4:30-6p.m.	3	4			
Choir Church School Adult Ed Sunday School	Narcotics Anonymous Noon	7 Mission Board 7p.m. Church Council 7p.m. Stewardship 7 p.m. Diaconate 7 p.m.	8	9	10	11			
Choir Church School Adult Ed Sunday School	Narcotics Anonymous Noon	14 Membership 4 p.m. Council 7 p.m.	15	16	17	Men's Breakfast 8:00a.m. Mid-Town			
19 Choir Adult Ed Church School Sunday School	Narcotics Anonymous Noon Church Office is Closed	Trustees 7p.m. Foreign Relations Trustees 7 p.m.	22	23	24	25			
26 Choir Chinese School 1:30- 4:30 Ordination Nathan Willard Annual mtg. after Worship No Adult Ed	Narcotics Anonymous Noon	Foreign Relations	29 C.E. Board 7 p.m.	30	31				

NEW MEMBERS

On November 24, 10 women and men joined Congregational UCC. Here's some information about each new member to help you get to know them. Please welcome them into our congregation.

Lee Barb Aspinwall-Wood was born in Appelton, WI, went to school at Oberlin where she majored in voice. She also has a masters in Music Education. She and he husband were married for 46 years and raised two daughters. She taught pre-school and public school music for a total of 35 years and worked with the Oberlin Conservatory Music Education Division for three years. She moved to Iowa City to be near family. Her hobbies and interests are music, knitting, gardening, reading, the League of Women Voters, and walking.

Amanda and Kirstin Bouma were married in our church in October 2012. Both are UI graduates. Amanda has a degree in library science and is currently working at Pearson. She is interested in reading and enjoys knitting. Kirstin is a music therapist and works as a counselor at Successful Living. Her interests include music, crafts, and writing.

Pat Goeldner moved to Iowa City last summer to be near family after living for over 40 years in Washington, DC. Her work life was in social services with organizations helping refugees, homeless persons, hospice patients, and seniors. For 41 years she was ma member of the Church of the Pilgrims, a downtown, open and welcoming Presbyterian congregation. Her hobbies include hiking, reading, sewing, and music.

Julia Molony and Chris O'Neill were married in November 2012. They recently moved to Iowa City from Minneapolis because Chris began a medical residency in the Emergency Medicine program. Julia is working as a statistician for her Minneapolis based employer, a medical research non-profit. The have an old sweet dog name Sonja, who loves to go for walks. They fill their free time with trying restaurants, exploring the town, and visiting friends and family around the country. They are excited to get to know the church and settle into Iowa City.

Jerry Walker is a retired UI professor of pediatric dentistry. He works part time, walks a lot, and is still rehabbing from his third total knee replacement. He enjoys volunteering at Southeast Junior High, watching sports, track officiating, and being with friends and family.

Steve and Sue Wolken both attended UI. Sue grew up in the Congregational Church and both attended and worked at Congregational UCC while a student. Before retirement she taught at Hoover Elementary School. She is a docent at the Hoover Presidential Library. She enjoys sewing, crafts, gardening, travel and volunteer work. Steve is a retired ophthalmologist who is a UI ophthalmology adjunct faculty member and occasionally works at the VA hospital. He serves on the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Board of Trustees, on a committee of the UI Alumni Association, and on a local bank board. He is interested in running, travel, farming, and volunteer work.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. INTERFAITH CELEBRATION

The 17th annual interfaith celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held Sunday, January 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2675 E. Washington St., in Iowa City.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATIONS ON JANUARY 5

Epiphany (the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the coming of the Magi) falls twelve days after Christmas, on January 6 each year. We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 5. In our 10:15 worship service we will bring our observance of Christmas to a conclusion, hearing the story of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew and sharing in the sacrament of communion. After worship our festivities continue in Rockwood Hall where we will enjoy Epiphany Cake. If you find a coin in your slice of cake, you will be crowned the king/queen of the festival! (And you get to do the children's sermon and help bake the cake for Epiphany 2015.)



OUR CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



"Does Jesus Really Love Me; a Gay Christian's pilgrimage in Search of God in America" by Jeff Chu

In his book, gay journalist Jeff Chu examines homosexuality and the Church. The author was raised Baptist but currently attends a church of a different denomination in NY City.

Jeff Chu recently made a yearlong pilgrimage across the U.S. to seek out stories from the faithful who have struggled to come to terms with a religion that preaches love for all, but that often practices intolerance toward those because of their sexual orientation.

Chu interviewed more than 300 people in 28 states and traveled more than 20,000 miles. He visited churches on both ends of the spectrum from Baptist and Evangelical to Episcopal and some congregations of the predominantly gay Metropolitan Community Church.

Chu says what he found "was a country that deeply wants to love, but is conflicted about how to do so". Chu shows that the issue of the L.G.B.T. community is dividing many Christian denominations.

Jeff Chu is a journalist with degrees from Princeton Univ and the London School of Economics. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Book Review by Judy Doorenbos

Good Books at a Good Price for a Good Purpose!

For the past fourteen years, the Shelter House Annual Used Book Sale has raised money to support Shelter House. The 2014 book sale will once again take place at Sycamore Mall on March 1st (10:30 AM to 4:30 PM) and March 2nd (noon to 4 PM).

Please consider donating books to sell (tax forms will be available). Donations may be brought in advance to Rockwood Hall.

CDs and DVDs are also welcome but we are not able to accept donations of magazines, encyclopedias, condensed books, textbooks, puzzles, or games.

- 4 Bryon Day Michael Mittman
- 7 Kirsten Bouma Olivia Groff
- 8 Bryan Clemons Eva Leighton-Dick
- 9 Sarah Ghabel
- 11 Diane Olson
- 15 Katherine Amos Timothy Woolums
- 18 Carol Searls John Fieselmann
- 19 Connie Parsons Thomas Hanson
- 20 Kenneth Kuntz Eric Reynolds
- 21 Barbara McFarland Madilyn Deifell
- 23 Susie Brown
- 24 Isaac Chen Julie Jacobsen
- 25 Thomas Castle Thomas Brookfield
- 28 Robyn Wood Groff Tyler Seidl
- James SmithWalter Jensen

Everyone Loves a Sale!

The 2014 Ecumenical Winter Wear Distribution is next October. But, the good sales are right now! Please consider a donation to this worthy cause while you can take advantage of the after Christmas sales.

Let's Celebrate Together!

Your Mission Board and the University of Iowa would like to encourage you to join with others to celebrate Martin Luther King Day.

Events

Annual MLK Interfaith Worship Service

Date & Time: Sunday, January 19, 2014, 7 P.M.

Location: St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2675 E. Washington,

Iowa City, IA

Audience: UI and Iowa City area people -- All are welcome!

Sponsor: Consultation of Religious Communities of Johnson County

Unity March

Date & Time: Monday, January 20, 2014, 3:30 P.M.

Location: East steps of Old Capitol Museum

Audience: All are welcome!

Time to Remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Date & Time: Monday, January 20, 2014, 4 P.M. Location: Senate Chambers of Old Capitol Museum

Audience: All are welcome!

Bringing the Vision Home: Celebrating Iowa Women of the Civil Rights Movement

Date & Time: Thursday, January 23, 2014, 6 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. Location: Black Box Theater in the Iowa Memorial Union

Audience: All are welcome! Please join us as we celebrate the legacy of Iowa women who contributed to the civil rights movement. Opening remarks by Dr. Georgina Dodge, Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Vice-President, a special spoken word performance by Wisdom Beyond Words and a multi-media tribute to Iowa women civil rights activists. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

"Weapons for Overcoming Adversity" Spoken Word Workshop by Wisdom Beyond Words

Date & Time: Thursday, January 23, 2014, 2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Location: Black Box Theater in the Iowa Memorial Union

This workshop will demonstrate to poets how to turn their life stories into poems. Participants will learn how to find their voice, master public performing, and utilize poetic tools like similes and metaphors. The most important tool participants will learn is how to incorporate poetry, fund, and inspiration into 90 minutes. Workshop is limited to 25 participants. Email Kendra-malone@uiowa.edu for registration information.

Gun Violence Event January 9, 2014

This event takes place at the Coralville Arts Center



Committed To the Work Of The Church

As our boards and committees do their work throughout the year they are always looking ahead and their vision and enhancing their mission for the next year.

When the Trustees start preparing a new budget, they ask each board and committee to estimate their financial needs for their upcoming activities. The Stewardship Board then begins the annual pledging campaign.

When all of the pledges and giving estimate have been received from the members and friends of the church, the Trustees can determine how much money is available for the proposed ministry and mission of the church for the coming year.

Now is the time for all of us who are committed to the life and work of The Congregational United Church of Christ to show that commitment by completing a giving estimate or pledge card.

The Stewardship Board thanks all who have turned in their cards. We are confident that more cards will be coming. With the help of all members and friends, the Trustees can maintain the quality of work that all committees envision and require.

If you have not yet made your commitment, now is the time to do so. Please return your commitment cards to the church office or a member of the Stewardship Board.

Your Stewardship Board,

Bryan Clemons, David Deifell, Tom Mittman, Rick Ruppert, Derek Willard, Diana Coberly, Chuck Connerly, Chris Knapp

ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 26

The Annual Meeting of the Congregational United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, January 26, in the sanctuary, following our 10:15 worship service. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2014, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary.

GIVING at YEAR END

The end of the year is a good time to remember the commitments we made during the year. Sometimes we forget about a gift we wanted to make: a gift to the food pantry; extra support for a particular program; a memorial gift for someone special; or even a commitment to the general ministries or the Capital Campaign of Congregational UCC.

Now is the time to make that gift! The calendar year is rapidly coming to a close. If you want to include that gift in your charitable deduction for tax purposes this year, now is the time! Everything that happens here happens because we give. And thanks again for your generosity throughout 2013.

NATHAN WILLARD ORDINATION

The Eastern Iowa Association of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ will ordain Nathan Willard to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, January 26. The service of ordination will take place in our sanctuary. Everyone is invited to this joyous occasion. As the newsletter is going to press, the exact time is yet to be decided. It will be in the mid-afternoon. Watch the bulletin and listen for announcements during worship on Sundays for more information.

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.

THANKS!

Over \$2,300 was raised to support the relief work of Church World Service following Typhoon Haiyan. CWS is supporting early response and recovery efforts of fellow members of the ACT Alliance that have significant operations in the Philippines. These partners include the United Methodist Committee on Relief, Lutheran World Relief, Christian Aid and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. Thank you for your generous help.

The 1105 Project collaboration wants to thank Iowa City organist Gerhild Krapf and those who attended her November 16 recital for generating nearly \$2,500 toward our building fund. Our thanks also to the Congregational United Church of Christ of Iowa City for allowing Gerhild to use its sanctuary for the recital and her many hours of practice. Without these gifts, the event would not have been possible. The building at 1105 Gilbert Ct. will be the new home of the Free Lunch Program, the Domestic Violence Program, NAMI in Johnson County, and the Crisis Center.

TRANSITIONS

Birth—Alice Lillian Umlah, daughter of Laura and Brian Umlah and granddaughter of James Savage on November 29.

Death—Shirley Carew December 21, 2013

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 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).

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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

HOW TO CONTACT US

Tuesday—Friday......8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone: 319-337-4301

E-mail:

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org

