



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
JULY 2016



Friends in Christ:

One verse of “American the Beautiful” sings of “patriot dream that sees beyond the years...”—of the hope that looks forward to a new age when God will wipe away every tear, of a love of country that seeks the best for the nation and its people. It is a beautiful vision.

But we also know of the journey sung about in “Lift Every Voice and Sing”:

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.

That hymn is often regarded as the African-American national anthem. Recent events in Orlando have shown us that many others are still on this path as well.

Patriot dreams must look closely at what is in order to grasp a vision of what might be.

Patriotism can be a great good. The love of country leads people to make great and valuable sacrifices as soldiers and as civilians. At the same time, in pointing out what he called the “paradox of patriotism”, Reinhold Niebuhr observed that patriotism transforms individual unselfishness into national selfishness. He warned that unqualified loyalty to the nation “is the very basis of the nation’s power and the freedom to use that power without moral restraint.”

There are many problems with patriotism

And yet, with its problems there is possibility in patriotism as well.

William Sloane Coffin said: “There are three kinds of patriots, two bad, one good. The bad are the uncritical lovers and the loveless critics. Good patriots carry on a lover’s quarrel with their country, a reflection of God’s lover’s quarrel with all the world.”

Loving critics recognize that the very efforts we have made to secure our nation’s future—drilling for oil, invading nations to fight terrorists, freeing the financial markets from regulation—have made us even more insecure and vulnerable.

Patriot dreams call for justice in the land. God calls us to acts of mercy and compassion.

Let us celebrate and give thanks for the toil and blood and treasure that allowed this nation to take our first steps to freedom, for the toil and blood and treasure that secured that freedom for all people, and for the toil and blood and treasure that continues to allow this imperfect nation, with our flawed leaders and flawed citizens, to move forward in freedom.

May God raise up within us and among us a new patriotism that sees and seeks this nation’s good.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, July 3, we will mark the end of the Iowa City Jazz Festival with a jazz worship service. The Dick Watson quartet will provide the music for our worship. Please join us—and bring some friends along.

CHURCH PICNIC—JULY 17

Our annual church picnic will be held during the afternoon of Sunday, July 17, from 5-7 PM at [Shelter #12](#) in Lower City Park. Bring your own table service and a dish to share. The Membership Committee will provide meat and lemonade, tea and water. Bring a lawn chair and lawn and/or table games to play. Some bug repellent might be needed also. All members and friends of the church are invited.

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.

CHRIS NAKIELSKI HIRED AS CHOIR DIRECTOR

At its May meeting, the Church Council approved the hiring of Chris Nakielski as our new Choir Director, following Patrick Zubiata's decision to move back to California. Chris is a student at the University of Iowa, pursuing his doctorate in choral conducting. He has served as a substitute director for our choir when Patrick Zubiata was out of town. Chris has a Master's degree from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago and a Bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Ripon College (where our former choir director, John Hughes, now teaches). He has extensive experience in conducting and performing in choirs. He also performed for five years in the Chicago based Ben Ripani Music Co., a folk/rock band.

MEMBER GATHERINGS

The Women's Lunch will be held on July 21 beginning at 11:45 at Basta in downtown Iowa City. Please contact the office to reserve your seat. There will be NO Men's Breakfast this month.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON – SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 Another fun event for your calendar. 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 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

TOGATHER TOGETHER OFFERING ON JULY 17

ToGather Together (TGTg) provides free school supplies for 3,000 children & youth in need in Johnson County. TGTg is a project started by the Consultation of Religious Communities and involves approximately 30 different faith communities, many businesses, Johnson County social services groups and many, many individuals. As the need continues to grow in our area we are seeing an increase in requests—what started as an effort to provide supplies for 200 children from the years 2000-2007 has now grown to over 3,000 children & youth in 30 schools, including 22 elementary schools, 5 junior high schools and 3 high schools.

This year, instead of asking for school supplies, our Mission Board will receive a special offering to be used by IC-CSD schools to purchase school supplies to support children & youth in Johnson County. **The offering will be received during worship on Sunday, July 17.** Thank you for your continued support of ToGather Together.

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 newcomers 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.

Steering committee members are carrying out in-depth interviews with a number of church members. Those selected so far are people with a long history in the church, having attended and been involved for many years. Others being interviewed are those who have been particularly active with some aspect(s) of church operations, possibly over a shorter time period.

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. Some people are excellent observers who could add interesting points of view. If you are interested in being interviewed and haven't been called, please contact Jane Murphy (murphyjane51@gmail.com or tel: 351-9079).

Finally, the committee would like everyone's help in our quest for personal information. 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.

Our Adult Library

"The Cities That Built The Bible"

By Robert R. Cargill

Quoted from book cover:

"For many, the names Bethlehem, Babylon, and Jerusalem are known as the setting for epic stories from the Bible. What often gets missed is that these cities are far more than just the setting for the Bible and its characters---they were instrumental to the creation of the Bible as we know it today."

"The Cities that Built the Bible" is a magnificent tour through fourteen cities. Cargill blends archaeology, biblical history, and his personal journey as he explores these cities and their role in the creation of the Bible. He includes photos of artifacts, dig sites, ruins and relics."

"Cargill reveals surprising facts such as that there were numerous nonbiblical books written about the patriarchs, Jesus, and the apostles in antiquity, and how far more books were left out of the Bible than were allowed in."

"The Cities that Built the Bible" is a fascinating exploration that sheds new light on the Bible.

Robert R. Cargill is an assistant professor of classics and religious studies at the University of Iowa. He is the author of "Qumran through (Real) Time" and he has appeared in or hosted television documentaries on CNN, the History channel, and National Geographic.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee



Our Children's Library

"Now It Is Summer"

Written By Eileen Spinelli

Illustrated by Mary Newell DePalma

It seems to be human nature, for both young and old, to always want what we don't have. Using this theme once again, Eileen Spinelli introduces us to a young mouse in summer, dreaming of fall.

Questions are used to jump-start the story and also woven throughout the narrative. This involves young listeners in the story and encourages them to call out answers and ask their own questions.

The author uses an interesting variety of words and phrases such as "dapple the air," "spattered sweet with grass cuttings," "leap laughing into leaves," and "gurgling surf."

Children from ages 4 through 8 would enjoy this book.

"Constructed as a back-and-forth between a young mouse who yearns for cinnamon muffins, jack-o'-lanterns, piles of leaves, school's start and other tokens of autumn, and his mother's counter-invitations to enjoy fresh peaches, a picnic on the beach, a glass of cold lemonade and like pleasures of summer, Spinelli's narrative is less about realistic dialogue than about poetic arrangements of sounds and rhythms: 'Will it be autumn soon? / Will a leafy breeze waken me / by ruffling the curtains at my window? / Will it dapple the air with apple-y scent? / Soon?'. . . The soft visual and verbal cadences make this as apt for bedtime reading as for providing reassurance to impatient young mouselings that present joys will indeed in time give way to future ones.'"

—Kirkus Reviews

"Over and over, in this seasonal picture book, a little mouse asks his mother, 'Will it be autumn soon?' and he describes yet another aspect of the season that fills him with longing, . . . Each time, after answering the same question yet again, his patient mother leads him back to the pleasures of summer, unfolding all around him, and encourages him to enjoy 'now.' Even children who love summer best may find themselves wavering as they listen to the single-minded character aching for fall and recalling its highlights."

—Booklist

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



Our Young Person Library

"Pax"

By Sara Pennypacker

When Pax, an orphan fox, is just a few days old he is adopted by Peter and raised as a pet. Peter and Pax are able to communicate their thoughts and wishes. Peter is still recovering from the accidental death of his mother. When Peter's father decides seven years later that Pax must be set free because a war is coming, their worlds are completely torn apart. Through alternate chapters Pete and Pax begin a search to reunite. However, the impact of the approaching war affects both of the characters. Pax labels the humans as "war-sick" after witnessing the devastation being created.

Some reviewers are comparing this story to E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* in its honest portrayal of the interactions between humans and animals. Many feel this will become a classic of children's literature.

This is marked for ages 8-12, but it would be wonderful story for the whole family to enjoy and to read aloud together. Take a look on the new book shelf in Rockwood Hall to enjoy this special book.

Andrea Rauer
Library Committee



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, **Tom Sandersfeld**, know of any changes.

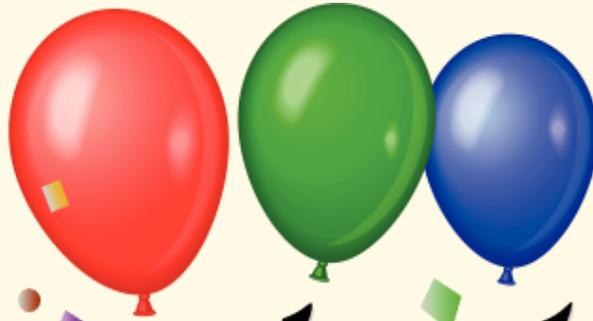
He can be reached at 319-430-9295 or thomassandersfeld@hotmail.com

JULY	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
3	Cynthia Kemp Lee Wood	Jo Benda and Charlie Platz Andrea and John Rauer	Sharyn & John Reitz
10	Barb and Carroll Hanson	Candace Noble Jeanne Bonde Kevin Koepnick Marie Von Behren	Kathy Fait Fuller John Fuller
17	Jer McCarty Betsy Henson	Brian and Laura Umlah David and Kathleen Wilder	Laura Stunz Thomas Mittman
23	Willis and Barb Sisley	James and Karen Smith Jeff Barton Marni Campbell	Brian and Ginny Clemons
31	Doug and Connie Parsons	Erin and Dave Brown Candace Noble Jeanne Bonde	Kai and Amanda Bouma

JULY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 - Jazz Festival Begins through Sunday	2 - Citizenship Class 10 am
3 - Communion Worship 9:15 am -Special Jazz music - EEC Sales -	4 - Independence Day -OFFICE CLOSED	5 - Mission Board 7 pm	6 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon	7	8	9 -Citizenship Class 10 am
10 -Worship 9:15 am	11	12 - FRC Luncheon Noon	13 -Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon	14	15	16 - No Men's Breakfast in July - Citizen-ship Class 10 am
17 - Worship 9:15 am - Share The Harvest - TGTO Offering -Church Picnic	18	19 - Stewardship Board 4 pm	20 - FRC Luncheon Noon - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon	21 -Women's Lunch at Basta Restaurant in downtown Iowa City at 11:45 am	22	23 - Last Citizenship Class 10 am
24 -Worship 9:15 am	25	26	27 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon	28	29	30
31 -Worship 9:15 am						

JULY



Birthdays of the Month

7/1 Dean Woodhouse

7/3 Bob Hanson

7/4 Vicki Thomae
Brian Umlah

7/8 Bill Lovin

7/9 Eli Shepherd
Benjamin Hofer

7/10 Kathy Fait
Colin Beerends

7/11 Pam Willard

7/13 Tom Henson

7/15 Hermine McLeran
Ella Lewis

7/18 Jo Ann Benda

7/19 Claire Ashman

7/20 Nicole Day

7/22 Ruth Kuntz

7/23 Joan Parsons
Kyle Thomae

7/24 Steve Wolken
David Wilder

7/25 Jackie Searls

7/26 Marie Von Behren

7/27 Grace Tully
Candace Noble

7/28 Mitike Schumm

7/30 Ann Romanowski
Jane Kinney
Kathleen Wilder

7/31 Christine Taylor
John Henson
Stuart Cobb

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY 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 (8/1):	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