



# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

June 2014



Friends in Christ:

I read recently that if Iowa City had an official bird, it would be the Tower Crane. They're everywhere! On both sides of the river construction is going on at a fever pitch. I've been watching for a couple of years now as the Bio-medical Discovery Building has emerged from a very deep hole in the ground, its green scales reminiscent of Godzilla, and now lumbers toward its long-announced spring 2014 completion. The Children's Hospital, a new dorm, and the new Voxman music building are all in various stages of progress.

These are just a small, albeit impressive, part of the building and the life that has been going on around here for a long time. The construction in Hubbard Park unearthed items from residents of the area over 150 years ago as well as Native American arrowheads from 3,000 years ago. Iowa City keeps growing, keeps developing, and keeps changing.

Congregational UCC is, of course, part of this always changing community. After a new roof, a restored parking lot, new sidewalks, new foundation stones, our projects on our building continue this summer. We will be making our front doors more easily accessible. A new sign out front will let everyone know what's going on inside.

Purd Deitz, a minister in the Evangelical and Reformed Church (one of the UCC predecessor denominations), wrote a beautiful hymn about the building that we do. Here's part of it from *The New Century Hymnal*:

We would be building; temples still undone  
O'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift,  
Waiting till love can raise the broken stone,  
And hearts creative bridge the human rift.  
We would be building; Architect Divne,  
Reveal the shape of life in your design.

The Rev. Deitz prays: "O keep us building, Master..." And so we do. Work and change continue around us. We, too, continue to work and change. Always our congregation builds on the firm foundation of God's love in Christ.

Peace,

*Bill*

## IOWA UCC CONFERENCE WELCOMES KRISTA TIPPETT

Friday, June 6, 2014 at 7:00pm

Benton Auditorium in Scheman Building, ISU

IF you are attending the 2014 Recharge through normal registration processes, you have a ticket for this event. If you are NOT attending 2014 Recharge but wish to attend Krista Tippett's performance, here is the opportunity to register for this special event and pay online!

Online registration/payment link: <https://secure.accesssacs.com/access/eventlink.aspx?id=lgOyhLAa%2bjPrs%2byaRHTCJw%3d%3d>. REMEMBER...you must print off your receipt and bring it with you as your ticket. NO ONE will be allowed in the doors without their receipt/ticket.

**CROP walk 2014** was held on April 13, 2014. Many thanks to the people from our congregation who walked, raised funds or contributed money to the cause. Last year over \$30,000 was raised, with one fourth of the money dedicated to the Crisis Center of Johnson County, and the rest to national and international hunger relief efforts through Church World Service. Special thanks to Katie Hoefer, Shelby Stacey, Bill Lovin, and Betsy Henson. Laurie Stunz, Congregational UCC CROP walk chair.

### **Riverside Theatre in the Park COSTUME SHOP OPEN HOUSE**

**Downstairs at our Church on June 15 at 10:15 a.m.**

Once again we will host the summer home of the Riverside Theatre in the Park Costume Shop. The Shop will be located in the lower level of our Education Annex from mid-May to early July. On Sunday June 15 right after church, you are invited to drop in and see the costume operation in operation. Tyler Wilson, this season's head designer, and the costume staff will be there to explain, show costumes and field questions. Riverside Theatre invites you to see those costumes on stage in City Park's Riverside Festival Stage. This summer's season includes *Othello* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, (abridged)[revised]*.

### **Recital**

On Monday, June 2, at 7:30 pm in Riverside Recital Hall (formerly St. Thomas Moore Church), a harp recital will be presented by Dan Yu, Chinese unanimous winner of the Gold Medal and two musical interpretation prizes at the prestigious 5th USA International Harp Competition of 2001. Her father Ji-Xue Yu studied flute with Roger and Betty Bang Mather at UI in the 80s, and Dan is giving this recital in Roger's memory. Betty will play one piece with Dan. If you google <dan yu harp> you can read about her, see pictures of her, and hear her play.

**Food Bank & Shelter House Collection:** June-Our church has a long history of caring support of both of these missions. Once again we have the opportunity to give generously to these local community organizations which serve those in need. Here is a list of some of the items that they both are in need of... \*Sample size toiletries (i.e. Deodorant, personal hygiene products), \*Laundry products, \*Foot powder, \*Ear plugs, \*Cash and checks to purchase food, \*Disposable diapers sizes 3,4,5, \*Over the counter medications, \*Nonperishable foods, \*Grains such as rice, \*Facial tissues, toilet paper, napkins, \*Grocery store gift cards, \*Iowa City/Coralville bus tickets. Both organizations are grateful for cash and checks made out to the organization. The food bank has access to purchasing food at a substantial saving over what an individual can purchase. Look for the collection boxes in the Fellowship Hall now and through June. Cash and checks may be given to Jane Kinney, Edie Roberts, and Sharyn Reitz or mailed to the Church office. Thank you for your generous donations!

**Chamber Singers of Iowa City-**On behalf of the Chamber Singers of Iowa City, I thank you for the use of your church for our concert last Sunday the 18th. It was a huge success and as a token of our appreciation, I'm enclosing a check for \$300.00 to use as you wish.

We also appreciate the assistance of your parishioners who helped with logistics and making us feel welcome. Thank you again. Barbara Schanbacher-President

# SERVING THE CHURCH 2014

# JUNE

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.**

June	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
1	Judy Doorenbos Ethel Bloesch	Stuart & Deborah Cobb Eugene Buck & Elizabeth Oakes	Ann Ghabel Laura Stunz
8	Ryan Downing & Jen Sherer	Bryon, Kathleen, Benjamin & Nicole Day	Chris & Vernetta Knapp
15	Bob & Yvette Jury	Dwight, Connie, Temesgen & Mititke Schumm	Delmar & Susie Brown
22	Ed & Heather Leighton-Dick	Scott, Patricia, Micaela & Alex Hansche	Rick & Phyllis Ruppert
29	Susan McConnell Annette Michaels	John & Sharyn Reitz William & Jody Murph	Bruce Reynolds & Kathy Thede-Reynolds

**If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone,  
please call the assigned  
Deacon of the month—Betsy Henson (319)351-0274.**



**MEN'S  
BREAKFAST**  
SATURDAY  
June 14, 2014  
8 a.m.  
Mid-Town



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, June 19th 2014  
11:45 a.m.  
Place TBD watch Bulletin for  
more information.

# June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Choir Worship/ Communion Equal Exchange Coffee Sales Recital 5 p.m.	2 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	3 Diaconate Mission Board 7 p.m.	4	5	6	7
8 Choir's Last Day John Hughes Last Day Worship Strengthen the Church Mission offering	9 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	10	11	12	13	14
15 Worship 9:15 a.m.  Ecumenical Work Camp Washington IL.	16 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	17 Trustees Stewardship 7 p.m.	18	19 Women's Lunch 11:45 a.m.	20	21 Pride Festival
22 Worship 9:15 a.m.	23 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	24 Foreign Relations Noon  Church Council 7 p.m.	25	26 Membership Board 4 p.m.	27	28
29 Worship 9:15 a.m.	30 Narcotics Anonymous Noon  Serve @ Free Lunch Program					



# OUR CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



One of the new additions to our Children's Library is Images of God for Young Children written by Marie-Hélène Delval and illustrated by Barbara Nascimbeni.

God is a difficult concept for adults, let alone children. As the introduction to this book tells us, "Even though we cannot see or touch God, the Bible does describe many ways that we can still discover God in our world. This volume offers a collection of these images, presented here in language that is appropriate for children while remaining faithful to the spirit of the biblical texts."

One of these images is, "God is Love. God is love, and love is patient and considerate. It is not jealous; it is not proud. Love is not angry; it forgives everything. Love lasts forever."

"How do you explain an abstract idea to children? This book tries to explain who God is by means of visual, concrete images or analogies that young children can grasp.

40 different themes, such as 'God is light, God is savior, God is a promise' are explored by means of a full page, thought-provoking illustration, as well as a few sentences which try to explain this description of God in simple terms. The illustrations are superb, and the book promises to offer an opportunity for parents to teach in their own words, who God is to their children as they work through this book."— R. Hayton

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. Especially during summer travel time, remember that our library has no due dates to miss.

Eddie Roberts  
Children's Librarian



- 1 Martha Winegarten  
Kari Seidl
- 3 Paula Forest
- 4 Nathaniel Minton  
Bryan Cobb
- 6 Gloria Lacina
- 8 Gavin Nelson
- 11 Derek Willard  
Alec Beckmann
- 12 Katelyn McBride
- 15 Susan McConnell
- 16 Ethel Bloesch
- 17 Molly Shepherd
- 18 Sally Strang  
Jan Dendinger  
Kelli Parsons
- 19 Pat Parysz
- 23 Donna Bertogli  
Melissa Jensen  
Julia Molony  
Carly Trout
- 25 Alejandra Brookfield

## **IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL IMPACTS SUNDAY TRAFFIC—JUNE 8**

The Iowa Arts Festival is three days of art, music, and food in downtown Iowa City—a fun time for people of all ages.

It also affects traffic around the church on Sunday morning. It's a small price to pay for this great event. But please remember that roads will be blocked off and it might take a little longer than usual to get to church on Sunday, June 8. Carpool with friends, bike or walk, or just leave home slightly earlier than usual. June 8 is Pentecost Sunday, so it will be a morning of celebration at Congregational UCC. Join us for worship and then head downtown with your family and/or friends.

## **PRIDE FEST 2014**

The Iowa City Pride 2014 Parade will take place on Saturday, June 21, starting at College Green Park at 12 noon. Congregational UCC will have a booth on the Ped Mall during the afternoon. Look for our banners that tell everyone, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Stop by and see us. If you'd like to help out at our booth, please call the church office—337-4301.

## **MILESTONES**

### **Birth**

Oscar James Lewis, son of Chris and Amy Lewis, grandson of Jim and Diane Jetter—April 30.

### **Graduations**

Elise McBurney and Lexine Schumm both graduated from Iowa City High School on May 23. Elise will be attending the University of Iowa. Lexine will be attending the University of Minnesota.

Alex Hansche graduated from Iowa State University on May 10 with degrees in Civil Engineering, Spanish, and International Studies.

Jake Koepnick graduated from the University of Iowa on May 17 with a BA in Chemistry.

Eric Reynolds received his M.D. degree from the Caver College of Medicine at UI on May 16.

Scott Mittman will maintain his undergraduate status at Luther College through the fall semester so that he can run one more cross country season (he applied for permission from the NCAA due to missing competition for a year due to injury) and write his senior paper. While his official graduation will be in December, he participated in the graduation ceremonies in May..

## **FRONT DOOR UPDATE**

One of the goals of our capital campaign was to make the Clinton St. doors to the church easier to open and therefore make our building more accessible. The doors have been a concern for many years and we are moving toward a solution. The Trustees recently discovered, however that the support for the stained glass window above the door was sagging. It will need to be reinforced and then the work on the doors can proceed. We expect all of this work to be done this summer.

**LOOK AHEAD TO JULY:** Our annual **ALL CHURCH PICNIC** will be held in the afternoon on Sunday, July 20. Please watch the Sunday bulletin and next month's newsletter for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE** - A Rummage and Bake Sale will be coming to The Congregational United Church of Christ On August 15th and 16th. It is not too early to begin sorting items you wish to donate as you do your spring cleaning. More detailed information will be in the newsletter and the Sunday bulletins in coming weeks. Please call one of the co-chairs – Sharyn Reitz 354-3138 or Hermine McLeran 338-4681 if you have questions.

**NAMI:** "Fifteen members of this congregation joined a virtual CUCC team for the NAMI Walk on April 26. They contributed a total of \$550 to the Johnson County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Proceeds from the Walk stay in Johnson County to offer support groups, classes, lectures and other programs for people living with mental illness and their families."



## 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.

### Two contributions were made recently.

- A \$50 direct donation was made to NAMI in addition to the free will collection from our last Sundays @ Four Concert (mentioned last month, \$303.36).
- Your generosity resulted in \$2695.71 being collected for One Great Hour of Sharing.

### Special thanks are offered.

The Mission Board would like to express their thanks to our congregation for making yet another all-church lunch such an enjoyable success. You embraced our, “Something Completely Different,” and, due to Del & Susie Brown, Bryan Clemons, Glenna Cobb, David Deifell, Kathy Fait & John Fuller, Donna Hirst, Marge Hoppin, Robin Thomas-Lovin, Doug Parsons, Edie Roberts, and Maile Sagen, over 75 people enjoyed lunch and became better acquainted without having to cook.

Extra appreciation goes to Ruth Kuntz who went above and beyond her hospitality role to ably assist the Mission Board Members.

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## On Our Calendar

### Food Bank and Shelter House Distribution—May/June

We will be collecting needed supplies in a collection box in Rockwood Hall for these agencies.

### Share the Harvest—Summer

Excess produce, plants, and seeds, etc. will be brought to church to be sold to donate to charity.

### Strengthen the Church Offering—June 8

This offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leader.

### Pride Fair—June 21

Iowa City Pride is committed to providing a variety of inclusive, diverse and fun events throughout the year, culminating with their annual Pride Celebration every June. They are the oldest and one of the largest Pride celebrations. Their meetings are open to the public and represent the diversity found in the GLBTQ community. They invite anyone to attend, provide input and get involve

Our church will staff a table at the Fair to acquaint everyone with us and our inclusivity.

### A Rummage and Bake Sale—August 15th and 16th

It is not too early to begin sorting items you wish to donate. Please call one of the co-chairs—Sharyn Reitz 354-3138 or Hermine McLeran 338-4681 if you have questions.

# PILGRIM HEIGHTS CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

## A bit of history -

For nearly 60 years the Iowa Conference of the Congregational Churches and then the United Church of Christ have owned the Pilgrim Heights Retreat Center in Tama County, Iowa. In 2007, Our Sacred Space, Inc. (a non-profit organization) was formed to manage and build the camp and retreat programming. 50% of the Our Sacred Space, Inc. (OSSI) board must be UCC members. In 2008 the ownership of the property, including timber and a 60 acre lake, was transferred to OSSI. Our Sacred Space, Inc. is an entity separate from the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Iowa Conference contributes \$10,000 annually to OSSI to help offset the cost of the camping program. The cost to maintain the site and programming for one day is \$500. It is common knowledge that church camps in general are not able to remain financially viable by only offering a summer camping program. For this reason, Pilgrim Heights relies on financial donations and volunteerism and is also available as a venue to other events to create income: weddings, retreats, reunions, day camps, meetings. The facility was recently accredited by the American Camping Association in 2013. Pilgrim Heights is complete with lodges, rustic cabins, A/C dining hall, and modern lodging. Hiking, fishing, boating and swimming are some of the popular activities at camp. Pilgrim Heights is located on Hwy. 30 west of Tama.

## Summer Camp -

It is time now to go out (without our high tech stuff) and enjoy nature and experience God's world. Please take a look at the Pilgrim Heights poster in Rockwood Hall. (You may even see pictures of some of our church family from years past!) There is a camp for everyone. You can experience camp for one day or up to a week. There are many options and themes. Brochures are available in Rockwood Hall.

\*All of the above information and more can be found on the website at [www.pilgrimheights.org](http://www.pilgrimheights.org) or if you have questions you can call 641.492.6165.

## SUMMER JOBS AT PILGRIM HEIGHTS

Are you (or someone you know) looking for a summer job?? Pilgrim Heights, the Iowa UCC Conference Church Camp, would love to hear from you! They have many opportunities available: kitchen staff, life guards, residential camp & day camp staff openings!

For Job Descriptions & Applications please visit: <http://www.pilgrimheights.org/getinvolved/employment>

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## Thirsty for more Bible study?

### Go deeper....

- in your knowledge of the Bible.
- in your faith development.
- in your connections with your church.

at DeWitt Academy for Theological Education.

Dive deeper into Biblical Studies and Christianity with College and Seminary professors and intentional learners like yourself.

Classes are offered five weekends (all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon) per year at DeWitt's UCC.

<http://www.uccdewitt.org/dewittacademy.html>







### **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](http://www.facebook.com/InterfaithfulMoms)

### **Summer Work Camp**

Summer Work Camp--The annual work camp will leave June 15, 2014 for a week of service in Washington, Illinois. This community continues to recover from a terrible tornado which severely hurt their town. We share the work with members of First Christian Church and the Disciples Church of Colfax. It is not yet clear what the exact tasks will be but the fellowship will be wonderful and so will the food. Contact Shirley Woolums (319-430-2906) or Mike Myer (319-354-0961) or Martha Ann Crawford (319-855-8340) if you are interested in joining us. The most important skill is a willing heart. Construction experience is not necessary.

### **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED PENTECOST SUNDAY**

What does church mean to you? Mission? Compassion? Community?...Praise? Prayer? Peace? There are as many different answers as there are people. But the value at the heart of every answer is the same: Love. The church is love.

Each year we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. The "Strengthen the Church" offering grows the United Church of Christ's future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the "Stillspeaking" Ministry, spreading the message of God's extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church.

### **CELEBRATE PENTECOST!**

Pentecost Sunday is June 8. As we celebrate God's Spirit coming to the people with "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3), we invite everyone to wear "flame colored" clothes—such as red, orange, or yellow.

On Sunday, June 8—Pentecost Sunday—we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

**Free Lunch Program**-There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those of you willing to donate food or time. Please take a moment to sign-up, the date we serve is June 30th.

## **TIME TO THINK “BACK TO SCHOOL!”**

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.

TGTg is seeking funds to purchase school supplies to support children & youth in Johnson County. If you are interested in providing monetary donations please send a check to “ToGather Together” at P.O. Box 2025, Iowa City, IA 52244.

Volunteers will be needed for set-up, sorting, & delivery in August.

To learn more about getting involved or for any questions, please contact a co-director: Karrie Craig, [thecraigfamily@mchsi.com](mailto:thecraigfamily@mchsi.com) or Marsha Lowe, [marshalowe@gmail.com](mailto:marshalowe@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continued support of ToGather Together.

## **STAFF CHANGES**

During worship on Sunday, May 18, we said good-bye to our interim Director of Christian Education, Megan Beardmore. Megan began working here in the fall of 2010, helping our then-new Director, Brianna Schwenk. When Brianna moved last summer, Megan stepped in as the interim Director while the CE Board planned for the future. Megan graduated from UI in May and will begin a Ph.D. program in Educational Psychology at the University of Colorado in the fall. The CE Board is currently searching for a new full-time Director of Christian Education.

Our choir director, John Hughes, will complete three years of service to our congregation on Sunday, June 8, Pentecost Sunday. John will defend his doctoral thesis in the fall and is taking a tenure-track position as director of choral activities at Ripon College in Wisconsin. John started as our choir director upon Richard Bloesch’s retirement that concluded 40 years in that position. He came in with grace, ability, and no small amount of courage and has been a worthy successor.

At its April meeting, the Church Council approved the hiring of Patrick Zubiate as our new choir director. Patrick is coming to Iowa City from Los Angeles to begin studies toward a Doctor of Music degree at UI. He has a Bachelor degree from Chapman University Conservatory of Music in Orange, CA, and a Master’s degree in conducting from California State University in Fullerton. He brings a wealth of conducting experience to this position.

## **SUMMER WORSHIP TIME CHANGE**

From Sunday, June 15 through Sunday, August 26, we will worship at 9:15 a.m.

In recent years we have worshipped year round at 10:15. Because our neighbors across Jefferson St. change their time of worship to 10:00, many people have had trouble finding a place to park. The Diaconate recommended and the Church Council consented to this change. Join us for worship an hour earlier this summer—at 9:15—and rejoice in parking and in the day that God has made!

And, speaking of summer worship...

## **YOUR CHANCE TO HELP WITH CHILDREN’S CHURCH THIS SUMMER**

Families with young children worship at Congregational UCC year round, and we continue to provide a warm welcome and special activities for children throughout the summer months. The Board of Christian Education will be staffing our “Children’s Church” during the sermon time of worship each week in the summer. As usual, children will be dismissed after the children’s message. The Board of CE invites members to enjoy some special time with the children of our church by leading or helping to lead a “Children’s Church” session. You can sign up for one or more Sunday dates on the sheets in Rockwood Hall. If you want more information, please contact the church office at 337-4301.

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

JUNE 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

**June 16-August 26**

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

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

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

Music Director:            John Hughes/Patrick Zubiato  
Christian Ed Dir.  
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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