



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
JUNE 2015



Friends in Christ—

The big religious news in May was the Pew Research Poll that found an ongoing decline in the number of people in the United States who identify as Christian. This seems to be the case across the board—the decline is seen not only among Mainline Protestants but also among Evangelical denominations. We are seeing, the people at Pew tell us, the rise of the “nones”—people with no religious affiliation.

Peter Manseau, the author of *One Nation under Gods*, recently suggested that “headlines to the contrary, we are not necessarily seeing a period of religious decline. Rather, this may be just the latest in a series of moments when more Americans are intent on custom-tailoring their religious identities.” During the Great Awakening of the 18th century, a large number of people suddenly started leaving old ways behind and taking new approaches to the life of faith. Manseau concludes: “It’s too soon to tell what the continuing negotiation between belief and unbelief described in the Pew study will bring, but the picture it provides of religious communities in flux suggests that the next Great Awakening — a transformation of the religious character of the nation as radical as it is unexpected — might be led by those with too many spiritual influences to choose just one.”

I’ve been reading all of these reports in the light of an article by blogger Rachel Held Evans, that’s been making the round among some of our members. Evans, the author of *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*, writes about the anxiety that all this change is causing among some church leaders. “Many churches have sought to lure millennials back by focusing on style points: cooler bands, hipper worship, edgier programming, impressive technology. Yet while these aren’t inherently bad ideas and might in some cases be effective, they are not the key to drawing millennials back to God in a lasting and meaningful way. Young people don’t simply want a better show. And trying to be cool might be making things worse.”

She says that recent research found that 67 percent of millennials prefer a “classic” church over a “trendy” one, and 77 percent would choose a “sanctuary” over an “auditorium.” Good news for us at Congregational UCC, especially when it also tells us that “millennials exhibit an increasing aversion to exclusive, closed-minded religious communities masquerading as the hip new places in town.” (Still, millennials have yet to warm to the word “traditional” with only 40 percent favoring it over “modern.”)

Here’s the thing: among people who don’t go to church, 87 percent say they see Christians as judgmental, and 85 percent see them as hypocritical. A similar study found that “only 8% say they don’t attend because church is ‘out of date,’ undercutting the notion that all churches need to do for Millennials is to make worship ‘cooler.’ As Evans puts it, “We’re not as shallow as you might think.”

Here at Congregational UCC, we’re, well let’s face it, kind of traditional when it comes to worship, inclusive in our welcome to all people, open-minded in regard to faith and life—something of a “modern classic” as I see it. This seems to be what a lot of people around Iowa City are looking for. Tell a friend. Bring a friend. Our doors are wide open all summer.

Peace,

*Bill*

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.

## **SUMMER WORSHIP TIME CHANGE**

From Sunday, June 7 through Sunday, August 16, we will worship at 9:15 a.m. Because our neighbors across Jefferson St. change their time of worship to 10:00 am during the summer, members and friends find that parking is more available earlier in the morning. Join us for worship an hour earlier this summer—at 9:15 am and rejoice in parking and in the day that God has made!

And, speaking of summer worship...

## **JOIN US IN CHILDREN'S CHURCH THIS SUMMER**

VBS will take on a different look this summer at our church. We will hold VBS on Sunday morning during the Children's Church time of the worship hour from May 31st - July 19th. The theme "Camp Courage" is a VBS curriculum with a unique spin on camping adventures and spiritual life. Join us under the tent for "Love, Peace and S'mores and many other fun and engaging activities. Open to all children ages 4- 4th grade.

Families with young children worship at Congregational UCC year round, and we continue to provide 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.

## **IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL IMPACTS SUNDAY TRAFFIC—JUNE 7**

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 7. Carpool with friends, bike or walk, or just leave home slightly earlier than usual. Join us for worship and then head downtown with your family and/or friends.

## **PRIDE FEST 2014**

The Iowa City Pride 2015 Parade will take place on Saturday, June 20, 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.

## **LOOK AHEAD TO JULY**

Our annual church picnic will be held during the afternoon of Sunday, July 19, in Lower City Park. Please watch the Sunday bulletins and next month's newsletter for more information. Plan now to join us for this event that gets bigger every year.

## **FAMILY2FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

The Consultation of Religious Communities' (CRC) Family2Family Partnership Program is looking for caring, compassionate individuals and groups to volunteer with low-income families new to the area or in other major transition. They are looking for mentors, groups to help with Family Nites, and individuals to help with childcare. To support this program of the CRC, please call Abby at 319-338-7996 or e-mail [family2familyic@gmail.com](mailto:family2familyic@gmail.com).

## SUMMER MISSION WORK CAMP—NEARBY, FLEXIBLE OPPORTUNITIES

This year's ecumenical work camp with First Christian Church will be close to home at the Village Community just east of Iowa City on the "Hoover Highway." From June 21-26 we will need maintenance and development work. The Village Community is a group of families operating as a non-profit corporation to provide community, programs, and residences for mentally handicapped persons. On Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday of that week there will be dinners for all the participants, with Friday being the barn dance and BBQ at Village Community. Because the site is nearby, you can sign up to work for anywhere from one to five days. For more information, call the church office at 337-4301.

## CENTER FOR WORKER JUSTICE INVITES YOU TO "DECLUTTER FOR A CAUSE"

Turn your "trash" into CWJ "treasure." Put your spring cleaning to extra use and donate your stuff to benefit CWJ! They have accounts at Iowa City consignment stores. You donate your stuff and the proceeds will go to CWJ! Just give them the CWJ account when your drop off your items.

- **Houseworks:** 111 Stevens Drive, Iowa City; phone: [319.338.4357](tel:319.338.4357). CWJ Account #: 03390.
- **Kidworks:** Corner of South Gilbert and Stevens Drive, Iowa City; phone: [319.337.3921](tel:319.337.3921). CWJ Account#: 3451.
- **Second Act:** 538 Olympic Court, Iowa City; phone: [319.338.8454](tel:319.338.8454). Tell them you are donating for the Center for Worker Justice.

## SUMMER CHURCH CAMP - PILGRIM HEIGHTS

Camps are available for all ages throughout the summer at Pilgrim Heights. The campground is 1 1/2 hours west of Iowa City (between Tama and Marshalltown). Check out the brochure on the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall. Please e-mail Barb Hanson if you have questions. [barb.hanson@gmail.com](mailto:barb.hanson@gmail.com)

## FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

Our church is scheduled to serve at the Free Lunch Program on Monday, June 29th. Please consider helping by signing up on the volunteer sheet that is posted in Rockwood Hall. Thank you!

## MILESTONES

### Deaths:

- Jim Sangster died on March 21. A visitation was held at City High.
- Darrell Wyrick died on May 14. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 27, at 1:30 p.m. at the UI Levitt Center. Bill Lovin will officiate and Bruce Fischer will preach.

### Graduations:

- Molly Shepherd graduated from City High on May 24. She will attend Washington University in St. Louis in the fall.
- Jeremy Ford received his Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning with a subtrack in Special Education.
- Rachel Ford received her Masters of Social Work. Jeremy and Rachel are moving to Idaho where Jeremy will be an assistant professor at Boise State University. Rachel will be staying at home with her new baby (due in July) and will pursue work in nonprofit leadership in the area of poverty and homelessness.
- Noel Carver received his MFA from the Writers Workshop
- Jennifer Hrabec will graduate from her surgical residency in June. Noel and Jennifer are moving to Shaker Heights, OH, where Jennifer will have a surgical fellowship.
- Jake Koepnick received his Master's degree.
- Ben Reitz received his Master's degree in Chinese from Ohio State University.

If you know of other graduations that we should recognize, please contact the church office and we will include these in the next newsletter.

### Confirmations May 31st:

- Ben Day
- Anna Whittaker
- Grace Whittaker
- Emily Buck

## **DISABILITY AWARENESS AND INCLUSION WORKSHOP AT ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3**

The Access & Inclusion Mission (AIM) Network of the Presbytery of East Iowa extends an interdenominational invitation to attend an October workshop for enriching our understanding of issues concerning a physical, mental or spiritual disability. The Rev. Dr. Timothy Little, a retired chaplain, will lead a discussion on how to reach out to and welcome people who have a disability. Rev. Little has lived with the visual impairment of blindness. There will be time for participants to share with one another their experiences of disability issues within their religious communities.

To help in preparations, the organizers need to know how many would like to come to this half-day event on Saturday, October 3. If you are interested, please contact Marcia Murphy at [murphyma@mchsi.com](mailto:murphyma@mchsi.com).

## **KIRKWOOD ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM NEEDS TUTORS**

The guest speaker during our Adult Education Class on April 19th was Kassia Scott. She shared information with us about the need in our community for tutors in the Kirkwood Adult Literacy Program. Tutors provide valuable one-on-one assistance for students as they improve their English language skills, improve their basic literacy skills or work toward a high school diploma or practice their English Conversation skills.

There is no charge to students for this service. Most tutors meet with their student one hour per week for 6 to 8 weeks. All tutors must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma. No previous experience is necessary. Currently, there is a three month waiting period for people who want tutors. Once an application is received, an interview will be scheduled with you. During the interview you will review tutoring materials and strategies and discuss a possible student match for you.

We often take for granted the gift of reading and writing that we have been given. If this project sounds like something you would be interested in helping with, Please Consider sharing those gifts. For more information, contact Kassia Scott at 319-887-3646 or [Kassia.scott@kirkwood.com](mailto:Kassia.scott@kirkwood.com).

## **CHURCH HISTORY PROJECT**

A number of members of our congregation are interested in compiling a history for the upcoming 150th anniversary of our church building in 2017. This is the kind of project to which many people can contribute a piece, and the resulting whole can help us all to look into our past and move forward in the context of what's preceded us. Any large scale effort needs leadership. Bryan Clemons, Randee and John Fieselmann, and Donna Hirst plan to meet monthly or as needed to act as a steering committee for this effort. Diana Coberly and Martha Ann Crawford will be assisting as they are able. We would like one additional person to be willing to assume a leadership role in the effort. The leadership group will define preferred outcomes, identify available resources (people, documents, oral histories, etc.), and determine timelines and benchmarks. It is likely the steering committee members will each have responsibility for oversight of discrete aspects of the effort. None of those involved have "time to spare", so meetings will be short and business will be conducted by email as necessary. A project website has been created to assist in coordinating the effort. If you are interested in assisting with this project at a leadership level, contact Donna Hirst ([donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu)) or Bryan Clemons ([ginnyandbryan@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyandbryan@gmail.com)) or talk to either of them before or after church. If you are not able to assist with leadership, be aware that over the next year or two you may be asked to contribute a small piece of the puzzle as this history unfolds.



## **FRESH ALTAR FLOWERS**

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](mailto:murphyjane51@gmail.com).



# JUNE

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 services, which begin at 9:15 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
7	John Byrn Heidi VanWieren	Bob & Yvette Jury Kathleen Clark & Richard Valentine	Ann Ghabel Betsy Henson
14	Jason & Jeanna Beerends	Eugene Buck & Elizabeth Oakes Emily & Ethan	John Fuller Kathy Fait
21	Donna Bertogli Marnie Campbell	Bryon & Kathleen Day Benjamin & Nicole	Bob & Gloria Hanson
28	Jeanne Bonde Jane Murphy	William & Becky Hoefler	Kathi Koegle & Kevin Richards

**If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone  
Please call the assigned Deacon of the Month—Kathy Fait 319-643-7476**

Men's' Breakfast  
Saturday, June 20, 8:00 a.m. At  
Waterfront Hy-Vee



Ladies' Lunch  
Thursday, June 18th 11:45 am  
At Monica's 303 2nd St. Coralville

# JUNE 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship time will change to 9:15 am June 7 through Aug. 16th</b>	1 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	2 Mission Board 7 pm Diaconate 7 pm	3	4	5	6
7 Choir Toddler Care Worship Communion EECS Children's Church/VBS	8 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	9 CE Board 7 pm	10	11	12	13
14 Choir Last Day Toddler Care Worship Children's Church/VBS	15 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	16 Foreign Relations Stewardship 4 pm Membership 5:30 pm Trustees 7 pm	17	18 Women's Lunch 11:45 am Monica's 303 2nd St Coralville	19	20 Men's Breakfast 8 am Waterfront Hy-Vee Pride Festival Starts @ Noon
21 Toddler Care Worship Children's Church/VBS Happy Fathers Day	22 Narcotics Anonymous Noon	23 Church Council 7 pm	24	25 58th Anniversary of UCC	26 Wedding Rehearsal	27 Wedding
28 Toddler Care Worship Children's Church/VBS	29 Narcotics Anonymous Noon Serving at Free Lunch program	30				





1	Martha Winegarten Kari Seidl
3	Paula Forest
4	Bryan Cobb
6	Gloria Lacina
8	Lee Barbara Wood Gavin Nelson
11	Derek Willard Alec Beckmann
12	Katelyn McBride
16	Ethel Bloesch
17	Molly Shepherd
18	Sally Strang
19	Pat Parysz
23	Donna Bertogli Melissa Jensen Julia Molony Carly Trout
25	Alejandra Brookfield



"Reach; 40 Black Men Speak on Living, Leading, and Succeeding"  
 Edited by Ben Jealous and Trabian Shorters.

Quoted from the back cover: "Reach" includes Forty first- person accounts from well-known men like the Reverend Al Sharpton, John Legend, Isiah Thomas, Bill T. Jones, Louis Gossett Jr. and Talib Kweli, alongside influential community organizers, businessmen, religious leaders, philanthropists, and educators. These remarkable individuals are living proof that black men are as committed as ever to ensuring a better world for themselves and for others.

Powerful and indispensable to our ongoing cultural dialogue, "Reach" explodes myths about black men by providing rare, candid, and deeply personal insights into their lives. It's a blueprint for better community engagement. It's an essential resource for communities everywhere.

Proceeds from the sale of "Reach" will go to BMe Community, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building caring and prosperous communities inspired by black men."

Ben Jealous is the former president and CEO of the NAACP. He is also a partner at Kapor Capital. A Rhodes Scholar, Jealous has been on the "40 Under 40" lists of both Forbes and Time. Trabian Shorters is a social entrepreneur with more than 20 years of experience in diverse fields. Shorters launched BMe Community.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee





## 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.

- DVIP (Domestic Violence Intervention Program) sent a thank you letter for our recent donation from the Sundays at Four offering describing how such gifts assist them in responding to crisis calls, sheltering women and children, providing advocacy and support (to over 500 families last year).
- In our support for the video showing of Abrazos at Shambaugh Auditorium on April 28, we posted an advertisement and donated \$200 to help bring the director here for the event. It tells of the journey of a group of U.S. citizen children who travel from Minnesota to Guatemala to meet their grandparents for the first time. The event was praised as informative and was well attended. Jane Murphy shared her copy of the movie with us during Adult Education on May 9. We will show it again during the fall.
- \$84,429 dollars have been raised so far this Spring for the Johnson County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. 1,218 donors contributed that amount before and after a very rainy NAMI walk on Saturday, April 25. Our Congregational United Church of Christ virtual (non-walking) team contributed \$500 of that amount via 10 team donors. Ken and Ruth Kuntz helped with registration that morning. All of the money stays in Johnson County to help fund support groups and classes in our community. State financial support for mental health has decreased, so this money is even more important this year. To see more details on the critical services of this organization please go to [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org), click on "Iowa", then on our "Johnson County" affiliate. Thank you to all of you who contributed via our team.

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## On Our Calendar

### Equal Exchange Coffee Sales - Ongoing

You will often find coffee, tea, chocolate, and other good things available for purchase after our worship service, usually on the first Sunday of the month, This will however resume after Easter. Martha Ann Crawford is currently coordinating these sales and can answer any of your food questions.

### The Hospice Home Project of Johnson County - Ongoing

is raising money to build a home-like residential facility for end-of-life patients in hospice care. The purpose is to relieve overburdened care-givers, and to avoid Nursing Home placement for those who would benefit more from Hospice care.

### Our Congregation's Opportunity to Help The Crisis Center Food Bank and Shelter House— June Throughout

the months of May and June, the Mission Board would like to have all consider generous contributions to two of our local missions which have been long standing projects of our Congregational Church. The needs, as always, continues to be great. Please see the list below of needed items for each agency. Place your donations in the collection box in Rockwood Hall.

SHELTER HOUSE-The greatest need is for the following items: Toilet paper, Deodorant, Laundry detergent Shampoo/Conditioner Lotion/Lip balm Summer clothes. They also gratefully accept the following donations: Over-the-counter medications: Antihistamine Sinus Medication Acetaminophen, Day Quill, Foot powder, Ear plugs, Facial Tissue, Grocery store gift cards Iowa City/Coralville bus passes or strip tickets.

FOOD BANK-Top Ten Needed Donations: Financial Donations, Peanut Butter & Canned Meat Canned Fruit & 100% Fruit Juice, Pastas & Rice, Canned Vegetables, Hearty Soups & Stews Baby Diapers (all sizes) Baby Formula & Food Laundry Detergent Toilet Paper.



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

JUNE 2015 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 Tuesday - Friday 8-4pm

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

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

Music Director:        Patrick Zubiate  
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:**

Minister.....[uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org)  
Office Manager.....[uccicsec@uccic.org](mailto:uccicsec@uccic.org)  
Financial Secretary.....[sharynreitz@gmail.com](mailto:sharynreitz@gmail.com)  
Music Director.....[uccicmudir@uccic.org](mailto:uccicmudir@uccic.org)

**Visit our Web Site:** [www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)

