

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



March 2008

The United Church of Christ

## FROM THE PASTOR



Friends in Christ:

Through three months of snow, ice, and sub-zero temperatures people keep telling me: “You know, it’s really not like this most years.” Maybe not. But this year everyone seems a little worn out as March arrives. Our souls and bodies seek refreshment and renewal. And so we are fortunate that the season of Lent continues into this month. The disciplines of Lent are designed to restore our bodies and souls, to “re clothe us in our rightful minds,” as the old hymn puts it.

We might fast in order to discover what is really necessary in life (we do not live by bread alone) and use our resources differently. We might pray in order to receive God’s forgiveness and thereby begin to learn to walk the difficult path of reconciliation. We might eat together in the hope that we will encounter the Christ who eats and drinks with sinners.

The spiritual life is connected with the rest of life. The door between the church and the world is wide open. As Lent draws to a close this month, we hear again the promise of community and support that comes to us on Maundy Thursday. We all have our downsides—but we also have each other. Congregational UUC is here for you—and that means that you are here for others.

It is *together* that we can face the difficulties of life. It is *together* that we hear the good news of Easter that God is bringing good out of evil, life out of death.

Peace,

### March Calendar

Mar. 4, Tue.	Trustees
Mar. 5, Wed.	Board of Christian Ed.
Mar. 9, Sun.	Christian Century
Mar. 11, Tue.	Mission Board
Mar. 12, Wed.	Diaconate
Mar. 16, Sun.	Palm Sunday worship & palm distribution 10:15
Mar. 20, Thur.	Maundy Thursday <small>worship with communion and service of tenebrae at 7 p.m.</small>
Mar. 22, Sat.	Choir Rehearsal
Mar. 23, Sun.	Easter <small>Sunrise service (time &amp; place to be announced) Worship at 10:15</small>
Mar. 25, Tue.	Church Council
Mar. 31, Mon.	Free Lunch Program at Wesley House, U of I Brass Choir Concert

3-02      Greeters      Dave & Shirley Carew  
            Ushers:      Vaune & Lisa Bulgarelli-Beckman  
                            Eric & Allison Burchett  
            Hospitality: Sally Strang & Kathleen Wilder

3-09      Greeters:      Wm. & Jody Murph  
            Ushers:      Jake Koepnick & Alex Hansche  
                            Tom Henson & Todd Nelson  
            Hospitality: James & Jacqueline Sangster

3-16      Greeters:      Beth Oakes & Eugene Buck  
            Ushers:      Beth Parker & Andrea Rauer  
                            Luke Gordon & John Goodnow  
            Hospitality: James Robinson & Marilynne Summers

3-23      Greeters:      Johannes Hell & Mary Horne  
            Ushers:      Joan Buxton & Maile Sagen  
                            Willis Sisley & Dwight Schumm

3-30      Greeters:      Marge Hoppin & Norma Hodges  
            Ushers:      McFarland Family  
            Hospitality: Cynthia Parsons & Gary Klinefelter

Deacon of the Month: John Bayless. If you cannot serve on assigned date, please swap with someone and notify the Deacon.

Acolytes:      Tomas & Abby

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Friends,

The Church School curriculum during Lent is, "Easter: Peter's Story." Peter's fear and denial of Jesus is something the children can understand. It helps to show them the "humanity" of the people of the Bible.

Our snow delayed pancake dinner was a great success. My thanks go to the Board of Christian Education for their teamwork and to our congregation for being flexible and hungry.

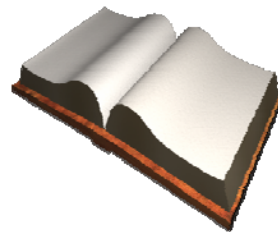
We had such a good response to our Advent Event that we've decided to gather together again after church on March 2<sup>nd</sup> for a "Lent Event." This will include a light lunch and Easter projects. I hope to see you all there!

We have a great group of children and always need leaders for our Church School Classes. With the rotation curriculum, you need only serve one Sunday and do not need to plan the lesson. Please let me know if you would be interested in having fun with us.

I am also interested in knowing your ideas and concerns. We can always make things better.

Edie Roberts

Christian Education Director



## Library News

*Deadline* by Chris Crutcher

*Deadline* is a new publication by Chris Crutcher. In the novel Ben Wolf is an 18 year old with a rare form of leukemia. Because he is 18 he insists the doctor not share his diagnosis with his family and refuses treatment which would only prolong his life slightly. Knowing that he will not be around much longer is reflected in choices he makes, for instance going out for football for the first time as a 126 pound athlete. His decision to keep his condition a secret is based on wanting a "normal" senior year but he discovers that there is nothing normal about facing death alone as an 18 year old. The book tracks his senior year and the choices and friendships he makes and how family, friends, and the community react. This book is recommended for readers ages 12 and up.

Betsy Henson

### More Library News.....

Thanks to the high School Breakfast Class for suggesting titles and helping inventory current books in the church library. Megan and I had fun purchasing the following books to be added to the adolescent section of the library. *Criss Cross* by Lyne Rae Perkins, *Remembering Raquel* by Vivian Vande Velde, *Go Ask Alice*—Anonymous, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey, *Saving the World* by Jan Hamilton, *Deadline* by Chris Crutcher, *The River Between Us* by Richard Peck, *Loser* and *Mania Magee* both by Jerry Spinelli, *Firegirl* by Tony Abbott, *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry, *Naked* by David Sedaris, and *Curious incident of the dog in the night time* by Mark Haddon. Happy Reading!

Betsy Henson

### **The United Church of Christ Needs Your Help in Taking a Stand for Freedom of Speech.**

As you might have heard through media reports, the Internal Revenue Service has launched an investigation of the United Church of Christ, based on our invitation to U.S. Sen. Barack Obama - a longtime member of the UCC - to speak at our 50th Anniversary General Synod in Hartford, Connecticut this past June.

The UCC took great care to ensure that Senator Obama's appearance met appropriate legal and moral standards. We are confident that, in the end, the IRS investigation will confirm that no laws were violated.

However, in order to adequately defend ourselves as well as protect the broader principle of the freedom of religious communities to entertain questions of faith and public life, we will need to secure expert legal counsel, and the cost of this defense, we are told, could approach or exceed six figures. This is troubling news. That's why we are turning to you - our members and supporters - to ask for your financial support to help offset these unforeseen legal expenses.

Each year, generous UCC members contribute faithfully to "Our Church's Wider Mission," our shared fund for mission and ministry in our conferences, nationally, and globally. We seek your contributions to ensure that money given for mission will not be needed to pay legal bills, instead of ministry needs. Thus the reason we've created a new [UCC Legal Fund](#) to help keep to a minimum the impact of this investigation on OCWM funds.

**Will you [make a contribution](#) to the UCC Legal Fund today?** If you are interested, more information can be found online at [https://secure.ga3.org/03/ucc legal fund](https://secure.ga3.org/03/ucc%20legal%20fund).

News of this IRS investigation is disturbing, because it has a chilling effect on every religious community when an invitation to an elected public official to speak to the national meeting of his own church family is called into question.

## Science/ Religion



In celebration of the pastoral letter on science and faith, “A New Voice Arising ...Faith Engaging Science and Technology,” the United Church of Christ invites UCC sermon entries on the gifts of a faith that engages science.

UCC pastors, licensed ministers, lay leaders, scientists, and seminarians are invited to send sermon entries on faith, science, and technology to [notmutuallyexclusive@ucc.org](mailto:notmutuallyexclusive@ucc.org).

Due April 1st. There is no application form. Provide contact information on the sermon in a Word document submitted by attachment. Two \$500 prizes will be awarded, one to a UCC pastor or leader and the other to a seminarian.

Watch [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) during May— in honor of Science Recognition Sunday, May 18— for winning and honorable mention sermons.

\*\*\*  
\* Flower Calendar \*  
\*\*

\* A flower Calendar has been posted in Fellowship  
\* Hall

\* If you would like to request flowers to honor some-  
\* one or as a memorial please sign up and indicate  
\* the date that you would like to reserve. The flower  
\* committee will contact you to make arrangements.

\* You may choose to have the flower committee make  
\* the floral selection or you may bring in flowers that  
\* you select.

\* The dedication can be listed in the church bulletin  
\* on the Sunday you have requested. If you would  
\* like your dedication listed in the bulletin please  
\* contact the church office.

\* A donation for flowers may be sent to the church of-  
\* fice or put in the collection plate with "Flower  
\* Fund" on the envelope.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*\*\*

## **Volunteers Needed**

Our church is scheduled to serve the Free Lunch Program again on Monday, March 31st. Please look for a sign up sheet in Rockwood Hall by March 1st and consider donating food, time or money for the Free Lunch Program. Other scheduled dates our church is responsible for in 2008 are: June 30th , September 29th and December 29th.

## **Iowa City Human Rights Commission**

The Iowa City Human Rights Commission is currently accepting nominations for the 5th Annual Iowa City Human Rights Commission Youth Awards Ceremony to be held April 29, 2008 at the Englert Civic Theatre.

For more information or a nomination form please visit

<http://www.icgov.org/humanrights/youthawards.htm>

Nominations must be received by April 4, 2008 at 5 p.m.



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

## **March 2008**

### **HOW TO CONTACT US**

Monday—Friday.....9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Phone:** 319-337-4301

**E-mail:**

Office Manager.....uccicsec@uccic.org

Financial Sec.....donnagoodnow@gmail.com

Christian Ed. Dir....uccicce@uccic.org

**Visit our Web Site:**

[www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)

### **Sunday Schedule**

**9:15 a.m.**           **Education**

**10:15 a.m.**       **Worship**

**11:15 a.m.**       **Fellowship**

### **Our Church Staff**

**Pastor: Rev. Lovin**

Music Director: Richard Bloesch

Organist: Bill Crouch

Christian Ed: Edie Roberts

Nursery Care: Julianna Stewart

Custodians: Nicole & Eddy Ghumm

Office Manager: Phil Jamieson

### **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).