



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
MARCH 2015



Friends in Christ;

This year during Lent our focus is on the covenants—the agreements—that God makes with human beings. The Old Testament lessons that we hear during worship on Sunday tell of covenants made with Noah and all creation, with Abraham and Sarah, with the Hebrew people in the Exodus wilderness, and of God's new covenant promise through the prophet Jeremiah. Covenants are especially important in our Congregational UCC tradition. This congregation is bound together by the covenant that we have made with one another.

During worship on March 8 we will welcome new members into the life of our congregation. As we do each time new people join us, we will read together the covenant of our church, agreeing with one another to seek and respond to the Word and will of God and to walk together in the ways of Jesus Christ, made known and to be made known to us.

We don't agree to think alike. We don't agree to believe the same things. We agree to walk together, to hang in there with each other. This is not the covenant found in many organizations, which depend on like-mindedness to endure. This is not the covenant found in many churches, which often mistake uniformity for unity.

We need each other—with all our diversity and difference.

Peace,

Bill

MIDWEEK MUSICAL MEDITATIONS CONTINUE THROUGH MARCH

2015 marks the seventh year of our popular Lenten Musical Meditations series. The series continues each Wednesday in March. The musical meditations begin at 12:30 and last for approximately 25 minutes. These midday recitals are free and open to the public. Please join us and bring a friend.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 4 | Michael Davidson, organ |
| March 11 | Flute Trio with Betty Bang Mather, Marcia Fuller, and Rebecca Kushner |
| March 18 | Andrew Hicks, organ |
| March 25 | LIROS Quintet |
| April 1 | Marie Von Behren, soprano, Richard Bloesch, piano |

KEN KUNTZ LEADS ADULT EDUCATION SESSIONS DURING LENT

David: Ambitious King but not Exactly Israel's 'Sweet Psalmist' on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

If David composed the Psalms as tradition claims, he might merit the label 'Sweet Psalmist' that some have given him. But David's authorship of most psalms is questionable. David was a man blessed by assets and cursed by liabilities. Biblical tradition remembers him as courageous, religious, affable, and politically astute. But that tradition also remembers David as ambitious, self-serving, deceptive, and lustful.

A much researched biblical personality, David's portrayal in the Bible entails many chapters in 1-2 Samuel. We shall read selected chapters in 1-2 Samuel to establish our own estimate of David. Also we shall consider how David is remembered in post-biblical literature, music, and visual art.

During the past decade numerous books have been published on David. As a recent example, David: The Divided Heart, by David Wolpe was published by Yale University Press last year. Rabbi of the Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, the largest Conservative Jewish congregation west of the Mississippi River, David Wople asks why would this man, king of a small, warring land, be chosen by religious tradition to give birth to the Messiah? And why is David, fissured and flawed, held up as the exemplar who is forerunner of the world's redeemer. In this 150-page volume, Rabbi Wolpe focuses on such matters as David the lover, husband, fugitive, sinner, and king.

Though copies of this book will be available for purchase, reading it is not a requirement for taking this course. If your schedule doesn't permit you to attend all four sessions, come to those you can attend. Each session will offer a mini-lecture from Ken who will make sure that there is a good chunk of time for discussion.

There will be no class meetings on Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, March 29.

SUNDAYS AT FOUR CONCERT ON MARCH 8 DAVID CAMPBELL, CELLO

The next Sundays at Four concert will be held on Sunday, March 8. It will feature David Campbell, cello and Todd Yaniw, piano.

David is the son of Congregational UCC member Marnie Campbell. He was born in Toronto, Ontario and holds an undergraduate degree in cello performance from the University of Western Ontario. He earned his master's degree from the University of Texas studying with Bion Tsang with whom he is pursuing his terminal degree, a DMA. David has played classical music with the Toronto Symphony Junior Orchestra, the National Academy Orchestra of Canada, the Temple Orchestra, The Waco Symphony Orchestra among others. David has also toured throughout the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand with several indie bands – Dvotchka, Gunger, Basia Bulatt, and Brilliance. He records regularly with Brilliance.

David is a registered Suzuki cello teacher and has taught for the University of Texas String Project. He is also a die-hard Toronto Maple Leafs hockey fan.

Todd is currently completing doctoral studies with Dr. Anton Nel at the University of Texas in Austin. His main teachers have been James Parker (Wilfred Laurier University), James Anagnoson (The Glen Gould School), and John Kimura Parker, where he earned his master's degree (Rice University).

Todd was born in Edmonton, Alberta He has been a two time winner of the Canadian Music Competition and a silver medalist at the Eastman International Piano Competition. He has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Todd has performed with major Canadian orchestras – Edmonton, Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, Symphony Nova Scotia. He is a regular as well at many Canadian festivals and venues – Banff, The Festival of the Sound in Parry Sound, The Toronto Arts and Letters Club, the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, The Royal Ontario Museum among others.

Together they will be performing "Requiebros" by Gaspar Cassadó, the Sonata for Violincello and Piano, Op. 6, by Samuel Barber, and Beethoven's "Sonata No. 3 in A, Op. 69, for piano and cello.

As always, the concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be received to support the Shelter House. Please bring a friend or two and join us in the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, March 29th, we will dedicate our offering to OGHS.

The United Church of Christ has at its core transforming lives! Why? Because we are all one in Christ.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are transformed through support that provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education, and disaster relief in the U.S. and internationally.

Let us give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.



CROP WALK 2015 SUNDAY, MARCH 29

The 2015 CROP Walk for Hunger Relief will be held on Palm Sunday, March 29th. The location for the beginning and the end of the walk is at Chauncey Swan Park, just north of the Robert E. Lee Rec. building and on the corner of E. Washington St. and S. Gilbert St. in Iowa City. The starting time will be at 1:30 pm. Please come a little early to sign up and enjoy the fellowship before the walk begins.

Last year was one of those rainy days for the walk, but many turned out anyway. We always seem to have a good time no matter what the weather is like. Sign up to walk by getting a sponsor sheet from Laurie Stunz, Congregational UCC's Walk coordinator for many years.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES AT CONGREGATIONAL UCC

March 29, Palm Sunday—Worship with Distribution of Palms, 10:15

April 1—Midweek Musical Meditation at 12:30

April 2, Maundy Thursday—Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae

April 3, Good Friday—Worship service at noon.

April 5, Easter Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m., Easter Breakfast follows. Festival Easter Service with Brass and Choir at 10:15

FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY

Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide lilies for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. This year the Diaconate is seeking more color and invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Tuesday, March 31.

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 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.

ATTENTION: Drama Queens (and Kings)

I have been writing and directing our Christmas pageants almost every year since the 1980s. Many of you may assume that this event "belongs to me," but, in fact, it belongs to all of us.

If you have an idea for the pageant and would like to take it on, please know that, although I have enjoyed working with the children each Christmas, I would in no way be slighted to give someone else a chance.

Please let Rev. Lovin or the Christian Education Board know if this is something you would like to explore. I would be happy to assist if needed.

Eddie Roberts

**BE A PART OF THE NATIONAL OPEN AND AFFIRMING GATHERING IN CLEVELAND
JUNE 24-25, 2015!**

The Coalition's National ONA Gathering meets in Cleveland June 24 and 25—right before General Synod! Get your Synod experience off to a great start with this family reunion for our nationwide ONA community, with inspiring worship and music, unforgettable preaching, workshops to strengthen ONA ministry in your congregation, and an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones!

2015 is the 30th anniversary of the historic General Synod resolution endorsing the Open and Affirming movement! It's our 30th birthday! Since then, we've grown from six to 1,200 congregations, from 0.1 to 25 percent of the church, from congregations with a total of 1,000 members to nearly 250,000! Celebrate our growth, and renew your commitment to grow the ONA movement until we reach all 5,000 congregations in the United Church of Christ.

We've an inspiring line-up of speakers: Bishop Dwayne Royster, founding pastor of Living Waters UCC in Philadelphia, PA, will preach at our opening worship Wednesday night. The Rev. Dr. Maritza Angulo de González is our keynoter on Thursday. She is pastor of Manantial de Gracia (Spring of Grace) UCC in West Hartford, CT, a leader in the Council for Hispanic Ministries, and a member of the UCC's board of directors. The Rev. Dr. Edward Davis is keynoter at the Synod ONA Banquet Friday night. Conference Minister for the UCC's Southern Conference, Dr. Davis is a leader in the "Moral Mondays" movement in North Carolina and an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ rights in the church and beyond.

These speakers and our program of informative workshops will help your ONA congregation discover new ways to reach out to LGBTQ seekers and to connect your ONA covenant to wider movements for justice, inclusion and peace. We'll offer two workshop tracks: one for ONA churches, and the other for congregations planning or starting an ONA process. The full schedule will be posted in April.

<http://openandaffirming.org/news/ona-gathering/>

SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE—MARCH 7 & 8

For the past seventeen years, an annual used book sale has raised money to support Shelter House the Iowa City homeless shelter. 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 2015 book sale will be held at the new Iowa City Marketplace and run for two days: Saturday March 7 and Sunday March 8. For more information or to help with the sale, contact Sarah Fletcher at Shelter House, 338-5416, ext. 202.

HELP CHURCH WOMEN UNITED SHARE EASTER JOY

Join Church Women United (CWU) to celebrate World Day of Prayer Friday, March 6, 10AM at First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester AVE, Iowa City. Following opening devotions, CWU will fill Easter baskets for children sheltered at Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP). Representatives from DVIP will be on-hand to answer questions about the service need.

Easter baskets and all the fillings are needed!

Suggested items for donation are:

small gently-used (or new) baskets for use as Easter baskets

basket grass

individually-wrapped candies / chocolates

new crayons / washable markers

new mini coloring books

new children's socks and underwear

God Loves You / other appropriate stickers

handmade bookmarks with Easter-message Bible verses

By Wednesday, 03.04.2015, please bring your Easter basket donations to First Presbyterian church and leave in Ryerson Fellowship Hall's marked box.

Thank you for helping share the light of Easter with children uprooted by violence.

FILM: CONSIDER THE CONVERSATION 2: STORIES ABOUT CURE, RELIEF, AND COMFORT

April 16, 2015 is National Healthcare Decisions Day, a nationwide initiative to encourage individuals to express their health care wishes, and for providers, family, and friends to follow them. To bring attention to the day and topic, the Senior Center and Honoring Your Wishes will show the Emmy-nominated documentary, "Consider the Conversation 2: Stories about Cure, Relief, and Comfort," on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Assembly Room. The film sheds light on the important role communication plays in helping both patient and doctor navigate the murky waters of severe chronic disease.

All are invited to join us at this event to learn about the importance of starting health care conversations early. To reserve your seat, contact Emily Light at 319-356-5224 or emily-light@iowa-city.org. The Senior Center is located at 28 S. Linn Street in Iowa City.

Honoring Your Wishes is a community-wide advance care planning initiative under the leadership of Iowa City Hospice and a community-wide advisory board. For more information, visit www.honoringyourwishes.org.

Free Lunch Program

Our church will be serving at the Free Lunch at 1105 Gilbert Ct on Monday, March 30. The volunteer sign-up sheet is posted in Rockwood Hall. If you are able to help in any way, it is much appreciated.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIRLY TRADED COFFEE

Many of us enjoy a cup of coffee after church downstairs in Rockwood Hall. The Choir and Adult Education attendees enjoy it a little earlier in the day, too! We purchase our Fellowship Blend coffee in bulk from the Equal Exchange Fairly Traded program, and it is more expensive than standard brand. That's why you see a basket with a yellow sign on the serving table downstairs for donations to offset this cost. We enjoy the coffee and support a good cause at the same time.

The Equal Exchange program works with local farmers and co-ops in many countries to obtain great coffee that benefits these growers directly. The Mission Board started our program and we support it not as a fundraiser, but as a direct purchaser to help this program. We use the coffee on Sunday, at church meetings, and we sell it to our congregation via our monthly Equal Exchange sales of coffee, tea, and chocolate sales after church. Please thank Martha Anne Crawford, our very own barista, for coordinating this effort. You will often see Chuck and Robert helping out, too.

And please consider contributing to our support of local farmers and co-ops around the world by dropping some change (or bills) in the coffee basket on Sundays!

The Membership Board would like to add a sofa table to the inside left wall of the Narthex. A sofa table is wide, but has a narrow depth and could fit in nicely. If anyone has an extra, please call/email Sharyn Reitz. Many thanks! (354-3138 or sharynreitz@gmail.com).

Ecologist and environmental activist Sandra Steingraber will be speaking at the Englert Theater on Sat March 7 (3:30-5:00 pm) as part of the **Obermann Center symposium on the Anthropocene** (see <http://uianthropocene.com/> for more information). Other keynote speakers include Charles Mann (of 1493 and 1491 fame), Lonnie Thompson, and Rob Nixon. All symposium events are free and open to the public. In preparation for Steingraber's public lecture on March 7, the UI Museum of Natural History is showing the film Living Downstream (based on Stengraber's book of the same name) on Mon March 2 at 7:00 pm in Macbride Auditorium. The film is free and open to the public. For more information on the film and on Steingraber's work, see <http://www.livingdownstream.com/> and <http://steingraber.com/>.

SERVING THE CHURCH IN 2015



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 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.

MARCH	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
1	Donna Hirst Glenna Cobb	Kathleen & Nicole Day David & Elizabeth Deifell	Daren Wells & Diane Olson
8	Brian & Lauren Whitehead	Bill & Becky Hoefler Catherine & Benjamin	Ali Ghabel & Laura Stunz
15	Bill Dickinson Rod Malcolm	Eugene Buck, Elizabeth Oakes Emily & Ethan	Karen & James Smith
22	Lowell & Jan Dendinger	Mark & Carrie Whittaker Grace & Anna	Dick & Mary Lea Kruse
29	Chris O'Neil Julia Molony	Dwight & Connie Schumm Temesgen & Mittke	Bruce Reynolds & Kathy Thede-Reynolds

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

Please call the assigned

Deacon of the Month—Jane Murphy 319-351-9079

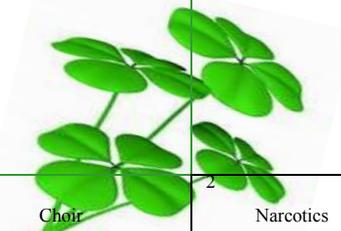


Men's Breakfast
Bluebird Café
Market St.
8 am

Women's Lunch

at
March 19th
11:45 am
at Sushi Popo
725 Mormon
Trek Blvd.
Iowa City

MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<p>1</p> <p>Choir Toddler Care Church School for all ages Worship/Communion Equal Exchange Coffee Sales Chinese School 1:30-4 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous Noon</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Mission Board 7pm Diaconate 7pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Music Meditation 12:30 pm Psalm Study 1 pm and 7 pm Led by Rev. Lovin Rockwood</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Foreign Relations Noon Voices of Soul 6:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Sanctuary Closed all day for rehearsals Confirmation Class 1-3 pm Shelter House Book Sale</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Choir Toddler Care Church School for all ages Worship Children's Church Chinese School Sundays @ 4 with David Campbell, Cello and Todd Yaniw, Piano Shelter House Book Sale</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous Noon</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Foreign Relations Noon CE Board 7pm Library Membership 7:30 Rockwood</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Music Meditation 12:30 pm Psalm Study 1 pm and 7 pm Led by Rev. Lovin Rockwood</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Voices of Soul 6:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Russian Guitar Recital 2 pm Wedding Rehearsal 5:45 pm Russian Guitar Recital 7:30 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Wedding 4 pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>No Choir Rehearsal Toddler Care Worship Chinese School Spring Break Starts Ecumenical Work Camp Pilgrim Heights</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous Noon</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Stewardship 4pm Library Trustees 7 pm Rockwood</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Music Meditation 12:30 pm Psalm Study 1 pm and 7 pm Led by Rev. Lovin Rockwood</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Women's Lunch 11:45am Sushi Popo Voices of Soul 6:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Men's Breakfast At Bluebird Diner 8 AM</p>
 <p style="font-size: small; color: green;">Happy St. Patrick's Day</p>						
<p>22</p> <p>Choir Toddler Care Worship Children's Church Confirmation Class Chinese School 1:30-4 pm Spring Break Ends</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous Noon</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Foreign Relations Noon Church Council 7 pm Rockwood</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Music Meditation 12:30 pm Psalm Study 1 pm and 7 pm Led by Rev. Lovin Rockwood</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Voices of Soul 6:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Choir Toddler Care Church School for all ages Worship/OGHS Offering Confirmation Class Crop Walk 1:30 pm Chauncey Swan Park Chinese School 1:30-4 pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous Noon Serve at the Free Lunch Program</p>	<p>31</p>				



ADULT LIBRARY

"Hot Dogs & Hamburgers; Unlocking Life's Potential by Inspiring Literacy at any Age" by Rob Shindler

Quoted from the back of book cover: "In this heartwarming story author Rob Shindler tells how he offered his time, unflagging energy, and unconventional teaching techniques to help a boy with serious learning differences and adults suffering from low literacy levels.

A father who wanted to help his son with his reading deficiencies, Rob discovered the way to that goal was through volunteering at the Literacy Center of Chicago. There he learned firsthand how ridiculous the common misconceptions are about learning disabilities and adult illiteracy. The assortment of students he taught were ambitious people who were eloquent, driven, clever, and so funny they made him laugh out loud. Here, Rob shares his students' pain and humiliations, frustration and hopes.

Hot Dogs & Hamburgers demonstrates that literacy issues reside in all neighborhoods and that its victims are committed to finding dignity and life's possibilities through learning to read. Rob's hope is that Hot Dogs & Hamburgers will bring an awareness of adult low literacy."

Rob and his wife Andi have twins and one younger son. Rob is the founder of Abogados America, a small law firm in Chicago that specializes in representing the Hispanic community.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee

1	Sandra Lacina
2	Nathan Weir
4	Barb Hanson Ian Wells
5	Lyle Tonne
6	Melissa Reynolds
10	James Jetter
12	Thomas Knapp
13	Joan Buxton
14	Diana Baculis
15	Sylvia Woolums
16	Emily Klienefelter Marcus Byrn
17	George Frohwein
22	Nathaniel Savage
23	Isabella Myers
24	Carrie Whittaker
26	Christine Sherman
29	Rachel Anderson
30	Gary Klienefelter



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.



- “Thank you for your generosity and gift to Heifer Project International. The end of extreme poverty is within our grasp, and your help matters”, so begins the letter acknowledging our contribution on \$865.00 to their General Fund.
- From Susie Poulton at the Iowa City Community School District: “Dear Friends at Congregational United Church of Christ, Thank you for donating the hats, scarves, and mittens to the Joan Buxton School Children’s Aid Fund.”
- “Thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$3, 138,15 to Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors, for our work with unaccompanied minors who have come to Iowa from Central America.”.....”Justice For Our Neighbors has been able to represent, or train pro bono private attorneys to represent Isabel, Miranda, Elias and many others; and with legal representation these children have a much greater chance of being able to stay legally and sagely in the United States.”
- From the Church World Service Blankets program we received a thank you for our “generous donation recognizing our support for emergency response and sustainable development around the world through Church World Service”.
- Our donations of tissues and hand sanitizer were delivered to Mark Twain School and provided welcome relief to their mostly barren shelves. Their supplies have been dwindling rapidly this winter and they asked to relay their thanks to all of you who took the time to help.=

On Our Calendar

Sundays at Four Concert - March 8

The free will donations received at this concert, by David Campbell, cello and Todd Yaniw, piano, will benefit the Shelter House.

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. Martha Ann Crawford is currently coordinating these sales and can answer any of your food questions.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering– Palm Sunday, March 29.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH 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

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

Church Office is open Tuesday - Friday 8-4pm

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: **The Rev. William Lovin**

Music Director:	Patrick Zubiate
Christian Ed Dir.	Kristi Ladage
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.

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Music Director.....	uccicmudir@uccic.org

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