



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
MAY 2016



Friends in Christ—

Recently I was talking with someone at church about downtown Iowa City. She had been downtown on that beautiful, April 17 Sunday. The sun was shining. Crowds of people - families, couples, groups, individuals of all ages were out enjoying the day. The stores were open. The restaurants were busy. Even the construction on Washington Street didn't keep people away. I was over at the Northside Marketplace that same afternoon and it was hopping as well.

When I arrived nearly nine years ago, the downtown often felt almost deserted on the weekend. Now Sunday has become a great day to be downtown. Maybe you've noticed this. The Press Citizen reported on this change back in October. In an article titled, "Iowa City's Sunday Scene Gaining Downtown Popularity," one business owner was quoted saying: "We love Sunday. Sunday is the new Saturday, and it's amazing. A lot of people work six days a week now and Sunday is often the only free day that people have for themselves."

Here at Congregational UCC we love Sunday, too, and for quite a while we've known how great Sunday can be. Still, the revitalization of downtown Iowa City is something to celebrate. Our commitment to stay on our corner means that we are now a vibrant, intergenerational church in the midst of a vibrant, intergenerational area.

In April our membership board discussed an interview with Haydn Shaw on the need for churches to improve their "generational IQ." Pointing to the reality that for the first time, many congregations, including our own, are made up of five generations of people, Shaw said, "You've got older people who are living longer and want to know how to make an impact on their retirement. You've got younger people who are wanting somebody in addition to their parents that they can go to, and think out loud with, and sort through all the new choices that previous generations didn't have and didn't have to make."

And he is addressing us when he says that it's now important to ask, what do "we have to do differently so that they would find us a place of spiritual health and help?" That's a good question for us as spring takes hold and we look toward a summer that surrounds us with art and music and food and people of all ages hoping for some good news. I think the answers will be found as we talk together in this exciting, lively place.

Peace,

Bill

MILESTONES

Each year in May we recognize high school graduates in our congregation. This year, Abby Whittaker will graduate from City High and will be attending Clarke University in Dubuque in the fall. The Diaconate will have a book available in Rockwood Hall where you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Abby. The book will be presented to Abby on May 15.

Sophie Neems will graduate from Grinnell College on May 23, 2016 with majors in Anthropology and Spanish. While at Grinnell she served as a member of The Center for Prairie Studies Advisory Board, a team member and co-captain of the Women's Cross Country Team, and was active in the Grinnell dance community. She was the lead organizer of the Local Foods Thanksgiving Meal, an event that connects local food producers near Grinnell with the Grinnell college and town communities, and has worked with other students to increase the amount of local, humane, ethical and fair trade food served in the college dining hall. Following an ambassador position at the Grinnell College Alumni Reunion, she will be in Iowa City this summer, working both as a counselor at The Country Camp and conducting research in the Amanas with Grinnell College anthropology professor, Jon Andelson. In August, Sophie will move to Washington, D.C. to begin a service position with the non-profit, Brainfood (www.brain-food.org), a youth development organization that uses food as a tool to build life skills and promote healthy living in a fun and safe environment.

Ryan Downing and Raven Rowe will both graduate from Chicago Theological Seminary on May 13. Both will receive the Master of Divinity degree.

Ryan writes: After four challenging, rewarding, and fast years, I'll be graduating from the MDiv program at Chicago Theological Seminary on May 13. My time in seminary has been a shared experience with many people, including all of you at Congregational UCC. Thank you for all your help, encouragement, and prayers. As for the future, I will be seeking approval for "ordination pending call" from the Eastern Iowa Association Committee on Ministry. Because Jen, Althea, Naomi, and I are rooted in the Iowa City, I will either be looking for a local pulpit or finding creative ways to practice community ministry.

Magill Schumm will graduate in May from St. Olaf College having majored in Biology and with a concentration in Middle Eastern Studies. After a tour with the St Olaf Orchestra in Argentina she will begin work near Springfield Illinois, conducting research on the Osprey population.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY - MAY 8

On Sunday May 8th, our choir and organist will be joined by soloists and a chamber orchestra in a performance of Mozart's Sparrow Mass ("Spatzenmesse") K. 220. This wonderful, yet brief work, is representative of Mozart's sacred work in Salzburg, and as influenced by Haydn in Vienna. The title refers to violin figures that are reminiscent of a sparrow twittering heard in the mass.

Please join us for a light but moving Spring Special Music Sunday. If you would like to contribute to our Special Music Sundays please see our Director of Music, Patrick Zubiate.

PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 15

We will celebrate Pentecost on May 15. This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey "from ashes to fire". Pentecost marks God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. As we have in recent years, we invite everyone to please consider wearing "flame colors" - red, orange or yellow - to worship on Sunday, May 15.

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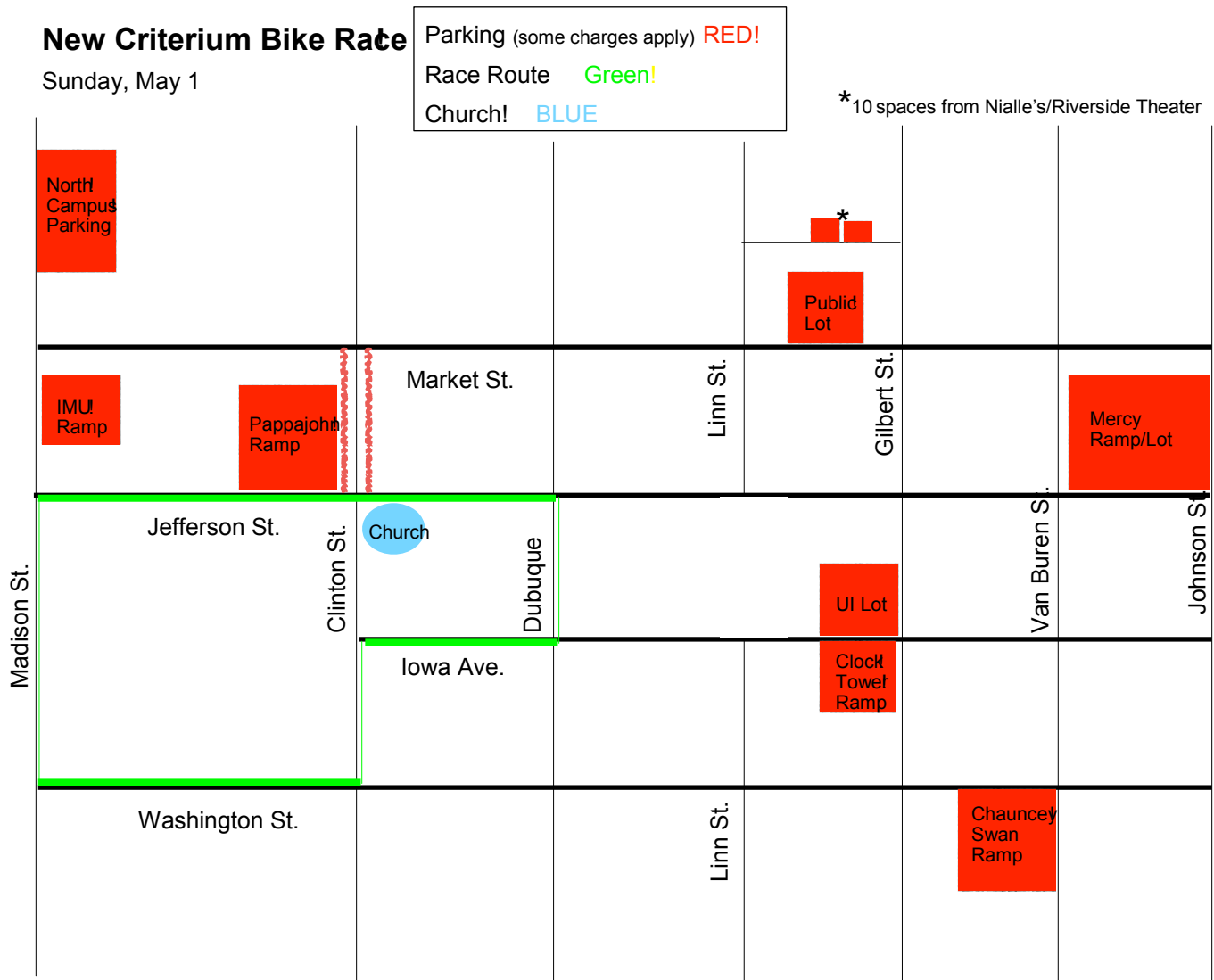
CHURCH ACTIVITIES Continued

OLD CAPITOL CRITERIUM HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 1

The arrival of spring brings renewed activity in downtown Iowa City - Friday evening music, movies on the Pentecrest and more. Some events occur on Sunday morning and impact traffic patterns and parking around Congregational UCC.

The Old Capitol Criterium, the annual bike race, will be held on Sunday, May 1. Traffic is always rerouted and street parking is always limited as a result of this event. Because of the repairs on Washington Street, this year the Start and Finish Line will be at the intersection of Clinton and Jefferson Streets—right outside our building. There will be no automobile access to our parking lot. The City of Iowa City is providing a special parking area for our members on Clinton Street between Market and Jefferson. All of this means that it will be a great morning to walk a little farther to worship! Start out a little earlier—or ride your bike—and join us for worship that morning at 10:15.

Map not to scale



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CHURCH ACTIVITIES Continued

MEMBER GATHERINGS

The men of the church will meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m., on Saturday, May 21, at the eastside Mid-Town Restaurant, 200 Scott Ct., Iowa City. The Women's Lunch will be held on May 19 beginning at 11:45 at Sushi Popo, 725 Mormon Trek Blvd. Please contact the office to reserve your seat!

RIDES NEEDED

Two women are looking for rides to our worship services. One lives on the east side, the other in University Heights. If you can provide transportation occasionally, please contact Bill or the church office.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY - MAY 15

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.

On *Sunday, May 15* - Pentecost Sunday - we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

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) ---

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES Continued

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.

HOUSEWORKS DONATIONS

If you donate items to Houseworks and would like the Church to receive the money from those sold items, be sure to mention the Church when you drop off your donations and let them know our consignor number is **21026**.

UPCOMING CONCERT AT UCC

The Waldorf University Choir, from Forest City, Iowa, will be performing at The Congregation United Church of Christ on May 9 at 7pm. The Waldorf Choir enjoys a storied heritage as one of the pioneers of the Lutheran choral tradition. The choir will be celebrating its one-hundred-year anniversary this coming fall. The choir's mission is to share the spirit and passion of musical expression. The choir seeks to preserve its heritage and find new avenues to connect with audiences. United in a corporate unity, its members strive to lift the hearts of listeners through the communicative power of choral music. The concert is free and audiences of all ages are encouraged to attend!

ToGather Together SEEKS FUNDS

ToGather Together (TGTg) provides free school supplies for over 3,700 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 3,700 children & youth.

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. To learn more about getting involved or for any questions, please contact a co-director: Karrie Craig, thecraigfamily@mchsi.com or Marsha Lowe, marshalowe@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of ToGather Together.

LOOKING AHEAD

LOOK AHEAD--SUMMER WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

From Sunday June 5, through Sunday August 14, we will worship at 9:15 a.m. Because our neighbors across Jefferson St. change their time of worship to 10:00 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 - and rejoice in parking and in the day that God has made!

PRAIRIEWOODS IS HIRING!

Do you like to cook and interact with people? You may be just the person we need! Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center is looking for a part-time Morning Chef to prepare delicious breakfasts for groups and individuals. You will be responsible for preparing healthy, tasty breakfasts planned by the Kitchen Manager, maintaining a clean kitchen and extending warm hospitality to guests. Work hours are generally 6-10 a.m. several days a week, including some weekend mornings, for about 10 hours per week. 1-3 years of experience in food service is appreciated. To apply, please email a cover letter and résumé to Jenifer Hanson at ecospirit@prairiewoods.org.

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LOOKING AHEAD Continued

SUMMER HELP NEEDED AT PILGRIM HEIGHTS

The Rev. David Mears, Director of Programs and Facilities at the UCC camp, Pilgrim Heights, is working on the summer schedule and is recruiting deans for several weeks of camp. If you would like more information about this, please talk with Bill Lovin.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—2016 INTERFAITH BUILD

Habitat for Humanity will soon begin building a new house for the family of Bawili Muhanzu, Pongo Pombo and their six children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Habitat is looking for your financial support, your voice and/or your building skills. Construction will start with a wall build and wall raising on May 21 on the 800 block of S. 7th Avenue in Iowa City. To volunteer, contact Cherie Cool-Rudd at (319) 337-8949 or cherie@iowavalleyhabitat.org.



It's Almost Time!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 6th – 8th, 2016

9 am – Noon

Art, Games, Snacks

For all 4 yr. olds to 6th Graders

(Application next page)

**CUCC Vacation Bible School
REGISTRATION FORM**

Child's Name _____ (one form per child please)

Grade completed _____ **Birthday** ___/___/___ **Age** _____

Parent's Name(s) _____

Home Address _____

Contact Phone _____ **Alternate Phone** _____

Emergency Contact Person _____ **Relationship** _____

Phone _____

Food Allergies: No ___ Yes ___ : please list _____

Medical Concerns No ___ Yes ___ : please explain _____

Family Doctor _____ **Phone** _____

Siblings Attending VBS:

1. **Name** _____ **Age** _____

2. **Name** _____ **Age** _____

3. **Name** _____ **Age** _____

Church Affiliation _____

Person(s) Who May Pick Up Child(ren)

1. **Name** _____ **Phone** _____

2. **Name** _____ **Phone** _____

VBS Leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor designated above for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS Program.

Parent Signature

Date

Please fill out and return to Patte Henderson.

UCC VOLUNTEER ROSTER (as of Apr 20, 2016) VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

If you would like to explore volunteer opportunities, below is a list of members who are currently or have been volunteers in the listed organizations and are available for consultation. If you would like your name and organization added to this list please see BOB ASHMAN.

Organization:	Member Volunteer(s):
Adult Literacy, Kirkwood	Edie Roberts, Pat Goeldner, Pam Willard
CASA	Mary Lea Kruse
Center for Worker Justice	Donna Hirst
Compeer	Jo Bowers
Crisis Center Food Bank	Claire Ashman
Dances for Universal Peace	Donna Hirst
Free Lunch	Donna Hirst, Edie Roberts, Bryan Clemons (baker), Vicki Thomae, Ruth Kuntz (main dish) and Sharyn Reitz, Treasurer
Friends of University Libraries	Donna Hirst
Gifts for Parents	Edie Roberts, Donna Hirst, Ruth Kuntz
Habitat for Humanity	Bryan Clemons
Hardin Rare Book Room, U of I	Donna Hirst
Hoover Library and Museum	Sue Wolken
Iowa City Learning Foundation	Donna Hirst
International Women's Club	Claire Ashman, Ruth Kuntz
Iowa Women's Foundation	Mary Lea Kruse, Pam Willard
Johnson County Community Foundation	Ginny Clemons
Johnson County Livable Communities (Fall prevention)	Pam Willard
Medical Library Association	Donna Hirst
Meals on Wheels	Bryan Clemons
National Association for the Mentally Ill	Ruth Kuntz (UCC Leader for Walk) , Patte Henderson, Marnie Campbell
Oaknoll Retirement Association	Ginny Clemons
Oaknoll New Residence Orientation Cmte	Ruth Kuntz (Chair)
Oaknoll Greeter for Programs	Ruth Kuntz
Oaknoll Investment Club	Ruth Kuntz
Pride Festival	Donna Hirst, Courtney and Raven Rowe
Project Green	Ginny Clemons
Rock and Read (1 st Graders)	Edie Roberts, Pam Willard
Rotary Club	Bryan Clemons
RSVP-Pen Pals (Elementary Schools)	Ruth Kuntz
Senior Center Friends	Mary Lea Kruse, Bob and Claire Ashman
Senior House (Book Sale)	Donna Hirst
Southeast Junior High (Reading and Homework Tutoring)	Claire Ashman, Jerry Walker
UCC: Promotion/Delivery of donations For OGHS, Food Bank, UNICEF and Children's Library	Edie Roberts
Veterans for Peace	Donna Hirst
Visiting Nurse Association	Ginny Clemons
Winter Clothing Distribution	Edie Roberts

Our Adult Library

"The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto"

By Mitch Albom

In this novel about the power of talent to change our lives, Mitch Albom creates an unforgettable character--guitarist Frankie Presto.

Quoted from book cover:

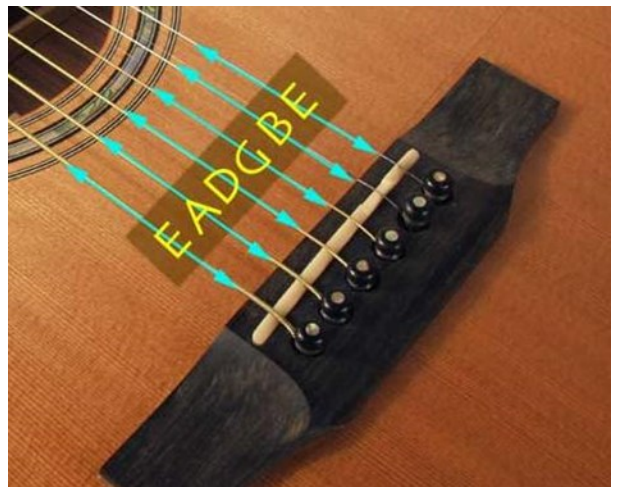
"In Mitch Albom's epic new novel, the voice of Music narrates the tale of its most beloved disciple, Frankie Presto, a Spanish war orphan raised by a blind music teacher. At nine years old, Frankie is sent to America in the bottom of a boat. His only possession is an old guitar and six magical strings.

But Frankie's talent is touched by the gods, and it weaves him through the musical landscape of the twentieth century, from classical to jazz to rock and roll. Along the way, Frankie influences many artists: he translates for Django Reinhardt, advises Little Richard, backs up Elvis Presley, and counsels Hank Williams. Frankie elevates to a rock star himself, yet his gift becomes his burden, as he realizes that he can actually affect people's futures: his guitar strings turn blue whenever a life is altered. Overwhelmed by life, loss, and this power, he disappears for years, only to reemerge in a spectacular and mysterious farewell."

Mitch Albom observes that "everyone joins a band in this life, be it through music, family, friends, or lovers. And those connections change the world."

Mitch Albom is an author, screenwriter, playwright, and nationally syndicated columnist. He is best known for the bestselling memoir "Tuesdays with Morrie".

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee



Our Young People's Library

"The Green Glass Sea"

By Ellen Klages

An older title from our Adolescent shelf of the Church Library continues to be relevant. What were the moral choices made when working on the atomic bomb in the 1940's? The tensions of the time are told from both the children's and the adults' viewpoints.

From the publisher:

It is 1943, and 11-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is traveling west on a train to live with her scientist father—but no one, not her father nor the military guardians who accompany her, will tell her exactly where he is. When she reaches Los Alamos, New Mexico, she learns why: he's working on a top secret government program. Over the next few years, Dewey gets to know eminent scientists, starts tinkering with her own mechanical projects, becomes friends with a budding artist who is as much of a misfit as she is—and, all the while, has no idea how the Manhattan Project is about to change the world.

Winner of several awards, including the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction.

Andrea Rauer, Library Committee Member



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 10:15 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, **Hermine McLeran**, know of any changes.

She can be reached at 338-4681 or hmcleran@msn.com

MAY	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
1	Joyce Myer Marilynne Summers	Bryan, Kathleen, Benjamin And Nicole Day	Rick and Phyllis Ruppert
8	Kathi Koegle Kevin Richards	Derek and Pam Willard Jan and Bill Williams	Andrea Rauer Sally Strang
15	Betty Mather Anna Mary Mueller	Eugene Buck, Elizabeth Oakes Emily and Ethan	Sharon Garton Diana Baculis
22	Ethel Bloesch Karen Smith	Jane Murphy Mary Shepherd John Fuller Mary Winkelpleck	Betty and Bob Stein
29	Kathleen Clark Richard Valentine	Amy and Cyndy Woodhouse Susie Brown Carroll Hanson	Steve and Sue Wolken

MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 - Choir 9am - Church School for All Ages 9:15 -Communion Worship - 10:15 -EE Coffee Sales -Chinese School 1:30pm -Old Capitol Critorium	2 - Organ in Use 2:30 pm	3 - Organ in Use 8:30 am - Foreign Relations Lunch Noon - Christian Ed 6:30 pm - Diaconate 6:30 pm - Mission 7 pm	4 - Organ in Use 9 am - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon -Special Music Choir Practice 6 pm	5 - Organ in Use 8:30 am	6 - Organ in Use 2:30 pm - Concert Oleg Timofeyev 7 pm	7 - Organ in Use 9 am
8 - Choir 9 am - Ascension/Special Music Sunday Worship 10:15 am - Last Chinese School of Spring Semester	9 - Waldorf University Choir 7pm	10 Rental Recital Jordon Pohlmann 8 pm	11 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon - Rental Recital Leo Perez 7 pm	12 -	13	14
15 - Choir 9 am - Church School All Ages 9:15 am - High School Senior Recognition - Pentecost Worship 10:15 am - Strengthen the Church Offering	16	17 - Stewardship 4 pm - Trustees 7 pm	18 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon -Rental Recital Heidi Hansen 7pm	19 - Women's Lunch 11:45 am at Sushi Popo. Please call for a reserved seat!	20	21 - Men's Breakfast 8 am at Mid-Town Restaurant -Wemme Recitals 1 pm - 8:30 pm
22 - Choir 9 am - Last Church School 9:15 am - Worship 10:15 am - Wemme Recitals 4:30—8 pm	23	24 - Church Council 7 pm	25 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon	26	27 - Wemme Recitals 5 - 9 pm	28
29 - Choir 9 am - Bill gone - Worship 10:15 am	30 -Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED - Free Lunch Noon	31	June 1 -Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon	June 2	June 3 -Arts Festival thru Sunday	



Hope your birthday wishes come true!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY 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

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

Church Office is open Monday - Friday 9-3pm

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Rev. William Lovin
Music Director:	Patrick Zubiate
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..... zubia101@mail.chapman.edu
Dir of Church School.....uccicce@uccic.org
Communication Assist.....cpatramanis@yahoo.com

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org