

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**The United Church of Christ  
September 2009**

**FROM THE PASTOR**



Friends in Christ:

I know what I'm *supposed* to write this month. I'm *supposed* to write an upbeat, inspiring article that motivates people to "come back to worship" at the "start" of the year. Check the newsletters from your friends' churches. They're filled with such articles this time of year.

Of course, you probably know me well enough by now to know that just such expectations usually lead me to resist fulfilling them.

After all, when we talk about things "starting up" in the church during September, we suggest that at some point we stopped. Stopped what? Worshipping? Praying? Teaching and learning? Giving? Serving? All of those things go on around here every week of the year. If you've been out of a river and you jump back in, that is not the point at which the river begins.

Yes, September is a wonderful time of year, filled with all sorts of "beginnings." The school year starts. Football and soccer teams fill the fields. The choir returns. The church school expands to receive a growing number of children and youth. There is a special energy that comes with all of this—an energy you will feel when you walk through the church doors on Sunday mornings or any other day of the week.

Oh, all right! Come and be a part of it! Jump into what is already going on. And if you've been around here in recent months, welcome back those familiar faces, get to know the new people among us.

Peace,

Bill

## September 2009

- 9-1 Mission Board, Diaconate
- 9-7 Labor Day– The Church Office will be Closed
- 9-8 Board of Christian Education
- 9-9 Choir Roundup
- 9-13 Church School Starts, Lunch will be served following worship– All are welcome
- 9-15 Trustees' Meeting
- 9-17 Women's Lunch
- 9-20 Christian Century Group
- 9-23 Church Council
- 9-25 Deadline for October Newsletter

The UCC Iowa Conference will be holding a **Women's Retreat on Oct. 9-10**. You can call Pilgrim Heights to find out how to register: 641-492-6165.

CONGREGATIONAL U.C.C. - DUTIES ASSIGNED FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINS AT 10:15 AM

9-6 Greeters: Robert & Barbara McFarland  
Ushers: Sheryl Amos, Ann Aschoff, Eugene Buck & Elizabeth Oakes  
Hosp: David & Shirley Carew

9-13 Greeters: Joan & Larry Parsons  
Ushers: James Robinson, Megan Carnes, Willis Sisley, Grace Tully  
Hosp: Vaune & Lisa Bulgarelli-Beckman

9-20 Greeters: Mark & Carrie Whittaker  
Ushers: Eugene & Jeannette Clark; Derek & Pamela Willard  
Hosp: James & Diane Jetter

9-27 Greeters: Darrell & Shirley Wyrick  
Ushers: Jason & Jeanna Beerends; Stuart & Deborah Cobb  
Hosp: Kathleen Clark & Richard Valentine

DEACON OF THE MONTH: Connie Schumm (319-338-9745)

**If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please swap  
with someone else and notify the Deacon of the month.**

## Progressive Dinner Is Coming

—Save the Evening of Nov. 14

Please join us in this wonderful and longstanding tradition . It grew out of a Membership Board program of small dinner groups which met through the year and culminated in a large festivity for all participants. The “progressive” part refers to starting at one home (Ranee and John Fieselmann’s this year) for the hors d’oeuvre course, progressing in smaller groups to other homes for the entrée, and then ending up together again for dessert (at Ginny and Bryan Clemons’ this year). Folks donate the appetizers and sweets, and the main course is catered. We try to keep the cost down to encourage participation and are hoping to offer some new options. Vegetarian? No problem. Want to bring the kids? We will find a kid-friendly place for you. Want to park the kids with a sitter and enjoy an evening of adult conversation? Can be arranged. Need a ride? Just let us know. Sign up forms will be coming soon in bulletins and newsletters. Questions: Jane Murphy, 351-9079

## Sundays at Four

We are pleased to announce that the Sundays at Four series of free community arts events will continue for a second season, with two concerts in the fall and four in the spring. A full schedule of events will appear in the October newsletter.

In the meantime, please mark your calendars for the first event. **On Sunday, October 4, at 4pm, Dr. Kui-Im Lee, Assistant Professor of Organ at the University of Northern Iowa, will present an organ recital.**

These concerts are a church outreach program designed to draw in members and friends of the church as well as the entire Iowa City community.

## **FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS**

Our church served lunch to 130 people at the Wesley House on Monday, June 29. As always, I couldn't have managed without the very valuable help from the following people:

**Marge Hoppin, Edie Roberts, Joan Jehle, Hermine McLeran, Betsy & Megan Henson, Joan Buxton, Laurie Stunz, Kathy Fait, Robin Thomas-Lovin, Fern Weir, Glenna Cobb, Joyce Myer and Ethel Bloesch.**

Many of you donate a helping hand and/or food each time our church is scheduled to serve Free Lunch; I appreciate each and every one of you so very much! We serve again on Monday, August 31 and Edie Roberts and Joan Jehle will be leading that day. A sign up sheet will be posted in Rockwood Hall by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you, Vicki Thomae

## **NEW PHOTO CHURCH DIRECTORY**

The Membership Committee is going to publish a new color photo membership directory. Olan Mills will be making all arrangements to take the pictures. They will be calling each member this fall to schedule appointments for settings on the days of Dec 11, 12 and Dec 21, 22. Please note these dates on you calendar. For those families who have college students we are reserving some appointments in the Dec 21, 22, time slot.

Each member will receive a free directory. You will, of course, have an opportunity to purchase additional pictures.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Friends,

Time passes so quickly! It's difficult to believe that summer is over.

To celebrate our "coming together again," the Board of Christian Education and the Mission Board will be hosting a **free lunch for the congregation and visitors immediately after church on September 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please plan on coming. Let us gather together in friendship and get to know each another better.

**Classes for all ages will begin on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM.** We are always looking for people to assist with our classes. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you would be able to help.

Our **Adult Education Class will begin a series on immigration.** This is a topic that touches all of us. In successive weeks we will have guest speakers exploring the different aspects of this difficult issue.

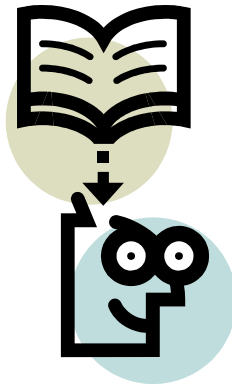
We will once again have **caregivers to watch over the infants and toddlers** of the church from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM. We will also offer **Children's Church during the sermon for children ages 4 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade.**

I hope to see you all on September 13<sup>th</sup>! It's going to be a great year!

Eddie Roberts

Christian Education Director

## LIBRARY NEWS



"Peace be upon You" was written by historian Zachary Karabell.

In his book, the author reveals the history of peaceful coexistence among Muslims, Christians, and Jews over the course of fourteen centuries until the present day. From the court of caliphs in ancient Baghdad to modern Dubai, Karabell traces the forgotten legacy of tolerance and cooperation that the three monotheistic religions have enjoyed. This legacy will be vital in any attempt to find common ground and reestablish peace. Karabell's book is an important one that shows that Christians and Muslims have known prosperous, coexistent peace before and could do so again. The book reminds us of the possibility of a better future.

Zachary Karabell received a master's degree from Colombia and Ph.d from Harvard in modern Middle Eastern studies. He has taught at Harvard, Univ. of Mass., and Dartmouth. He has written several books and has had essays and reviews published in many well-known publications, including the NY Times, the Wall Street Journal, and Newsweek.

This book will be found in the Church History section of our Library.

Judy Doorenbos

## MISSION BOARD

### Join the Habitat Team

Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity has asked for our help. Are you willing to give four hours of your time on October 31? Our church is setting up a team of 20-30 people to help Habitat gain a \$1000 donation. Please consider joining us.

Not experience is necessary and there will be no construction work. The team is needed to sell Live Sports Radios at the Hawkeye home football game. We will arrive two hours before the game and complete the job by halftime.

Live Sports Radio will donate \$1000 to Habitat if we have at least 20 people show up to help. It will not matter how many radios are sold. There are 7 churches who will participate at all 7 home games. This will raise \$7000 for the building of new homes.

Members of the Mission Board will be calling to recruit team members. You may respond by e-mail to Martha Ann Crawford at [macrawford49@yahoo.com](mailto:macrawford49@yahoo.com) or Betsy Boyd at [nusser.boyd@mchsi.com](mailto:nusser.boyd@mchsi.com) to volunteer. We will be happy to respond to any questions. The final plan for the work day may include transportation to the stadium and easy parking at the church.

## Shelter Overflow

For several winters our church has joined with other congregations in providing overflow space for Shelter House. While their new facility is finally under construction, we will provide shelter here November 15 through 21. If things go as planned, we will organize and staff shelter at St. Patrick's Parish Hall February 21-27. As the nights get colder, we will all sleep more peacefully if we know we are doing our part to be sure everyone in our community has a safe and warm place to sleep. Please mark your calendars and think about which part of this mission project you can do: transportation, overnight fire watch, morning cleaning, or breakfast food. Details of each job and sign-up sheets will be posted in Rockwood Hall in October. Training for those who are new this project will be announced.

## **Choir Season Begins in September**

The new choir season will get underway on Wednesday, September 9, 7:30-9:00 pm, with a rehearsal and preview of fall anthems. We will meet upstairs in the choir loft.

The regular Sunday schedule begins on Sunday, September 13, with a 9:00 rehearsal preceding the 10:15 service.

We welcome new members. If you enjoy singing with others and are able to attend our Sunday rehearsals regularly, please consider joining the choir. Contact Richard Bloesch, richard-bloesch@uiowa.edu or 351-3497, and come to the choir roundup on September 9.

## **WOMEN'S LUNCH ON SEPTEMBER 17**

Women of the Church are invited to our monthly luncheon on Thursday, September 17 at noon. We will gather at Vesta, located at 849 Quarry Road in Coralville. This is a new restaurant just to the right of the Coralville Marriott at the River Landing Site. The phone number there is 338-3782. Parking is available on the street in front of the restaurant as well as the parking lot behind VESTA. Please phone or email your reservation into the church office (337-4301) by Wednesday, September 16. We'll pick you up if you need a ride - just mention that when you make your reservation.

The Johnson County Historical Society is also on Quarry Street, at the entrance under the awning. Come early to join us for a look. Then we'll just step across the street for lunch!

**Goodbye:**

During worship in August we said goodbye to Mary Horne and Johannes Hell. They are moving to Davis, CA, where both will work at the University of California. Mary was especially known around here for her work for UNICEF. Each year she distributed banks to area stores to collect "Trick or Treat" money. Mary and Johannes (and Solon and Anselm) can be reached at 1406 Yukon St., Davis, CA 95616.

**Weddings:**

Phil Jamieson and Slaton Anthony were married at their home in Mount Vernon on July 18.

Bill Dickinson and Rod Malcolm were married at the church on August 18.

Sarah Ghabel and Ali Salamati were married at the church on August 22.

**Birth and Baptism:**

Ella Ose Lewis, the daughter of Chris and Amy Lewis was born on July 15, 2009 and was baptized during worship on August 9.

**Death:**

Veryl Evelyn Detwiler of Iowa City & Mesa, Arizona, died Wednesday, August 26 at the home of her daughter, Joan Jehle in Iowa City.

Veryl was 98 years old and died peacefully of complications of Multiple Myeloma, a blood cancer.

A memorial service will be held later this fall in Iowa City. Graveside services will be in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, Minnesota.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

PAGE 11

9-5 Sophie Neems

9-6 Kevin Koepnick

9-7 Doug Parsons

9-10 Erin McKenzie

9-11 Karen Davis

Elsie McBurney

Temesgen Schumm

9-13 Charles Platz

Doug Fuller

9-14 Gretchen Snider

9-15 Jean Willard

9-16 Shirley Woolums

9-18 Dale Weir

9-19 Donna Goodnow

9-20 Jennifer Castle

Nathan Willard

9-21 Shirley Carew

9-23 Priscilla Walker

9-26 Bruce Reynolds

9-28 Gail Zlatnik

Cynthia Parsons

9-29 Alison Burchett

