



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
June 2024



**SABBATICAL NEWS AND MORE**

Friends in Christ:

The summer months always bring new opportunities and a change of pace. This month, Congregational UCC will hold and take part in some traditional June activities. We're not really slowing down, but there are many opportunities to enjoy the good things that June offers us as we worship and work and play together.

On Sunday, June 2, eight young people will be confirmed and welcomed into membership in our congregation. They have been preparing for this day since last fall, studying and talking together, serving at Hop Lodge, leading the Easter Sunrise Service, and participating in a prayer retreat. This will be a morning of joyful celebration and a time to look toward the future of the church.

On June 9, we will begin our observance of Pride Week. You'll be able to preview plans, posters, tee shirts, signs and giveaways that will be part of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Iowa City parade vehicle and booth. There will be special refreshments in keeping with the Pride theme. Then we'll join with others in the Pride Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 15.

On June 16, we'll observe Juneteenth during worship. We have done this for a few years now, but not for as long as the day has been recognized in Iowa (that started in 2002). Our hymns, prayers, scripture lessons, and sermon will guide us in this commemoration in preparation for the national holiday on June 19.

In the afternoon of June 23, we'll gather in City Park for our annual church picnic. This is a relaxed, beginning-of-summer event that brings people of all ages together for conversation, laughter, and, of course, food. Bring games, bring musical instruments, bring your friends, and we'll have a great time.

By the time June 30 rolls around, who knows what else we might be doing. **June 30 will be my last Sunday in worship until August.**

During the month of July, I will be on a "mini-sabbatical." I will be using this month to begin some writing about preaching that I have wanted to do for some time. We continue to be in a very positive time of rebuilding. This summer we will bring on a new staff person for Christian education. So, it is not the right time for me to take the usual three-month sabbatical right now. But one month will allow me to get started on this project and give me a good sense of what I will need to do next. This will most likely be followed up with further sabbatical time in 2025.

A month with many opportunities is here! I look forward to moving through it with everyone.

Peace,

Bill

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### June 2024 News from Christian Education



Would you like to help our Christian Education Committee this summer? Each CE member is taking their turn providing activities for Children's Worship this summer and we still have some openings. If you would like to spend a little time with children during the Adult worship, please contact Betsy Henson ([betsywhenson@gmail.com](mailto:betsywhenson@gmail.com))

The Christian Education Committee will meet on August 6th at 6:30 p.m.

### Church News

#### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY—JUNE 2

During worship on Sunday, June 2, we will confirm 8 youth and welcome them as full members of our congregation. The confirmation class has met monthly with Bill and Rob-in since last fall. They led the Easter Sunrise Service, participated in a prayer retreat, and helped serve meals at Hope Lodge.



#### TORNADO RECOVERY OFFERING SUNDAY, JUNE 9



Upon the request of the Mission Board, our Church Council has approved receiving a special offering during worship on Sunday, June 9, to help with tornado recovery efforts in Iowa. The April tornadoes in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa left homes and businesses have been destroyed, lives upended, and a sense of security shattered. The UCC Church communities facing the greatest need currently are Minden and Harlan Iowa.

Please give generously to support the rebuilding efforts in these communities.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 9—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL

Spring and summer bring great festivals to Iowa City—and close off some of the streets! Sunday, June 9, is the final day of the Iowa Arts Festival. Clinton, Dubuque, and Linn Streets will be closed between College and Jefferson Streets. Access to the church will be available from Jefferson Street and from Clinton Street coming from the north. Join us for worship at 10:15 a.m., but plan on a slightly longer walk



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



### MISSION BOARD MEMBERS ARE INVITING YOU TO PARTICIPATE WITH THEM AND OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS AT THE IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL EVENTS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15.

Smiles were shared by all who participated in the Iowa City Pride Festival and Parade in 2023 and you are invited to join the 2024 celebration with your family and friends on Saturday, June 15. On Sunday, June 9, during coffee hour in Rockwood Hall you can preview plans, posters, tee shirts, signs and giveaways that will be part of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Iowa City parade vehicle and booth. There will be special refreshments in keeping with the Pride theme.

There are sign-up sheets posted in Rockwood Hall with opportunities to be in the parade and work at the booth. Please join us as we celebrate diversity and support the LGBTQ+ community. If you have ideas, interest or concerns, visit with any of the Mission Board LGBTQ+ subcommittee members: Hope Spragg, Linda Muston, Julie Wittig, Dianne Atkins, Rebecca Weatherford, Martha Ann Crawford or Carson Fixmer.



### MEN'S BREAKFAST—June 15

The June Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, at the Waterfront Hy-Vee. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends.



### WOMEN'S LUNCH—June 20th

The June 20th women's lunch will meet at Big Grove in Iowa City. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### ALL CHURCH PICNIC—SUNDAY, JUNE 23

Summer is here and it's time for the Church Picnic. Bring your family, bring your friends, and join us on Sunday, June 23, at Shelter 12 in Lower City Park from 4-7 p.m. Restrooms and parking are near the shelter. Our Membership Board will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and tableware. You're welcome to bring games and play equipment, musical instruments, lawn chairs, and anything else that will make for a happy gathering.



### CHURCH HOSPITALITY

Hospitality after the worship service is looked forward to by children and adults alike. Therefore, hosting hospitality is an essential part of Sunday mornings. Some people may think they are not knowledgeable enough to perform the duties of hosting hospitality. The Deacons have developed a new information sheet to ease those worries. The information sheet is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen and lists all the functions necessary, how to perform them and where the necessary supplies are located to have a successful Fellowship Hour. Please, take a look at the new in-

formation sheet and volunteer to host Fellowship Hour. I have found that hosting Fellowship Hour is an incredibly fun activity.

The Deacons would also like to give Patte Henderson and Edie Roberts a big thank you for labeling the kitchen cupboards and drawers. Their efforts have made finding anything in the kitchen a breeze.

Barb Sisley, Deacon

### MAUI WILDFIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

In early August 2023, a series of wildfires devastated Hawaii, predominantly on the island of Maui. These wind-fueled blazes led to evacuations, extensive destruction, and claimed about 100 lives, leaving some individuals unaccounted for in Lahaina on Maui's northwest shore. The escalation of the wildfires was linked to the dry, gusty conditions arising from a high-pressure system north of Hawaii and the presence of Hurricane Dora to the south.

In response to the devastation, the Hawaii Conference adopted a matrix of data points that they believe helped to guide them into best practices and engagement with partners in responding to the Maui fires. They have been told it will be 1.5 - 2 years before rebuilding can begin and with the damage in Lahaina, they anticipate a 7- to 10-year process.

Congregational UCC gave \$1800 to help with relief and rebuilding. By the fall of 2023, \$400,000 had been received for Maui relief efforts.

The Hawaii Conference UCC response plan includes 1) a three-year commitment of intentional support from Maui clergy that consists of counseling, peer groups, and paid time off; 2) an emerging needs focus that will assist with rental payments, down payments on new cars, food and water security, and economic support for families, individuals, and the Maui economy through the purchase and distribution of gift cards and gas cards; and 3) long-term recovery work that is approximately 1.5 - 2 years ahead.

They are also projecting recovery work to include temporary housing, while continuing to utilize the work of local congregations, as they assess needs in their areas. The Conference aims to be proactive with unmet needs that other groups are not set up to meet, such as assistance with home furnishings, once the homes are rebuilt.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE REV. ANN MOLSBERRY RETIRES MAJESTY CONSTABLE GRADUATES AND MOVES

During worship on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrated the ministry of Ann Molsberry as she retired.

Ann began her professional career in 1976, with a three-year stint in Guatemala with the Peace Corps. This started one month after her wedding at the Congregational Church. Then, while Bob attended Divinity School, Ann earned an Assistant in Christian Education degree at Hartford Seminary and was hired as C.E. Director at Church of the Redeemer, UCC, in New Haven, CT. At various times she served as a CE director in Illinois and Iowa and was honored by the United Church of Christ at General Synod in Kansas City in 2001 as the national Christian Educator of the Year.

In 2008 she earned her Master of Divinity Degree at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. She served as a pastor in churches in Ohio, Missouri, and Iowa. Finally, her career came to, as one person called it, a “gentle landing” at here at Congregational UCC as Director of Children’s Programs.

Ann started here in 2019 and quickly had to shift gears in 2020—leading a vital online program that keep people connected and provided some stability and assurance to children and families in a very unstable time. As the children in the church school grew, she helped establish new programs for youth even as she continued the high-quality programs for children. Although we are sad to have Ann leave, she is leaving us in very good shape with a strong Christian Education program.

We celebrate all the good gifts that Ann has brought to her ministry in so many places—and especially here. We give great thanks to God for her work among us. And we wish her well as she moves into retirement.

Also on May 19, Majesty Constable finished two years as our Children’s Choir Director, having graduated with two majors earlier in May. She is moving to Des Moines, where she will teach. Majesty led the children in singing a song that they had written, “UC, IC, UCCIC.”



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### HOPE LODGE UPDATE

Thanks to all who helped with the Hope Lodge dinner on Monday, May 13: Dianne Atkins and Andy Bertolatus, Rebecca Weatherford, Marsha Lowe, Sally Strang, Michelle Bird-Leeds, Jane Kinney, Diane Dahl-McCoy, Bryan Clemons, Ray and Linda Muston, Sarah and Ali Seidl, and Chuck and Sue Dayton. And we were happy to have two confirmands helping - Tyler Seidl and Martha Willard, and one of their confirmation class leaders, Bill Lovin. Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, July 15.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO IZZY BROWN

Congratulations to Izzy Brown as a finalist in the Climate Hope Art Contest. Izzy is a talented artist who created the Easter Sunrise service bulletins. Entries were to depict the environment and world in which you'd like to live. The Climate Hope Cards art contest award ceremony was held online on May 4. Hosted by the United Church of Christ. You can see the ceremony [here](#). Izzy's drawing is shown at the 22:17 mark.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Black Jesus,



Black Twitter,



and the First  
Black American  
President

### Racialism and the Media

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Venise T. Berry

Please join us for a  
viewing of our  
new documentary

### “Racialism and the Media”

Friday, June 7th 5:30pm  
E105 Adler Bldg. (UI campus)

Event followed by a discussion and  
reception/parking is available in lot 3  
behind the UI Main library



How does the media  
shape racial issues  
and ultimately our beliefs  
and behaviors?



The nature of racial ideology has changed in our society. Yes, there are still ugly racists who push uglier racism, but there are also popular constructions of race routinely woven into mediated images and messages. Racialism includes, but moves beyond traditional racism. It involves images, ideas, and issues that are produced, distributed, and consumed repetitively and intertextually based on stereotypes, biased framing, historical myths, as well as traditional racism. These representations are normalized through the media, ultimately shaping and influencing societal ideology and behavior. Based on 25 years of research by Dr. Venise Berry, this documentary explores the connection between media, African Americans, and popular culture. Venise is a professor in Journalism and African American Studies at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Steven Berry is a professor emeritus from Howard University's film department. For more information contact: [venise-berry@uiowa.edu](mailto:venise-berry@uiowa.edu)

Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and Bethel A.M.E. Church

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



### **JUNETEENTH CONCERT AND CELEBRATION COMING TO DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY ON JUNE 14**

A Juneteenth concert and celebration for the entire county will take place in Downtown Iowa City on Friday, June 14, 2024, so mark your calendars for an evening of fun for everyone. All events listed will take place in the Downtown Ped Mall.

Friday night's event will feature a wide assortment of attractions for all ages:

- **4 p.m.** - Johnson County Resource Fair and Vendors
- **5 p.m.** - Free food by Royceann's Soul Food, while supplies last
- **5 p.m.** - Basketball, balloon twisting, face painting, and more.
- **5:30 p.m.** - Dream City Performing Arts Academy
- **5:50 p.m.** - Spoken Word Performance
- **6:30 p.m.** - Blake Shaw and Alyx Rush musical performance, presented by Summer of the Arts
- **7:00 p.m.** - Fashion Show presented by Wright House of Fashion, sponsored by GreenState Credit Union
- **8 p.m.** - Shining Star Band: A Tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire

The Juneteenth Celebration will be an evening of family-friendly entertainment with various attractions such as the Iowa City Public Library's Bookmobile and The Iowa Children's Museum. Additionally, vendor booths will offer arts, crafts, and merchandise, while informational booths will showcase local nonprofits and service agencies. Feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket to relax or dance the night away with help from our musical entertainers.

This year's Juneteenth celebration is a collaboration between many community organizations: Johnson County Government, Think Iowa City, the City of Iowa City, Summer of the Arts, Iowa City Pride, Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, Dream City, the Iowa City Downtown District, the Wright House of Fashion, the Community Foundation of Johnson County, Royceann's Soul Food, and the Black Voices Project.

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, two-and-a-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers sailed into Galveston, Texas, and read aloud the order, freeing a quarter of a million slaves who were residing in the state. Juneteenth events will be held throughout Johnson County around the holiday. Visit [icjuneteenth.com](http://icjuneteenth.com) to see the many ways you can celebrate!



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> - 9:00 Choir Rehearsal - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service with communion - Confirmation Sunday	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> - Membership Board, 5:30pm - Mission Board, 7:00pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> - 9:00 Choir Rehearsal - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am - Pride Parade & Festival
<b>16</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> - Deacons meeting, 7pm - Trustees, 7pm - Stewardship, 7pm	<b>19</b> - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED— Juneteenth	<b>20</b> - Women's Lunch @ Big Grove n Iowa City at 11:45 am	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> - 10:15 Worship Service - Church Picnic 4-7	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> - Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service						

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### CELEBRATING JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/2 **Fielding Woolums**
- 6/3 **Jerilyn McCarty  
Paula Forest**
- 6/6 **Gloria Lacina**
- 6/7 **Ray Muston**
- 6/9 **Renn Morton**
- 6/11 **Derek Willard**
- 6/16 **Ethel Bloesch**
- 6/18 **Sally Strang**
- 6/23 **Melissa Jensen**



#### **FRIENDLY REMINDER!**

The deadline to submit items for the July newsletter will be  
Wednesday, June 19th.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19: The church office will be closed in observance of Juneteenth.

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER



**CHURCH STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Phone: 319-337-4301

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

**Pastor:**

Dir of Church School

Music Director

Organist

Children's Music Director

Office Manager

Financial Secretary

Custodians:

**The Rev. William Lovin**

Rev. Ann Molsberry

Dr. Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Majesty Constable

Jenn Harden

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Douglas Herrera

Claudia Landaverde

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For up to date announcements, check us out on Facebook.