



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
August 2024



Friends in Christ:

I want to thank our Church Council—and the whole congregation—once more for making my “mini sabbatical” possible during the month of July. It was an incredibly productive time for me. I was able to begin the writing about preaching that I have wanted to do for some time. I say “begin” because there is certainly much more to think about and write about before all of this is in anyway fit for public consumption. But it was a good start!

And it was also, surprisingly, a time of renewal. I am back in active ministry, not only rested but with a new perspective on my calling here. As I have said quite often over the past year and a half, we are in a time of renewal, rebuilding, and moving forward here at Congregational UCC. With the rest and restoration that came to me, I feel more ready to lead us as we continue to be God’s active people on this corner.

Just as July was ending, I received an article by the Rev. Prince Rivers, the pastor at Union American Baptist Church in Durham, NC. Writing about ministry in particular, he said, “No matter the size or setting of the congregation, there is always something to do.” Then he continued, addressing all manner of things that we do, “Work is good. Doing good work is even better. But Thomas Merton warns us about the shadow side to the non-stop activity we often use to define our significance to ourselves and to others.”

The concern of Merton (and Rivers) is for the “idealist”—the” person who is changing the world, championing a cause or fighting the good fight...“the frenzy of the activist neutralizes his [or her] work...It destroys the fruitfulness of his [or her]...work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.”

There are many challenges that we face as a community and a nation. Our natural Congregational tendency toward activism pushes us to “get out there and get going.” In the days before us, however, we might want to listen to Rivers who invites us to seek “God’s inner wisdom and to resist the frenzy of overwork and embrace the gifts of silence and solitude....As you make plans for the work you want to accomplish, don’t forget to slow down enough for all to be well with your soul.”

Peace,

Bill

United Congregational Church of Christ
Sunday School



Rally Day
Sunday
September 9, 2024
9:15

Games
Crafts
Refreshments
Class Assignments

Parents:

**Please fill out and print one form for each child.
Bring them with you on Rally Day!**

Child's Name:
Birthday:
Grade:
School:
Parent or Guardian Name:
Email Address:

**Please include health restrictions or other information that will be helpful for
the classroom teachers to know:**

Any questions or concerns? Please contact: sallystrang@mchsi.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH NEWS

WELCOME STUDENTS IN AUGUST



When the UI Fall Semester begins in late August, Congregational UCC will once again welcome the new and returning students. The exact dates and details are still in the works, but this will be an event designed to let students know who we are, what we value, and how they might find a spiritual home here while studying at the University. More information will be available in early August. In the meantime, if you have suggestions or would like to help with the planning, please talk with Martha

Ann Crawford or call the church office at 337-4301.

UPDATE:

As of July 28 we have raised \$550 from individual donations for the Shelter House "Beat the Heat" drive. Thank you! We matched and exceeded the \$500 given from our Mission Board Discretionary Benevolences. These funds go toward the additional expense for air conditioning in the heat and humidity of the summer months at the Shelter House. If you would like to make a personal donation to this cause, please write a check to the church, with Beat the Heat on the memo line. Protecting the homeless in our community is an important mission of this church.

UPDATE



WOMEN'S LUNCH—AUGUST 22

The August 22nd women's lunch will meet at Tequila Grill on Mormon Trek Blvd at 11:45am.

Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—AUGUST 17

The August Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 17. We'll gather at the Waterfront Hy-Vee at 8:00 a.m. Good food, great people. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. Please join us.



HOPE LODGE: Thanks to Dianne Atkins and Andy Bertolatus, Sharyn Reitz, Jane Kinney, Patte Henderson, Marsha Lowe, Linda Muston, Julie Wittig, Sue and Chuck Dayton, Bryan and Ginny Clemons, and Rebecca Weatherford for their participation in the Hope Lodge dinner on Monday, July 15. The next Hope Lodge dinner will be September 16 and the sign-up sheet will be posted sometime in August.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SERVING OUR CONGREGATION



Every year in January a slate of new members for the various church boards is presented to the congregation for approval. Work to prepare this slate occurs throughout the fall and is managed by the two Council Members At Large, Megan Carnes and Andrea Rauer.

This work is now underway, and we would like to invite all members of the congregation to consider serving on a Board. Serving on a Board is an excellent way to develop close working relations with other members of the church.

What is involved in serving on a Board? Each of the six church Boards meet monthly, often on a week day evening. Each of the boards has different responsibilities, and thus the tasks undertaken by each board are different. For example, the Membership Board plans the church picnic and other fellowship events; the Trustees provide oversight of the church budget and the building.

In addition to positions on church boards, there are also several positions representing the church to particular agencies or organizations. Members of the church serve as representatives to the Eastern Iowa Association, the Community Pastoral Counseling Service, the Common Fund, and other organizations. As an alternative to serving on a church board, you might serve as a special church representative.

We encourage you to consider offering your name for consideration to serve on a Board. If you would like to discuss any of these options, please contact Andrea Rauer at amrauer@gmail.com or Marie Von Behren at marie.vonbehren04@gmail.com.

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS *Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983*

Our church served 175 lunches at the Free Lunch Program on **Monday, July 29, 2024.**

Thank you so much to all who volunteered by donating food: **Ginny Clemons, Chuck & Sue Dayton, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, Carson Fixmer, Betsy Henson, Donna Hirst, Cynthia Kemp, Connie Parsons, Rebecca Weatherford**

Additional thanks to **Bryan Clemons, Diane Dahl-McCoy, Bill Dickinson, Betsy Henson, Kathi Kogle, John Reitz, Edie Roberts, Rick Ruppert and Julie Wittig** for their valuable onsite support. Our next scheduled serving date is **Monday, September 30, 2024!** *Vicki Thomae*



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CENTER FOR WORKER JUSTICE COMMUNITY PARTY

The Center for Worker Justice (CWJ) is thrilled to invite you to their Community Party on Saturday, August 17th, from 2 PM to 6 PM. This family-friendly event is open to all CWJ members, Allies, Friends, Unions, and Board Members. It will feature food, music, children's games, and exciting raffles.

This celebration is a wonderful opportunity to connect and share with community members in a multicultural and diverse environment. It's a chance to highlight the valuable services CWJ and partner organizations provide, showcasing collective efforts to support and uplift the Iowa community.

We encourage you to help spread the word. Your participation will make this day memorable and informative for everyone involved.

CWJ looks forward to celebrating with you and creating a fun and engaging experience for everyone!



WANTED

If anyone has a “non-smart” TV that they are interested in selling, please contact Bill Lovin at 319-337-4301 or uccicrev@uccic.org. Thanks!

COMING THIS FALL!

SING OUT!—JOIN THE CHOIR

Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir begins its season on Sunday, September 8, with a rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. and we will sing during the 10:15 worship service. This year's “Choir Round-up” will take place after worship that morning. From there we meet each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. sharp for a one-hour rehearsal before the worship service. Whether you're a long-time member or the new kid on the block, WE WANT YOU! The Congregational UCC choir is a wonderful group of people who work hard at making great music. You'll be sure to enjoy this experience. Questions? Please get in touch with our choir director Dr. Chris Nakielski at cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu.



JOIN US FOR THE JCIC DINNER IN NOVEMBER

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) is having a Faith in Action Friend and Fundraiser on November 20. Save the date now and watch for more information in the coming months.

TEE OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 22

What is TEE?

TEE stands for the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the United Congregational Church of South Africa. From its start, TEE was open to both men and women and to people of all races.



(cont'd)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Our annual TEE offering will be received during worship on Sunday, September 22. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger, worked for TEE in South Africa. Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at www.tee.co.za.



WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION COMING IN OCTOBER

The Winter Clothing Distribution (WCD), sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Congregations, will be from the afternoon of Sunday, 10/13, through the early afternoon of Saturday, 10/19. Over the span of these days we will set up, accept clothing donations, sort & organize clothing, distribute the clothing, & clean up after the event. A detailed schedule will be provided by late August.

The event will be held in the gymnasium of The River Community Church (RCC), 3001 Muscatine Avenue, in Iowa City. This facility has plenty of parking space and is on a bus route.

This year CRC will be partnering with the Iowa City Police Department (ICPD), which will provide clothing donations & volunteers. Shortly after the 2023 event, the ICPD held a one-day WCD at Mercer Park Recreation Center, distributing about 1,000 coats donated at their community collection boxes. They were interested in developing a new approach, so a community facilitator brought CRC & ICPD representatives together for a series of meetings that culminated in this partnership.

For 2024 we will be increasing the number of family representative shoppers to 10 per 30-minute period. (Eight individuals will need to register via SignUpGenius; there will be two openings for drop-ins.) Volunteers will also need to enroll via SignUpGenius.

As in past years, they are looking for donations of gently used or new WARM winter wear, with an emphasis on coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots & winter shoes. Heavy sweaters & sweatshirts are also appreciated.

Your donations of quality winter clothing & your volunteer participation will be most greatly appreciated! Further details will be provided in coming weeks.

FALL DIAPER DRIVE for CommUnity Food Bank: The Mission Board will hold a diaper drive in **September and October** to help the Food Bank replenish its supply of diapers for families in need. The Food Bank relies on donations for non-food items such as disposable diapers. Please help babies and toddlers in our community stay dry, clean, and healthy by participating in the diaper drive. **Diaper sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the most needed as well as baby wipes.** There are two ways you can help. Buy a package of disposable diapers and wipes and bring them to Rockwood Hall. We will ensure that everything is delivered to the Food Bank. Or, if you would like to make a personal donation to support this drive, please write a check to the church with Diaper Drive on the memo line and the Mission Board will use the funds to purchase diapers. Whichever way you choose, your donation will help restock the Food Bank's diaper supply, provide free diapers for babies and toddlers in need and bring some economic relief to families.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



PROGRESSIVE DINNER 2024 OCTOBER 5 5:00-9:30 PM

Dinner provided by Catered by Charlotte
Chicken Marsala

\$18.00 per person (no charge for children under 18)

We start as a group for appetizers from 5-6, then move in small groups to host homes for the main course from 6:15 – 7:45, and regroup for dessert from 8-9:30.

We/I would like to participate by attending:

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Linda & Ray Muston and Bill Dickinson will host appetizers for the whole group at the Oaknoll Retirement Residence.

Steve & Sue Wolken will host desserts for the whole group.

Please sign up for one of the following. We/I would like to participate by providing the following:

___ Providing appetizers for 12 people

___ Providing dessert for 12 people

___ Hosting the main course for 8-10 people. Please indicate how many people, including yourself, that you can host. _____ Can host children - yes/no

Please check other options to help us plan:

___ Bringing children ___ Need transportation

___ Need accessible location ___ Vegetarian/Gluten Free

___ I/ we can provide transportation for those that may need it.

Make checks payable to Congregational UCC with Progressive Dinner in the note section. Put check and reservation form in the offering plate or drop off at the church by September 22.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

USHERS, GREETERS, HOSPITALITY AND LITURGIST OPPORTUNITIES: Sunday morning brings an abundance of opportunities to be involved in making the morning a time of joy and renewed energy. Everyone is invited to greet people coming to worship, to usher, to lead the congregation in worship and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.



WANT TO GIVE ONLINE? Scan the QR code for our giving app. Your giving makes a world of difference.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER: Please send articles for the September newsletter to the church office by Wednesday, August 21st.



NAME TAGS—as a welcoming gesture, church members are encouraged to wear their name tag for church services. This helps new members learn names. It also serves as a greeting to visitors. If your name tag is missing or you just can't find it, please contact the church office and ask Jenn to make a new one for you.

CHURCH CALENDAR

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship		6 -CE Board, 6:30pm	7	8	9	10
11 - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service with communion	12	13	14	15	16	17 - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
18 - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	19	20 - Membership Board, 5:30pm - Deacons meeting, 7pm - Trustees, 7pm - Stewardship, 7pm	21	22 - Women's Lunch @ Tequila Grill in Iowa City at 11:45 am	23	24
25 - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	26	27 - Council Meeting, 7pm	28	29	30	31

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATING AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Kate Edwards

8/3 Georgia Hill

8/5 Bob Stein

8/7 Betty Mather

8/9 Phyllis Ruppert

8/11 Sharon Garton
Shirley Wyrick

8/16 Emily Koepnick

8/17 Whit Jury

8/19 Bill Nusser, Jr.

8/22 Jackie Sangster

8/24 Bill Dickinson
Tina Koepnik

8/31 Betsy Boyd
Donna Hirst



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 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

Pastor:

Music Director

Organist

Office Manager

Financial Secretary

Custodians:

The Rev. William Lovin

Dr. Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Jenn Harden

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Douglas Herrera

Claudia Landaverde

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Contact the Office

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