



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
September 2024



Friends in Christ:

In the United Church of Christ we often speak of ourselves as people who offer an “extravagant welcome,” as those who extend “radical hospitality.” Sometimes that seems a little congratulatory as a self-description. But it reminds us that incorporating people into this congregation is more than giving a handshake and a smile at the beginning of worship or providing artisanal donut holes after worship.

The radical hospitality that we offer grows out of a spirit of generosity, a desire to make this congregation and this building a safe and welcoming home for all people.

Being a church with a generous spirit, a church that extends an extravagant welcome, means that we can be a place of refuge, a haven in an often heartless world. We’ve been doing this for some time now; which means that quite often we don’t even think about what we’re doing—how unique and how important this is. And we need to keep doing this because so many churches don’t.

The new school year begins and we find another way in which our generous welcome is needed.

Loneliness is a problem for college freshmen, but my guess is that it’s a problem for new graduate students and for continuing students of all classes and ages. In fact, in a survey of nearly 28,000 students on 51 campuses by the American College Health Association a few years ago, more than 60% of students said that they had “felt very lonely” in the previous 12 months. Nearly 30% said that they had felt that way in the previous two weeks.

This fall we are called to discover anew what an extravagant welcome look like to all students and especially to those who are alone. We are called to do something about loneliness on campus. We are called to welcome students in a way that addresses the emptiness that so many feel.

Near the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells that final parable that is both challenging and encouraging parable. In it we hear: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35) As the fall semester begins—and until graduation in the spring—may we be such people.

Peace,

Bill

The Congregational United 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](mailto:sallystrang@mchsi.com)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHURCH NEWS

#### 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](mailto:cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu).

#### SECRETS OF THE CHURCH KITCHEN REVEALED!

Mysteries of the kitchen unlocked! Please join us for a kitchen orientation on Saturday, September 28th at 9:00 AM.

Discover where all the silverware is.  
View our collection of dinner plates.  
Is there really a place for the condiments?

Find out—and amaze your friends.

And of course, coffee pots for every occasion.



Please sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall. And while you're there you can volunteer to greet, usher or host hospitality. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.



#### WOMEN'S LUNCH—SEPTEMBER 26

The September 26 women's lunch will meet at Monica's in Coralville at 11:45am. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

#### MEN'S BREAKFAST—SEPTEMBER 21

The September Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, September 21. It's an "Away" game that day, but we'll be in town for breakfast. 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 before watching the Game or however you will spend your day.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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.

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](http://www.tee.co.za).

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AT HOPE LODGE THIS MONTH

Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, September 16. If you would like to participate see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. If you have questions contact Sue Dayton [cdayton7@mchsi.com](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com)



### YOU CAN HELP WITH THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM THIS MONTH.

The Free Lunch Program is continuing to serve lunches. Members of Congregational UCC serve on the fifth Monday of any month. Our next serving date is September 30 and if you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Vicki Thomae at [vickithomae@gmail.com](mailto:vickithomae@gmail.com)

Please mark your calendar for our **PROGRESSIVE DINNER** on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Ray and Linda Muston and Bill Dickinson will host appetizers for everyone at Oaknoll. Then, in small groups of 8 to 12, we will go to other homes for the catered dinner. After dinner, we will gather at Steve and Sue Wolken's home for dessert. This is always a special event for fellowship. Please make plans to join us. You are sure to learn at least one fascinating fact about another member of our congregation that evening, reinforcing your experience that we are a uniquely interesting group!

Save  
the  
Date!

## 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](mailto:amrauer@gmail.com) or Marie Von Behren at [marie.vonbehren04@gmail.com](mailto:marie.vonbehren04@gmail.com).

### STUDENT WELCOME

On Monday, August 26, Congregational UCC members welcomed UI students as the fall semester began. We handed out ice pops and microwave popcorn packets—along with smiles, encouragement, and information about our church. It was hot and we had a great time.



(cont'd)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



### COMING UP IN OUR COMMUNITY:

#### SCREENING OF *GOD AND COUNTRY*—SEPTEMBER 8

A group of people from various religious communities here in Johnson County have come together in recent weeks to plan and sponsor free public screenings of the documentary *God and Country*. From producer Rob Reiner, *God and Country* examines the implications of Christian nationalism and how it distorts not only our constitutional republic but Christianity itself. Through the voices of prominent leaders, constitutional scholars, and journalists, the film asks the question: "What happens when a faith built on love, sacrifice, and forgiveness grows political tentacles, conflating power, money, and belief into hyper-nationalism." There will be a free screening of *God and Country* on Sunday, September 8 @ 2:00 p.m. at the Iowa City Public Library. A discussion will follow.



What does a Christianity look like that is not deeply tied to racial injustice and White Christian nationalism, forces captured in the images of the January 6, 2021 insurrection? With a national election just around the corner, how might Christians live into a richer narrative that underscores the nonviolent legacy of Jesus?

**Join us** for an intimate, online conversation with three renowned thought leaders on the current state of Christianity in the US. Our guests **Gary Dorrien**, **Obery Hendricks**, and **Grace Ji-Sun Kim** are internationally known for their insights on the Christian faith and the role that it can play for those committed to democracy, peace, and social justice. The *Christian Century*'s editor/publisher **Peter W. Marty** will serve as moderator.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### SHELTER HOUSE BBQ BASH—SEPTEMBER 27

Delicious, smoked meats have been a staple of BBQ Bash each year. Shelter House is hosting this annual fundraiser at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 27 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. There will be live music, games for all ages, and delicious, mouth-watering barbeque.

You can support their mission to move individuals beyond homelessness by purchasing your tickets today. Tickets are on sale now at [www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash](http://www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash) for \$50 for adults and \$17.50 for children. Visit their website for more information and to learn more about volunteering or sponsoring this event.



### INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY'S 2024 TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER!

A poster for 'INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY TRIVIA Night'. The poster has a black background with a white central box containing the title and a logo of two hands shaking. The background is decorated with blue question marks and a green border. To the right of the white box, there is text about competing, having fun, and bidding on silent auction items. At the bottom, there is a white box with the date and time, and the location: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY, 2355 OAKDALE RD, CORALVILLE, IA 52241.

**INSIDE OUT  
REENTRY COMMUNITY  
TRIVIA**  
*Night*

Compete, have fun, and bid on silent auction items! Bring your friends and get ready to challenge yourself with trivia in support of those reentering the community after incarceration!

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17**  
7:00 - 9:00 PM

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY**  
2355 OAKDALE RD, CORALVILLE, IA 52241

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 17, from 7:00–9:00 PM, and plan to join them at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville. This is their second annual event and last year they sold out with 135 people competing to be the trivia champion!

Each year Inside Out sees a dramatic increase in attendance at their peer-support groups. Their Resource Center had a **58% increase in visits** and our Coffee and Connections group saw a **54% increase in attendance!** Funds raised during this fun community event will further Inside Out's mission to support people involved in the criminal legal system in changing from the inside out.

**Come join the fun!** Tickets are \$125 for a table of 6 and individual tickets are \$25 (\$30 at the door). This year we have four exclusive front-row VIP tables at \$200! Enjoy complimentary snacks and drinks and one trivia life-line with a VIP table!

**Buy Your Tickets Today!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



### 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.



### 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.



## 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 October newsletter to the church office by Friday, September 20th.



**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.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** on Monday, September 2nd, in observance of Labor Day.



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>2</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b> -CE Board, 6:30pm -Mission Board, 7:00pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>16</b> -Hope Lodge Dinner	<b>17</b> - Membership Board, 5:30pm - Deacons meeting, 7pm - Trustees, 7pm - Stewardship, 7pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am -UI Choral Retreat, 10:00am
<b>22</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> - Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> - Women's Lunch @ Monica's at 11:45 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> -Kitchen Orientation, 9:00am
<b>29</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>30</b> -Free Lunch Program					

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/3—Kathi Koegle, Noam Morton

9/5—Renn Morton, Sophie Neems

9/6—Kevin Koepnick, Jasper  
Morton, Alison Seidl

9/7—Robyn Hepker, Liliana  
Lewis, Doug Parsons

9/9—Patte Henderson

9/12—Dean Logan

9/13—Charley Platz

9/15—Nathaniel Lovin, Jean  
Willard

9/16—Shirley Woolums

9/19—Lenore Maybaum

9/21—Noel Carver, Matt Spragg

9/26—Bruce Reynolds

9/28—Cindy Parsons, Gail Zlatnik



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

SEPTEMBER 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:**

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