



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
October 2024



Friends in Christ:

On the first Sunday in October we demonstrate our connection with Christians around the world by celebrating World Communion Sunday. We recognize that in spite of differences in nationality, economic condition, race, geography, and politics, we are united with women and men around the globe through our common faith in the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

In a sense, we at Congregational UCC live out this reality all year long. Members are traveling or returning from travels abroad all the time. Students worshipping with us come from around the world. Our native lands are many and relatives can still be found in them. On World Communion Sunday, we're just a little more aware that we are united with other Christians beyond national boundaries. We acknowledge our common faith and our common humanity. And we acknowledge our common share in the suffering of the world. Out of this awareness, we also work toward common purposes with people of other faiths as well.

In the Congregational tradition we find ourselves involved with the poor, the hungry, the outcast—with those throughout the world who are often pushed to the edges. By faith we recognize that we're all in this together. We are Congregationalists. We may not talk much *about* our faith. But at our best we are great at *living* our faith out in the open.

We are called to a broader, more open faith in these days: a faith that lets up on the restrictions and seeks a new freedom; a faith that seeks a new acceptance of one another in all our differences; a faith that transcends fear and moves toward love, bringing others along with us on that journey led by God.

Peace,

Bill

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



CE News!

OCTOBER 2024

UCC Christian Education

Hello UCC family and friends,

I hope everyone is settling into the school year schedule! Our Christian ed board is very excited for a great year and we'd love your input! Join us for our impromptu CE potluck dinner Sunday, October 6 at 5PM! We'd like to share existing opportunities for youth involvement, as well as new ideas and hopes you may have for your family's church experience this year. ICCSD fall break is Oct. 11-15, so there is no Sunday school, but if you come to church, children are invited to join me for a special fall art project to celebrate the autumn beauty of God's creation during regular Children's choir time.

Blessings,
Hope Spragg
Interim CE director

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Sunday School
9:15 Sunday school & breakfast snacks

- October 6: Jacob's Ladder
- October 13: **no Sunday School**-special art Sunday during Children's church
- October 20: The Lord's Prayer/Christmas Pageant reveal!
- October 27: The Lord's Prayer

Teachers: K-3: Ms. Bea and Ms. Darcy; 4-8 Tina and Edie

Children's Church
 Children are dismissed after the children's message during worship
 Music with Rachel and Story with Hope

***Remember friends are always welcome!**

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Acolytes needed Sunday, October 20
Contact Edie Roberts (edie-roberts@uiowa.edu) or Hope via email to sign up.

SAVE THE DATE

Intergenerational Meet-Up
Harvest Preserve
Saturday, November 9
2-4

Join us for snacks at the pond house and an optional hike through the woods to the Harvest Stone circle!



Volunteer Opportunity!



Saturday, October 19
11-2 Food Pantry
*4 spots (ages 10 or up)



See email for details to sign-up!

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
1 Peter 4:10

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH NEWS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 6 is World Communion Sunday. **2024 marks the eighty-eighth year of celebrating this day.** World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could join in the celebration of this day. After a few years the idea spread. Through our prayers and music on this day we recognize our connection with Christians in every nation.



RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 6

One of the joys of worship is navigating the challenges presented by downtown events. The 49th Annual Run for the Schools will be held on October 6. Some streets to the south and east of the church will be closed. College St. will be shut down from Linn St. to Muscatine Ave. Gilbert St. will be shut down from Burlington St. to Washington St. Dodge St. will be shut down and southbound traffic will be rerouted on to Washington St. Governor St. will be shut down and northbound traffic will be rerouted on to Burlington St. **The church and the parking lot will both be accessible.** It might take a few extra minutes to get to church that morning. Plan accordingly, but plan to worship with us.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—OCTOBER 19

The October Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 19, 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. It's an away game on this weekend, but you still need to eat breakfast. Join us!



THE WOMEN'S LUNCH WILL BE HELD on October 24th at 11:45am at Olive Garden in Coralville. Call or text Martha Ann Crawford—319-855-8340—to reserve a seat.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

FUN UI HOMECOMING VOLUNTEER/BAKING OPPORTUNITY!

The Mission Board will sell cookies and warm drinks during the U of I Homecoming Parade Friday, October 25. We are asking for donations of one dozen homemade cookies or bars that are \$1 (larger) size. Items do not need to be individually wrapped but please bring a display card labeling what type and if they contain peanuts or tree nuts. Baked goods may be dropped off in the kitchen between 9-1 or 5-5:45 the day of Homecoming. We also need volunteers to sell the cookies and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or you can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084DA4A923A75-51851501-uccuihomecoming>



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 3



Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes “All Saints Sunday.” This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. This year the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson will again lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please

plan to join us for this special time of worship as we give thanks for the lives of Fern Weir, Joan Jehle, Joan Parsons, Ken Kuntz, and David Schoonover.

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, Andrea Rauer and Marie Von Behren.

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, usually 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 various agencies and 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE TEE OFFERING IN SEPTEMBER.

We received over \$400 to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South 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 UCC of South Africa. **You can still give—please put “TEE” on your check or envelope.**



JOIN US FOR THE JCIC DINNER IN NOVEMBER

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition is again having a Friend and Fund Raiser at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville on Nov. 20, 6:00-8:30. The church has purchased a table for 10 and a table for 7. All you need to do is tell Jenn or Donna Hirst that you'd like to attend.



If you would like to be a volunteer (likely serving food), let Donna know: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu . You can make an individual donation by giving a check to Bea Hicks.

Pay to:
Johnson County Interfaith Coalition
Bea Hicks, Treasurer
PO Box 966
Iowa City, IA 52244
Put “2024 Fundraiser Sponsor” in the Memo Line

The event should be a lot of fun with an engaging program and good food. The silent auction is always delightful, and this year it will be a great opportunity to find inexpensive Christmas gifts. All bidding starts at 50% of the item's value. Julie Wittig and many other UCC volunteers are organizing the auction.

WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

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 they will set up, accept clothing donations, sort & organize clothing, distribute the clothing, & clean up after the event.



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 they will be increasing the number of family representative shoppers to 10 per 30- minute period. 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteers will need to register using SignUpGenius at the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-51081789-2024>

As you sign up, please pay attention to further information & instructions provided on our SignUpGenius.

Your donations of quality winter clothing & your volunteer participation will be greatly appreciated!

INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY'S 2024 TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER!

**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!**

GUNS TO GARDENS—OCTOBER 5

First Presbyterian Church (FPC) will be hosting the first *Guns to Gardens* event in the state of Iowa on Saturday, October 5th from 10 a.m. to noon, in its parking lot.

Guns to Gardens is inspired by Isaiah 2:4 "They shall beat their swords in plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." It is a nationwide faith-based initiative taking direct action to address the national epidemic of gun violence. The event itself is an anonymous safe surrender. Community members bring unwanted guns to be destroyed and ultimately melted down to be transformed into garden tools or pieces of art.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

This will be a drive through event where the gun owner brings their unloaded gun (or guns) in their trunk and is met by volunteers to guide them through the parking lot. Trained volunteers will remove the guns, confirm they are unloaded, and place them at the chop saw station. Guns will be destroyed by a chop saw according to guidelines from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The gun owner is present for the whole process, therefore there is no transfer of ownership. The gun owner is offered spiritual support throughout the process by a volunteer "shepherd" if desired. They are then given a gift card to thank them for the gun surrender. The gun parts are collected and will be donated to RAW Tools (rawtools.org) to be turned into garden tools and art.

SHARE THE HARVEST: John Fuller and Kathy Fait have been bringing beautiful flowers and tempting vegetables every Sunday for several years...all from their gardens. A free-will donation is requested for the bouquets, apples, young kale, chard, tomatoes, scapes, and other great vegetables. And, this year the donations, which are sent to the Community Food Bank, reflect the generous giving from our congregation. As of September 23, John and Kathy's efforts have already raised \$447.12 from members, which will be sent to fight against food insecurity in our community.



THANKS TO ALL who helped with the Hope Lodge dinner on September 16: Andy Bertolatus and Dianne Atkins, Ray and Linda Muston, Hope and Peter Spragg, Darcie Hutzell and Fielding Woolums, Diane Dahl-McCoy, Chuck and Sue Dayton and Jane Kinney. The next Hope Lodge dinner will be November 18. You can sign up to contribute food or just come and visit with the residents there. Watch for a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.

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.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER: Please send articles for the November newsletter to the church office by Wednesday, October 23rd.



CHURCH CALENDAR

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 -CE Board, 7:00pm	2	3	4	5 -Progressive Dinner, 5pm
6 - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service - Impromptu potluck, 5:00	7	8 -Mission Board, 7:00pm	9	10	11	12
13 - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	14	15 - Membership Board, 5:30pm - Deacons meeting, 7pm - Trustees, 7pm - Stewardship, 7pm	16	17	18	19 - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
20 - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service - Red Cedar Music Group, 3:00	21	22 - Council Meeting, 7pm	23	24 - Women's Lunch @ Olive Garden at 11:45 am	25	26 -
27 - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	28	29	30	31		

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1—Margaret Beck, Andrea Rauer

10/3—Willis Sisley

10/5—Jason Beerends

10/6—Roger Jensen

10/7—Bob Ashman, James Savage

10/8—Martha Ann Crawford, James
Robinson

10/11—Dick Kruse

10/12—Ginny Clemons

10/13—Marnie Campbell, Vernetta
Knapp, Joyce Myer

10/18—Becky Hoefer

10/19—Elizabeth Oakes

10/27—Patricia Hansche, Anna Mary
Mueller, Tim Strang, Betty Stein

10/31—Peter Bloesch

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER 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:

Interim Director of CE

Music Director

Organist

Children's Choir Director

Office Manager

Financial Secretary

Custodians:

The Rev. William Lovin

Hope Spragg

Dr. Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Rachel Burchett

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.