

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**The United Church of Christ  
April 2010**

**FROM THE PASTOR**



Friends in Christ:

T.S. Eliot claims that “April is the cruellest of months . . .” But I’m not so sure. Instead, I’m often inclined to agree with Christopher Morley when he writes: “April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks ‘Go.’” Easter reminds us of the new life that we have received in Jesus Christ.

The Easter season that extends from April 4 until Pentecost (May 23 this year) is a good time to take a new look at Jesus. In fact, the Gospel stories of the resurrection are often about people seeing Jesus in new ways. In the twentieth chapter of John, Mary Magdalene stands weeping outside the empty tomb. She encounters a man whom she assumes is the gardener. As they talk, this man speaks her name and she sees him to be the risen Jesus. Luke tells the story, in chapter 24, of two men who walk with a stranger three days after the crucifixion. At evening, when the sit

down to eat, this stranger takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them. “Then,” Luke says, “Their eyes were opened and they recognized him.”

Easter is an eye-opening occasion that can change the way we look at Jesus, at others, and ourselves. And in his wonderful book, *Desire of the Everlasting Hills*, Thomas Cahill, reflecting on Jesus’ story of the great judgment in Matthew 25, says after the resurrection, Jesus is “incarnated in the person of anyone and everyone who needs our help.”

Our eyes can be opened to see Jesus anew, or again, or for the first time in these days. Continue to look for the risen Christ in new places and faces.

Peace,

**April 2010**

- 4-1 Maundy Thursday, Communion &  
Service of Tenebrae, 7p.m.**
- 4-2 Good Friday Service, Noon**
- 4-4 Easter  
Sunrise Service, 7:30 a.m.  
Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.  
Festival of Worship, 10:15 a.m.**
- 4-6 Mission Board, Diaconate**
- 4-13 Christian Ed.**
- 4-14 Choir Rehearsal**
- 4-17 Choir Rehearsal, 10:30 a.m.**
- 4-18 Choir Sunday**
- 4-20 Trustees' Meeting**
- 4-22 Membership Committee**
- 4-24 Clean-up day at the church**
- 4-27 Church Council**



## CONGREGATIONAL UCC– DUTIES ASSIGNED FOR April 2010

- Apr 4 Greeters Bryan & Virginia Clemons  
Ushers: John & Randee Fieselmann; Carroll Hanson; Keo Hoang  
Hosp: Bruce & Katherine Reynolds
- Apr 11 Greeters: Genevieve Dudley; Ann Ghabel  
Ushers: Patricia Myers; Mary Shepherd; Lyle Tonne; John Johnson  
Hosp: Dwight & Connie Schumm
- Apr 18 Greeters: Scott & Patricia Hansche  
Ushers: Larry & Joan Parsons; Douglas & Connie Parsons  
Hosp: Derek & Pamela Willard
- Apr 25 Greeters Robert & Gloria Hanson  
Ushers: Wm & Jody Murph; Linda Christensen; Rebecca Hoefler  
Hosp Sheryl Amos & Theresa Zesch

DEACON OF THE MONTH: JAMES SAVAGE (319 337-9995)

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

## Holy Week at Congregational UCC

- March 31      Noontime Musical Meditation; Lenten Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- April 1        Maundy Thursday: Communion and Service of Tenebrae 7:00 p.m.
- April 2                  Good Friday: Worship at Noon
- April 4        Easter: Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m.; Easter Breakfast; Festival Wor-  
ship at 10:15 a.m.

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## SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY—APRIL 24

The Trustees invite everyone to join them for our annual spring clean-up day on Saturday, April 24. We'll gather at the church that morning to do some cleaning and repairs inside and out, getting rid of the winter grime as we welcome warmer weather.

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## Membership Committee

### Church Directories

The new church directories will arrive soon and will be distributed at that time.

Olin Mills will provide a free directory to each person (family) that had their photograph taken in December. There is a charge of \$5.00 for each additional directory ordered. In order for all members to have a directory, we have ordered extras. These may be purchased for \$5.00 each from Bryan Clemons or in the church office.

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**Baptism—Tyler Seidl**, son of Kari Steege and Sarah Seidl, on March 21.

## **Celebrate 25 Years of Open and Affirming with the UCC Coalition**

Join the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns to celebrate 25 years of the Open and Affirming process July. Representatives will come together at the Coalition's National Gathering 2010: Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body. Visit the conference website at [www.ucccoalition.org/programs/gathering](http://www.ucccoalition.org/programs/gathering) for additional details about speakers, sessions and related activities.

The Gathering will take place in San Diego, July 14-17, 2010. And San Diego's renowned Gay Pride Festival takes place on July 17-18 just a short cab ride from the conference hotel. Advance registration is available for a limited time for just \$119 per person.

The ONA process began on a national level in 1985 when the Fifteenth General Synod adopted the resolution, Calling on United Church of Christ Congregations to Declare Themselves Open and Affirming.

The Planning Committee for National Gathering hopes that each ONA congregation will send at least one delegate to San Diego to join in celebrating this milestone. Come to reconnect with friends from across the country or to meet new ones. Come and experience the deep, meaningful worship services. Come and learn how to be a better advocate, steps you can take to encourage other congregations in your area to consider the ONA process and things your church can do to more fully live out God's extravagant welcome. Come and celebrate the United Church of Christ's commitment to the inclusion of all God's children at God's table.

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### **Women's Luncheon**

Please join us for another round-table luncheon on April 15 - TAX DAY. You can celebrate the filing of your taxes (or your extension). We will meet at the CHINA GARDEN Restaurant at 12 noon. There is a buffet and menu as well. The China Garden is located at 210 2nd Street in Coralville, the former Lone Star space. Please bring a guest. Questions? Contact Sharyn Reitz, 354-3138.

## Library News

"Stones into Schools; Promoting Peace with Books, not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan" was written by Greg Mortenson (also the author of "Three Cups of Tea"). Greg Mortenson, through his nonprofit Central Asia Institute (CAI), has worked to promote peace through education by establishing more than 130 schools in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Most of these schools have been for girls.

In 1999 Mortenson was asked by Kirghiz horsemen from Afghanistan to construct a school in an isolated pocket of the Pamir Mountains.

In "Stones into Schools" Mortenson tells how he built that school as well as many others. Those efforts were diverted in Oct 2005 when a devastating earthquake hit the area. The CAI helped with relief efforts by setting up temporary schools and later several earthquakeproof schools. In 2007 the CAI began to launch schools in the heart of Taliban country, and Mortenson has helped the US military formulate new strategic plans in the region.

"Stones into Schools" shows the heroic efforts to bring girls schools to Afghanistan and the triumph of the young women now graduating from these schools.

Greg Mortenson is a humanitarian and former mountaineer who believes the best way for peace is through education. He is the cofounder of the nonprofit Central Asia Institute and founder of the Pennies for Peace children's program. In 2009 he received one of Pakistan's highest civic awards.

Judy Doorenbos

## Christian Education

Dear Friends,

We will be suspending all classes on April 4<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday, so that you might spend time with your families and, perhaps join us before the worship service for breakfast. We will, however, have Children's Church on Easter during the sermon.

The Adult Education Series, "Faithfully Facing Dying," will conclude on April 11<sup>th</sup> with, "Looking Back and Moving Forward," a summary discussion of the preceding five classes. If you have participated in any of these classes, please join us to see if we are able to summarize our feelings and opinions so that we might pass these along to assist in the preparation of a new resource that will help clergy and lay members of the UCC when these issues do arise.

Our much-anticipated "Camp Day," originally scheduled for our elementary school children on the April 30<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher Conference Day, has been cancelled. The Iowa City Schools have elected to use that day to make up a previous "snow day." We'll look forward to fall to gather together again to learn more about our faith.

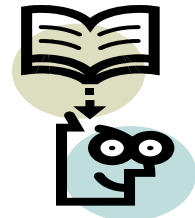
The Summer Camp information has arrived from Pilgrim Heights. There truly is a camp for everyone. Please check the bulletin board in the back hallway for more information.

Our final Christian Education Classes will be held on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Children's Church will continue through June and July.

Edie Roberts

Christian Education Director

**Summer camp** information is here! Check the bulletin board in the back hallway for information and registration forms. This year Pilgrim Heights has camps for everyone: Family Camp, camps for young people K through HS, CIT Camp, Senior Camp, Grandparent/Grandchild Camp. Don't miss out! Register now!



## Service of Music

**Sunday, April 18, 10:15 a.m.**

Te Deum, by Andrew Carter

The *Te Deum* by Andrew Carter is a recent musical setting of one of the classic hymns of the early Christian church. The text, originating perhaps in the 5th century, begins “Te Deum laudamus” (We praise Thee, O God). An integral part of the Roman liturgy, the *Te Deum* holds a significant place in Protestant worship as well. Luther ranked it next in importance to the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed as a confession of faith and a hymn of praise.

Carter uses the traditional English version of the text found in *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1559. He divides the text into four parts: Praise to God the Father throughout heaven and earth; praise to the triune God by apostles, prophets, martyrs, and the church in all times and places; praise to Christ, the King of glory; and a closing litany. Between each of these sections, the composer has added a contrasting hymn: to the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Christ. These contrasting movements were originally written for a children’s choir, but will be sung in our service by soloists.

Andrew Carter, a contemporary English composer, wrote this setting of the *Te Deum* in 1996 for an anniversary service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. We will perform the work with organ and percussion accompaniment.

## **SUNDAYS AT FOUR SEASON CONCLUDES WITH ORGAN RECITAL**

BY GREGORY HAND ON MAY 2

Gregory Hand will present an organ recital May 2 on our new Casavant organ. This event will be the sixth and concluding program in the current SUNDAYS AT FOUR season. He will perform works by Elgar, Whitlock, Brahms, Tournemire, and William Bolcom.

Gregory Hand, assistant professor of organ at The University of Iowa, joined the faculty in the fall of 2009. He has come to Iowa from Northwestern University, where he taught music theory and was University Chapel Organist. His doctoral study was at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Hand has participated in several international organ competitions and is also active as a harpsichordist and continuo player.

Help us welcome Gregory Hand to Iowa.

### **Shelter House Overflow**

During the last week of February as hosts for the Shelter House Overflow project our church served 15 individuals and provided 35 nights of shelter. Users expressed frequent thanks and appreciative comments. A man from Louisiana who helps with breakfast dishes at Uptown Bill's said, "Iowa City sure has lots of nice people." The church team providing time or money included Mark Brookfield, Susie Brown, Megan Carnes, Bryan and Ginny Clemons, Martha Ann Crawford, Kathy Fait, John Fuller, Barb Hanson, Bob Hanson, Megan Henson, Donna Hirst, Marge Hoppin, Sharon and John Reitz, Rick Ruppert, Maile Sagen, Frank and Gretchen Snider and Pam Willard. Ten University students also helped. Ameri-corps worker C.J. Cash. recruited and trained the students and is ably coordinating the entire project that ends April 1.

## **SHELTER HOUSE OVERFLOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Between February 21 and 27th our church is responsible for the Consultation of Religious Communities Shelter Overflow Project. Many volunteers from our church will be needed to staff, transport, and lightly feed the men, women and children who are unable to use the safety and warmth of Shelter House when its 29 person capacity is reached.

The City of Iowa City now owns St Patrick's Hall and is leasing its building to Shelter House to use for the overflow project. The Hall is located on the backside of a large parking lot on the South side of Court Street, one and a half blocks east of the Post Office and across from a large apartment complex where St. Patrick's church formerly stood. The fire department safety inspectors will allow up to 25 people to sleep in this clean and spacious facility.

Martha Ann Crawford (683-3244 [macrawford49@yahoo.com](mailto:macrawford49@yahoo.com)) and Marge Hoppin (338-3858 [margehoppin@yahoo.com](mailto:margehoppin@yahoo.com)) are coordinating our church's effort and hope you will contact either of them to tell how you will help. Here are the tasks: **14 drivers** transporting to and from Shelter (331 N. Gilbert St) at 9:00 p.m. or 6:30 a.m., **6 cleaners** for the restrooms only), **1 driver** on Wednesday a.m. to haul laundry to the Sunshine laundromat and subsequently pick it up and return it to the Hall, **1 emergency backup driver** with 4 wheel drive willing to pick up and deliver lead volunteer and perhaps others to the Hall in case of a blizzard, **6 overnight shift leaders**. Shift leaders will be assisted by two University students one male, one female. Both new and returning leaders will personally be guided through procedural changes due to the change in location. **4 suppliers** of yet unknown needs for breakfast food, paper products, or other needs. You will be contacted on short notice of the specific requests. Rotating churches provide all the supplies. The Hall's refrigerator, stove and dishwasher have been removed.

Our church has participated in this project for six years and is glad that the new Shelter House expects to open October 2010, eliminating the future need for this program

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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- |      |                   |      |                   |
|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|
| 4-1  | Woodrow Morris    | 4-20 | Christopher Davis |
|      | Wayne Balmer      | 4-21 | Diana Durham      |
|      | Ellis Chen        | 4-22 | Bruce Guither     |
| 4-6  | Anne Weir         | 4-24 | Meredith Smith    |
| 4-7  | Del Brown         | 4-25 | Theresa Guither   |
|      | Ross Nusser       |      | Lesley Smith      |
| 4-8  | Michael Kempf     |      | James Bayless     |
|      | Clinton Thomae    |      | Jacob Koepnick    |
| 4-9  | Grace Whittaker   | 4-26 | Anna Whittaker    |
| 4-10 | Charles Nusser    | 4-27 | Robert McFarland  |
| 4-11 | Nate Beckmann     |      | Joshua Woolums    |
| 4-14 | Elizabeth Deifell | 4-28 | Dawn McKenzie     |
| 4-15 | Pat Myers         |      | Jason Sisley      |
|      | Magill Schumm     | 4-29 | Katherine Balmer  |
| 4-17 | James Searls      |      |                   |
|      | Andy Raver        |      |                   |
| 4-19 | Ann Gabel         |      |                   |



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

**April 2010**

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

Monday—Friday.....9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Phone:** 319-337-4301

**E-mail:**

Office Manager.....uccicsec@uccic.org

Christian Ed. Dir....uccicce@uccic.org

**Visit our Web Site:**

[www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)

**Sunday Schedule**

**10:15 a.m.      Worship**

**11:15 a.m.      Fellowship**

**Our Church Staff**

**Pastor: Rev. Lovin**

Music Director: Richard Bloesch

Organist: Bill Crouch

Christian Ed: Edie Roberts

Custodians: Nicole & Eddy Ghumm

Office Manager: Phil Jamieson

**Parking  
Information**

Parking is available evenings and all day Sunday at the IMU or North Hall Parking Ramps. Ask your usher for a voucher (or get one from the church office).