

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



## The United Church of Christ

AUGUST 2011

FROM THE PASTOR



Friends in Christ—

Bruce Epperly, the UCC minister and theologian whose book *Holy Adventure* we studied during Lent, wrote elsewhere, “In a world of complexity, people yearn for the simple gift of experiencing God in all things, from checking their e-mail to multitasking at both home and the office.”

One morning in July I was walking to church after buying a cup of coffee downtown. Looking around I noticed the words “You can afford it” scrawled on the wall of a building. Was it a message affirming my coffee purchase? Or was this a quiet experience of God in all things, an early morning reminder of the abundance that surrounds us and the abundance that we possess?

I’m inclined to see this as an experience of God because, like most experiences of the divine, it was ambiguous and open to interpretation. Who is the “you” referred to in this announcement? Was it a message for me? Or was this meant for all with eyes to see? And exactly what is *it* that can be afforded?

For awhile I thought that this was a message to our church as we start to think about a capital campaign to keep our building in good repair. The price tag might be high, but *You can afford it!* Certainly that’s the case.

If, as the old song says, the words of the prophet are written on the...walls, what might the message be for you? For us? If God is still speaking, what ambiguous and open ended word are you hearing these days?

Peace, *Bill*

In the Congregational United Church of Christ we all share in performing duties for the worship service. A list is provided each month for the assignments of Greeters, Ushers, and Hospitality. Please arrive about one-half hour before services, which begin at 10:15 a.m. If you cannot serve on the assigned date please call someone else on the list to arrange a swap with them.

## SERVING THE CHURCH AUGUST 2011

	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
AUG. 7	Cynthia Kemp Sheilah McKenna	John, Betsey, Megan, & Thomas Henson	Laura Stunz & Tom Mittman
AUG. 14	Marcia Kuechenmeister Cynthia Parsons	Kevin, Tina, Jacob, & Emily Koepnick	William & Jody Murph
AUG. 21	Anna Mary Mueller Shirley Woolums	Nicole & Sophie Neems; John & Andrea Rauer	John Fuller & Kathy Fait
AUG. 28	Donna Hirst Candace Noble	Todd & Annette Michaels; Marie Von Behren & Lyle Tonne	Scott & Patricia Hansche

If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone, please call the assigned Deacon of the month—JAMES SAVAGE (319 337-9995)

### 2012 SPECIAL OLYMPICS SCARF PROJECT

Let's help the 2012 Special Olympics reach their goal of 1700 knitted scarves by November 1. Contact Marnie Campbell 319-512-2272 if you will knit one.

Pride of the USA Knit Scarf

RED Heart "Super Saver®" yard 1 skein each 319 Cherry Red A and 387 Soft Navy B.

Knitting Needles: 5mm (US 8) (GAUGE: 22 sts – 6"; 14 rows = 2" in stripe

pattern. CHECK YOUR GAUGE; Use any size needles to obtain the gauge. SCARF:

With A cast on 22 sts. Rows 1-16: with A. Knit; Row 17 With B, Knit; Row 18 Purl;

Rows 19-24 Repeat Rows 17 and 18 three more times. Repeat Rows 1-24 for stripe

pattern until 60" from beginning and then repeat Rows 1-16 once more. Bind off.

Weave in ends.

## August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Mission 7:00 p.m. Diaconate 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Christian Ed 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16 Trustees 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Women's Luncheon  First day of classes for Iowa City schools	19 Student Welcome 11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.	20 Newsletter Items Due Student Welcome 11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
21	22 U of Iowa Classes begin	23 Church Council 7:00 p.m.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Choir Potluck 5:30 p.m.  Membership 7:00 p.m.			

### **WOMEN'S LUNCHEON**

Calling all women! We will herald the end of summer at the Edgewater Grille Restaurant in the Coralville Marriott on Thursday, August 18, 11:45 am. After lunch our own Mary Lea Kruse will lead us on a tour of the art in the complex. Free parking is available in the parking structure. Please phone or email your reservation to the Church Office by Wednesday, August 19, 4pm.  
See you there!

### **CHURCH PARKING LOT**

When leaving your car parked at the church lot during the week would you please check in at the office so I know it is a member parking there?

Thanks,  
Sheila

### **WELCOME BACK STUDENTS**

On August 20 & 21st our congregation will again welcome students to Iowa City and the new school year with cookies and lemonade. So many students walk by our front door that first weekend before classes begin that we want them to know they are welcome here in our church. It is hard to pass up a free cookie so we have a chance to speak with many students. The Membership Committee needs volunteers for two shifts, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. both Friday and Saturday. We will also need cookies. It seems that the same people wind up baking for these events. If you have not provided cookies or bars recently this would be a great time to help with the baking. Baked goods should be brought to the church kitchen by 10:30 a.m. on Friday. Please contact Bryan Clemons (319-338-6674) if you are able to help in person or by cookie proxy.

### **HERE ARE A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE IN NASHVILLE:** by Mike Myer

The Nashville flooding was different from what we experienced here in 2008 and the victims had a much ruder set of shocks than the people we saw last year in Oakville. The Nashville people didn't sit and watch a river creep closer and closer to their property. They were hit with days of torrential rains, which culminated in flash flooding. One of the families we helped got five feet of water in their house in less than ten minutes; prior to that they were high and dry. And that was typical of most of the folks we met. The water subsided pretty quickly, but their lives were completely turned upside down in minutes. They didn't know which way to turn or what to do first. It felt good to help the people restructure their lives. Each day we had crews at three or four sites and at the end of the day the people could see progress. A common theme we all felt was the gratitude of the people as they saw their homes becoming livable again. We were there only for a week. Different groups have been going there for a year, but I'm sure that each group has left feeling they accomplished something. I know we all left feeling that we had made a bunch of new friends. The overall effort in Nashville is being coordinated by the Southeast Regional Recovery Center (or some title similar to that). All requests for aid go through them so that no one is forgotten and the people get the kind of help they need. During one of our morning assignment meetings the supervisor told us that to date they had completed rehabs on over 150 homes. That is amazing when you consider it is almost entirely with volunteer labor. More about the trip next month.



## GENERAL FUND GIVING AS OF JUNE 30, 2011

	Received as of June 30, 2011	Annual Budget	Percent of Budgeted Income Received
Pledges	\$108,581	\$210,645	51.5%
Non-Pledged Giving	\$10,676	\$30,000	35.6%
Loose Plate Offering	\$2,135	\$5,000	42.7%

### STOCK DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH

We sometimes receive pledge payments and other contributions in the form of stock transfers. In order to reduce annual fees, we are now using the brokerage account at US Bank exclusively. If you wish to transfer stock to the Church, please contact the Church Office to obtain the DTC number and our brokerage account number at US Bank. Both of these numbers are necessary to assure a smooth transfer. We will then let US Bank know to expect the transfer. Your contribution will equal the value of the shares on the day of transfer. Any fees or gain/loss on the stock will be accounted for in the general fund of the Church. Our policy is to immediately liquidate stock gifts. Our brokerage agents at US Bank are Jeff Olson and Benjamin Fortune, 356-9073. Please contact Sharyn Reitz, Financial Secretary, or Ginny Clemons, Treasurer, if you have further questions on stock transfers.

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

"Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve"

Church Women United (CWU) is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women's movement initiated and carried out by women in the United States and Puerto Rico. It is a movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. September 23rd is **Human Rights Celebration** at the Coralville Public Library sponsored by First United Methodist Church. November 4th is **World Community Day** at St. Peter's Catholic Church. Church Women United is an important voice in the community for justice, peace, and cooperation among denominations. Everyone is welcome.



### HABITAT WOMEN BUILD

“Thank you to the members of the Congregational United

Church of Christ for your continued support of the Iowa

Valley Habitat Women Build! The \$746.00 donated by your church

assists 100;s of women volunteers in our community build an affordable house for Nusret Kraina and his family. On behalf of the Krainas, than you so very much.” Sincerely,

David Minehart,  
Resource Development Director  
Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity.

### NEW VISITORS

In the next few weeks people new to Iowa City, undergraduate students, faculty, graduate students, etc., will be looking for a new church home and many will visit our church. One of the things that our new members have said they look for in a church is a warm, friendly, welcoming congregation. We as members of this church look forward to seeing our church friends and catching up with them during fellowship hour. In doing so it is easy to overlook the visitors standing by themselves. Let us all continue to extend a welcoming hand to our visitors before we become engrossed in conversation with each other. No matter how good the music or the sermon, people will not return to a place where they do not feel welcome. Thanks for your help.  
Membership Committee

### SUNDAYS AT FOUR SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Congregational United Church of Christ is not just "the church with the big steeple across from the Newman Center and Pappajohn Business Building" anymore. Thanks to a generous donation to the church in 2007 to support community outreach, the Mission Board with input from the congregation authorized a series of contributions to worthy causes in the community. One of their decisions was to establish a recital series as a way of bringing people into our church, utilizing our excellent resources and new organ, and promoting our identity in the community. The free Sundays at Four community arts series has provided a wide variety of programs over the past three years, reaching a combined audience of 1856 people. Free-will donations received at each event raised a total of \$4600 for local social service groups/projects. Now entering its 4th season, the Sundays@Four Committee is seeking to expand input from the congregation in planning these events. If you are interested in helping to plan the concerts for the coming season, please contact Marie Von Behren at 354-4020.

### CHURCH SCHOOL KICKOFF LUNCHEON

Be looking forward to the Church School Kickoff Luncheon to be held on September 11 following the service. A sign-up sheet will be in Rockwood hall in August.

## NEW STAFF MEMBERS

This August we welcome two new staff members to Congregational UCC. Each of them brings experience, dedication, and energy to their position.

**John Hughes** is our new Choir Director. For the past two years John has been the chancel choir director at First Congregational Church (UCC) in DeKalb, IL. Those who worked with John there are sorry to see him go—and a little jealous of us. John is a 2007 graduate of Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, and received his Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Northern Illinois University in 2010. He is moving to Iowa City to pursue a Doctor of Music in Choral Conducting degree. John has taught in grade schools and high schools. His wife, Mandy, will be working as a school guidance counselor in West Branch. Our church choir begins singing again on September 11. John will be the soloist during worship on September 4.

**Brianna Schwenk** is our new Director of Christian Education. Brianna comes to us after working as the youth director at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Iowa City. People who have worked with Brianna spoke highly about her strong relationships with parents and teens at the church. She studied at both St. Olaf College and Creighton University. Having worked as a high school speech coach, she is currently studying for a Master of Arts in Teaching at Drake.

We have a long history of outstanding staff and John and Brianna continue in that tradition. Please welcome them warmly as they join us this month.



Clarence Jordan's Cotton Patch Gospel, forward by Tony Campolo, introduction by Millard Fuller. Quoted from the back cover:

"The Cotton Patch Gospel, by Koinonia Farm founder Clarence Jordan, recasts the stories of Jesus and the letters of Paul and Peter into the language and culture of the mid-20th century South. Born out of the Civil Right struggle, these now classic translations of much of the New Testament bring the far-away places of Scripture closer to home: Gainesville, Selma, Birmingham, Atlanta, Washington D.C. As Jordan once wrote, 'While there have been many excellent translations of the Scriptures into modern English, they still have left us stranded in some faraway land in the long-distant past. We need to have the good news come to us not only in our own tongue but in our own time. We want to be participants in the faith, not merely spectators.' More than a translation, The Cotton Patch Gospel continues to make clear the startling relevance of Scripture for today. These editions come complete with new Forewords and a new Introduction by Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller. Smyth & Helwys Publishing is proud to help reintroduce these seminal works of Clarence Jordan to a new generation of believers." Available in 4 volumes: Clarence Jordan's Cotton Patch Gospel: Matthew and John, Luke and Acts, Paul's Epistles, Hebrews and the General Epistles  
Judy Doorenbos



2	Lexine Schumm	20	Jeannette Clark Steven Guither
6	Elizabeth Fuller		
9	Phyllis Ruppert Scott Mittman	21	Maxwell Parsons Megan Henson
10	Kathleen Day Leo Burchett	22	Jacqueline Sang- ster Margaret Bayless
11	Shirley Wyrick	23	Lindsay McFarland
13	Denny Dudley Thomas Kempf	24	Tina Koepnick William Dickin- son Mary Anne Mor- ris
14	Joseph Ro- manowski		
15	Fern Weir Annie Parysz Amy Woodhouse	25	Todd Nelson
16	Todd Morrow Kathryn Klinefel- ter Emily Koepnick	26	Brianna Ghumm
		29	Marge Hoppin
		30	Lisa Thomae
17	Laura Stunz	31	Donna Hirst Betsy Boyd Aaron Amos Nic Rittler
19	William Nusser, Jr. Miranda Sisley		

### BOOK FESTIVAL FOLLOW-UP

Over 100 people visited our church during the afternoon of July 17 for our series of author readings that was part of the Iowa City Book Festival. Thanks to the Membership Board for planning the event and to all the members who helped with hospitality that afternoon. Many people commented on the gracious welcome that they received.

While books from three of the authors were available for purchase that afternoon, Robin Lovin's books did not arrive.

Several members were interested in those books and the information about them follows:

*Reinhold Niebuhr, 2007*, Abingdon Press—a good general introduction to this giant of 20th century theology.

*Reinhold Niebuhr and Christian Realism, 1995*, Cambridge University Press—a more complete look at Niebuhr's theology.

*Christian Realism and the New Realities, 2008*, Cambridge University Press—the other book that Robin read from during his presentation. A paperback version will be released next year.

All of these books can be ordered from your favorite local bookseller or online.

### GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, August 28, the Green Committee will meet after the worship service. We will discuss some of the ideas in *Green Christianity: Five Ways to a Sustainable Future* by Mark I. Wallace. Bring ideas for other topics to discuss throughout the year. Contact Annette Michaels for more information: earthaworm@gmail.com or at (319) 338-5312.

## MUSIC AND METEORS ECUMENICAL EVENT

Everyone is invited to the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 900 Lincolnshire Place in Coralville on August 12th and 13th (Fri.-Sat.) for a special evening with members of First Christian Church, First Baptist Church, Congregational UCC, and Faith UCC. The evening will begin at 6:30 with a concert by Sara Kay—she'll sing some songs for us and teach us some songs. Each congregation is invited to (1) bring a couple of featured musicians to either perform or lead us in singing a song and (2) encourage everyone who plays a guitar, horn, tuba, sax, flute, ukulele, harmonica, etc. to bring an instrument and play and sing along on a few familiar songs. After the concert in the sanctuary there will be a reception in fellowship hall for Sara Kay and for all of us to enjoy each other. Around 8:00 we'll transition to a good fun movie such as *Tangled* or *Despicable Me* that all ages can enjoy with popcorn, drinks, etc. After the movie we'll have a campfire/smores and meteor watch for the Perseids meteor shower outdoors. Anyone who wishes can sleep under the stars, pitch a tent, or sleep in the air-conditioned fellowship hall. All of these activities are optional—come for the concert, the movie, the meteors—any or all. Our congregations have a long history of cooperation. In 2002 the Congregational UCC and First Christian worshipped together for 5 months at the Congregational UCC building while the current First Christian building was being finished. We have had years of joint outdoor worship services at City Park, and years of work camps, and the intermittent youth meetings. For all of our congregations, claiming our unity has been a part of our identity and mission.

## DISASTER RELIEF OFFERING

**JULY 31, 2011**

Recently tornadoes, fires and floods have caused massive destruction throughout the world. In the U.S. tornadoes killed at least 160 people in late May, including at least 116 people in Joplin on May 22. Floods forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes along the lower Mississippi River. Damage from these disasters is estimated to be in the billions of dollars. The UCC is not a first responder in national or international disasters. Instead the UCC partners with Church World Service to support emergency relief. The Mission Board believes that this offering is very important and our donations will be pooled with others to address the most pressing needs. Given the volume and extent of recent disasters, the Board may request periodic additional emergency offerings, not to exceed quarterly. If you want your donation to go to a particular relief effort, please note this on the offering envelope.

## FAIR TRADE COFFEE AT CONGREGATION UCC

Each Sunday we serve up a "Cup of Justice" after worship at coffee hour. This year on the First Sunday of each month the Mission Board will be selling coffee and other beverages.

## THE LIFE AND LAND OF JESUS

The Rev. Mel Schlachter, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Iowa City is leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from March 9-21, 2012. Brochures about this trip are available in Rockwood Hall. For more information, please contact Mel at [mschlachter@trinityic.org](mailto:mschlachter@trinityic.org).

## TRANSITIONS

### BIRTH

Dean Paul Woodhouse, son of Amy and Cyndy Woodhouse, on July 1, 2011.

### BAPTISMS

Justine Elizabeth Barker, daughter of Tim and Nikki Barker, on June 26, 2011.

Dean Paul Woodhouse, son of Amy and Cyndy Woodhouse, on July 17, 2011.

### WEDDINGS

Laura Savage and Brian Umlah on June 25, 2011.

Megan Carnes and James Robinson on July 16, 2011.

### NEW MEMBERS

During worship of July 17 seven new members were introduced to our congregation. They are:

**Russell and Sheila Bloomer.** Russ is a truck driver whose interest in cooking was recently shown when he brought “Elvis Presley Brownies” to share with us during coffee hour. Sheila has been our office manager since October 2010, bringing order, efficiency, and a smile to the office. She is interested in knitting, crocheting, and (fortunately) computers and technology.

**Lowell and Jan Dendinger** moved to Iowa City from Tipton in 1993 to enroll their children in a larger school with more challenges. They liked it so well that they stayed, continuing to enjoy the culture and diversity of Iowa City. Lowell is an attorney who still practices in Tipton. Jan is a retired real estate broker who enjoys civic, volunteer, and social groups. They have two sons and three grandsons.

**Mike and Julie McBride** also moved to Iowa City from Tipton in 2007. They are the parents of two grown children and enjoy spending time with family. Julie is a school nurse at Tipton Community School. Mike previously worked at UIHC and is currently a systems administrator and TV engineer at UI. Other interests include reading, scrabble, cars, music, Cubs, and Hawkeye’s.

**Sheilah McKenna** is a retired journalist. She also taught history at UI. Recalling the words of the poet, Rilke, “First, love the questions,” Sheilah appreciates that at Congregational UCC questions are allowed, doubt is allowed, and spiritual exploration is allowed. No question about her sports interests—Hawkeye’s and Bears. She also enjoys decorating, reading, art European history, ideas, and politics.

## TOGATHER TOGETHER SCHOOL SUPPLY FUNDRAISER



**At:** Forevergreen Garden Center  
125 Forevergreen Rd. Coralville, IA

**Contact:** Lucy Hershberger

**Phone:** 319-626-2774 or 319-430-9488 E-mail [forevergreen@southslope.net](mailto:forevergreen@southslope.net)

**A partnership between** Forever Green Garden Center, ToGather Together and our community.

Imagine starting school without a pencil or a package of markers like all of the other kids have. Sadly, for some children in Johnson County, the first day of school is yet another reminder that they don't have all the tools needed to succeed.

Forever Green Garden Center will donate 10% of the proceeds from the sale of plants from August 1<sup>st</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> to ToGather Together to purchase school supplies for students in need in Johnson County.

For the last three years the **ToGather Together** school supply drive has brought together faith communities, social service agencies, businesses, and schools in a coordinated effort to collect and distribute back-to-school supplies so that each student in need could start the year prepared to learn. **Over 3,000 children are provided with supplies to start their school year** thanks to your support.

Forever Green is proud to be partnering with ToGather Together and you to make a difference in the lives of the children in our area. We chose to support **ToGather Together** after seeing the dedication of the many volunteers who make this amazing project possible. When I talked to representatives from **ToGather Together** and learned that 100% of the money donated would go towards purchasing supplies for students K-12 living in Johnson County. Not only is all the money spent on supplies but also many local retailers are offering discounts on the supplies so that the dollars go even farther thanks to their generosity. At Forever Green we believe that when our youth see a bright future full of opportunity and hope they will be free to achieve to their highest potential and this is one small way to help provide for that future.

### **For more information:**

Regarding the fundraiser.

**Lucy Hershberger Forever Green Inc.** 319-626-6770 or 319-430-9488

[forevergreen@southslope.net](mailto:forevergreen@southslope.net)

For information on TGTg, donations and distribution **Karrie Craig** 319-339-9403 [thecraigfamily@mchsi.com](mailto:thecraigfamily@mchsi.com) or **Marsha Lowe** 319-339-4267 [marshalowe@gmail.com](mailto:marshalowe@gmail.com)

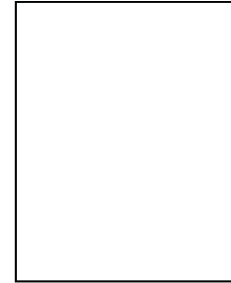
Co-directors of ToGather Together thru the Consultation of Religious Communities.

Mail to: CRC, PO Box 2025, Iowa City, IA 52244.

The Consultation of Religious Communities is an interfaith council composed of more than thirty religious communities and related agencies of Johnson County. We sponsor events and service activities with and for the community, and work to foster appreciation and understanding on matters of religious and cultural diversity.

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



## AUGUST 2011

### HOW TO CONTACT US

Tuesday – Friday.....9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Phone:** 319-337-4301

**E-mail:**

Minister.....[uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org)

Office Manager.....[uccicsec@uccic.org](mailto:uccicsec@uccic.org)

Financial Secretary.....[uccicfinsec@uccic.org](mailto:uccicfinsec@uccic.org)

Christian Ed. Dir.....[uccicce@uccic.org](mailto: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:**                      **The Rev. William Lovin**

Christian Ed:      Brianna Schwenke

Music Director:      John Hughes

Organist:              Bill Crouch

Office Manager      Sheila Bloomer

Financial Sec.      Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Custodians:              Nicole & Eddy Ghumm

### **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).