

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



The United Church of Christ



FEBRUARY 2012
FROM THE PASTOR

Friends in Christ:

The season of Lent, a time of preparation for celebrating the joy of Easter, begins on February 22 this year. On Sunday mornings, I will focus on the Lord's Prayer in my sermons.

The followers of Jesus came to him saying, "Lord, teach us to pray." We continue to make the same request and continue to learn from the model of prayer that Jesus gave to us.

Most people in our congregation have carried the Lord's Prayer with them from childhood. You learned it at home or in Sunday School, you would say it from memory along with the rest of the congregation during worship. You know these words "by heart," indeed they are written deeply upon your soul.

Yes, there are some for whom this is not the case. You learned this prayer later in life. Perhaps it continues to startle and challenge.

Familiar words can lose their meaning, however. We all face the danger that what we know best we might understand the least.

On these Sundays in Lent I want to explore those "well worn words" to see what fresh meaning they might have for us, to see what new light they might shine on our lives. We'll take it slowly, examining a different phrase each week.


Here are the scripture lessons for the early weeks of Lent:

February 22 Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 p.m.
 "Spring Heart-Cleaning"
 Exodus 12:14-20
 Matthew 6:1-13

February 26 First Sunday of Lent
 "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."
 Isaiah 66:13-14
 Luke 11:1-4

March 4 Second Sunday of Lent
 "Thy kingdom come."
 Isaiah 52:7-10
 Matthew 13:31-35, 44-45

Peace, *Bill*



SERVING THE CHURCH

FEBRUARY

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 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.


Feb.	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
5	Judy Doorenbos Donna Hirst	John & Meg Bayless Raven Rowe Glenna Cobb	Sally Strang Shirley Woolums
12	Bob & Yvette Jury	Dwight & Connie Schumm Charles Connerly & Martha Ann Crawford	Diane Olson & Darin Wells
19	Bryan & Ginny Clemons	Jim Savage Nic Rittler Mike & Joyce Myer	Russ & Sheila Bloomer
26	Bill Dickinson Rod Malcolm	Bruce & Kathy Thede- Reynolds Rick & Phyllis Ruppert	Kevin Richards & Kathi Koegle

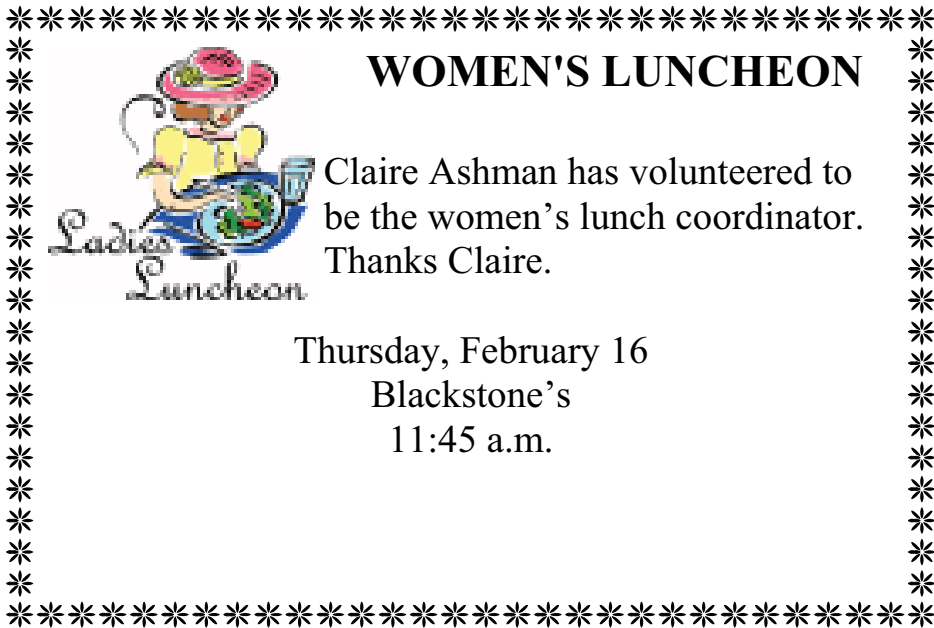
If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone, please call the assigned

THANK-YOU

I want to thank everyone for the congregation's generous gift at Christmas. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness. Thanks, too, for your support and prayers through the past year. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the coming year will bring. Thanks. —Bill

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Foreign Relations Noon	2	3	4
5 Hunger Series 4:00 p.m.	6 Narcotics Anonymous Noon Scripture Meditation Chapel 7:00 p.m.	7 Foreign Relations Noon Diaconate Board 7:00 p.m. Mission Board 7:00 p.m.	8	9	10	11
12 Hunger Series 4:00 p.m.	13 Narcotics Anonymous Noon Scripture Meditation Chapel 7:00 p.m.	14 	15 Christian Education 7:00 p.m.	16 Women's Lunch Blackstone's 11:45 a.m.	17	18
19 Hunger Series 4:00 p.m.	20 Narcotics Anonymous Noon Scripture Meditation Chapel 7:00 p.m.	21 Trustees Board 7:00 p.m.	22 Lent Service 7:00 p.m.	23 Membership Board 7:00 p.m.	24 Foster/Febus Wedding Rehearsal	25 Sheila Bloomer Meeting in Rockwood Hall 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Foster/Febus Wedding
26	27 Narcotics Anonymous Noon Scripture Meditation Chapel 7:00 p.m.	28 Camp Day Church Council 7:00 p.m.	29 Lenten Music Meditation Noon			



WOMEN'S LUNCHEON



Claire Ashman has volunteered to be the women's lunch coordinator. Thanks Claire.

Thursday, February 16
Blackstone's
11:45 a.m.

MILESTONES

Birth: A daughter, Amelia, to Ron Erving and Alyssa Green on December 23.

Deaths: Dick Hoppin, husband of Marge Hoppin, on January 6.

Former member, Grant Kenworthy, husband of Maura, died in November 2011.

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE COMMON FUND OF THE CONSULTATION OF RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

October, November, December 2011

During this quarter, the Common Fund assisted 64 households with an average of \$96.70, the majority receiving help with utilities or housing.

Without this assistance, a single mother whose child is not old enough to go to school and who cannot afford childcare would have had her water disconnected and a single, disabled woman who had unexpected medical expenses could have had her electricity shut off. *Requests for financial assistance are up 22% from this time last year.*

Total amount expended: \$6,189.25

Total number of households served: 64

Average number of households served each week: 5 (18 including other Crisis Center funds)

Average number turned away each week: 20

Average amount per assist: \$96.70

Needs Fulfilled:

Maintain Water: 25

Maintain Housing: 10

Maintain Electricity/Gas: 29

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The church office would like to communicate with you via e-mail as much as possible.

Please e-mail the church office uccicsec@uccic.org with your e-mail address or call the office, 337-4301. Thank You!

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|----|---|----|--|
| 2 | Noralee Balmer | 16 | David Balmer |
| 3 | Beth Parker
Maile Sagen
James Sangster
Matthew Gabel | 21 | Nicole Pearson |
| 5 | Benjamin Darr
Steven Hanson | 22 | Tory Christensen
Mary Bryant |
| 7 | Russ Fate
Michael Romanowski
Christine Darr | 23 | Nel Okparanta
Ethan Buck |
| 8 | Larry Parsons | 24 | Gene Buck |
| 10 | Frank Snider
Courtney Rowe | 25 | Andrew Gabel
Michael Parysz |
| 14 | Spence Cameron
Laura Gabel | 26 | John Byrn |
| 15 | Sharyn Reitz
Zola Kovach | 27 | Nicole Neems
Christopher Reitz
Taylor McBurney |
| | | 28 | Tom Mittman |

On behalf of my family I wish to express my gratitude to all of you for your most generous expressions of sympathy and support through your gift of prayers, notes, food, flowers, visits and hugs upon learning of the recent death of my husband Dick..

Marge Hoppin



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 25
Hamburg Inn
24 N Linn St.
Iowa City, IA
8:00 a.m.

Make your reservations with Darin Wells,
darin.wells@gmail.com

CHINESE SCHOOL

Our church has offered a home to the Chinese School for many years. Does anyone know how long? At least thirty years? For those of you new to the church, the Chinese School arrives after our Sunday morning service and Fellowship, around 1pm, staying until around 4pm. They use our classrooms for Chinese instruction for children, who may not have an opportunity to learn their native language elsewhere. Parents rotate in providing snacks, a favorite time for the children. The School celebrates Chinese festival days as well. The School gives our church a monetary donation every year. And this year we received a holiday card and several pounds of coffee for our Fellowship Hour. We are pleased to have this long-term relationship with the parents, staff, board, and children of the Chinese community.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP BEGINS SEASON OF LENT

Congregational UCC begins the season of Lent with a special Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 p.m. on February 22. This quiet service of music and prayer will include the distribution of ashes for those who would like this ancient reminder of our mortality and symbol of repentance.

Other important dates during Lent:

February 26 First Sunday in Lent/Worship
 including Communion

April 5 Maundy Thursday

April 6 Good Friday

Easter Sunday is April 8

The weekend of January 21-22 witnessed a grand coming together of our church to support next fall's Coat Distribution for those in need in the community. Second Act was getting rid of a large volume of coats. Jane Murphy quickly got in gear to organize a coat storage project. Barb Hanson and Sharyn Reitz arrived on Saturday afternoon to transport about 25 large garbage bags of coats to the church. The Trustees quickly and unanimously gave permission to use the church for 9 month's storage, and John Johnson realized the most efficient and effective location for the coats would be in the chapel cabinets. After church over a dozen people carried coats and bagged coats and positioned them into the often ceiling high cabinets.

It is so wonderful to be part of a church that can work in unison to accomplish a big and meaningful task. Next fall hundreds of people will get winter coats through our efforts.

VIRTUAL GARAGE SALE!

If the New Year has inspired you to clean your shelves and closets, please consider taking your gently used items to Houseworks, located at the corner of S. Gilbert and Stevens Drive (just south of Hills Bank, near Aldi's). Proceeds from the sale of your items are collected and used for kitchen supplies and improvements, and churchyard maintenance. Please use the Congregational Church Account, #21026, for correct credit to the church.

SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE IN MARCH YOU CAN HELP NOW

For the past fourteen years, an annual used book sale has raised money to support Shelter House. The book sale has become an ecumenical event, thanks to the many congregations, individuals, and the Shelter House Board who help make it possible each year. The 2012 book sale will take place at a new venue – the former Waldenbooks site at Sycamore Mall. The sale will run for two days: Sat. March 3, 10:30-4:30, and Sun, March 4, noon-4:00 pm.

Opportunities to participate include:

Bring used books to the Waldenbooks site. CDs and DVDs are also welcome. We are **NOT ABLE** to accept donations of magazines, encyclopedias, condensed books, textbooks, puzzles, or games.

Sturdy boxes are needed for collection, transport to the site, and for storing remaining books after the sale.

Sponsors are needed to cover the expenses incurred (paying the utilities at the site, newspaper ads, printing posters, hiring Shelter House clients to move book boxes, etc.). Sponsorship is \$25.00. Sponsorship donations can be sent to Katherine Burford at Shelter House, 429 Southgate Avenue, Iowa City IA 52240. Tax deductible checks can be made out to Shelter House, with memo designation to "Book Sale". All profits from the book sale will go to the Shelter House Operating Fund.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks: sorting books prior to the sale, publicizing the sale, helping with set-up and/or clean-up, packing up books after the sale for transport to storage.



"Still Speaking Magazine" is a United Church of Christ periodical which began recent publication in Spring 2010. Our Church Library has a new subscription to the magazine which can be found on the magazine racks in the Library.

"Still Speaking Magazine" contains short profiles of UCC members. It also has in-depth stories of ministries taking place in local churches and in UCC-related places around the world. In addition, special photo essays in each issue give new interpretations to age-old words such as blessing, healing, belonging, and more.

"Still Speaking Magazine" has already won favorable comments for its insightful articles, compelling photography, and stunning design.

The Magazine can be found in our Church Library.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee

OUR CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Recently I added *Once There Was a Tree* by Natalia Romanova to our Children's Stories section of the library.

This is in no way a version of *The Giving Tree*. That book has always troubled me. It seems to say that if you really love someone, you will damage yourself, cripple yourself, tear down your boundaries, and destroy yourself for them. That is certainly not a healthy model for children.

With beautiful illustrations by Gennady Spirin, *Once There Was a Tree* focuses on a tree, which is struck by lightning during a violent storm. A woodsman discovers the broken tree and saws it down to its stump. One by one, a beetle, ants, a bear, a titmouse, a frog, and an earwig make the stump their own. But who really owns it? "The tree belongs to all, because it grows from the earth that is home for all."

This book shows the children—and us—how everything is part of God's creation; living, growing, and changing together.

Please take a moment to stop by our library. If this book doesn't interest you, there are many others to choose from. And, remember, there are no due dates to worry about.

Edie Roberts, Library Committee



MIDWEEK MUSICAL MEDITATIONS BEGIN THIS MONTH

2012 will mark our fourth year of our popular Lenten Musical Meditations series beginning on Wednesday, February 29 at noon. The musical meditations will include organists Andrew Hicks, Director of Music and the Arts at Trinity Episcopal Church, Melanie Sigafosse, organist at First Presbyterian Church, Ruth Hurlburt, organist at Gloria Dei and Bill Dickinson. Beth Oakes and Nathalie Cruden, violists, will once again be playing. The remaining two musicians are yet to be announced. The musical meditations will begin at noon and last for approximately 25 minutes. These midday recitals are free and open to the public. Please join us and bring a friend.

JOY KILLS SORROW ON MARCH 4!

Mark your calendars for our March 4 Sundays at Four event with the "newgrass" string band, Joy Kills Sorrow. One of its founders, Bridget Kearney, is an Iowa Citian who has played bass at our church in several jazz bands. She and her bandmates, who got together at the New England Conservatory, play many original compositions with strings and vocals. Don't miss it! And check out joykillssorrow.com to hear what is in store for us!

UCC COALITION FOR LGBT CONCERNS National Gathering—Elmhurst College, June 25-28, 2012

Mark your calendar for an historic event: a special National Gathering of the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns to celebrate 40 years of LGBT ministry in our denomination and to welcome the newest Open and Affirming congregations—including church number 1,000.

Just us for inspiring worship, powerful preaching, joyful music, and workshops that will feed your mind and your soul.

Registration begins March 1. For the latest updates, please subscribe to the Coalition's free email newsletter at www.uccoalition.org.



MISSIONS CORNER

In February the Mission Board concludes a seven part educational series addressing hunger issues. The series brings together academics, activists, farmers, and service providers who have firsthand experience and expertise with hunger issues on the international, national and local levels.

Programs will be held every Sunday through February 19. The presentations will begin at 4:00 p.m.

February 5 “The local face of hunger.” **Bob Untiedt**, Director, HACAP Food Reservoir, will address local concerns regarding Individual, family and child aid issues including free lunch in the schools, percent of participation in the schools, summer support for kids and food stamps.

February 12 “Growing nourishment: a panel.”
The panel will discuss local food production and issues of nutrition.

- Theresa Carbrey**, New Pioneer Foods Co-op, Community Supported Gardens
- Laura Dowd**, Local Foods Connection
- Dana Foster**, Scattergood Friends School farmer and students

February 19 “Now it’s Time to Make a Difference.”
Representatives and volunteers from these organizations will describe their organizations and will describe possible volunteer opportunities which are available.

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bob Andrlik | Table to Table |
| LiaPontarelli | Salvation Army |
| Stefanie Bell | Crisis Center Food Bank |
| Robert Ashman | Bread for the World |
| Vicki Thomae | Free Lunch |
| Laura Dowd | Local Foods Connection |
| Theresa Carbrey | Community Supported Gardens |
| Laurie Stunz | CROP Walk |

ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING

For decades One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ. Since 1949 several North American Protestant denominations have joined together to support OGHS. Collectively over \$20 million is raised annually to support health, education, and agricultural projects, disaster relief efforts, and refugee ministries in the United States and around the world. Because of this generous giving, the UCC and partners such as Church World Service are able to respond immediately to emergencies in the United States and around the globe.

Congregational UCC has a proud tradition of strong support for OGHS. We have been commended for our generosity in past years. You are invited to prayerfully consider how you can let your spirit grow and support this offering this Lent. The OGHS offering will be received during worship on April 1 (Palm Sunday). Please give generously. Lent is a wonderful time to share what you have with those who need help. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts meet compelling needs, while also bringing the blessing of compassion into our own lives.



Finding words to adequately express my thanks and appreciation to all of you who helped me move to my new apartment is nearly impossible.

So, I am going to begin with a quote from William Shakespeare: "I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks." Thank you to everyone who came and assisted in the packing of all my things over the course of 2-3 weeks, including bringing packing material, lunch, conversation, and your energy. Thank you to all of you who came to physically move me over the course of two days – for your automobiles and gasoline, for renting a trailer, for your muscle-power and, especially, for your time and energy. Thank you to those of you who showed up at my new apartment, many times, to help me unpack and organize. And, thank you to all who were with me and others through your thoughts and prayers. My life is made so much richer by being part of our church community. As stated in 1 Corinthians 1:4: "I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."

Diana Coberly
410 Ashley court #205
North Liberty, IA 52317
319-459-1360

**FAIR TRADE
COFFEE AT
CONGREGATIONAL
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.

TWO CHANCES TO SERVE

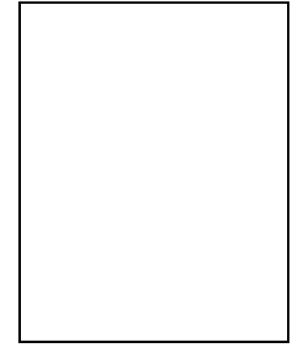
Close to home, over Spring break, March 11-17, there will be a work camp at the Christian Conference Center near Newton. You can come for the week or for a day or two. The work will involve getting the camp ready for the coming summer and doing some renovation on an older building. There will be special evening activities with local youth. Contact John McKinstry, icdisciple.pastor@gmail.com.

Looking ahead to summer, there will be a collaborative work camp in Joplin, MO. The terrible tornado there last spring leveled entire neighborhoods. The mission site will be housed in a Quonset hut on the property of South Joplin Christian Church. Priority will be given to UCC and Disciple work groups. We have been given the week of June 17-23. Consider joining us on a great service adventure. We'll be working to rebuild the community, and enjoying the fellowship of other volunteers. There are places for 30 people to come from our two churches. Congregational UCC and First Christian have shared work camps for many years and it is a wonderful team to work with. If you are interested contact Bill Lovin uccicpastor@uccic.org or talk with Shirley Woolums, Mike Meyer, or Martha Ann Crawford. The deadline to sign up is the first week of February. Most of the cost of the trip will be covered by our fundraising, such as the apple pies.

Mission Board suggests that people watch for great sales on coats, warm jackets, boots, mittens etc during the after Christmas sales. These items can then be kept until the CRC outer wear clothing distribution that takes place in Oct. New items are especially nice to have for this event. The clothing can then be brought to the church the week of the distribution.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FEBRUARY 2012

HOW TO CONTACT US

Tuesday—Friday.....8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone: 319-337-4301

E-mail:

Minister.....uccicrev@uccic.org

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

Financial Secretary.....uccicfinsec@uccic.org

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

Music Director.....uccicmudir@uccic.org

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org



Sunday Schedule

9:15 a.m. **Christian Education**

10:15 a.m. **Worship**

11:15 a.m. **Fellowship**

Our Church Staff

Pastor: **The Rev. William Lovin**

Christian Ed: Brianna Schwenk

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).