

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**The United Church of Christ
January 2010**

FROM THE PASTOR



Friends in Christ:

We're making 2010 the Year of the Gospel of Luke at Congregational UCC. Throughout the year ahead we will have opportunities to read, hear, study, discuss and ponder this Gospel and the good news that it presents to us. Two events this month will get us started.

On Sunday, January 10, we will read through the entire Gospel of Luke, beginning at 3:30 p.m. We'll gather in the sanctuary where twelve readers will read the twenty-four chapters of Luke. This should take about three hours. You are invited to join us for any or all of that time. Come when you can and leave when you must.

On Sunday, January 17, 24, and 31, I will be leading the 9:15 a.m. adult education class, providing a brief overview of the Gospel of Luke. We'll look at the history and development of this gospel, some of the recurring themes, and a few of the stories.

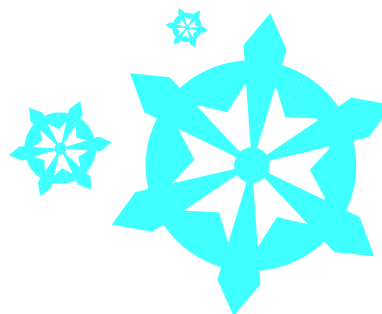
This year my preaching will grow out of Luke on a regular basis. During Lent we'll explore some of the parables of Jesus in Luke in a weeknight series. And everyone is encouraged to read through Luke at least once in the year ahead. Fred Craddock wrote that Luke begins and ends on a note of anticipation: "God is at work and something marvelous is about to happen." I invite you to join us as we look at Luke to help us see what God is doing among us in these days.

Peace,

Bill

January 2010

- 1-10 New Year's Breakfast Kick-off hosted by Christian Ed.,
Reading of *The Gospel of Luke* at 3:30 in the Sanctuary**
- 1-12 Christian Ed., Mission Board & Diaconate**
- 1-14 Membership Committee**
- 1-16 *Church Basement Ladies*: Lunch in the Church Basement at
Noon, Showtime at the Englert is 2PM.**
- 1-19 Trustees' Meeting**
- 1-20 Church Council Meeting**
- 1-24 Church Meeting Following Worship,
University Student Group 5PM**
- 1-31 Sundays at Four
featuring the Maia Quartet at 4PM,
University Student Group 5PM**



Interested in attending “Church Basement Ladies” on January 16 and joining us for lunch before the 2 PM show? Call Sharyn Reitz at 354-3138

to see if the Englert can give us additional seats. The cost is \$22, to be paid to the church.

CONGREGATIONAL UCC– DUTIES ASSIGNED FOR JANUARY 2010

- Jan 3 Greeters Fern Weir
Ushers: Bruce Reynolds, James Savage, Chris & Vernetta Knapp
Hosp: The John Fuller Family
- Jan 10 Greeters: James Robinson; Marilynne Summers
Ushers: James Sangster; Maile Sagen; Carol Searls; Willis Sisley
Hosp: Scott & Patricia Hansche
- Jan 17 Greeters: Nicole & Sophie Neems
Ushers: Richard & Phyliss Ruppert; Richard Valentine & Kathleen Clark
Hosp: Doug & Connie Parsons
- Jan 24 Greeters Mark & Carrie Whittaker Family
Ushers: Derek & Pamela Willard; Vaune & Lisa Bulgarelli Beckman
Hosp Keo Hoang & Paul Measells
- Jan 31 Greeters Vicki Thomae ; Grace Tully
Ushers Glenn Cobb; Ann Ghabel; Thomas & Megan Henson
Hosp Michael & Joyce Myer

DEACON OF THE MONTH: Cynthia Kemp

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010 SUMMER WORKCAMP PLANNING MEETING

Each year Congregational UCC joins with First Christian Church in a mission work trip. Recently we've traveled to Texas, Louisiana, and even Cedar Rapids. We've accomplished a lot, maintained our congregations' friendships, and had great fun.

You are invited to join us for a planning meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 17 at First Christian Church, 900 Lincolnshire Pl., Coralville. We'll talk about possible projects, dates, and fundraising.

ANNUAL MEETING—JANUARY 24, 2010

The annual congregational meeting of Congregational United Church of Christ will be held in the sanctuary immediately after worship on Sunday, January 24, 2010. We will receive reports from our boards and committees, vote to approve the 2010 church budget, look at the year ahead, and take care of any other business appropriate for this meeting.

As with all church events, your participation is important. Please plan to attend.

INTERFAITH CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Consultation of Religious Communities' annual Martin Luther King Celebration will be held at **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 17 at St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church, 3000 12th Ave.** in Coralville. This year's keynote speaker will be Vershawn Ashanti Young, Associate Professor of African American Language, Literature, and Performance at the University of Iowa. The celebration will include music, readings, prayers, and an offering to support the Ecumenical Minority Scholarship Program.

LOOK AHEAD TO LENT

The season of Lent begins on **February 17**. We will hold our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary at **7:00 p.m.** that evening.

Easter is Sunday, April 4 this year.

IOWA CITY HOSPICE NEWS- VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Iowa City Hospice is our area's not-for-profit provider of hospice care and grief support services. They are holding a training series for anyone interested in being a patient care volunteer with Iowa City Hospice.

You must attend all sessions of this required training:

Friday, January 22, 6-9 pm; Saturday, January 23, 8 am-4:30 pm; Sunday, January 24, 1-5 pm Walden Place Retirement Residence, 2423 Walden Road, Iowa City

Please bring a brown bag lunch for Saturday. Snacks and beverages will be provided all three days.

Advance registration is required before January 15, 2010 by contacting Jessie Hanlin, (319) 688-4200, (800) 897-3052, or jessica.hanlin@iowacityhospice.org.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF

The program Understanding Your Grief begins in January. This is a six-week combined grief education and support group for adults who have experienced the loss of a loved one. This group provides a safe setting to help understand the grieving process, learn ways to manage grief and have an opportunity to meet and share with people who have experienced a similar loss.

Understanding Your Grief begins Saturday, January 16, 10-11:30 am. Subsequent sessions are **January 23 and 30, February 6, 13, and 20**. There is no fee, but registration is required. You can register online at <http://understandingyourgrief.eventbrite.com>

Iowa City Hospice will lend participants the book, Understanding Your Grief by author, educator and grief counselor Dr. Alan Wolfelt, and an accompanying Understanding Your Grief journal will be given to each participant free of charge.

For more information, please contact Keila Naparstek, Bereavement Outreach Coordinator keila.naparstek@iowacityhospice.org

CRC BOOK SALE AIDS SHELTER HOUSE

For the past twelve years, the Consultation of Religious Communities' annual 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.

This coming year, the book sale will once again be held at **Hope United Methodist Church, located at 2929 East Court Street, on Saturday, February 27, 2010, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

LIBRARY NEWS

The Children's Section of our Church Library has grown by leaps and bounds during the past year. Some of these I selected and some were chosen by Claire Ashman.

Bible/Bible Stories

Jesus in the Temple (preschool) This story, with its bright illustrations, will help a toddler to feel closer to Jesus by imagining Him as a child, "just like me."

Joshua and the Battle of Jericho (ages 8-12) Part of The Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible series, this book takes us into battle with Joshua.

The Pilgrim Book of Bible Stories (ages 9-12) Powerful color illustrations, depicting people ethnically appropriate for their times and settings enhance these Bible stories, which are retold in straightforward, gender-inclusive language.

Biography

John Calvin (ages 9-12) Young readers will come to know Calvin's personality, his devotion to God and the church, and the personal challenges he faced.

Saint Paul (ages 9-12) Set in the first century, this book invites you to step into the world that Paul knew.

Children's Stories

Cristina Keeps a Promise (ages 6-9) Cristina is thrilled to learn that she can meet her favorite author until she realizes that his bookstore appearance is at the same time as her brother's Special Olympics track meet.

Good Neighbor Nicholas (ages 6-9) Nicholas can't stand his next-door neighbor, Mr. Robinson. Mr. Robinson gets mad about everything-especially when their dog Bitsy escapes and runs over to Mr. Robinson's yard and gets into his roses.

Honest Ashley (ages 6-10) Ashley must choose between doing her own work or reusing a paper that her brother did for the same assignment several years earlier.

Makayla Cares About Others (ages 6-9) Eight-year-old Makayla is great at helping others, but her fear of bugs keeps her from assisting her neighbor in planting a memory garden for her cat.

The Rainbow Fish (ages 4-8) The Rainbow Fish, with his shimmering scales, is the most beautiful fish in the ocean. But he is proud and vain and none of the other fish want to be his friend.

Holidays

Come Worship With Me (ages 4-8) A church mouse shares his experiences of each key event in the life of the church (Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Pentecost, etc.).

New Testament

The Light of the World (ages 4-8) The life of Jesus is told in simple, beautiful language.

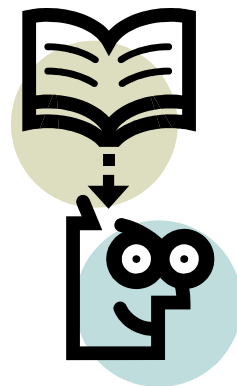
Old Testament

Psalms Twenty-Three (ages 4-8) One of the most beautiful psalms find expression in a picture book set in a contemporary urban neighborhood.

If you have any suggestions for additions to the children's library, please let me know.

Edie Roberts

Children's Librarian



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who made our Christian Education Program so worthwhile last year.

It's through the investment of their time and talents that our church family has been able to broaden and deepen their knowledge, faith, and sense of community.

We have a wonderful group of young people and always need leaders for our Church School Class. Using the rotation curriculum, you need only serve one Sunday and do not need to plan the lesson. Please let me know if you would be interested in having fun with us some Sunday morning.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Christian Education Kick-off Breakfast on Sunday, January 10th, at 9:15 AM. All classes will be coming together to enjoy a pancake breakfast followed by activities for all ages. I hope to see you there!

Please let me know your ideas and concerns for our Christian Education Program. We can always make things better.

Edie Roberts

Christian Education Director

SUNDAYS AT FOUR

SUNDAYS AT FOUR PRESENTS THE MAIA QUARTET

The third event in our Sundays at Four community arts series will be a concert by the Maia Quartet. The free performance will take place here on January 31 at 4 PM.

Works to be performed include the Quartet in B minor, Op. 33, No. 1 by Joseph Haydn, and the String Quartet in F major by Maurice Ravel.

The Maia Quartet, Quartet-in-Residence at The University of Iowa, is recognized nationally as an ensemble of innovation and versatility. In November the Quartet observed the Haydn anniversary year with its “Haydn Slam,” a five-day marathon event during which all of Haydn’s eighty-three string quartets were performed by the Maia Quartet and various other professional and amateur ensembles.

Our congregation has supported the Quartet’s “Suite Sounds,” a project that extends the healing power of music beyond the concert hall. Headphones with recorded music in a variety of genres are provided to patients in the Chemotherapy Suite at UIHC.

We have another special connection to the Maia Quartet. The violist, Beth Oakes, is a member of our church family. The other members of the Quartet are Tricia Park, violin; Zoran Jakovic, violin; and Hanna Holman, cello.

Don’t miss this opportunity to hear one of the most popular performing groups in our community.



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) and Marge Hoppin (338-3858 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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-4 Bryon Day

Mike Mittman

1-8 Bryon Clemons

1-9 Sarah Gabel

1-14 Maura Kenworthy

1-15 Katherine Amos

1-29 Walter Jensen

Tim Woolums

1-18 Carol Searls

1-19 Tom Hanson

1-20 Margaret Heise

Eric Reynolds

1-21 Barbara McFarland

Madilyn Deifell

1-23 Clista Brown

1-24 Isaac Chen

Julie Jacobsen

1-25 Tom Castle

Tomas Brookfield



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

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

January 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

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).