

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



The United Church of Christ

JULY 2011

FROM THE PASTOR



Friends in Christ—

One of the distinguishing features of Congregational/UCC hymnals is the number of hymns on the subject of changing seasons. We found them in the old *Pilgrim Hymnal*. And they are still found in the more recent *Hymns of Truth and Light* and *The New Century Hymnal*. When Congregationalists sing, we take note of the cycles of the sun and the moon and the earth. And right now we sing with joy that “the summer days have come again.”

While we Congregationalists affirm that God is revealed to us through the scriptures and most fully in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our hymns suggest that we can also understand something

of the Holy One through the natural world as it changes through the year.

We’re not naïve about this. The beauty of spring and the fullness of summer bring with them the destructive power of tornadoes, storms, and hurricanes. We know as well that the cold of winter increases the problems of hunger and homelessness. And all seasons seem to be a time for war rather than a time for peace.

If God is to be seen in the changing seasons, we often have to look very hard. Maybe this is the real point. Discerning what God is doing in the world and in our lives and our congregation is difficult work. Try as we will, the author of Ecclesiastes tells us we cannot find out what

God is doing from the beginning to the end. We will have to be content with seeing only a little distance ahead.

I’ve said before that I love the “summer church” — those gatherings of God’s people on warm or hot summer Sunday mornings. The pace is slower. The dress is casual. The mood is relaxed. Throughout the worship service we become aware of God and our neighbor and ourselves in new ways as we rest in the stillness of the summer morning.

I hope you’ll be a part of it.

Peace, *Bill*

July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Wedding Rehearsal	2 Wedding 5:00 p.m.
3	4	5 Diaconate 7:00 p.m.	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Wedding Rehearsal	16 Carnes/ Robinson Wedding
17 IC Book Festival	18	19 Trustees 7:00 p.m.	20 Christian Education 7:00 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26 Church Council 7:00 p.m.	27	28 Membership 7:00 p. m.	29	30
31 Church Picnic						

 * **WOMEN'S LUNCHEON** *
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 * Women of the church and their guests are invited to our monthly Women's
 * luncheons. On July 21, 11:45, we will gather at CLASS ACT in Cedar Rapids. This
 * is the restaurant created by the Culinary Arts program of Kirkwood College at the
 * campus in Cedar Rapids, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd, SW. Call or email your
 * reservation into the church office by Wednesday, July 20. Please note if you can
 * drive or wish a ride.
 *

**HOST FAMILY NEEDED
 FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
 FROM GERMANY**

The Iowa City AM Rotary is sponsoring a young woman from Germany for the 2011-12 school year. She will be a senior at City High. Laura will have three or four host families during the 10 months she is living in the U.S. We need one or two families to host Laura between August 1 and December 1, 2011. A host family need not be involved with Rotary. A host family can live outside the City High boundaries as long as the student can get to and from school each day. She has a wide variety of interests and will fit in with almost any family situation—family with high school children, younger children or empty nesters. For more information contact Chris Knapp, 338-0909.

**SUNDAY IN THE CITY OF LITERATURE
AT CONGREGATIONAL UCC
JULY 17**

For the second year, our church will be participating in the Iowa City Book Festival with a series of readings during the afternoon of July 17. Three of the authors this year have connections to Congregational UCC.

Tom Montgomery Fate is the son of Russ and Dee Fate. Tom is a graduate of the UI Nonfiction Writing Program. He will be reading from his new book, *Cabin Fever: a Suburban Father's Search for the Wild*. For more information on Tom's book, go to <http://www.tommontgomeryfate.com/cabinfever.html>.

John Price is the author of the memoirs *Man Killed by Pheasant and Other Kinships* (Da Capo Press, 2008) and *Not Just Any Land: A Personal and Literary Journey into the American Grasslands* (U. of Nebraska Press, 2004). Born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, in 1966, he attended the University of Iowa, where he earned his B.A. in Religion, M.F.A. in Nonfiction Writing and Ph.D. in English. A recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and other recognitions, his nonfiction writing about nature, family, and spirit has appeared in many journals, magazines, newspapers, and anthologies including *Orion*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Isotope*, and *Best Spiritual Writing 2000*. He is a Professor of English at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In keeping with our theme, John is also the brother of Congregational UCC member Carrie Whittaker. John's website is <http://www.johntprice.com>.

Robin W. Lovin, is the brother of our minister, Bill Lovin, and Maguire University Professor of Ethics at Southern Methodist University. He is an editor at large for *The Christian Century*. He is a graduate of Northwestern and Harvard Universities. His most recent book is *Christian Realism and the New Realities*. His other books can be found at <http://www.amazon.com/Robin-W.-Lovin/e/B001HCUWN0>.

Kate Kasten received her B.A. in Psychology from Grinnell College and M.A. in English with ESL Specialization from Iowa State University. Her special interests include drama techniques for teaching English. She has experience teaching intensive English reading, writing, grammar, and communication skills, as well as TAPE pronunciation, fluency, and presentations. Kate has traveled to Europe, Mexico, and Guatemala. She will read from and discuss her newest book *The De-conversion of Kit Lamb*.

The reading schedule is as follows:

- Kate Kasten—1:00 p.m.
- Tom Montgomery Fate—2:00 p.m.
- John Price—3:00 p.m.
- Robin Lovin—4:00 p.m.



HABITAT WOMEN BUILD

A member of this congregation has offered a dollar-for-dollar matching grant to help fund an upcoming local Habitat build.

This matching grant is in memory of Veryl E. Detwiler, a former member of this congregation and will provide funding toward the WOMEN BUILD for 2011 in honor of Dottie Ray, a long-time local radio personality.

The matching grant is intended to encourage individual giving to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity up to a total of \$10,000. The grant will provide an additional \$10,000 match. Volunteers are needed from this congregation for construction, clean up, and other volunteer slots. Let's get involved in this WOMEN BUILD FOR 2011." (No, you don't need to be female to volunteer!)

Checks should be made payable to Habitat for Humanity. They can be put in the offering plate or sent to the church office. Be sure to write CHALLENGE GRANT in the memo line.



GAY PRIDE FESTIVAL

On Saturday, June 19, our church participated in the Iowa City Pride Festival. We offered free cookies and cold water to the many passersby. Many folks stopped to chat. I would like to thank Raven Marley, Courtney Rowe, Bill Dickinson, Pam Willard, Megan Carnes, James Robinson, Ann Aschoff, Jane Kinney, and Barb Hanson.

Donna Hirst

Dear Congregation,
Summer is the time that we can help Shelter House and the Crisis Center Food Bank with donations. Please look at the need lists of each organization. If you are able to help in any way they would be most grateful!
Many thanks for your consideration,

The Mission Board

Top Ten Needed Donations For the Crisis Center

Financial Donations

Canned fruit and fruit juice
Canned meat
Hearty soups & stews
Canned vegetables
Toilet paper
Baby formula
Baby diapers
Laundry detergent
Pasta & rice

Current list of needs for the Shelter House

Deodorant
Lotion
Hair Conditioner
Diapers (all sizes)
Cough drops and cold medicines (for adults and children)
Over-the-counter antihistamines and sinus medicines
Underwear for women
Men's summer shorts and shirts size L to XXXL
Laundry detergent (high efficiency only)
Iowa City bus passes or strip tickets
Coralville bus passes or strip tickets
Grocery store gift cards
Postage stamps



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|----|--|----|--|
| 3 | Bob Hanson
Katie Murph | 20 | Eugene Clark |
| 4 | Vicki Thomae | 23 | Joan Parsons
Kyle Thomae |
| 5 | Shana Minton | 24 | David Wilder |
| 8 | Bill Lovin | 25 | Jaelyn Searls |
| 9 | Eli Shepherd
Ben Hoefer | 26 | John Bayless
Marie Von Behren
Schuyler, Byrn |
| 10 | Kathy Fait
Colin Beerends | 27 | Grace Tully
Candace Noble
Elsie VanWieren |
| 11 | Jacqueline Knapp
Pam Willard
Josephine Guither | 28 | Mititke Schumm |
| 13 | Thomas Henson | 30 | Ann Romanowski
Jane Kinney
Kathleen Wilder |
| 15 | Hermine McLeran
Ella Lewis | 31 | Christine Taylor
John Henson
Gayle Jensen
Stuart Cobb |
| 18 | Jo Ann Benda | | |
| 19 | Pete Knapp
Claire Ashman | | |

DISASTER RELIEF OFFERING JULY 31, 2011

In the United States tornadoes and floods have caused massive destruction in parts of the West, Midwest and South this spring. Tornadoes killed at least 160 people in late May, including at least 116 people in Joplin, MO., on May 22. floods forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes along the lower Mississippi River. The damage from these disasters is estimated to be in the billions of dollars. CWS has shipped the following to affected areas, with some sent directly to requesting agencies and some to community warehouses for rapid distribution by requesting communities: 868 Cleanup Buckets, 1,020 Blankets, 780 Baby Kits, 4260 School Kits and 33,960 Hygiene Kits. The material resources are valued at \$492,067 and the processing and shipping costs total \$15,625. The UCC is not a first responder in national or international disasters. Instead the UCC partners with CWS 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, but not to exceed quarterly. We hope you will respond generously.



The Lemon Tree; an Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East" was written by Sandy Tolan.
The following is quoted from the back cover.

"In 1967, Bashir Khairi , a twenty-five-year-old Palestinian, journeyed to Israel with the goal of seeing the beloved old stone house with the lemon tree behind it that he and his family had fled nineteen years earlier. To his surprise, when he found the house he was greeted by Dalia Eshkenazi Landau, a nineteen-year-old Israeli college student, whose family fled Europe for Israel following the Holocaust. On the stoop of their shared home, Dalia and Bashir began a rare friendship, forged in the aftermath of war and tested over the next thirty-five years in ways that neither could imagine on that summer day in 1967. Sandy Tolan brings the Israeli-Palestinian conflict down to its most human level, suggesting that even amid the bleakest political realities there exist stories of hope and reconciliation."

"The Lemon Tree" is a handbook to understanding the Israeli- Palestinian conflict through a narrative that captures its essence through tracing the connected lives of two extraordinary individuals.

Sandy Tolan teaches international reporting at the UC-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. He has written extensively for magazines and newspapers and has produced documentaries for National Public Radio and Public Radio International.

Judy Doorenbos

SUMMER POTLUCK PICNIC

Mark July 31st on your calendar. That Sunday at 4:00 p.m. we will have our second annual potluck picnic in Lower City Park at shelter #12. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Water and lemonade will be provided. There will be games for the young and young at heart. Bring lawn chairs and any lawn games that you like to play. This a great time of fellowship and a particularly good time to become better acquainted with our newest members.

Membership Committee

TRANSITIONS

Birth

Gavin Maxwell Nelson, son of Todd and Courtney Nelson, on June 8.

Moving

The spring and early summer always find some of our members moving away.

Ben and Christine Darr, along with Neal and Miles, are moving to Rock Island, IL. Ben will be teaching at Augustana College in the coming academic year. Christine will be commuting back to Iowa City twice a week for her teaching assistant position in the Department of Religious Studies.

Teal Minton and Shanna Youngdahl Minton, along with Adelaide, are moving to Farmington, Maine, where Teal will be teaching at the University of Maine, Farmington.

The Rev. Elissa Johnk, ordained in this church on November 1, 2009, is pleased to announce that she was recently called to be the Senior Minister at The Old Meeting House in East Montpelier Center, Vermont. The Old Meeting House is a multi-denominational congregation with strong ties to the United Church of Christ. It was a unanimous vote, and the congregation is eager to greet Elissa and her dog Hamlet; they have already presented her with a dog bed, water bowl and treats for her office. She will finish her wonderful Pastoral Residency at the Wellesley Congregational Church, UCC on June 30th, and then is looking forward to some time here at home before starting her new position on August 1.



To the members of the Congregational UCC—
Thank you so very much for the beautiful bouquet of flowers sent to Phil's celebration of life on May 14th. They were lovely. We came to Iowa City in 1960 and stayed for twenty-one years. The campus ministry based at the church was Phil's first full time position and he loved it. Our love, gratitude, and best wishes to all.

Nancy Shively, Peter, Stephen, and Sarah

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.



FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Our church served 125 lunches at the Wesley House on Monday, May 30th. Another fifth Monday of the month went very smoothly thanks to the following people who donated and prepared food and/or served and cleaned up on this Memorial Day (our FLP faithfuls!):

*Marge Hoppin, Edie Roberts, Betsy Henson
Hermine McLeran, Randee Fieselmann, Glenna Cobb, Kathy Fait, Joan Parsons and Judy Doorenbos.*

Thank you all so much!

Our next serving date is, **Monday, August 29th, 2011.** A sign up sheet will be posted in Rockwood Hall by the 1st of August. Any help you can lend is very much appreciated.....please come join the fun!

Vicki Thomae

TIME TO THINK “BACK TO SCHOOL!”

ToGather Together (TGTg) provides free school supplies for 3,000 children & youth in need in Johnson County. TGTg is a project started by the Consultation of Religious Communities and involves approximately 30 different faith communities, many businesses, Johnson County social services groups and many, many individuals. As the need continues to grow in our area we are seeing an increase in requests—what started as an effort to provide supplies for 200 children from the years 2000-2007 has now grown to over 3,000 children & youth. TGTg is seeking funds to purchase school supplies to support children & youth in Johnson County. If you are interested in providing monetary donations please send a check to “ToGather Together” at P.O. Box 2025, Iowa City, IA 52244.

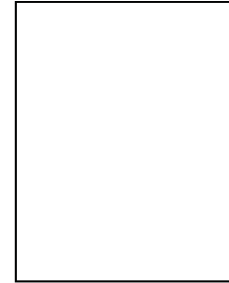
Volunteers will be needed for set-up, sorting, & delivery on August 3rd-5th.

To learn more about getting involved or for any questions, please contact a co-director: Karrie Craig, thecraigfamily@mchsi.com or Marsha Lowe, marshalowe@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support of ToGather Together.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



JULY 2011

HOW TO CONTACT US

Tuesday – Friday.....9 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

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

Music Director: John Hughes
Organist: Bill Crouch
Christian Ed:
Custodians: Nicole & Eddy Ghumm
Financial Sec. Sharyn Huriaux Reitz
Office Manager: Sheila Bloomer

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).