

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



## The United Church of Christ

MARCH 2011

### FROM THE PASTOR



Friends in Christ:

On a late February morning I was walking down Clinton St. and noticed the city workers taking the lights that had illuminated the darkness and gladdened our hearts for the past three months down from the trees. I guess it was time. After all, it was mid-February and, thankfully, it was over 60 degrees outside.

You know how seasons change, how life changes, how what once seemed so right now seems dated or out of place or inappropriate. In Rockwood Hall the lone left-over poinsettia is a limp remnant of Christmas joy.

Early in March we begin the season of Lent. It's late this year, so we will be given a good understanding of the origin of the name of this season in the *lengthening* of daylight hours. Easter (on April 24) hasn't been this late for some time and won't be this late in the year again until 2038. In this newsletter and on our website ([www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)) you will find a number of articles about events that are planned throughout this season. I encourage you to read the articles and to participate in the events that seem inviting or intriguing to you. As you do so, I think you will discover new ways that God is at work.

In each new day, God is doing something new in your life, in this congregation, and in our world. The old ways are changing—the old ways are always changing—and as followers of Christ we are called to keep up, to announce to the world the newness of God, and to let our light shine.

Peace,

*Bill*

### **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 March 9. 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:

March 13 First Sunday in Lent/  
Worship including Communion  
April 21 Maundy Thursday  
April 22 Good Friday  
Easter Sunday is April 24

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 MARCH 2011

	Greeters	Ushers	Hospitality
March 6	Joan Buxton Glenna Cobb	Diane Baculis Laura Stunz Todd & Courtney Nelson	David & Kathleen Wilder
March 13	Diana Coberly Martha Ann Crawford	John & Andrea Rauer Nicole Pearson Candace Noble	Derek & Pamela Willard
March 20	Russell & Dee Fate	Richard & Phyllis Ruppert Frank & Gretchen Snider	William & Ann Leefers
March 27	Bruce & Kathy Reynolds	Nicole & Sophie Neems Todd Morrow & Rebecca McKanna	Richard Valentine & Kathleen Clark

If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone, please call the assigned Deacon of the month—John Fieselmann—319-354-0292

### MARCH WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Women of the church (and their guests) are invited to lunch at a new time and date in March. We will meet at 11:45 on the SECOND Thursday of the month, March 10. The location: Charlotte's, at 745 Community Drive, North Liberty. This restaurant is located on the west side of Hwy 965, between Cherry and Penn. Going north on Hwy 965, go past the US Bank to the next intersection, which is Community Drive. Turn left and you will find Charlotte's just as the road curves north toward Penn. Please call your reservation in to the church office (337-4301) by Wednesday, March 9. Hope to see you there!

## MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Midday Prayer Service—Noon  
**Diaconate Meeting—7:00 p.m.**  
**Mission Board Meeting—7:00 p.m.**
- 2 **Christian Education—7:00 p.m.**
- 4 World Day of Prayer
- 6 Ecumenical Scholarship Offering  
“Shrove Sunday” Pancake Brunch
- 7 Narcotics Anonymous
- 8 Midday Prayer Service—Noon  
Foreign Relations Council—Noon Luncheon  
**Trustees Meeting—7:00 p.m.**
- 9 **Ash Wednesday Worship—7:00 p.m.**
- 10 Women’s Luncheon—Noon
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Communion Sunday  
Spring Break Begins  
Adult Education only
- 14 Narcotics Anonymous
- 15 No Midday Prayer Service
- 16 **Lenten Music Meditation—Noon**
- 18 Foreign Relations Council—Noon Luncheon
- 20 No Church School
- 21 Narcotics Anonymous
- 22 Midday Prayer Service—Noon  
**Church Council—7:00 p.m.**
- 22 **Lenten Music Meditation—Noon**
- 24 Foreign Relations Council—Noon Luncheon  
**Membership Board Meeting—7:00 p.m.**
- 27 Sunday@4—Shawn Kirchner
- 29 Midday Prayer Service—Noon
- 30 **Lenten Music Meditation—Noon**  
Choir Rehearsal—7:30-9:00 p.m.
- 31 Foreign Relations Council—Noon Luncheon



## ECUMENICAL MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND OFFERING

During worship on Sunday, March 6, we will receive a special offering to support the Ecumenical Minority Scholarship Fund (EMSF). This Scholarship originated at Congregational UCC and is now supported by the Iowa City interfaith community through the Consultation of Religious Congregations.

Eight students from racial groups underrepresented at the University of Iowa have benefited from the EMSF since its inception in 1993. The scholarship fund has helped to foster diversity and minority advancement by supporting the education of Iowa minority students right here at the University of Iowa. We hope to have enough money in the scholarship so that a new recipient can be selected before the start of the 2011-12 academic year.

Please give generously. Your gift will help make a big difference in the lives of students at UI.



## LENTEN MUSICAL MEDITATIONS

We will, once again, have our popular Lenten Musical Meditations series beginning on Wednesday, March 16 at noon. The musical meditations will feature organ, voice and piano and violas. T. Andrew Hicks, Minister of Music and organist at Trinity Episcopal church will open the series on March 16. We will have UI School of Music Organ Department students on March 23. Richard Bloesch and Marie Von Behren will be featured on March 30. Matthew Penning, Director of Music and Organist at St. Andrew Presbyterian will be here on April 6th. Kurt Juhl, Director of Music and Organist at Christ the King Lutheran church will play on April 13th and Elizabeth Oakes and Nathalie Cruden, violists, will close the series April 20th. The musical meditations will begin at noon and last for approximately 25 minutes.

## MARCH 27 SUNDAYS AT FOUR WELCOMES SHAWN KIRCHNER AND RYAN HARRISON

The fourth performance in the 2010-11 Sundays at Four series features Shawn Kirchner, a composer, pianist, and songwriter with Iowa City roots now active in the musical circles of Los Angeles. He will accompany Ryan Harrison, vocalist, and join in singing original and familiar works. Plan to join us in the Sanctuary on March 27th for the one-hour performance starting at 4pm.

Initially trained in classical music, Mr. Kirchner has published a wide range of compositions and is best known for his arrangement of the Kenyan song *Wana Baraka*. Along with performing and composing choral works he is active as a songwriter and pianist in a range of styles, including bluegrass, folk, country, gospel and jazz. He has served as music director/arranger for television and film, was a vocal coach and pianist in Chicago, and has several recordings and CDs to his credit, among them *Meet Me On the Mountain*, songs based on the movie *Brokeback Mountain*. A number of his works have been performed by the Los Angeles Master Chorale, of which Mr. Kirchner is a member.

At each concert we receive an offering for a local charity. When the Maia Quartet played in February, \$570 was received for the Suite Sounds Project at the Holden Cancer Center, providing music for chemotherapy patients.

## 2011 SUMMER WORKCAMP

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

This year we will be going to a flood relief/rebuilding work camp in Nashville, Tennessee, during the week of June 20. We'll stay in a local church and help to rebuild homes. There will also be opportunities for some Nashville cultural experiences. Generally, each member of the group covers his/her own travel and food expenses and we make sure that no one is left out because a lack of expense money.

You are invited to be a part of this year's team. For more information, please talk with Shirley Woolums, Martha Ann Crawford, or Bill Lovin or call the church office.



The women of Chile invite us to join them

**FRIDAY, MARCH 4, FOR WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2011.**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement begun by Christian women of many traditions who come together each year to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March. Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the WDP worship service.

**Our local event will be held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 3000 12th Ave., Coralville. Registration will begin at 1:00 PM with the program starting at 1:30 PM.** All are welcome. For more information, call 339-4507.

## 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 3. 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.

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 given to Mark Patton on March 13 or to the church office. Be sure to write CHALLENGE GRANT in the memo line.

## LIBRARY NEWS



Recently purchased for the Church Library is "Mandela's Way; Fifteen Lessons on Life, Love, and Courage" by Richard Stengel.

Stengel, editor of Time Magazine, has distilled countless hours of conversations with Nelson Mandela into essential life lessons. For nearly 3 years Stengel collaborated with Mandela on his autobiography and traveled with him everywhere, becoming a cherished friend and colleague. In "Mandela's Way" Stengel recounts moments when Mandela was tested and he shares the wisdom he learned. Woven into Mandela's life lessons are also his remarkable personal stories.

"Mandela's Way" captures the spirit of this inspiring, extraordinary man. It spurs us to look within ourselves to reconsider the things we take for granted, and to contemplate our own legacy.

"Made for Goodness and why this Makes all the Difference" was written by Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu. Over the years the same questions get asked of Desmond Tutu, archbishop, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. "How can you be so hopeful after witnessing so much evil?" "Why are you so sure goodness will triumph in the end?" This book is his answer. Our world needs this message: that we are made for goodness and it is up to us to live up to our destiny. In this book we get a glimpse into Tutu's personal spirituality and a better understanding of the man behind a lifetime of good works. This book is a personal sharing of his heart, written with his daughter, Episcopal priest Mpho Tutu. Tutu presents stories from his own life, as well as grisly memories from his work in dark corners of the world. Tutu calls us to hope and joy and to claim the goodness that we were made for. He invites us to take on the disciplines of goodness.



## THANKS FOR MAKING FEBRUARY 6 A SOUPER SUNDAY

Because of your generosity the Youth Breakfast Club Sunday School Class collected over \$190 for the Crisis Center Food Pantry on Souper Bowl Sunday. We've participated in this simple fundraising project since 2008. This program started as a local event in 1990 and first had national participation in 1993. In 2011 over 10,055 congregations joined in an effort that raised over \$8,400,000 as of the most recent report. Since 2008 the Souper Bowl of Caring has raised over \$10 million each year. All of the money is raised locally and used locally by hunger relief organizations such as the Johnson County Crisis Center. Thanks for your support!

### FROM THE IOWA CONFERENCE, UCC

Thank you for your gift to support the work of Our Church's Wider Mission. It is our honor to express heartfelt gratitude to you on behalf of all those whose lives are blessed by your congregation's offerings to OCWM. The generous gifts you offer support ministries in the Iowa Conference and around the world.



3-1	Sandra Lacina	3-13	Joan Buxton
	Douglas Kenworthy	3-14	Diana Baculis
	Benjamin Barker	3-16	Emily Klinefelter
3-2	Nathan Weir	3-17	George Frohwein
3-4	Dell Cameron	3-21	Tim Barker
	Barbara Hanson	3-22	Nathaniel Savage
	Ian Wells	3-23	Isabella Myers
3-5	Lyle Tonne	3-24	Carrie Whittaker
3-6	Melissa Reynolds	3-26	Christine Kempf
3-10	Jim Jetter	3-29	Rachel Anderson
3-12	Ian Cameron	3-30	Gary Klinefelter
	Thomas Knapp		



## **SPECIAL LENTEN STUDY BEGINS MARCH 27**

### ***Holy Adventure: 41 Days of Audacious Living***

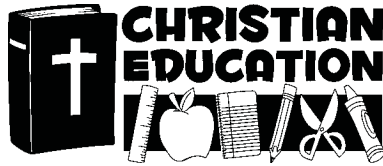
Lent gives us a time to intentionally consider how we live before God and with our family and neighbors. On Sunday mornings beginning March 27, we'll meet in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 to discuss *Holy Adventure* by Bruce Epperly, a UCC minister and process theologian.

Epperly writes of a God who invites us to be companions with the divine in creating our future. Each of our lives is an unfinished, surprising, and holy adventure. The most exciting part is that we actively participate with God in choosing our life's direction.

For each day in Lent *Holy Adventure* offers:

- theological reflections to enable you to experience an adventurous world in which your choices make a difference both to God and your neighbors;
- prayers for the adventure to inspire you to see your life as an adventure in companionship with God;
- spiritual affirmations to transform your mind and awaken you to undreamed of possibilities for yourself and the world;
- imaginative prayers to expand your consciousness and deepen your faith in God's presence in your life and your vocation as God's partner in healing the world;
- adventurous actions to embody your spiritual growth in the transformation of everyday life through your positive relationships with family and friends, the life of our congregation, and your role as God's partner in healing the world.

Bill Lovin will lead the conversation around the fireplace. To purchase a copy of *Holy Adventure* for the reduced price of \$12.30, please sign up in Rockwood Hall on Sunday morning or call the church office. Reading this book could change the way you look at your life and inspire you to transform your world!



Dear Friends,

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Christian Education will host our annual "Lent Event" immediately after the worship service. As in the past, we will be serving a lunch of pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, juice, milk, and coffee. We will be charging adults \$2, young people 5–18, \$1, and those under 5 are free. Please plan on gathering together to celebrate the coming of Lent with your church family.

Spring is just around the corner and it couldn't come soon enough for most of us. I know all of us in the Iowa City School District are looking forward to Spring Break, March 14–18.

The popular Adult Education series sponsored by our Mission Board, "How Fair is Housing in Iowa City?" will conclude on March 13<sup>th</sup>. However, because of low attendance in our children's classes at this time in the past, we will be suspending those classes on March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will, however, continue to offer Children's Church for the very young during the sermon on those Sundays.

Please remember to make family time at home to talk about Lent and Easter. The meaning of this most holy of seasons often gets overlooked as our children are bombarded with bunnies, eggs, and candy. While all of us can enjoy the chocolate rabbits and Peeps, children are never too young to hear that Easter is really about Jesus. You needn't stress the "scary" parts, just so they associate Easter with Jesus' love for us.

Edie Roberts  
Christian Education Director




### CHURCH KEYS

If you have a key to the church, please call or e-mail me. I would like to have a list of everyone who has a key. If you have a key to the church that you are no longer using, please turn it in.

Thanks, Sheila

### REMINDER

Newsletter information due by March 20.



**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.

### HOW FAIR IS HOUSING IN IOWA CITY?

The Congregational United Church of Christ’s Mission Board is sponsoring a 6 part series on Housing in Iowa City for the February and March Adult Education (e.g. Sunday morning at 9:15-10:15)

MARCH 6—**Dion Williams**, Executive Director of Systems Unlimited

MARCH 13—**Mark Patton**, Habitat for Humanity

### FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Our church served 115 lunches at the Wesley House on Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 day (our FLP faithfuls!):

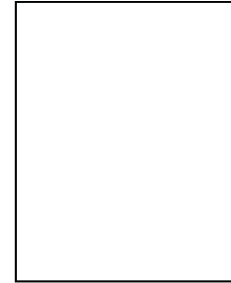
*Bill Dickinson, Marge Hoppin, Randee Fieselmann, Rick Ruppert, Nic Rittler, Bill Johnson, Bryan Clemons, Betsy Henson, Glenna Cobb, Claire Ashman, Kathy Fait, John Fuller, Edie Roberts, Fern Weir, Ginny Clemons, Ethel Bloesch, Judy Doorenbos, Laurie Stunz, and Rosemary Plapp. **Thank you all so much!***

Our next serving date is, **Memorial Day, Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** A sign up sheet will be posted in Rockwood Hall by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Any help you can lend is very much appreciated.....please come join the fun!

Vicki Thomae

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



## MARCH 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

**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: Richard Bloesch

Organist: Bill Crouch

Christian Ed: Edie Roberts

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).