

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



The United Church of Christ

MAY 2011

FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends in Christ,

One of my favorite Easter stories is found in chapter 21 of the Gospel of John. After the resurrection, the disciples were gathered together and Peter announced: "I'm going fishing." In other words, it's time to get back to work. While the Easter "Alleluias" still ring in our ears and our hearts, we are called back into our community and the larger world. One of our ongoing tasks is nurturing good relationships between people of different faiths.

I am thankful that here in Iowa City those relationships are strong and healthy. Through the Consultation of Religious Congregations Christians, Jews, and Muslims talk together and work together. We recognize our differences and seek common ground. The burning of a Quran in Florida last month, followed by the

murder of United Nations workers in Afghanistan, reminds us that those relationships are strained well past the breaking point in other places.

Shams Ghoneim, who works with the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), has worked tirelessly toward better relationships and understanding of people of different faiths. She has been a light for many of us in this congregation and for others throughout Iowa City. In a letter that included the national response of MPAC, Shams wrote, "These horrific killings are in direct opposition to Islamic teachings and principles."

Those of us in the mainstream Christian community still have work to do. We must continue to make it clear that acts such as the burning of a Quran are reckless and deplorable. Even more, we must continue to be a positive voice in support of interfaith cooperation and dialogue.

Peace,

Bill



**HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY!**

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
MAY 2011**

	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
MAY 1	Judith Doorenbos Genevieve Dudley	Vaune & Lisa Bulgarelli-Beckman Eugene & Jeannette Clark	David & Shirley Carew
MAY 8	Donna Hirst Jacqueline Knapp	Bruce Guither Patricia Myers Scott & Patricia Hansche	Diane Olson & Darin Wells
MAY 15	Hermine McLeran Marge Hoppin	Rebecca & William Hoefer Mike & Joyce Myer	Carol Searls Courtney Nelson
MAY 22	Joan Jehle Fern Weir	Elizabeth Oakes & Eugene Buck Amy & Chris Lewis	Dwight & Connie Schumm
MAY 29	Gloria Lacina Karen Smith	James & Diane Jetter Robert & Barbara McFarland	Robert & Gloria Hanson

If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone, please call the assigned
Deacon of the month—TIM STRANG (319 354-1341)

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Women's Luncheon
Road Trip - May 12, 11:45
We will meet at the Tuscan Moon restaurant in Kalona.
203 5th Street.
If the weather is fine we may sit outside to enjoy the flowers. Please call Sheila by
Tuesday May 10 in the office to make your reservation.
And bring a friend!
After lunch, we can stroll around to Martha Ann Crawford's
antique booth at the Pink Begonia!

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sundays@4 Ken Cowan	2 Narcotics Anonymous Ken Cowan— Master Class 7:00 p.m.	3 Midday Prayer Service Diaconate 7:00 Mission 7:00	4	5 Diana Mayne Recital Rehearsal 6-8 p.m.	6 Diana Mayne Recital—8 p.m.	7 Choir Rehearsal 10-12 Set up for Special event
8 Bloesch Retirement & Lunch	9 Narcotics Anonymous	10 Midday Prayer Service	11 Miranda Blakeslee Rehearsal— 7:30 p.m.	12 Women's Luncheon at Tuscan Moon, Kalona Colleen Ferguson recital— 2 p.m.	13 Miranda Blakeslee Recital—6:00	14
15 Strengthen The Church Offering	16 Narcotics Anonymous	17 Midday Prayer Service Trustees 7:00	18 Christian Education 7:00	19	20 Newsletter Information due	21
22 Last Sunday For Church School Capital Planning Discus- sion—9:15 a.m.	23 Narcotics Anonymous	24 Midday Prayer Service Church Council 7:00	25	26 Membership 7:00	27	28
29	30 Narcotics Anonymous Serve @ Free Lunch	31 Midday Prayer Service				

**MAY 1
SUNDAYS AT FOUR
ORGAN CONCERT
BY KEN COWAN**

**SUNDAY
MAY 8
BLOESCH
RETIREMENT
LUNCHEON
CALL IN YOUR
RESERVATION
NOW!**

We will recognize forty years of service by Richard Bloesch and Ethel Bloesch at our May 8 church service at 10:15am. Their vision and combined skills have reinforced a tradition of musical excellence at our church. A catered luncheon will follow in Rockwood Hall. We hope to see many of you there! Please make your luncheon reservation in the Church Office by May 1 (Suggested donation: Adults \$10, children \$5)

The final event in this year's SUNDAYS AT FOUR series will be a concert by the Canadian organist Ken Cowan on May 1, at 4 p.m. A native of Thorold, Ontario, Cowan is one of the most sought-after organists in North America. He has performed solo recitals across the United States and Canada and has been a featured recitalist at the last three national conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

His concerts and CD recordings reveal a combination of technical virtuosity and great musical understanding and sensitivity.

Ken Cowan's May 1 concert is co-sponsored by the Congregational Church and the University of Iowa Organ Department.

In addition to this concert, Ken Cowan will lead a master class at 7:00 p.m. on May 2, sponsored by the River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The master class will be held at the Congregational Church of Christ.

2011 SUMMER WORKCAMP

Each year Congregational UCC joins with First Christian Church in a mission work trip. This year we will be going to a flood relief/rebuilding work camp in Nashville, Tennessee. We'll leave Iowa City on Sunday, June 19 for a week of work, adventure, and some fun. 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, Bill Lovin or call the church office.

HABITAT 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.

For more information about the Women Build, and ways to become involved, please visit iowavalleyhabitat.org.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Join us each month for good coffee, good food and good conversation at the Men's Fellowship breakfast. This month's breakfast will be held at the Bread Garden on Saturday May 7th at 8:00 am.

Please rsvp via the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or email Darin Wells darin.wells@gmail.com.
Hope to see you there!



- 5-2 Nicole Davis
- 5-4 Cheryl Jacobsen
- 5-5 Ed Leighton-Dick
- 5-11 John Geweke
Lela Bryant-Henry
- 5-14 Edie Roberts
Nicole Barker
Eliza Ghabel
- 5-16 Sean Durham
Vea Johnson
Gloria Hanson
Barbara Sisley
- 5-17 Dylan Beerends
- 5-18 Cyndy Woodhouse
- 5-19 John Rauer
- 5-20 Judith Doorenbos
Betsy Henson
- 5-22 Karen Smith
Courtney Nelson
- 5-24 Megan Carnes
Lynne Geweke
Margaret Loghry
Katherine Thede-Reynolds
Hanna Leighton-Dick
- 5-27 Cynthia Kemp
Micaela Hansche
- 5-29 Neal Darr
- 5-30 Oscar Hill

HOW FRIENDLY ARE WE?

Nearly every church believes itself to be friendly and welcoming, and truly most are, but that truth is not always readily apparent to the nervous first-time visitor who has just moved into the area or who is having a new sense of spiritual seeking, leading them to our church. We should prepare ourselves to receive visitors with hospitality beyond our assumed “friendliness.”

The assigned greeters should do more than merely say good morning and shake the hand of each person entering the doorway. If the greeter knows the person entering, they should call them by name. If the greeters do not recognize the person, try something like, “Are you a visitor or a longtime member I should know?”

How friendly would we be if we stepped up a notch and actually joined a visitor in the pew and later invited them to the fellowship hour? First time visitors won’t know what our fellowship hour is or where it is located. Members (not just the pastor) who say “won’t you join me for a cup of coffee before you leave” are precious guides indeed.

We would receive a triple star visitor rating if several members went up to the visitor standing self-consciously nursing a cup of coffee and entered into a real conversation. It is far better to risk approaching a longtime absent member than to miss approaching a visitor. Try the line “I don’t think I know you...?”
Let’s become known as a truly friendly congregation!

From the Membership Committee



The following is quoted from the back cover of *Green Christianity*, by Mark Wallace. He is Professor of Religion at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. Judy Doorenbos

"Religion has a special role to play in saving the planet, says theologian Mark Wallace. Indeed, Christianity, with its incarnational orientation, has the unique power to affirm the sacredness of embodied life, fire the imagination, and empower the will to break the cycle of addiction to nonrenewable energy. The environmental crisis, he argues, is a crisis not of the head but of the heart. The problem is not that we do not know how to stop climate change but rather that we lack the spiritual resolve to redirect our culture, our economy, and even our religious faith toward a sustainable future. Bold and courageous, Wallace's book is a call to hope, not despair---a call for readers to discover meaning and purpose in their embodied lives through a spiritually and erotically charged commitment to saving the Earth. It then profiles successful religious communities, as featured in the *Renewal* project and excerpted in the enclosed DVD, that have creatively confronted the challenge of refashioning our lives.

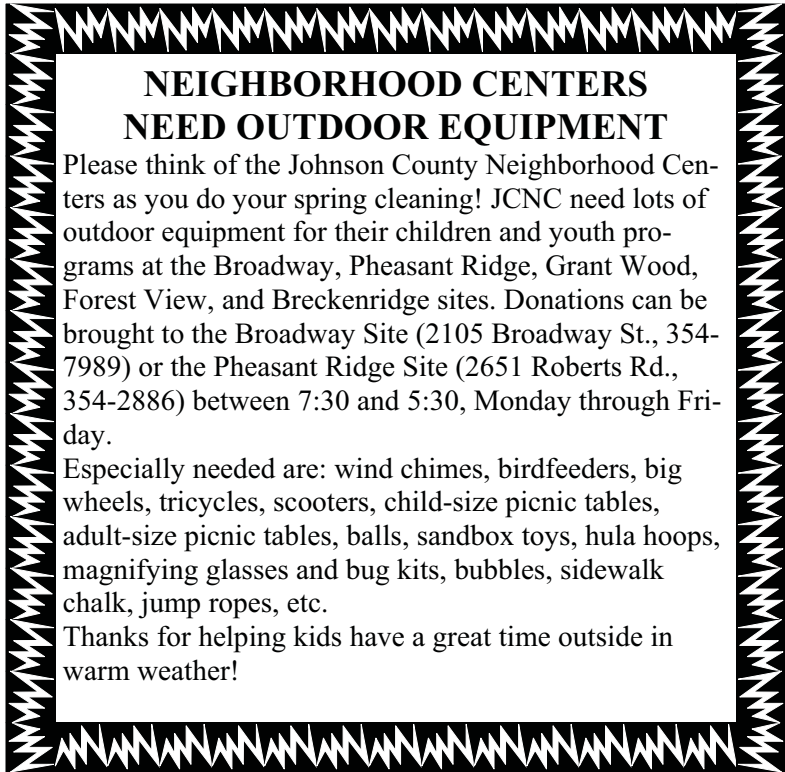
Mark Wallace offers theological guidelines for inspiring a deep Christian ecological commitment. This book should be a basic text for Christian education classes"

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLANNING BEGINS

There are several major building maintenance items that need to be done in the near future, as well as some desirable upgrades to our facilities, that are being considered by the Trustees. A capital campaign will be necessary to fund most of this work. However, before we start seeking financial contributions, the Trustees would like to solicit suggestions from our members regarding items which you see as necessary or desirable. We likely will not be able to do everything that is suggested, but we are interested in your input while we are still in the planning stage. Comments and suggestions may be submitted to Sheila at the church office, Rev. Lovin, or Charles Platz, chair of the Trustees.

On Sunday, May 22, we will use the 9:15 adult education session to talk about the campaign and hear suggestions from members. There will be other opportunities for recommendations in the coming months, but we invite you to join us for this discussion on May 22.

And thank you for your participation in this effort.



**NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS
NEED OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT**

Please think of the Johnson County Neighborhood Centers as you do your spring cleaning! JCNC need lots of outdoor equipment for their children and youth programs at the Broadway, Pheasant Ridge, Grant Wood, Forest View, and Breckenridge sites. Donations can be brought to the Broadway Site (2105 Broadway St., 354-7989) or the Pheasant Ridge Site (2651 Roberts Rd., 354-2886) between 7:30 and 5:30, Monday through Friday.
Especially needed are: wind chimes, birdfeeders, big wheels, tricycles, scooters, child-size picnic tables, adult-size picnic tables, balls, sandbox toys, hula hoops, magnifying glasses and bug kits, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, etc.
Thanks for helping kids have a great time outside in warm weather!

**NEWS FROM
FAS-TRAC**

With the warm weather, Fas-Trac is looking for employment for some of the students involved in their programs. The money earned in the summer pays the students and helps support all the programs and the spring college tour. If you have yard work that needs to be done and are looking for help, please contact Henri Harper at 341-0060 x 7004.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMON FUND

From April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, due to the fundraising efforts of the Consultation of Religious Communities, the Common Fund helped 274 families with basic needs such as housing and utilities. This is up from the 223 families the Common Fund assisted in the year prior. The majority of Common Fund recipients are single mothers who have no child support and cannot earn high enough wages to afford childcare. In many other households, the wage earners have lost their jobs or had their hours reduced. Utilities and housing continue to be the primary needs fulfilled. Over half of the recipients in the households receiving Common Fund assistance were children.

During the past year a record \$44,247 was disbursed through the Common Fund, up \$15,531 from the \$28,761 disbursed in the previous year. [Congregational UCC contributed over \$5,000 in 2010.] The Common Fund has had a significant impact on the overall lives and well being of its recipients and in so doing, has improved and strengthened our community.



Giving to our One Great Hour of Sharing offering in Lent was \$2600—more than doubling the amount we gave last year! Your generosity will help fund needed relief work around the world. Thanks again!

SPRING WORK WEEKEND AT PILGRIM HEIGHTS

When: Friday, May 13th - Sunday, May 15th 2011

Who: All

Fee: Free Will Donation

Come for the day or the whole weekend! Help get the facility ready for the summer camping season!



Grounds Projects - Clear trails, Split wood, Organize waterfront equipment, Spread woodchips, Trim trees, Plant flower beds, and much more!

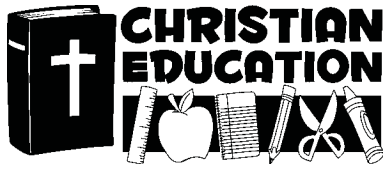
Deep Cleaning Projects - Steam clean carpets, Wash windows, Re-open 3-season cabins and craft shelter, and much more!

Handy-man Projects - Install window air-conditioners, Freshen-up exterior and interior paint, Install storage cabinets, De-lime hot water heaters and pipes, and much much more!

Meals provided (light breakfast, lunch, and cookout dinner)

Please RSVP

641-492-6165 or call the church office.



Dear Friends,
It's difficult to believe that the end of the school year is almost here. The last day for our Christian Education Classes will be May 22nd. Children's Church (held during the sermon for children age 4 through 4th grade) will continue until August. Please check out the information posted on the Christian education bulletin board in the back hallway about summer camping at Pilgrim Heights Camp and Retreat Center. There are camps for everyone: Outpost/Water Camps, Challenge/Games Camps, Music, Art & Drama Camps, Fun Camps, Grandparent/Grandchild Camps, Friend & Me Camps, Family Camps, and Adult Camps. As we enjoy the busy transition into summer, remember to take quiet moments now and then to pause and listen—to yourself, your world, and your God.

Edie Roberts
Christian Education Director

NEW MEMBERS

During worship on Palm Sunday, seven new members joined our congregation. They are:

Raven Marley and Courtney Rowe, who moved here last year from Phoenix, AZ. Raven works at Tanager and Shelter House and will start school at U I in the fall. She enjoys reading and writing and is interested in Bible studies and book studies at the church. Courtney works as a systems engineer at Rockwell Collins. She enjoys sports, volunteer work, and activism and is interested in mission, study, and meditation. Raven and Courtney live in Cedar Rapids and will be married at Congregational UCC in September.

John Byrn and Heidi Van Wieren are the parents of Elsie, Marcus, and Schuyler. John is a surgeon at UIHC. Heidi is an artist who also teaches in the Art Department at UI.

Richard and Mary Lea Kruse have lived in Iowa City for many years. they have two adult children. Richard is a retired architect who is interested in golf, painting, and singing in the choir. Mary Lea has worked as an English teacher and patient relations representative. She is currently an art gallery owner and consultant and a board member of several groups. Her interests include travel, genealogy, and art.

Nic Rittler is a student at UI and serves as the chaplain's assistant in the Iowa Army National Guard. His interests include reading, exercise, music, and cooking. Nic has already helped with the Free Lunch Program.

DID YOU KNOW????

Due to the generosity of some of our members the church now has a fax machine, scanner and LCD projector.

Also, Sheila is a notary.

All of these are available for our members use.

**Strengthen
the
Church Offering
Sunday May 15**

- We will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. This offering builds the UCC's future. It funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults, and nurtures current and future leaders. And it aids the God is Still Speaking Ministry to spread our message of inclusivity.
- Directed to our state Conference, local church ministries, and the Still speaking Ministry, Strengthen the Church gifts help to create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

IC PRIDE FESTIVAL

The Iowa City Pride Festival will be June 18, Saturday, from 12:00-5:00 on the Iowa City Downtown Ped Mall.

Donna Hirst is currently compiling a list of volunteers to work the booth and to make cookies. If you can make cookies, let me know. If you can donate 2 hours to staff the booth, let me know.

This event is a lot of fun. There is delicious food, entertainment and lots of vendors. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to show its support for the GLBT community and to highlight our church to those who are interested. Many people ask for details about our church and we have literature to distribute.

If you can help, let me know and I'll send you more information later in May.

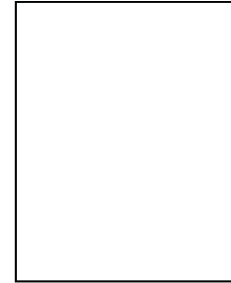
**Fair Trade Coffee at
Congregation UCC**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



MAY 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: 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).