

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**The United Church of Christ  
November 2009**

**FROM THE PASTOR**



Friends in Christ:

Sitting at my desk I can look out at the last yellow and red leaves on the trees and bushes along Jefferson St. Even as I write this I am aware that the days for such views are numbered. The rain of late October continues. More leaves will fall. The clocks will be set back and evening will arrive much sooner.

November arrives in shadows. It takes us from red leaves through bare trees to the first candle of Advent on Sunday, November 29.

“The season of Advent,” it is said, “resets the clocks and calendars of Christian worship. Sounds and signs of dubious direction surround us. Slipper and pajama sizes, not the quiet beauty of our faith tradition, often preoccupy us. We are easily left with the shallow, the cliché.”

I invite you to go deeper into this month of thanksgiving and preparation. Open your eyes to see what God is doing in the changing seasons, in the changing world, in your changing life.

Keep looking around. What do you find that is holy, mysterious in these days? What brings gratitude to your heart and how do you show it? How will you prepare for the Christ who comes at Christmas and each day?

Even in the darkness we might still glimpse a holy light, the presence of God.

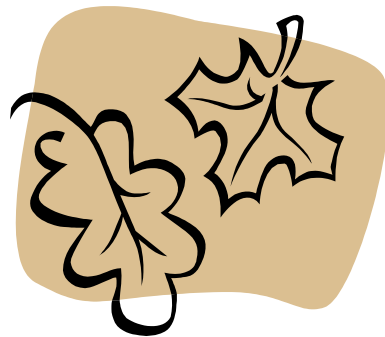
Come and be with us during this month of thanksgiving and preparation.

Peace,

Bill

**November 2009**

- 11-3 Mission Board, Diaconate**
- 11-8 Sundays at Four**
- 11-10 Christian Education**
- 11-12 Membership Committee**
- 11-14 Progressive Dinner**
- 11-15 Christian Century Group**
- 11-15>11-21 Hosting Shelter House Overflow**
- 11-17 Trustees**
- 11-18 Deadline for December Newsletter**
- 11-19 Women's Luncheon**
- 11-25 Church Council**



## CONGREGATIONAL U.C.C. - DUTIES ASSIGNED FOR NOVEMBER 2009

- Nov 1 Greeters Tina & Emily Koepnick  
Ushers: Kathleen Clark, Richard Valentine;  
Glenna Cobb, Stuart Cobb  
Hosp: Tracy Taylor; Christine Taylor
- Nov 8 Greeters: Eugene Buck, Elizabeth Oakes  
Ushers: David & Elizabeth Deifell  
Hosp: William & Jody Murph
- Nov 15 Greeters: Vaune & Lisa Bulgarelli-Beckman  
Ushers: Bruce Guither, Carroll Hanson, Robert & Gloria Hanson  
Hosp: James Savage, Fern Weir
- Nov 22 Greeters David & Shirley Carew  
Ushers: John & Megan Henson; Keo Hoang; Marge Hoppin  
Hosp William Dickinson, Rod Malcolm
- Nov 29 Greeters Eugene & Jeannette Clark  
Ushers James & Diane Jetter; Chris & Vernetta Knapp  
Hosp Rebecca & William Hoefler

DEACON OF THE MONTH: John Bayless (319-351-5947)

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

## TRUSTEES

### **From the Trustees**

2009 has been an uncertain and, for many people, a difficult year financially. As you might remember, our congregation approved a budget for this year that was greater than the amount of pledges that we had received. Recognizing the uncertainty that many felt in the fall of 2008, we hoped that additional money would come in during the year.

The good news is that giving has kept up with pledges. We thank everyone for their regular and consistent giving during this year. The other good news is that we have received additional gifts as well.

Even so, the Trustees are currently anticipating a shortfall of around \$20,000 that could keep us from funding all items in the budget this year—especially some benevolences. Even in this tumultuous time many of us still have the desire and the ability to be generous. An extra gift in this season of thanksgiving and celebration can help us fund our mission and ministry both locally and around the world.

Please make sure that your pledge is current. Again, we thank you for your faithful giving.

## MISSION BOARD

### Holiday Giving

Consider gifts that contribute to a worthwhile cause while honoring the recipient, or donate to help a stranger in need.

How?

It's easy. The mission Board has arranged for sales to take place in rockwood hall after church services December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

What kind of gifts?

Angel Tree ornaments will be available to support donations to Various Community Projects. Further details are below.

The Heifer Project, which donates livestock, such as cows, rabbits, and bees, to needy communities around the world

[recipient receives a card, inscribed in calligraphy by Ginny Clemons.]

Sales of Equal Exchange Coffee and tea in support of fair trade agreements with coffee farmers.

Handcrafted gifts, crèches, ornaments and home accents from Ten Thousand Villages Shop, an organization supported by the Crowded closet/Mennonite Central Committee.

You can also donate to these local efforts:

Project Holiday: Supports the collaboration of organizations that provide for children, families and elderly in need at the holidays. Choices include:

- Angel tree tags for children's toys; Please deliver toys to church by Dec. 6.
- donations to provide a family holiday meal;
- Send a meal and gift card to an elderly individual.
- Bring items for the mitten and hat tree, which honors retired school nurse Joan Buxton.

Nights of Shelter Gift cards : donations for the cost of an overnight

Come to the tables and to the angel tree, and contribute to this holiday effort through the spirit of giving.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Friends,

**Our staff is now complete** with four new people added to take care of the children of our church family. In the Toddler Room and Nursery you will find Jenni Andrzejewski, Sami Hansen, and Elise Roug. In our Church School, Jessie Traufler will be helping the children each week. These four caring and capable young women make it much easier for the parents of our church to attend their own classes. They will be here from 9 AM until 11:30 AM each Sunday. Please take a moment some Sunday to meet Jenni, Sami, Elise, and Jessie. They are important members of our staff.

This year, we will be hosting another **Camp Day** for the children of our church in elementary school on the first Parent-Teacher Conference Day, **November 13<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 AM to 3 PM. I am looking for adult volunteers** for part or all of that day. Please let me know if you are willing to help. It's going to be fun!

Please **mark December 6<sup>th</sup> on your calendars now** so you won't miss our Christmas Pageant and the Advent Event lunch and festivities to follow.

It's been a wonderful year and there's still time to join in. Don't miss your chance to learn and to get to know our church family better. You'll be glad you did.

Eddie Roberts

Christian Education Director

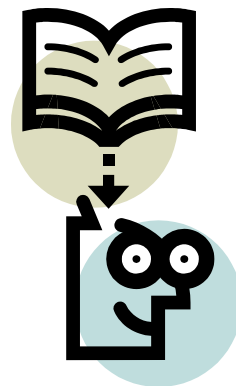
## LIBRARY NEWS

"We can have Peace in the Holy Land" by former Pres. Jimmy Carter has been added to the Church Library. In his book, Carter argues that the present moment is a unique time for achieving peace in the Middle East. He describes the history of previous peace efforts and why they fell short. He argues that the road to a peace agreement is now open and that it has broad international and regional support. Carter says there will be no progress without US leadership and that President Barack Obama is committed to a personal effort to exert that leadership. This book is Pres. Carter's call for action and he lays out a practical and doable path to peace.

Pres. Carter has been a longtime student of the Biblical Holy Land.

He has studied the complex issues of the region's conflicts and has been involved in reconciling them. He knows the leaders of the region and has seen encouraging signs for peace among them.

Judy Doorenbos



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dear Members and Friends,

We are excited to announce we will be publishing a new **pictorial directory** of our church family – our last one from 2002 is very outdated! The new directory will help connect names with faces, serve as an outreach tool, and capture a time in the history of our church congregation.

Please participate by coming to the church to have your picture taken by the Olan Mills photographer. In the next several weeks we will be setting appointments before and after services at the church. You can even sign up now, day or night, by going online at [signup.olanmills.com](http://signup.olanmills.com) and use our 10-digit phone number. Sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a complimentary directory and 8X10 Custom Natural Portrait.

You will come to the church only once for less than an hour for photography and portrait viewing.

The program is available at no cost to the church budget.

You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time. Purchases are unconditionally guaranteed.

The scheduled dates for photography are:

Friday, Dec 11, 2:00pm-9:30, and Saturday, Dec 12, 9:30am-5:00

Monday-Tuesday, Dec 21-22, 2:00pm-9:30

If you have questions, please contact Bryan Clemons – 338-6674

Remember, everyone's participation is important to make the new directory an important and useful tool for newer and long-time members alike – it just won't be complete without you!!

Blessings

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Membership Committee to Host Congregational UCC Logo Wear Sale

Beginning in November, the Membership Committee will be hosting a first-ever Congregational UCC logo wear sale! This is a great opportunity to show your pride in our church by ordering a t-shirt or sweatshirt and then wearing it around town, during church-sponsored events, on work trips, etc (the possibilities are endless!). Church logo wear makes a great holiday gift, too!

Shirts will be navy blue with the standard UCC logo on the front and our church name underneath, and will have Reverend Lovin’s weekly benediction on the back.

The Membership Committee will be taking orders for logo wear downstairs in Rockwood Hall following the services on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Payment is due when you place your order (\$10 for short sleeve t-shirts, \$12 for long sleeve t-shirts, and \$17 for sweat-shirts), and exact change is greatly appreciated. For more information,

contact Becky Hoefler at 354-9790 or [bhoefler2@msn.com](mailto:bhoefler2@msn.com)

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**Shirley Woolum’s mother, Grace Hadley MacMillan**, died on September 27, 2009, at the age of 97. In 1947 Grace took a job as a Director of Student Work at the Congregational Church in Iowa City and met Dick MacMillan, a student and former GI, washing dishes at a student event. They were married May 26th, 1950 and settled on Long Island, New York, first in Levittown, and finally in Wantagh. In 1951, Grace and Dick MacMillan became active members in the Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church, where they sang in the church choir, organized and contributed to many events, fund-raisers, yard sales, dinners and barbeques for 58 years. Grace studied at both Wellesley College and the University of Wisconsin - Madison, where she was graduated in 1934. She received her masters in Christian Education from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1938. She traveled for ministry to Japan, Indonesia, India, and Israel with the United Church Board for World Ministries. Grace was a past president of the New York Metro Association, United Church of Christ. A memorial service was held on October 10, 2009 at Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church. Grace will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery. Memorial gifts in Grace’s honor may be made to the Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) Grace MacMillan Memorial Fund. Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church, 1845 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh NY 11793

We give thanks for Grace’s life and for her ministry with this congregation.

**Women's Luncheon:** Women of the church are invited to a self-pay luncheon on Thursday, November 19. We will meet at 12 noon at REDS in North Liberty, located at 405 N. Dubuque Street, phone 626-2100. Please phone in your reservation to the church office by Wednesday, November 18. Carpooling encouraged! Check with the office if bad weather threatens.

### **PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

Check your Sunday bulletin for progressive dinner sign-up sheets. The dinner will be November 14th from 5:30 to 9pm. The cost is \$5 per person.

Questions? Call Jane Murphy 351-9029

### **SUNDAYS AT FOUR**

Sundays at Four announces its second event of the season: The Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Co. will present "The Education of a Donkey." The free performance will take place here on November 8 at 4 PM.

Written for Eulenspiegel by prize-winning playwright Rebecca Gilman, "The Education of a Donkey" is adapted from a tale first published in 1500. It

features the company's namesake, Till Eulenspiegel, a stuffy university rector, a sassy little girl who wants to learn to read, and a lovable donkey. Full of wordplay, it follows Till as he tricks the rector and liberates the girl by teaching a donkey to read. All ages are welcome, although children over eight years of age and adults will enjoy it the most!

**Baptism:** Teal Minton, October 25, 2009

**November Birthdays:** Frank Zlatnik, Sophia Jacobsen, Sheryl Amos, Paul Measells, Andrew Fuller, Linda Christensen, Mary Follas, Scott Hansche, Valarie Cobb, John Fuller, Jeanna Beerends, Amy Jetter, David Schoonover, Sara Murph, Ann Leefers, Alison Wilder, Eston Bartels, Andrew Knapp, Mike Myers, Grace Brookfield, Catherine Kovach, Hayden Beerends, Mary Bartels, Norma Hodges

**Progressive Dinner**

**November 14, 2009**

**5:30pm-9pm**

**Catered by The Cottage: Lasagna,**

**Salad and bread.**

**\$5 per person**

**I/WE would like to participate by doing one of  
the following:**

**Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hosting the main course for 8-10 people**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Providing hors d'oeuvres for 8-10 people**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Providing dessert for 8-10 people**

**We will begin this year at Randee and John Fieselmann's house for an hour of drinks and appetizers, then move on to various host homes for dinner, gathering again at 8pm for dessert at Ginny and Bryan Clemons'.**

**Please check other options to help us plan:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **need transportation**

\_\_\_\_\_ **vegetarian**

\_\_\_\_\_ **bringing children**

\_\_\_\_\_ **adults only**

**Checks payable to Cong. UCC may be placed in offering plate with this form or returned to the church office by Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.**

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

## **November 2009**

### **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](http://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).