

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



The United Church of Christ

OCTOBER 2011

FROM THE PASTOR



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Friends in Christ:

We in the United Church of Christ have long regarded Thanksgiving as “our” holiday—claiming the Separatist Pilgrims as our close ancestors in faith. Perhaps what we can learn most from them is not their “Thanksgiving” but the Pilgrim readiness to move forward in faith into an unknown and uncertain future.

William Bradford, wrote of their departure from Lyden in the Netherlands: “So they left that goodly and pleasant city which had been their resting place near 12 years. But they knew they were pilgrims and looked not much on those things, but lifted up their eyes to the heavens, their dearest country, and quieted their spirits.”

When they finally arrived in the New World, even in the face of illness and death, they did not turn back.

The Pilgrim way moves us always forward. We trust in God for the present day—with all its trouble and opportunity—and

look toward God’s promised redemption in the future. Our task is to live courageously in the present and with hope toward the future because all of time is held in God’s hands.

The living God is the one who governs human life. There *are* times, when, against the odds, or contrary to what we feared, something good happens. And in the midst of times of trial we are perhaps better able to see in Jesus Christ the God who brings life out of death, who makes all things new. A profound joy is possible even in the most difficult of times.

As we open our lives to this God, we discover the abundance of life given to each of us that we might use it, share it, and expand it for ever increasing numbers of people and all creation.

The Pilgrim way is our way. The Pilgrim way is one of thanksgiving as we move forward into God’s future.

Peace,

Bill

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 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 NOVEMBER 2011

	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
NOV. 6	Frank & Gretchen Snider	Willis Sisley Lyle Tonne Bruce Guither Carroll Hanson	Bryan & Virginia Clemons
NOV. 13	Darrell & Shirley Wyrick	Mary Shepherd Karen Smith Michael & Julie McBride	Fern Weir Judy Doorenbos
NOV. 20	Derek & Pamela Willard	Steve & Kathy Smith Robert & Claire Ashman	Charles Connerly & Martha Crawford
NOV. 27	Amy & Cindy Wood- house	Wm Dickinson Rod Malcolm Courtney & Raven Rowe	James & Diane Jetter

If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone, please call the assigned Deacon of the month—BRUCE REYNOLDS (319)351-0438



DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME ENDS
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 6

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mission 7:00 p.m. Diaconate 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Scientists in the Congregation 7:00 p.m. Recovery International 7:00 p.m.	4	5
6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS Choir Rehearsal 11:30-12:30	7 Scripture Meditation Chapel 7:00 p.m.	8 Foreign Relations Noon	9	10 UI Mass Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary 6-10 p.m. Recovery International 7:00 p.m.	11	12
13 Choir Rehearsal 9:00—9:55 a.m. And 11:30—12:30	14 Scripture Meditation Chapel 7:00 p.m.	15 Foreign Relations Noon Trustees 7:00 p.m.	16 Christian Education 7:00 p.m.	17 Recovery International 7:00 p.m.	18	19
20 Choir rehearsal 9:00—9:55 a.m. And 11:30—12:30 Advent Celebration 3:30—5:30 p.m.	21 Scripture Meditation Chapel 7:00 p.m.	22 Church Council 7:00 p.m.	23	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25	26
27 No Choir No Sunday School	28 Scripture Meditation Chapel 7:00 p.m.	29	30			

 * **WOMEN'S LUNCHEON** *
 * Please join us for lunch at Blackstone's on Thursday, Novem- *
 * ber 17, at 11:45 pm. Women of the church and their guests are *
 * invited to our monthly self-pay outings. Please call or email the *
 * church office with your reservation by Wednesday, November *
 * 16. Let Sheila know if you will need a ride. See you there! *
 * *

**ALL SAINTS
 JAZZ WORSHIP
 SERVICE—NOVEMBER 6**

Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes “All Saints Sunday.” This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members and friends who have died in the past year. This year we will remember Richard Eckhardt, Eleanor Kerr, and Woody Morris. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday in order to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. This year UI music professor John Rapson will lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Men Resume Eating Breakfast
 After combining their October meeting with the church workday, the Men’s Breakfast makes a comeback this month. Join us for a late summer gathering at the Blue Bird Diner on Saturday, November 19 at 8:00 a.m. Catch up with your friends from church, make new acquaintances, and, you know, eat breakfast. The Blue Bird Diner is located at 330 E. Market St.

NEW MEMBERS



During worship on October 23, 8 people joined our congregation. They are:

Ryan Downing and Jen Sherer: Ryan spent ten years working as a union organizer and representative before choosing to stay home with their two daughters, Althea and Naomi. He enjoys music, hiking, camping, theology, and has an ongoing interest in unions. Ryan looks forward to sharing and growing with Congregational UCC and might be interested in the Mission Board. Jen moved to Iowa City for graduate school, became active in the labor movement and is currently the director of the UI Labor Center. She enjoys reading, music, gardening, and is interested in social justice and activism.

Bob and Yvette Jury: Bob is a native Iowan. Yvette was born in the Philippines. They met in Los Angeles, started raising their two children, Thomazin and Whit, and then moved to Iowa City. Bob works for the ARC of Southeast Iowa as a direct care provider. he is also a screenwriter. Yvette is the owner and instructor at Maroger Fine Arts Classes in Coralville. She is also co-owner of Starfield Bay, a small jewelry company that she started with two friends from California.

Margaret MacInnis: Margaret came to Iowa City in 2006 to study in the Nonfiction Writing Program. She thought she'd be here three years, earn her MFA, and be gone. Instead, upon finishing her degree, she fell in love with a native Iowan and started a family. Finding a church home for her daughter has been one of her goals in the past year and, Margaret says, "I am so glad to have accomplished this thanks to this kind and generous worship community.

Chinelo Okparanta: Nel completed her studies at the Iowa Writers Workshop this past spring and is currently teaching at UI. She enjoys reading and writing.

Kevin Richards and Kathi Koegle: Richard and Kathi moved to Coralville from New Glarus, WI. For Richard, this marked his return to Iowa after at 32 year absence. He is the director of the Iowa Water Science Center of the US Geological Survey. He enjoys golf, gardening/yard work, and travel and is glad to be in college town someplace warmer than Wisconsin. Kathi is a former French teacher who has spent most of her professional life in the nonprofit sector. As a telecommuter, she continues to work for the Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She was drawn to the hospitality, spirituality, and inclusivity of Congregational UCC.

LOOK AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Each year December brings festivity and celebration as we move through Advent and the joy of Christmas. Mark your calendars so that you won't miss these special events:

December 4—Communion during worship; alternative giving bazaar after worship.

December 11—Handel's *Messiah* presented by our choir during worship

December 18—Children's Christmas pageant during worship

December 24—Christmas Eve candlelight worship service at 5:30 p.m.

December 25—Christmas Day worship at 10:15 a.m.

TRANSITIONS

Baptism: Gavin Maxwell Nelson, son of Todd and Courtney, on October 30.

TAIZE AND LABYRINTH

The Taize Community of Iowa City welcomes people of all faith traditions to join in simple chants (sung prayer), silent meditation and prayers for the world every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. in the Old Brick Auditorium at the corner of Clinton and Market Sts. in Iowa City. On the first Sunday of each month Oct. - May (except Jan.), a canvas replica of the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth is available for walking meditation from 4 - 7 p.m. at Old Brick, with the Taize service around the labyrinth at 5:00. For more information go to www.taizeiowacity.org.

COMMON FUND REPORT JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2011

During this quarter, the Common Fund assisted 74 households with an average of \$126.91, the majority receiving help with utilities or housing. Without this assistance, a couple with 3 children would still be living in their vehicle; a single father who had funeral costs would have had his water disconnected; a single woman who recently lost her job would have lost her housing. Requests for financial assistance are up 39% from this time last year.

Total amount expended: \$9,391.24

Total number of households served: 74

Average number of households served each week: 7 (17 including other Crisis Center funds)

Average number turned away each week: 36 (up from 18 last quarter)

Average amount per assist: \$126.91



MISSIONS CORNER

Dear Congregation,

November is the time that we can help Shelter House and the Crisis Center Food Bank with donations. If you are able to help in any way they would be most grateful!

Many thanks for your consideration,
The Mission Board

CRISIS CENTER FOOD PANTRY - Top Ten Needed Donations

Financial Donations

Canned meat

Canned vegetables

Baby formula

Laundry detergent

Canned fruit and fruit juice

Hearty soups & stews

Toilet paper

Baby diapers

Pasta & rice

SHELTER HOUSE – Current List of Needs

Shampoo, deodorant, hand and body lotion

Over-the-counter antihistamines and sinus medicines

Underwear for women (all sizes)

Steel-toed workboots for men and women (all sizes)

Disinfectant spray

Iowa City bus passes or strip tickets

Grocery store gift cards

Cough drops and cold medicines (for adults and children)

Diapers (sizes 4-5)

Thermal underwear for men and women (all sizes).

Foot powder

Laundry detergent (high efficiency and regular)

Coralville bus passes or strip tickets

Postage stamps



THIS MONTH'S
birthdays

- 1 Frank Zlatnik
Sophia Jacobsen
- 2 Sheryl Amos
- 3 Sheila Bloomer
- 4 Andrew Fuller
- 7 Scott Hansche
Valerie Cobb
- 8 John Fuller
- 11 Jeanna Beerends
- 13 Amy Lewis
- 15 David Schoonover
Sara Murph
- 17 Naomi Sherer
- 18 Ann Leefers
Alsion Wilder
- 20 Eston Bartels
Annette Michaels
Andrew Knapp
- 24 Darin Wells
- 26 Michael Myer
Grace Brookfield
Lila MacInnis-Baumert
- 28 Catherine Kovach
- 29 Kevin Richards
Hayden Beerends
- 30 Mary Bartels
Norma Hodges

GREETINGS FROM ED AND MARY

Richard and I visited with Ed and Mary Heininger (newer members, you will be interested to know that Ed was the minister here in the 60's and 70's) recently in their new home at Laclede Oaks Manor. This is an independent-living apartment complex on the campus of Laclede Groves Senior Living Community in Webster Groves, Missouri.

It was good to see that Ed has recovered so well from his broken hip, suffered in a fall last July. After nine days in the hospital and eight weeks in rehabilitation, he is now at home. The fall occurred during a wedding reception. Ed was performing on stage with his harmonica band. When he went to the back of the stage to sit down, he ended up instead on the floor.

Their daughter Marsha and son-in-law Carl live nearby, and have helped them get settled in their new home. Ed and Mary send greetings to their friends in Iowa City. They are always eager to hear news from the church. Their address is 705 S. Laclede Station Road, Apt. 363, Webster Groves, MO 63119. Their phone number is 314-968-9513.

Ethel Bloesch



"God's Big Table; Nurturing Children in a Diverse World" was written by Elizabeth F. Caldwell, Professor of Pastoral Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary.

The author uses the imagery of the table as a metaphor for the ways our churches engage differences and diversity through a biblical background of welcoming all God's children.

In the 21st century faithful Christians are being challenged as to why living with diversity of faith and culture is important. This diversity is impacting church communities, and education for church members is essential.

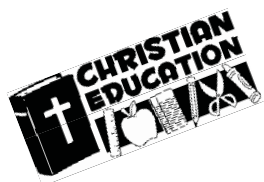
"God's Big Table" is a guide for clergy and church families who want to be open to a diverse faith community. In a world where differences too often divide persons from one another, "God's Big Table" can guide parents and the church in fostering children to recognize the sacredness of all God's children.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee



*"Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might
be to our God
forever and ever! Amen."*

Revelation 7:12, NRSV



ADULT EDUCATION IN NOVEMBER

After Megan Carnes' inspiring look at the Book of Acts and Bob Ashman's vivid examination of religion and architecture, our 9:15 Sunday morning adult education sessions continue in November with two new topics and two new leaders.

On November 6, Magill Schumm will talk about her semester of study in India last spring. Magill is currently a senior at City High. In India she attended the same high school that her father, Dwight, attended.

On November 13 and 20, the Rev. Diana Coberly will lead us in further explorations of disability issues and ways in which this congregation can be more open and accessible. Diana has helped us a great deal with this issue in recent years and these two Sundays promise to increase our awareness.

There will be no Christian education events on November 27.

ADVENT CELEBRATION

Begin the season of anticipation by gathering with our UCC family for carols, cocoa, and crafts. The Christian Education Board is hosting an Advent Celebration on **November 20th from 3:30-5:30** in Rockwood Hall. Everyone is welcome! We will have crafts for the entire family, cocoa and music. It will be a great way to prepare our hearts and minds for the special season of Advent. Be a part of a fun, new tradition and sign up in Rockwood Hall. Contact Brianna Schwenk with any

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.



CROP WALK NEWS

The results from this year’s walk are in! Even though the Walk is held in the spring, the organizers wait to announce the total donations because they continue to come in through the fall. This year 22 congregations and organizations raised over \$31,500. Congregation UCC raised \$1,247. The Iowa City Crisis Center receives 25% of this money and the rest is given to Church World Service.

Thanks again for supporting the CROP Walk. As the weather gets colder, we can look ahead to the 2012 Walk on April 1, which promises to be a lovely spring day. Get your shoes and your feet ready!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL UCC OFFERING RECEIVED ON NOVEMBER 6

Imagine another world is possible—a world without hunger, without poverty, without violence, without discrimination. Across the United States, UCC congregations are imagining and working toward a new world. Each year we receive the Neighbors in Need Offering to support their efforts and programs. Please give generously to this offering on Sunday, November 6.

TEE OFFERING

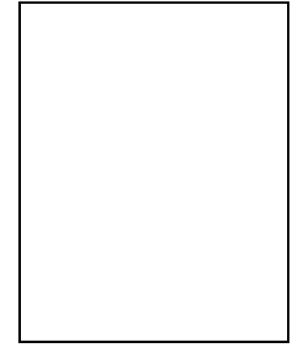
Thanks to everyone who gave to the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) offering in September. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger, worked for TEE in South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at www.tee.co.za. Thanks again!

UN AIDS OFFERING

\$369 was received during worship on October 16 in the offering for the UN AIDS program. Thanks again for your generous giving.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NOVEMBER 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

Music Director.....uccicmudir@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**

Christian Ed: Brianna Schwenk

Music Director: John Hughes

Organist: Bill Crouch

Office Manager: Sheila Bloomer

Financial Sec. Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Custodians: Nicole & Eddy Ghumm

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).