

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



## The United Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER 2011  
FROM THE PASTOR



Friends in Christ:

This past summer Bob Ashman and I talked with other scientists at Congregational UCC and developed a grant proposal for the Templeton Foundation's Scientists in Congregations program. We recognized that for Christians in the process of coming to a mature faith, a growing understanding of science is often seen as challenging rather than supporting faith. And we wanted to support the development of a faith compatible with and nurtured by contemporary science. Ours was one of over 90 proposals reviewed by a panel of judges familiar with both the world of science and the life of congregations. In August we received the good news that we were one of 37 congregations to receive a grant.

In informing us about the award, the Templeton Foundation told us, "From the standpoint of our judges, your proposal exemplified the kind of creativity, initiative, and promise we had in view when we launched the Scientists in Congregations grant program. We could not be more grateful for your efforts thus far and look forward to seeing your plans come to fruition."

The 1½ year grant period begins in October. We will begin a series of conversations involving myself and members of the congregation who are scientists and science educators (over 10% of our membership). This will lead to retreats to develop and execute an education plan for adults and students, including seminars, a science and faith sermon series, a mentoring program, and curriculum materials to be used by our congregation and shared with other faith communities.

I'm excited about working on these issues in a focused manner. In the weeks and months ahead we'll use the newsletter and announcements in worship to keep everyone informed about our progress and about opportunities to be involved in this wonderful project.

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 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 SEPTEMBER 2011

	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
<b>SEPT.</b> <b>4</b>	Richard & Phyllis Ruppert	Eric & Alison Burchett Bryon & Kathleen Day	Mark McBurney & Tracy Taylor
<b>SEPT.</b> <b>11</b>	Joan Jehle Fern Weir	Kathleen Clark & Richard Valentine John & Randee Fieselmann	Christian Ed
<b>SEPT.</b> <b>18</b>	Robert & Barbara McFarland	Robert & Gloria Hanson Robyn Hepker & Christine Dickey	Stuart & Deborah Cobb
<b>SEPT.</b> <b>25</b>	Gloria & Sandra Lacina	James & Diane Jetter Rebecca & William Hoefler	Ann Gabel Fern Weir

If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone, please call the assigned Deacon of the month—BETSY HENSON (319 351-0274)

**CHURCH SCHOOL  
KICKOFF  
LUNCHEON**

The Church School Kickoff Luncheon will be held on September 11 following the service.

## September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m.	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 Diaconate 7:00 p.m. Mission 7:00 p.m.	7 Foreign Relations Council	8	9 Wedding Rehearsal	10 Men's Breakfast  Rowe/Marley Wedding
11 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m.  Church School Kickoff Luncheon	12	13	14	15 Women's Luncheon  <b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</b>	16 Foreign Relations Council	17
18 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m.  TEE Offering	19 Dr. Eckhardt Funeral Service 11:00 a.m.	20 Trustees 7:00	21 Christian Ed. 7:00 p.m.	22 Membership 7:00 p.m.	23 Sheila Vacation all Next week	24
25 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m.	26	27 Church Council 7:00 p.m.	28	29	30	

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 \* **WOMEN'S LUNCHEON** \*  
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 \* Women of the church and their guests are invited to a self-pay luncheon on \*  
 \* Thursday, September 15, 11:45 am. We will gather at The Olive Garden \*  
 \* restaurant near the Coral Ridge Mall. Please advise the church office by \*  
 \* phone or email if you are coming - deadline is Wednesday September 14, \*  
 \* 4pm. Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you need a ride. \*  
 \*  
 \*  
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**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

This month the men of the church will meet for breakfast at Perkins, 819 1st Ave., Coralville, on Saturday, September 10, at 8:00 a.m. Join us on this "Away Game" Saturday for what has become a large gathering of great guys. For more information contact Darin Wells or call the church office (337-4301).

**ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE  
 DINNER  
 OCTOBER 29, 2011**

Come gather with your fellow congregants for purely social reasons of fun, good conversation, Cottage food. We meet at one home for donated appetizers, several others for catered entrees, finally gathering back together for dessert. Could you volunteer your house for any one of these? Will you need transportation or can you provide it for others? Details and sign up will be available starting Sept. 18. Everyone is welcome - you are sure to learn at least one new fascinating fact about another Congo UCC member that evening, reinforcing your experience that we are a uniquely interesting group!

## WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

On Sunday, September 4, we will observe Labor Sunday. Everyone is invited to wear their “work clothes” (whatever they might be) and/or bring an object that represents your work to place on the communion table.

During worship on Sunday, September 11, we will mark the tenth anniversary of the 2001 attacks. Please join us for what will be a healing and hope-filled worship service.

After worship on September 11 we will have our annual “beginning of the year” lunch. Everyone is invited. If you would like, you can sign up to help provide food, set up, serve, or clean up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall.

On Sunday, September 18, Bill will start a sermon series based on Paul’s letter to the Philippians. The lesson for September 18 will be Philippians 1:21-30; for September 25 the lesson is Philippians 2:1-13.

## TRANSITIONS

### Death

Richard Eckhardt, a long-time member of our congregation died on July 27. A funeral service will be held at the church on Monday, September 19, at 11:00 p.m.

## REMINDER

If you would like to use the church for a meeting it is recommended you call the office to see if space is available.

## LOOKING AHEAD

World Communion Sunday will be October 2.

The UI Homecoming Parade is October 21. Plan now to join us at church to watch the parade.



Please send your e-mail address to the church office  
uccicsec@uccic.org  
Thanks, Sheila

## HELP US CLEAN UP OUR ACT!

October 8

Our all-church cleaning (inside and out) is scheduled for Saturday morning, October 8. Please keep the date open and plan to join us with gloves, rags, buckets and whatever else you may need! Coffee and Doughnuts will be provided.

## OFFICE NOTES

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.

Can you believe that Sheila Bloomer has been our office manager for almost a year now? It's great having her in the office every Tuesday through Friday—and she deserves some vacation time! Sheila will be out of the office from September 23-30. Stop by in October to see her slides and movies.

## NEW BIBLE STUDY GROUP FORMING THIS MONTH

"God is Still Speaking..." What is God trying to say to you? Come hear the voice of The Still Speaking God at our new group, "Scripture Meditation." This new group will be in the spirit of the Meditative technique of *lectio divina*—a slow, contemplative praying of the scripture—and will be an opportunity for us to "listen with the ears of our hearts." Join Raven Marley each week as we reflect and share on what God's voice is trying to say to us personally through that week's scripture. This group will meet on Monday evening beginning on September 19. A sign up sheet is in Rockwood. Let us know if you're interested in joining us as God uses this amazing technique to speak to our hearts.

## SEASON FOUR OF SUNDAYS AT FOUR

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming dates in the SUNDAYS AT FOUR community arts series. A full schedule of the 2011-12 season will appear in the October Newsletter.

Sunday, October 16, 2011, 4 PM  
Brett and Marita Wolgast  
Organ/Piano

Sunday, January 29, 2012, 4 PM  
Stephen Swanson  
Baritone

Sunday, April 22, 2012, 4 PM  
Dean Billmeyer  
Organ

These free concerts are offered to the community as an outreach program of our congregation and are made possible by a generous anonymous gift to the church.

Concerts in the past three years have drawn a wide and diverse audience, in many cases bringing people to events in our church for the first time.

A free-will offering at each event benefits a local charitable organization.

*You're invited!*  
All are welcome to sing with in the choir! We hope you will join us for a year of song, joy, and fellowship. Don't be afraid to bring a friend along too!



The choir season will begin with a potluck on Wednesday, August 31. We're meeting in Rockwood Hall at 5:30 to eat and socialize and will rehearse from 7:00-9:00 in the sanctuary. Meat and drinks will be provided. People with last names starting with A-M are asked to bring an appetizer or salad, and people with N-Z last names are asked to bring a vegetable or dessert.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

John C. Hughes  
847.894.7214      john.charles.hughes@gmail.com



- 5 Sophie Neems
- 6 Kevin Koepnick
- 7 Doug Parsons  
Robyn Hepker
- 11 Karen Davis  
Sadie Trout  
Elise McBurney  
Temesgen Schumm
- 12 Matt Teusink
- 13 Douglas Fuller
- 14 Gretchen Snider
- 15 Jean Willard  
Nathaniel Lovin
- 16 Shirley Woolums
- 18 Dale Weir
- 19 Donna Goodnow
- 20 Jennifer Castle  
Nathan Willard
- 21 Shirley Carew
- 23 Pricilla Walker
- 26 Bruce Reynolds
- 28 Gail Zlatnik  
Cynthia Parsons
- 29 Alison Burchett



"The Dressmaker of Khair Khana", by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, is the story of five sisters, one remarkable family, and the woman who risked every-

thing to keep them safe. The life Kamila Sidiqi had known changed overnight when the Taliban seized control of

Kabul. Kamila had a teaching degree but was banned from school and confined to her home. When her father and brother were forced to flee the city, Kamila became the sole breadwinner of her family. She picked up a needle and thread and created a thriving business of dressmaking." The Dressmaker of Khair Khana" tells the true story of an unlikely entrepreneur who mobilized her community under the Taliban. It is a look at the daily lives of women in Afghanistan who are not victims. Rather they hold families together and are the backbone and heart of the nation. Afghanistan can never thrive until it embraces the active involvement of women in its leadership and future. Author Gayle Tzemach Lemmon is a former ABC News reporter. She earned her MBA at Harvard where she began writing about women entrepreneurs in conflict and post-conflict zones. Her writings have been published in many newspapers.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee

## **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

### **Study of Acts of the Apostles Begins September 11**

During the summer the Board of Christian Education planned an exciting year of Sunday morning adult education events. Among other topics, we'll explore religion and architecture, the church and disabilities, science and faith, and issues relating to hunger both globally and locally in the coming year.

We're starting the year with a study of the Book of Acts. Since the mid-twentieth century, much has changed in our society and the role of the church. Christianity no longer enjoys the kind of taken-for-granted support in and from the society it once did. Today American society is an officially secular, religiously pluralistic, and ethnically diverse one. In many ways, *this is also the world of the Acts of the Apostles*. In this six week series we'll study the Book of Acts to grow in our knowledge and understanding of Scripture, to hear God's word for us and for our church today, and to grow in our friendship with one another.

Megan Carnes will be leading this series that will meet in Rockwood Hall each Sunday morning at 9:15 for six weeks beginning September 11. Copies of the Study Guide are available in Rockwood Hall and the church office.

## **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

"Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love,  
United to Serve"

Church Women United (CWU) is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women's movement initiated and carried out by women in the United States and Puerto Rico. It is a movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. September 23rd is Human Rights Celebration at the Coralville Public Library sponsored by First United Methodist Church. November 4th is World Community Day at St. Peter's Catholic Church. Church Women United is an important voice in the community for justice, peace, and cooperation among denominations. Everyone is welcome.

## TRUSTEES AT WORK

This month we begin a new season of education, worship, and music in our church. Returning students will find a place of rest and renewal in our Meditation Chapel. Various groups will be using our building.

Throughout the summer the Trustees have worked to keep our building and grounds, the center of our mission and ministry, in good repair.

Maybe you have noticed some of these changes:

The parking lot has been re-striped to provide two parking spaces for disabled persons.

The hawthorn tree has been trimmed in preparation for the installation of a new church sign at the corner of Jefferson and Clinton.

The upstairs southeast room has been restored for use as office space for Brianna Schwenk and John Hughes.

The fluorescent light fixtures and tubes throughout the building have been replaced for greater energy efficiency.

Two pews were cut to permit greater wheelchair accessibility in the sanctuary.

Final plans for the new sound system were made so that the system can be installed in October.

New furniture for Rockwood Hall has been ordered.

A new telephone system was installed.

A big “thank you” goes to all the Trustees who have worked diligently to make all of this happen.

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## **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.

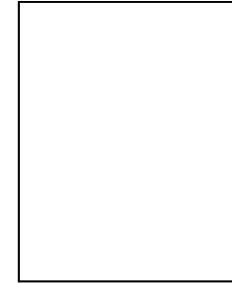


## **TEE OFFERING IN SEPTEMBER**

Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received on Sunday, September 18. 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](http://www.tee.co.za). Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



## SEPTEMBER 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)  
Music Director.....[uccicmudir@uccic.org](mailto:uccicmudir@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**  
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).