



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
APRIL 2017



Friends in Christ;

For two years in a row now, Congregational UCC has been one of the top 100 givers to One Great Hour of Sharing in the United Church of Christ. Last year we gave \$4,900 to this special offering that provides support for refugees, immigrants, and victims of natural disasters as well as ongoing health, education, and agricultural efforts nationally and globally.

We can do better.

The need for money to fund medical care, disaster relief, and especially, relief for refugees has never been greater. As our government acts to build a wall, deport thousands, and cut funds for humanitarian work around the world, our giving takes on an even greater importance this year.

Give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that we will receive during worship on Palm Sunday, April 9.

If you have already decided how much you are going to give, double that amount.

If you haven't yet decided, surprise yourself—shock yourself, even—with how generous you can be. When you write that check you should be asking, “What am I thinking, giving this much?”

Parents, help your children to give using those banks that we handed out. It's hard to talk with children about other children who are suffering, but many of your children are aware of this already. Gently help them to see how they can help others.

I'm not asking you to give so that we will continue to be on that Top 100 list. We might be. We might not. But either way, refugees will have water to drink because of your giving; people who lost their homes in natural disasters will find shelter because of your giving; around the world women and men, boys and girls will get the health care they need and would otherwise miss because of your giving.

I'm asking you to give because Jesus calls those who would follow him to love God and love our neighbors. Those two great commandments of love are inseparable. Giving to meet human need is a ministry, a form of religious service open to all people.

I'm asking you to give because you glorify God by the generosity of your sharing. By letting your light shine, a little of the darkness is scattered and in that light people might find new life.

I'm asking you to give because you are stewards of all that you have received from God. You know that.

Take some time to remember all the doors that have been opened for you, all the help that you have received to get to where you are today. Great need now meets your great abundance. How do you want to respond?

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES AT UCC

- **April 9** Palm Sunday - Worship with Distribution of Palms, 10:15 am
- **April 13** Maundy Thursday - Congregational meal in Rockwood Hall at 5:30 pm
Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- **April 14** Good Friday -Worship in the Sanctuary at noon.
- **April 16** Sunrise Service 7:30 am, Easter Breakfast, Festival Easter Service with Brass and Choir at 10:15 am. Childcare will be provided.

MIDWEEK MUSICAL MEDITATIONS

Our Lenten Musical Meditations series continues in April. The musical meditations begin at noon and last for approximately 25 minutes. These midday recitals are free and open to the public. Please join us and bring a friend. The remaining schedule for the Meditations in 2017 is:

April 5	Elizabeth Oakes and Nathalie Cruden, Viola
April 12	Richard Bloesch, Piano and Marie Von Behren, Soprano

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION IN LENT Returning Home: Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths

Continuing in Lent, the Sunday morning adult education sessions will explore how Christian faith has been deepened and enriched by encounters with people of different religions. We will look at familiar Lenten themes, such as temptation and fasting, but with a different approach. This series does not necessarily emphasize common ground or dialogue. It is more about how Christian faith has burned brightly following an encounter with the religious other.

Christians who have lived alongside, and worked with, people of other faiths, often express their surprise and appreciation that their own Christian faith has been enriched by these encounters. How is this the case? Sometimes a practice such as fasting by Muslims in Ramadan has led Christians to think again about the ancient Christian practice of fasting, or the understanding of a concept such as suffering in an Indic faith has prompted Christians to interrogate Christian understanding of redemptive suffering.

The theologian John Cobb described his deep encounter with Buddhism in terms of a journey to another land and culture: the newness, sometimes strangeness of the other, can be an enriching experience. However when we return to the familiar, home is viewed with different eyes and a deeper, perhaps more profound, appreciation. This is why the series is called "Returning Home." The themes of this study series will also shape our Sunday morning worship during Lent. Join Bill Lovin in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 on Sunday mornings.

WAKING UP WHITE: FINDING MYSELF IN THE STORY OF RACE

Interested in understanding more about White Privilege, systemic racism, racial justice or just learning how to talk about race? Over the next two months, many members of our church have committed to reading Debby Irving's *Waking Up White: Finding Myself in the Story of Race* and then coming together in small groups to discuss the book. To accommodate various schedules, we have scheduled three different dates for discussion; you can pick the one that works best for you. The different meeting times/locations are listed below. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to come and join in the discussion but we do ask that you read the book if you plan to participate. If you have questions about a particular meeting, please contact the facilitator(s) associated with that session. (Interested individuals can order the book from Prairie Lights or other vendors.)

"Debby Irving's powerful *Waking Up White* opens a rare window on how white Americans are socialized. Irving's focus on the mechanics of racism operating in just one life — her own — may lead white readers to reconsider the roots of their own perspectives — and their role in dismantling old myths. Readers of color will no doubt find the view through Irving's window fascinating, and telling." — *Van Jones, author, Rebuild The Dream, The Green Col- lar Economy:How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems; President, Rebuild The Dream; Co-*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

“Story of Race” continued

Thursday, April 20, 2017

1:30-2:30 PM

Oaknoll Retirement Residence – 6th floor lounge

1 Oaknoll Dr., Iowa City, IA 52246

Facilitators - Pam Willard (Pamela-willard@uiowa.edu or 319-530-6584) and Sally Strang (319-325-2373)

Sunday, April 23, 2017

11:30-12:30 PM

Congregational Church (after church on Sunday – “Melon Room” lower level at the church)

30 N Clinton St., Iowa City, IA 52245

Facilitator - Beth Oakes beth@geneandbeth.com

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, April 9, we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation—so much so that in 2015 **and once again in 2016** we were recognized as one of the Top 100 OGHS giving churches in the UCC!

One Great Hour is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. It began in the Episcopal Church in 1946 when a goal of one million dollars per year was set for World Relief. That year members were challenged to raise “one million dollars in one hour.” Since 1949 this offering has united Christians of many denominations, including the UCC, in a common cause.



In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others in standing in solidarity with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. Your generous gift will support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts. You can watch videos about the work that OGHS makes possible here: http://www.ucc.org/oghs_oghs-videos.

JOHNSON COUNTY CROP WALK—APRIL 9

Even when April showers interfere,



you can still help end hunger.

The 2017 CROP Walk for Hunger Relief will be held on April 9. This year we will be starting and ending the Walk at The Crisis Center of Johnson County, 1121 Gilbert Court, Iowa City, IA. The starting time will be at 1:00 pm. Please come a little early to sign up and enjoy the fellowship before the walk begins. We always have a good time no matter what the weather is like.

Sign up to walk by getting a sponsor sheet from Paula Forest, Congregational UCC’s Walk Coordinator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



The clock is ticking!
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Animal Crackers
June 5th – 7th, 2017
(June 6 - Day at the farm!)
9 am – 11:30 am
Art, Games, Snacks
For all 4 yr. olds to 5th Graders

FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY

Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. Because so many people enjoyed the burst of color last Easter, our Diaconate invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Tuesday, April 11.*

MONTHLY DINING

The Women's Lunch is scheduled for April 20 at the **Mekong Restaurant**, 5 Sturgis Corner Dr. in Iowa City, beginning at 11:45 am. The Men's Breakfast will be on April 22 at the **Midtown Restaurant**, 200 Scott Ct in Iowa City beginning at 8:00 am.

OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION DATES

The date has been set for next fall's warm clothing distribution. It will be on **Saturday, October 14th**. The locations are the same as last year and for UCC that is The Kingdom Center/The Dream Center at 611 Southgate Ave in Iowa City. The first volunteer need is for two people who are willing to be the site coordinators for The Kingdom Center location. Look for other volunteer opportunities to be posted in Rockwood Hall. Contact Paula Forest or Carolyn Otis at Carolyn.otis@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

SKILL BUILDING FOR EFFECTIVE ACTIVISM

The UI School of Social Work is holding a series of teach-ins during the late winter and early spring to help community members strengthen their abilities for activism. These workshops are open to the public without charge and will be held from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in North Hall, room 322.

4/19: Interventions for bystanders

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

There are lots of new opportunities to volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages in Iowa City. With the store now being a successful permanent store, volunteers are needed to help assist customers every day. Contact Cassidy at iowacity@tenthousandvillages.com or **319-519-2104** if you can help occasionally or on a regular basis. Your volunteer spirit provides a livelihood for artisans in 38 countries. Take a shopping trip to the Village store at 105 S Dubuque St, Iowa City.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

LUNCH AND PRESENTATION ON CUBA - SUNDAY APRIL 23

The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), a multi-issue national ecumenical agency and Pastors for Peace are sponsoring Gladys Abella on a speaking tour through the Midwest addressing issues related to Cuba. Ms. Abella will be giving a talk in Rockwood Hall on Sunday, April 23, 12:45. A video about Cuba will be shown, and Ms. Abella will discuss current US-Cuba relations from the Cuban point of view, as well as provide a current status on Cuba since Fidel Castro's death.

Before this presentation, all members and friends of the church are invited to a lunch in Rockwood Hall starting at 11:45 a.m. The Mission Board is sponsoring this talk and the lunch.

OLD CAPITOL CRITERIUM HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 30

The arrival of spring brings renewed activity in downtown Iowa City—Friday evening music, movies on the Pentecrest, and more. Some events occur on Sunday morning and impact traffic patterns and parking around Congregational UCC.

The Old Capitol Criterium, the annual bike race, will be held on Sunday, April 30. After road construction last year, the race returns to its previous route. This means that there will be better access to the church—including the Jefferson St. parking lot—on Sunday morning. Clinton Street will be closed between Burlington and Jefferson Streets, however. Traffic will be rerouted and street parking will be limited. All of this means that it will be a great morning to walk a little farther to worship! Start out a little earlier—or ride your bike—and join us for worship that morning at 10:15.

NAMI WALK

Supporters of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will walk together on Saturday, May 6 at the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, 4213 Sand Road. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 10. Ruth and Ken Kuntz have participated in NAMIWalks for several years to honor our adult daughter who has a long history of bipolar disorder. Ruth is the captain of our CUCC virtual team (non-walking) which raises funds as a group to support local NAMI projects.

When mental illness strikes your family, you need a place to go for help. Proceeds from the Walk enable NAMI Johnson County to create a welcoming community of support for people living with mental illness and their families and friends in Johnson County. Their programs are essential to care and treatment, offering support groups, classes, lectures and other programs, all free of charge.

There are three ways you may become part of our CUCC virtual NAMIWalks team:

- Pick up a donation envelope in Rockwood Hall in order to collect funds from family and friends
- Donate to our CUCC team online
- Give Ruth a check made out to “NAMI Johnson County”. She will credit your gift to our CUCC team and pass it on to the NAMI office.

Serving Our Church

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 the service, which begins at 10:15 am.

If you cannot serve on the assigned date, please call someone else on the list to arrange a trade with them. Please let the Deacon of the Month, Dean Logan, know of any changes.
He can be reached at 351-0872 or dnfarmboy@aol.com

APRIL	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
2	Kai and Amanda Bouma	Mary Shepherd James Savage Rick and Phyllis Ruppert	Bill and Janet Williams
9	Lenore Maybaum Nathan Morton	Ed and Heather Leighton-Dick Joyce Myer Ruben Lebron	Jim and Diane Jetter
16	Connie Parsons Bob Ashman	Emily Legel Jessica Welburn Donna Janes Sally Strang	John and Randy Fieselmann
23	Bob and Gloria Hanson	David Wilder Amy and Cyndy Woodhouse Bob Ashman	Martha Ann Crawford Charles Connerly
30	Ed and Becky Keogh	Kate Edwards Derek Lehman Carroll Hanson Bill Dickinson	Megan Carnes James Robinson

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Communion Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Class 11:30 am - Choir 11:30 am - Chinese School 1:30 pm	3 - Livestream Marillyne Robinson in Rockwood Hall 6:00 pm	4 - FRC Luncheon Noon - Diaconate 7:00 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm - CE Board 7 pm	5 - Lenten Musical Meditation with Beth Oaks and Nathalie Cruden, viola Noon	6 - Voices of Soul Rehearsal 6:30 pm	7	8
9 - Sunday School 9:15 am - Palm Sunday Worship 10:15 am - OGHS Offering - Choir 11:30 am - Chinese School 1:30 pm - CROP Walk 1 pm	10	11 - Please bring Easter flower honoree's names for Easter Sunday bulletin by today.	12 - Last Lenten Musical Meditation with Marie Von Behren, soprano and Richard Bloesch, piano Noon - Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	13 - FRC Luncheon Noon - Maundy Thursday Congregational Meal 5:30pm - Worship Service 7:00 pm	14 - Good Friday Worship— Noon	15 - Choir Rehearsal 10 am
16 - Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service 7:30 am - Easter Breakfast - Choir 8:45 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Easter Worship 10:15 am	17 INCOME TAXES DUE	18 - Stewardship Board 4:00 pm - Membership 5:30 pm - Trustees 7:00 pm	19 - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon	20 - Women's Lunch at the Mekong Restaurant 11:45 am - FRC Luncheon Noon - Voices of Soul 6:30 pm	21	22 - Men's Breakfast 8 am at Midtown Restaurant in Iowa City 8:00 am
23 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Worship 10:15 am - Choir 11:30 am - Confirmation Class 11:30 am - Chinese School 1:30 pm	24	25 - CE Board 6:30 pm - Church Council 7:00 pm	26 - FRC Luncheon Noon - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon	27 - Voices of Soul 6:30 pm	28	29 - Voices of Soul Concert 4:00 pm
30 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Worship 10:15 am - Choir 11:30 am - Chinese School 1:30 pm						



4/1 WAYNE BALMER
BILL HOEFER
ELLIS CHEN

4/2 JOSIE NABHAN-WARREN

4/6 JERRY WALKER

4/7 DEL BROWN
ROSS NUSSER

4/9 GRACE WHITTAKER

4/12 MARY LEA KRUSE
DARIUS GHABEL-LOPEZ

4/15 MAGILL SCHUMM

4/19 ANN GHABEL

4/20 AMANDA BOUMA

4/21 DIANA DURHAM

4/22 RANDEE FIESELMANN

4/25 PATTY ROBERTS
JACOB KOEPNICK

4/26 ANNA WHITTAKER

4/27 RUTHANN HOLMES
ROBERT MCFARLAND
JOSHUA WOOLUMS

4/29 JO BOWERS
MARGARET KEOGH

4/30 OSCAR LEWIS



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

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).

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Fellowship

Church Office is open Monday - Friday 9-3pm

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Rev. William Lovin
Music Director:	Chris Nakielski
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Dir of Children's Programs	The Rev. Patte Henderson
Children's Choir Director	Colette Nakielski
Office Manager:	Nan Martin
Financial Secretary:	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz
Communication Assistant:	Christina Patramanis
Custodians:	Douglas Herrera Claudia Landaverde

HOW TO CONTACT US

Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm
Phone: 319-337-4301

E-mail:

Minister.....uccicrev@uccic.org
Office Manager.....uccicsec@uccic.org
Financial Secretary.....sharynreitz@gmail.com
Music Director... christopher-nakielski@uiowa.edu
Dir of Children's
Programs.....pattehenderson@ gmail.com
Children's Choir Dir....colette.nakielski@gmail.com
Communication Assist....cpatramanis@yahoo.com