



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
MAY 2017



Friends in Christ:

In the choir loft in our sanctuary there are a few music stands with the words “DO NOT REMOVE FROM THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC” stenciled onto them.

I’m not suggesting that this reflects a lack of respect for the law and/or property among our choir members. But those music stands do serve as little reminders of the resurrection for me.

In May we continue to hear the Easter news about Jesus: “He is not here.” The risen Christ is not where he belongs. In spite of all of the efforts of the authorities, in spite of the vigilance of the guards, in spite of the stone—DO NOT REMOVE FROM THE TOMB—Jesus is not where we expect him to be.

With Easter the risen Christ will no longer stay where people want him to be. And with the leader out of his place, it would not be long before the followers got out of place as well. With the resurrection, God begins to be found in unexpected places, in unexpected people. God is not held in place by those on the inside, those who are “religious.”

To those of us still trying to find our way in this often chaotic and uncertain world—to all of us really—Easter does not give us the assurance that everything will be put back in its usual place. Our lives and our world are constantly changing, for better or worse. Through those changes and in those changes we may yet discover God in new ways.

Things are out of place. Jesus will not be contained by a tomb. We will not be bound by old ways of thinking and acting and living. New meaning and new purpose for life can be found if we will search for them through acts of love, compassion and mercy, in the continuing quest for justice and peace.

As this happens, there will be those who try to keep what we do safely inside the walls of our church: DO NOT REMOVE FROM 30 N. CLINTON STREET. But we follow the One who was never where he was supposed to be, who was always out of place, Jesus Christ who would never stay put. Following means that we will be out of place as well. Still, we will be those who love, who live, and who give.

We go on, no longer in our places, following into new life, rejoicing each day in the God of creation and the new creation that is Easter.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Each year in May we recognize high school graduates in our congregation. This year Isaac Chen and Wade Carter, the son and step-son of Jean Willard will graduate from Scattergood and City High, respectively. Isaac will be attending Cornell College in Mt. Vernon in the fall and Wade will attend the University of Iowa. The Diaconate will have books available in Rockwood Hall where you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Isaac and Wade.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Several Congregational UCC members will be graduating from college this spring. Congratulations to:

Mickey Hansche	Coe College
Emily Koepnick	University of Iowa
Emily Legel	University of Iowa
Ron Erving	Kirkwood Community College

SPRING MUSIC SUNDAY MAY 14

On Sunday, May 14th the UCC choir and friends will be performing works by contemporary UK composer Cecilia McDowall for the biannual *Special Music Sunday* service. The program will include some of her pieces for organ and a work scored for soprano and baritone soloists and SATB chorus, accompanied by solo piano and a single percussionist. The cantata is a setting of John Clare's poem *Love lies beyond the tomb*, interspersed with plainchant taken from the Vatican Prefaces. The work will feature soprano soloist Aurora DePaul, tenor soloist Robert Kemp, percussionist Alan Lawrence, organist Bill Crouch and the voices of the UCC choir, conducted by Christopher Nakielski.

“FICTION, FAITH, AND THE IMAGINATION” CELEBRATES THE WORK OF MARILYNNE ROBINSON Event Available Online

The Library of Congress invited Congregational UCC to participate in the celebration of Marilynne Robinson's winning the 2016 Prize for American Fiction. We live streamed “Fiction, Faith and the Imagination,” on Monday, April 3 at the church. The program included Marilynne and novelists Geraldine Brooks and Paul Harding – all Pulitzer Prize-winners – physicist and novelist Alan Lightman, and moderator Steven Knapp, president of George Washington University.

If you missed this event—or want to see it again—you can find it on You Tube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=498UvjUtA0M>. (Special shout out to CUCC at the 12.09 mark!)

A THANK-YOU FROM FERN WEIR

Thank you to everyone that helped to make my “Celebration” day so wonderful! It was *so good* to see so many friends and visit with everyone. I pick up my book of messages from everyone and think of all the times we worked together! The memories coming back are very special.

MEMBER GATHERINGS IN MAY

The Women's Lunch is scheduled for May 18 beginning at 11:45 am at **Oaknoll Retirement Community** in the East Oak Room, The Men's Breakfast will be on May 20 beginning at 8:00 am at the new **Billy's High Hat**, 630 Iowa Avenue in Iowa City.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Just an FYI... The Church Council is comprised of representatives from all of the church boards plus two at-large members. Currently the at-large members are Donna Hirst and Joyce Myer. If any member of the congregation has a concern or question that may not be addressed by one of the boards, please let Donna or Joyce know. They can then take your concern to the Council. Both are generally available after worship at Fellowship Hour or you may call or email them at donna-hirst@uiowa.edu or mike_and_joyce@msn.com.

CHOIR DIRECTORS LOOKING GOOD!

In early April all the choir directors at Congregational UCC from the last 50 years were together in Iowa City for an event at the School of Music. Amazing! Thanks to John Hughes, Richard Bloesch, Patrick Zubiante, and Chris Nakielski for a half century of inspiring music. You're all looking great, guys!



SPRING HOUSE CLEANING??

If any of you are cleaning your house this Spring, please look for any books that belong to the Church Library. We have many books that have been checked out for a long time and never returned. They can be returned to the Library "Return Box" or, if the Library is locked, you can leave them with Nan in the Church office. Thank you.

The Library Committee

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL *Animal Crackers*

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. The theme this summer is *Animal Crackers* which includes a day at a real farm! Classes run June 5th thru June 7th from 9 am to 11:30 am. Come and enjoy art, games and, of course, snacks! Everyone 4 yrs old to 4th graders welcome. Register now!! Contact Children's Program Director, Patte Henderson for more information.

SUMMER WORSHIP - SAME TIME, SAME PLACE

Our Sunday worship time will continue to be at 10:15 a.m. throughout the summer.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Changed your phone number or address? Please let the church office know. We try to keep our records as up to date as possible. If you have moved, dropped your land line, changed your email address or made other such changes, call the church office at 377-4301 or send Nan an email at uccicsec@uccic.org with the new information. THANKS!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

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 NAMI Walks 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 NAMI Walks 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 team and pass it on to the NAMI office.

COLLECTING FOR THE CRISIS CENTER FOOD BANK AND SHELTER HOUSE

We will be collecting items for the Food Bank and Shelter House in May and June. The Mission Board would like to have all of us consider contributing generously to these two local missions which have been long standing projects of the Congregational Church. The needs, as always, continue to be great. Your donations may be placed in the collection box in Rockwood Hall where you will also find take-away lists of the most needed items. For more information, contact Edie Roberts.

SHELTER HOUSE

Deodorant, Toothpaste, Razors
Men's Underwear
Over-the-counter Medications: Antihistamine, Sinus Medication, Acetaminophen, DayQuil
Hotel/sample sizes of Shampoo, Conditioner, & Lotion, Foot Powder, Ear Plugs, Facial Tissues
Laundry Detergent (high efficiency & regular)
Grocery Store Gift Cards
Iowa City/Coralville bus passes or strip tickets
Men & Women's Work Clothes (particularly white shirts & black pants)

Please note: they do not accept chlorine bleach

FOOD BANK

Toilet Paper
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Canned Fruit & 100% Fruit
Juice
Pasta & Rice
Canned Vegetables
Hearty Soups & Stews
Baby Diapers (all sizes)
Baby Formula & Food
Laundry Detergent

UCC HOSTING MAY FREE LUNCH

It's our turn to host the Free Lunch in May (Memorial Day). A sign-up sheet has been posted in Rockwood Hall. You always respond generously to this effort and do so to provide well over one hundred tasty, healthy, meals to those in need. Many of the diners take the time to express their sincere thanks to us for all they receive from you. Whether you donate food or help serve or both, you are appreciated. Please consider signing up to bring food and/or to help serve. Edie Roberts



PENTECOST SUNDAY—JUNE 4

We will celebrate Pentecost on June 4. This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey “from ashes to fire.” Pentecost marks God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. As we have in recent years, we invite everyone to please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, June 4.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—JUNE 4

What does church mean to you? Mission? Compassion? Community?...Praise? Prayer? Peace? There are as many different answers as there are people. But the value at the heart of every answer is the same: Love. The church is love.

Each year we receive a special offering that helps the church’s love to grow and thrive. The “Strengthen the Church” offering grows the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the “Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God’s extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church.

On *Sunday, June 4*—Pentecost Sunday—we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

YOUR GENEROSITY ON VIEW

Thanks to everyone—adults and children—who gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday. We received over \$6,400—an increase of over \$1700 from last year. If you still want to give, you can use the special OGHS envelopes in the pews and/or put “OGHS” in the memo line on your check. AND,

Final figures were just released for the 2017 Shelter House Book Sale and the Sale raised \$18,422. Eighty-seven volunteers contributed 800 hours and the CUCC was a major contributor. Wow and thank you. As you read your books this year, put them in a bag for next year’s sale and thank you!

DARE TO...

The University of Iowa has raised a new set of “Dare to...” banners around Iowa City. The banners recognize faculty and the daring work they are doing. Look around and you will see the familiar faces of Congregational UCC members Chuck Connerly, Kristy Nabhan-Warren, and Jessica Welburn. For a list of banners and their locations, please go to <https://dare.research.uiowa.edu/>. Congratulations to all who dare.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

ToGather Together SEEKS FUNDS

ToGather Together (TGTg) provides free school supplies for over 5,000 children & youth in need in Johnson County. TGTg is a project started by the Consultation of Religious Communities and involves approximately 30 different faith communities, many businesses, Johnson County social services groups and many, many individuals. As the need continues to grow in our area we are seeing an increase in requests -- what started as an effort to provide supplies for 200 children from the years 2000-2007 has now grown to help over 5,000 children & youth.

TGTg is seeking funds to purchase school supplies to support children & youth in Johnson County. If you are interested in providing monetary donations please send a check to "ToGather Together" at P.O. Box 2025, Iowa City, IA 52244.

To learn more about getting involved or for any questions, please contact a co-director: Karrie Craig, thecraigfamily@mchsi.com or Marsha Lowe, marshalowe@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support of ToGather Together.

TABLE TO TABLE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Table to Table's budget is small and our task is great. Volunteers are an essential element of our organization and provide the means for us to pursue our mission. We are an independent food rescue organization with a mission to keep wholesome, edible food from going to waste by collecting it from donors and distributing to those in need through agencies that serve the hungry, homeless and at-risk population in the Johnson County area. Our volunteer roles include route driver (or passenger), data entry, cleaning vans, special events, and serving on the board of directors. Last year Table to Table rescued over 1.8 million pounds of food, and redirected it to local social service agencies. That's 900 tons of wholesome food kept out of the landfill.

Visit our website at www.table2table.org. For an orientation, Call Emily at 319-337-3400

THE CRISIS CENTER OF JOHNSON COUNTY MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Congregational UCC to support a mobile food pantry at Southeast Junior High.

Program Overview

The Crisis Center Mobile Food Pantry serves people who have barriers to accessing one of the traditional pantries in Johnson County. Barriers often include lack of transportation, lack of childcare, disability, and work hours that conflict with open pantry hours. The Mobile Food Pantry visits locations across Johnson County where there is an identified population of people who are underserved by the existing pantries. Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017) is the first year of operating the Mobile Food Pantry. It is primarily funded through a grant from Johnson County.

Before the end of this school year, they plan to start offering a pantry service in partnership with evening programs at Southeast Junior High. They estimate we will serve at least 30 families at the Southeast Junior High mobile pantry site, around 120 people, and expect that more than 50 will be children.

Cost of the mobile pantry site at Southeast Junior High:

The first year of this pantry site will be more expensive than future years because they are investing in equipment and supplies to create the new Mobile Food Pantry. The total cost of the pantry at Southeast Junior High in FY18 will be around \$7730. The grant from Johnson County covers about 65% of the mobile pantry program, so they still need around \$2700 to fully fund the Mobile Food Pantry site at Southeast Junior High.

Our Church Council has approved funding for this project through individual contributions to be supplemented by the Engagement Fund to reach the \$2700. If you wish to contribute to this, please make a check to UCCIC and mark it for the Southeast Junior High Mobile Food Pantry. We will be collecting through May 31.

If you have further questions regarding this program, please contact Andrea Rauer, 337-2551.

Our Adult Library

"Waking Up White: Finding Myself in the Story of Race"

By Debby Irving

Summary of book (quoted from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/Waking-Up-White-Finding-Myself-in-the-Story-of-Race/dp/1603492054)):

"For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one 'aha!' moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her - and ultimately for all of us.

Judy Doorenbos

*This book is currently being used in CUCC book discussion groups.



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, Stephen Warren, know of any changes.
 He can be reached at stephen-warren@uiowa.edu or 309-781-1871.

MAY	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
7	Jeff Barton Vicki Thomae	TBD Isabella Myers Carroll Hanson Bill Dickinson	Dick and Mary Lea Kruse
14	Mary Shepherd Nicole Pearson	Kathleen Clark Richard Valentine Kathy Fait John Fuller	Sheila Hayreh Ann Gabel
21	Katherine and Bryon Day	Ruth Kuntz Scott & Patricia Hansche John Johnson	Mike and Robyn Groff
28	Joan Jehle Martha Ann Crawford	Ruben Villegas Diana Baculis Eugene Buck Elizabeth Oakes	Bill and Becky Hoefler

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 - Diaconate 7:00 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	3 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon - Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon	4 - Voices of Soul Rehearsal 6:30 pm	5	6 - Voices of Soul Concert 5:00 pm
7 - Choir 8:45 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Communion Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Class 11:30 am - Choir 11:45 am - LAST Chinese School 1:30 pm	8	9	10 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon - Foreign Relations Luncheon (Final of Spring Semester) Noon	11	12 - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	13 - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am
14 - Mother's Day - Choir 8:45 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Discussion 11:00 am	15	16 - Stewardship Board 4:00 pm - Membership 5:30 pm - Trustees 7:00 pm	17 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon	18 - Women's Lunch at 11:45 am at East Oak Room, Oaknoll Retirement Community	19 - Von Behren Recitals 5:30 pm	20 - Men's Breakfast at 8:00 am at Bill's High Hat - Von Behren Recitals 1:30 pm - Wemme Recitals 5:00 pm
21 - Choir 8:45 am - Sunday School 9:15 am—Last day for the summer - Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Class 11:30 am - Concert	22	23 - CE Board 6:30 pm - Church Council 7:00 pm	24 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon	25	26	27
28 - Choir 8:45 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Worship 10:15 am - Wemme Recitals 1:00 pm	29	30 - CE Board 6:30 pm	31 - Midday Prayer/Meditation Noon			



5/1 Maggie John

5/5 Ed Leighton-Dick

5/6 Raven Rowe

5/14 Edie Roberts

5/15 Elizabeth Groff

5/16 Sean Durham
Vea Johnson
Gloria Hanson
Barbara Sisley

5/17 Dylan Beerends

5/18 Cyndy Woodhouse

5/19 Pat Goeldner
John Rauer

5/20 Judy Doorenbos
Betsy Hensen

5/22 Karen Smith
Courtney Nelson

5/24 Kathy Thede-Reynolds
Margaret Loghry
Megan Carnes
Hanna Leighton-Dick

5/27 Cynthia Kemp
Micaela Hansche

5/28 Robyn Wood-Groff

Happy Birthday!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY 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

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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