



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
AUGUST 2017



Friends in Christ:

Back in June we had a booth on the Ped Mall during the Pride Fest. This was nothing new. We've been a presence at the Pride Fest for the ten years that I've been here and for some time before that. Each year members of our church are there to let people know about our welcoming, open and affirming congregation.

You know that sometimes, even with our red doors and tall steeple, this church can go unnoticed. And yes, sometimes, we seem to hide our light under a bushel. But we've been on the Ped Mall, year after year, handing out beads and church brochures, telling people who we are. It's nothing new.

And yet, multiple times church members at the booth were told: "I didn't know churches like yours even existed."

Word is not getting out—at least not enough.

I was mulling over this while I was on vacation in July. (It was wonderfully renewing staycation here in Iowa City. The oppressive humidity, torrential rain, and tornado warnings made it all very "Iowa Summer.") So when I read the words of Seth Godin, they jumped out at me, grabbed me by my T-shirt, and shook me. Describing his idea of "First, Ten," Godin says:

Tell 10 people, show it to 10 people, share it with 10 people—10 who already trust you and already like you. If they don't tell anybody else, it's not good and you [we] should start over. If they do tell other people you're [we're] on your [our] way."

So I come back to work with a question: what would happen if you told 10 people who like you and trust you about what a great, open, welcoming congregation this is? What would happen if you told 10 people that a church like ours not only exists but is flourishing? My guess is that they would tell others and we'd be on our way—on our way to something new and something exciting for this congregation and the Iowa City area.. Of course, we won't know until you start talking, start telling 1, 2...10 people.

AND ANOTHER THING...

As of August 1 I will have been the pastor here for ten years. (Maybe that's also why I'm thinking about "tens.") It has been a great joy and deep privilege to minister to and with you through all of these years. We have grown in many ways and accomplished a great deal as a congregation in this time. The coming years are bright with promise. Thank you for your support, your prayers, and your friendship.

Peace,

*Bill*

## MILESTONES

**MOVED:** At the end of July Michael and Liz Williams, along with Sam and their new baby, Joseph, moved to Seattle. Michael writes: "Our short time with the congregation has been a special one for us. The message of this church brought us in just one year ago, and we will look to find a similar connection in Seattle. You've shown us what is possible in the UCC."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### SERVING THE CHURCH

Every year in January a slate of new members for the various church boards is presented to the congregation for approval. Work to prepare this slate occurs throughout the fall and is managed by the two Council Members At Large, Donna Hirst and Joyce Myer.

This work is now underway, and **we would like to invite all members of the congregation to consider serving on a Board.** Serving on a board is an excellent way to develop close working relations with other members of the church. Many of my dearest friendships developed while serving on church boards together.

What is involved in serving on a Board?

Each of the six church Boards meet monthly, often on a weekday evening. Each of the boards has different responsibilities, and thus the tasks undertaken by each board are different. For example, the Membership Board plans the church picnic and other fellowship events ; the Trustees provide oversight of the church budget and the building.

As of January, we anticipate openings on:

Trustees (chair Rick Ruppert)

Christian Education (chair Amy Lewis)

Stewardship, (chair Cynthia Kemp)

Diaconate (co-chairs, Vicki Thomae and Marcy Kuechenmeister)

In addition to positions on church boards, there are also a number of positions representing the church to particular agencies or organizations. Members of the church serve as representatives to the Eastern Iowa Association, the Community Pastoral Counseling Service, the Common Fund and a number of others. As an alternative to serving on a church board, you might serve as a special church representative.

I encourage you to consider offering your name for consideration to serve on a Board. Several positions as church representatives will also be open as of January. If you would like to discuss any of these options, please contact Donna Hirst ([donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu); 351-5253) or Joyce Myer ([mike\\_and\\_joyce@msn.com](mailto:mike_and_joyce@msn.com); 354-0961). If you would like specific information on a given church board, please contact the chair indicated above.

Sincerely, Donna Hirst

### THE ORDINATION OF RAVEN ROWE

Raven has been approved for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the United Church of Christ. Everyone is invited to the service of ordination that will be held in the sanctuary on **Saturday, August 12, at 1:00 p.m.**

### ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DRIVE FOR OUR FOOD BANK AND SHELTER HOUSE

As you may know, we were collecting items for the Food Bank and Shelter House in May and June. These are two local missions which have been long standing projects of the Congregational Church. In June, the children attending Vacation Bible School visited the Coralville Food Bank and took the items contributed in May. They were able to see your donations at work and take pride in belonging to a church family who lives their faith. In July, Pat Goeldner and I took 67 pounds of additional donations to the Iowa City Food Bank and a large bag of supplies to the Shelter House. On behalf of the many people whom you have helped, I want to thank you all. Edie Roberts

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

- Church School for All Ages begins on Sunday, September 10 at 9:15 am.
- The Choir returns on September 10.
- The UI Homecoming Parade—and our annual curbside cookout—will be held on Friday, October 6.
- Our fall Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 21.

### **WELCOME BACK TO STUDENTS**

On Friday, August 18 **only**, our congregation will welcome students to Iowa City and the new school year with lemonade and water. The Membership Committee has volunteers for two shifts that day, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Friday. Thank you, volunteers! Our plan this year is to have a welcome banner and a table of information so that students can ask questions and hear all about the many opportunities in our church.

### **ELECTRONIC GIVING FORMS AVAILABLE**

Our electronic giving system is now in place and will offer a secure electronic transfer option for fulfillment of pledges, giving estimates, or other recurring giving. The system will be administered in our church office using our church checking account at Hills Bank and Trust. We will offer monthly transfers on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, or quarterly transfers on the 10th of the month. The transfer may be changed or cancelled at any time. The informational brochure and authorization form are now available from Nan in the Church Office and by mail or email. Please contact Financial Secretary Sharyn Reitz with any questions at 319-354-3138 or sharyn-reitz@gmail.com.

### **REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS FROM THE CONGREGATION**

We are updating the church's preschool room (not to be confused with the Nursery) and would like to have "dress-up" items donated by the congregation. These would include hats of all kinds, scarves, shoes and non-prescription glasses. There is a box in Rockwood Hall for donations. Thank you!



### **MEMBER GATHERINGS IN AUGUST (or Not!)**

The Women's Lunch is scheduled for August 17 beginning at 11:45 am at Blackstone - 503 Westbury Drive in Iowa City. There will be no Men's Breakfast in August. They will gather again on September 16.

### **FRESH FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP**

There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall for anyone who would like to provide flowers for worship. Flowers can be given in memory or honor of loved ones or in celebration of special events such as birthdays and anniversaries. This information will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Flowers can also be given simply for the joy and beauty that they bring. Questions? Please contact Jane Murphy at 351-9079 or at murphyjane51@gmail.com.

### **AFTER WORSHIP HOSPITALITY**

The Membership Board wishes to encourage Church members to especially extend hospitality to visitors and new comers after services. Try to bring them to Rockwood Hall to meet our extended church family. Thank you.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHETIC IMAGINATION

Friday, August 4, 2017, 6:00 PM – Sunday, August 6, 2017, 7:00 PM

Spirit of Christ Church, 500 N Clinton St., Iowa City

Where is the Spirit at work in this world? A world where people living under occupation are blamed for their own suffering...where black men and women are murdered by police...where many who claim to love Jesus respond to refuge children with threats of violence...where trans folks are attacked for using the 'wrong' bathrooms...where children in oil-rich lands look up to the sky in terror...where workers around the world can't feed their families...and where thousands live on the streets in the richest nation on earth?

Jesus' life and message confront the oppressions that surround us, but modern expressions of Christianity routinely fail to embrace the subversive message of Jesus. Increasingly, the last place we look for transformation is the church, but deep down many of us feel that Jesus shows us a path for deep human thriving. Whether we worship him as God or simply appreciate him as a prophet or sage, we suspect that he offers a way of personal and communal transformation. How can our churches and communities re-center ourselves around the radical Spirit of Jesus?

"An Introduction to the Prophetic Imagination" (IPI for short) teaches participants a way of understanding the message of Jesus that helps them break free from the dominant scripts of our society and pursue a different way of life, so that they can thrive as compassionate human beings. IPI does more than challenge conceptual knowledge, but also equips participants (by bringing together group discernment, contemplative practice, reflections on Scripture, and political analysis) to practically follow the way of Jesus in the midst of imperial culture.

Contact Scott Roser if you are interested: [sroser86@gmail.com](mailto:sroser86@gmail.com) **563-513-1587**

### UPCOMING CRISIS CENTER EVENT

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 19 for a special screening of *The S Word*. **The S Word** is an important, thought-provoking documentary that tells the story of survivors of suicide. The Crisis Center is hosting a documentary screening and panel discussion in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month.

**The screening will take place at The Englert Theatre at a time to be announced.** This event is free and open to the public. The documentary will be followed by a unique opportunity to experience a live panel discussion featuring director Lisa Klein and local experts in the field.

Learn more about the S Word at [https://www.jccrisiscenter.org/s-word-screening/?blm\\_aid=24027](https://www.jccrisiscenter.org/s-word-screening/?blm_aid=24027).

RSVP online for updates regarding this event.

### CRISIS CENTER RESPONDS TO STATE BUDGET CUTS

A combination of budget cuts made at the state and federal levels has resulted in a 26 percent reduction in the budget for state sexual assault victim services for fiscal year 2018.

On July 1, 2017, those cuts went into effect and they're hitting close to home. The Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline (ISAH) that the Rape Victim Advocacy Program (RVAP) has run for almost two decades was defunded and lost its weekend staff.

**Insisting that sexually abused Iowans deserve more, the Crisis Center banded together with RVAP to fill this gap.** For now, the Crisis Intervention volunteers and staff have absorbed the duties of answering their weekend hotline calls and managing RVAP's dispatches. Over the next few months, RVAP will host special training sessions for night and weekend volunteers, call room managers, and staff, who will answer calls rerouted from the **ISAH hotline**.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Crisis Intervention volunteers typically receive about one hour of sexual assault training as part of their 60 hours of training, but RVAP will be able to offer more targeted guidance concerning sexual violence and its prevalence in our culture, affected populations, and the legal system post-sexual assault. Through this collaboration, they hope to provide the best care they possibly can to sexual assault survivors in need of assistance.

This assistance only *temporarily* alleviates this problem. The state made these cuts promising that victim services would not change. And, thanks to the partnership with RVAP, they haven't. But other nonprofits like The Crisis Center cannot bridge the gap in state funding.

For more information, please contact Becci Reedus at the Crisis Center: **319-351-2726**; [bec-ci.reedus@jcccrisiscenter.org](mailto:bec-ci.reedus@jcccrisiscenter.org).

### 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](mailto:Carolyn.otis@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions.

### YOU ARE INVITED!

#### GREAT MUSIC!



**GO S P E L** SUNDAY DINNER

GET SOME SOUL FOOD  
WITH YOUR SOUL MUSIC

Make a joyful noise at the Gospel Sunday Dinner after the Iowa Soul Festival featuring:  
Back Porch Swing, Bishop Cymaron Dawson - Living Waters Kingdom Church, Cedar Rapids,  
Jessica Thomas - Bethel A.M.E. Church, and the Kingdom Center Praise Team, both of Iowa City.

The Sheraton has created a wonderful soul food buffet to accompany the entertainment.  
Seating is limited. Purchase tickets at:  
[www.thedreamcenteria.org/gospeldinner](http://www.thedreamcenteria.org/gospeldinner)  
or by calling 319/430-4819  
All proceeds benefit The Dream Center.

Sunday, August 6  
\$35 per Person  
1:30 PM  
Sheraton Hotel  
210 S Dubuque St, Iowa City

**kcck jazz 88.3**  
**Sheraton Iowa City HOTEL**

#### GREAT FOOD!

Iowa Soul Fest

# Gospel Sunday Dinner

## Menu

- \*Fresh Field Greens with candied pecans, dried cherries and shaved onion, sweet buttermilk dressing
- \*Skillet Baked Cornbread, Warm Biscuits and honey butter
- \*Southern Buttermilk Fried Chicken
- \*Honey Glazed Ham
- \*Mac and Cheese
- \*Scallion and Cheddar Mashed Potatoes
- \*Black Eyed Peas braised with ham hocks
- \*Slow Cooked Collard Greens
- \*Southern Peach Cobbler
- \* Starbucks Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee
- \*Iced Tea



**Sheraton Iowa City HOTEL**  
**kcck jazz 88.3**



# Our Adult Library

## "March Book Three"

From the trilogy by Congressman John Lewis (Ga)

Quoted from book cover: "Congressman John Lewis (GA-5) is an American icon and one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and non-violence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president.

Now to share his remarkable story with new generations, Lewis joins Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell for the searing conclusion to the award-winning graphic novel trilogy "March".

Through an unforgettable literary and artistic narrative, "March" portrays the surpassing courage, sacrifice, and revolutionary non-violence that transformed American society in the 1960's, guided by principles and tactics that remain vitally relevant in the modern age."

"Superbly told history." ----Publishers Weekly

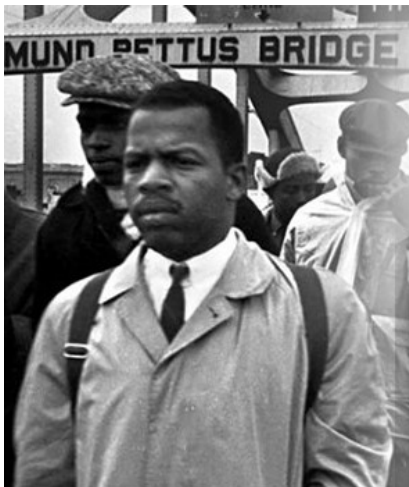
"The civil rights movement can seem to some like a distant memory...John Lewis refreshes our memories in dramatic fashion." ----The Chicago Tribune

"A powerful tale of courage and principle igniting sweeping social change, told by a strong-minded, uniquely qualified eyewitness...The heroism of those who sat and marched comes through with vivid, inspiring clarity." ----Kirkus Review

"Lewis's remarkable life has been skillfully translated into graphics...Segregation's insult to personhood comes across here with a visual, visceral punch. This version of Lewis's life story belongs in libraries to teach readers about the heroes of America." ----Library Journal

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee

March Book One and Book Two are also in our Church Library. Look for them on the Library bookcase in Rockwood Hall.



# Our Children's Library

## "Give a Goat"

Written By Jan West Schrock  
Illustrations by Aileen Darragh

### **Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People**

—National Council for the Social Studies/Children's Book Council

### **Honor Book**

—Society of School Librarians International

How can reading a picture book in one country make a difference to a family in need living thousands of miles away? And what does a goat have to do with it, anyway? When Mrs. Rowell's class is inspired by a rainy-day book to reach out with helping hands, wonderful things happen.

"After their teacher reads them Page McBrier's *Beatrice's Goat*, a book about an impoverished Ugandan girl and how her life is improved by a special gift, a fifth-grade class is determined to collaborate on a fundraising project for the charitable organization that donated the animal. Schrock, daughter of the founder of Heifer International, uses an unnamed student as her narrator to describe the kids' efforts to raise money by selling healthy snacks. Readers will quickly identify with the classroom setting and dynamics and appreciate the author's direct approach in outlining the events. The original spark of inspiration, the planning process, the endeavor's success, the mathematics of running a business, and background information on Heifer International are seamlessly integrated into the text. Darragh's pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations match the upbeat tone of the narrative, support the facts being shared, and provide touches of humor. Though Schrock focuses on raising funds for a specific organization, the story ends with other classes reaching out to the local food pantry and the Red Cross. The message of community service is what children will ultimately remember and hopefully be inspired to emulate: 'I think everyone learned that giving—and passing on the gift—feels really good.' A first choice."—*School Library Journal*, Grades 1–5

"After a teacher reads *Beatrice's Goat* to her fifth-grade class, her students work together to buy a goat for a needy family through Heifer's program. With an initial loan from their teacher, they prepare and sell healthy snacks, eventually earning more than enough to buy the animal, educating their school about Heifer's work in the process. The story, which includes interesting details of project management, is a clear advertisement for both Heifer and the rewards of community service. Still, teachers seeking portrayals of kids cooperating to make a difference, both in their communities and beyond, will find this book a welcome resource."—*Booklist*, Grades 1–3

Look for this book (and others) on the library shelves in Rockwood Hall. Explore the rest of our library for additional worthwhile reading.

Edie Roberts  
Children's Librarian



# 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, Tom Sandersfeld, know of any changes.

He can be reached at [ThomasSandersfeld@hotmail.com](mailto:ThomasSandersfeld@hotmail.com) or 319-430-9295.

AUGUST	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
6	Emily Legel Lenore Maybaum	Ruben Lebron James Savage Charley Platz and Jo Benda	Martha Ann Crawford Isabella Myers
13	Kate Edwards Derek Lehman	Jeanne Otto Jason Beerends Roger and Melissa Jensen	John and Randee Fieselmann
20	Barb Sisley Deb Cobb	Darin Wells Diane Olson Bill Dickinson Pat Goeldner	Kathleen and Bryan Day
27	Dick and Mary Lea Kruse	Sandra and Larry Miller Bob and Gloria Hanson	Stephen Warren Kristy Nabhan-Warren



# AUGUST 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> - CE Board 6:30 pm - Diaconate 6:30 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Communion - Duet Marie Von Behren and Sarah Gilbert	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> - Mission Board 7:00 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> - Raven Rowe Ordination 1:00 pm
<b>13</b> - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Solo: Andrew Knapp - Fellowship in Rockwood - After Worship	<b>14</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>15</b> - Membership Committee 5:30 pm - Trustees 7:00 pm - Stewardship 7:00 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> - Women's Lunch 11:45 am @ Blackstone.	<b>18</b> - U of I Student Welcome	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Duet: Ama Mothershed and Sarah Fairfield	<b>21</b> - U of I Fall Semester Begins	<b>22</b> - Church Council 7:00 pm	<b>23</b> - ICCSD School Year Begins	<b>24</b> - FRC Luncheon Noon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Confirmation	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> - FRC Luncheon Noon		

# *Enjoy!*

## Happy Birthday

8/1 *Kate Edwards*

8/2 *Lexine Schumm*

8/5 *Bob Stein*

8/7 *Betty Mather*

8/9 *Phyllis Ruppert*  
*Tom Sandersfeld*  
*Scott Mittman*

8/10 *Kathleen Day*

8/11 *Shirley Wyrick*  
*Sharon Garton*

8/13 *Denny Dudley*

8/14 *Nan Martin*

8/15 *Fern Weir*

8/16 *Emily Koepnick*

8/19 *Bill Nusser, Jr.*

8/22 *Jackie Sangster*

8/23 *Lindsay McFarland*

8/24 *Tina Koepnick*

8/25 *Todd Nelson*

8/29 *Marg Hoppin*

8/31 *Donna Hirst*  
*Betsy Boyd*

### *Children*

8/1 *Vaitea Mothershed*

8/3 *Georgia Hill*

8/9 *Shelby Stacey*

8/17 *Whit Jury*

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

AUGUST 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**

10:15 a.m.      Worship  
11:15 a.m.      Fellowship

Church Office is open Monday - Friday 9-3pm

#### **OUR CHURCH STAFF**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>The Rev. William Lovin</b>
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