



## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ JULY 2017



Friends in Christ—

I usually use this space to write something about the life of the congregation. But recently two other members have spoken or written eloquent words that capture who we are and both encourage and challenge us as we move into the future. Jeff Barton spoke to the congregation as he led worship on his final Sunday with us before moving to Colorado. And Raven Rowe wrote a Facebook post about her experience at this year's Iowa City Pride Fest. With their permission, I share their thoughts with all of you. -- Peace, Bill

Jeff Barton said to the congregation gathered for worship:

In spite of, as well as because of, the particularities of any local church, it is true that people come and go from the life of a congregation. My wife and I are moving to Colorado this week, where next Sunday I'll be the guest preacher at the UCC congregation that discerned my call for ordained ministry long before I was willing to be aware of it, almost 40 years ago. Thus, with my own significant history and experience as a pastor with, a participant in, and an observer of many congregations, I wanted to say thank-you and offer my appreciation for the life and spirit of this congregation. No local church has it all figured out all the time. But here in Iowa City, Congregational UCC does offer a uniquely wonderful sense of thoughtful theology, strong traditional worship, a courageous contemporary social engagement, a warm yet patient spirit, and—most of all—a generous and deep commitment to remain vibrant and adaptable to the future set before us in the “town and gown” community where we live and serve.

May God continue to give you a meaningful way towards significant truth and abundant life together. I pray that you will know my sincere thanks for including me in your life over the past few years, and also that I will continue to pray for you as individuals and, especially, as a congregation united to be a church of Christ's teaching and spirit. Thank you. Bless you.

And Raven Row wrote on Facebook:

"Today.... My PRIDE is not just PRIDE for being queer. It's PRIDE for being able to share this narrative, with like hundreds of different people today:

I'm here with my church. I married my wife there 6 years ago. This woman over here ... She married her wife at our church too. This church doesn't only marry queer people, but they ordain them too. And in 8 weeks, this church is going to ordain me. As a gay / queer minister. Not only is my church okay with me being gay, but they have financially supported me in going to seminary, both my local church and my denomination, so that I could get my Master's degree and become a leader in the church.

This right here, is the most important message of my ministry. God doesn't hate me. God loves me. God doesn't hate you. God loves you.

Christ's church doesn't hate you. Christ's church loves you.

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That isn't about me at all. It's about my God. It's about my church. I have so much PRIDE for the UCC. It has truly changed my entire life. I just get to smile when people tell me that they didn't know that there were churches like this out there. I know. I didn't know this either. I met a gay minister. And I wanted to find out- What church is this, that even ordains queers?

And about Christ?

Who is this, that even eats with queers? The same who that calls them "to preside at the table."

Ordination scheduled for August, 12, 2017 at 1 pm at:

The Congregational United Church of Christ  
30 North Clinton Street  
Iowa City, IA 52245

We will share in Christ's feast.

Wear your favorite "flaming" colors (In Honor of Pentecost and /or Queer-ness).



## MILESTONES

- WEDDINGS:** Libby Fuller and Jeff Clevenger on April 29  
Jessica Welburn and Aaron Paige on June 10
- BIRTH:** Joseph Wallace Williams, son of Michael and Liz Williams  
and brother of Sam, on June 6
- DEATH:** Gretchen Snider passed away on June 21.
- GRADUATION:** Thank you for the Prairie Lights gift card and especially for the notebook with all the notes in it. The book is very special to me and I will remember it forever. Thanks for all the support the church has given me over the past years. I really appreciate it and hope to give back as much as I've given. --Wade Carter

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

It's warm....the sun is staying up awfully long....I'm very hungry....that must mean it's time for this year's Congregational UCC Summer Picnic!!!

- Date:** Sunday, July 16.      **Time:** 5-8 pm  
**Place:** City Park Shelter #11  
**Membership Brings:** Loose meat sandwiches (adults) and hot dogs (kids)  
**You bring:** Dinnerware, drink, lawn chairs (optional) side dish or dessert (OK, you can bring both if you want to!)  
**Also:** Fascinating and delightful conversation. That's all on the Congregation. The Membership people are boring. And we know it. Be there. Aloha.  
Kevin Koepnick



### BILL WILL BE AWAY

Bill will be away from July 9 through July 23.

### UCC HOSTING JULY FREE LUNCH

It's our turn to host the Free Lunch in July (July 31). 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. Vicki Thomae



### MEMBER GATHERINGS IN JULY (OR NOT!)

The Women's Lunch is scheduled for July 20 beginning at 11:45 am at Carlos O'Kelly's on Hwy 6 in Iowa City. There will not be a Men's Breakfast in July.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### BREAD FOR THE WORLD UPDATE

In May several members of Congregational UCC wrote letters to support funding for programs that help hungry and struggling people in our country and worldwide. These letters were included in Bread for the World's 2017 Offering of Letters that were shared with legislators during the spring lobby day.

Steve Panther, who led an adult education session on the Offering of Letters writes:

The lobby day was a great experience. Nearly 500 people came to DC for the event. It was the largest number of participants for many years. As it turns out, I was the only Iowan. However, I didn't go to the meetings alone.

Tom Chacko received his PhD in business from the U of I and he retired from teaching business at Iowa State. He and his wife moved to DC to be near their children. So, he counted as an Iowan. He will be a good DC contact. Matt Gross, the Bread organizer, also attended, so I was in good hands.

Both North Dakota and Kansas had just one person. One Alaskan traveled 12 hours to attend. By email, I arranged to take a taxi with the man from North Dakota. For meeting in the hotel's lobby, he said he was tall and would be wearing a cowboy hat. He was right out of central casting; a tall, lean, handsome, cattle rancher wearing a cowboy hat. Turns out he had been a state senator for 10 years and had worked in the Obama administration for 2 years. He was a real North Dakotan Jimmy Stewart.

We did not talk with our senators directly. Instead we met with legislative assistants. Sen. Grassley's person was more skeptical. That was expected. Sen. Ernst's person was very nice and said all the right things. There were no real commitments, but they did want follow-up information. Generally, they said the budget process was in the early stages.

Congressman Loebsack was called to the floor for a vote, so we did not get to talk. However, I waited for a picture with him. Also, I wanted to thank him for his leadership in supporting domestic and foreign assistance programs. All of the letters were hand delivered. Thank you all for your support.

### BOX FAN PROJECT GIFT – HOT COFFEE PROVIDES A COOL BREEZE

It is hot out there. Our congregation is helping people stay cool, though. At the direction of the Mission Board, we delivered a check for \$1225.84 to the Crisis Center on Thursday, June 15 to help purchase box fans for those without air conditioning or unable to afford to run their air conditioning. We then had an additional donation of \$200 from a family in the Congregation. Each fan costs \$15, so we will provide a total of ninety-five box fans. That first donation came from the Coffee Project Fund. For over fifteen years we have been offering Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate, and other products for sale. Initiated by Donna Goodnow, carried on by Sharyn Reitz, and then expanded (and made more fun) by Martha Anne Crawford, we have sold Equal Exchange products for a very small markup. The result...\$1225.84 to help those in need in our community.

Good coffee for Iowa City, a fair price to growers, and now a cool breeze for those who need a hand. Thank you, Equal Exchange coffee drinkers! Thank you, Martha Anne, who kept the program going. And thank you, generous members of our church.



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

### **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.**

### **WELCOME BACK TO STUDENTS**

On August 18 & 19 our congregation will again welcome students to Iowa City and the new school year with cookies and lemonade. So many students walk by our front door that first weekend before classes begin and we want them to know they are welcome here in our church. It is hard to pass up a free cookie, so we have a chance to speak with many students.

The Membership Committee needs volunteers for two shifts, from 11:00am to 1:00 pm and from 1:00 pm to 3:00pm both Friday and Saturday. We will also need cookies. If you have not provided cookies or bars recently this would be a great time to help with the baking. Baked goods should be brought to the church kitchen by 10:30 am on Friday, August 18. Please contact the church office if you are able to help in person or with cookies.

### **NEW GIVING METHOD OPTION**

We will soon offer a secure electronic transfer option for those for fulfillment of pledges, giving estimates, or other ongoing periodic giving. The system will be administered in our church office using our church checking account at Hills Bank and Trust. We will offer monthly or quarterly transfers on the first or fifteenth of the month. This may interest those of you who would like to switch from check writing to an electronic method of giving. We hope to have the new system in place by August and will have the one-page authorization available in late July. Please contact Financial Secretary Sharyn Reitz with any questions at 319-354-3138 or [sharyn-reitz@gmail.com](mailto:sharyn-reitz@gmail.com).

### **MOBILE FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

This spring our Mission Board made a commitment to support a new Crisis Center Mobile Food Pantry that will provide food to students and parents at Southeast Junior High School. A grant from Johnson County covers 65% of the \$7740 needed. Congregational UCC, continuing our longstanding commitment to feed body and soul will provide the other 35% of the funding—\$2700. As of June 18, members have given \$1930 toward this amount. The Mission Board is giving \$500 to this project. Any final need will be funded through our Engagement Fund, which is used for any initiatives that will enhance our presence in the community through its service to it, both “community” and “service” broadly defined. If you want to contribute to this project, please write “Mobile Food Pantry” on your check memo line.

Thanks again for your generous giving.

### **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](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu) or [mike\\_and\\_joyce@msn.com](mailto:mike_and_joyce@msn.com).

### **SUPPORTING FREE LUNCH WHILE YOU SHOP**

Free Lunch was selected as one of three “Bags For Change” recipients at our local Lucky's Market! When you shop at Lucky's (at the Sycamore Mall) and take your reusable grocery bag you have the option to have 5 cents taken off your bill or receive a wooden nickel. If you choose the wooden nickel you can deposit it in an agency slot as you exit. The promotion begins may 21st and ends August 12th. Lucky's then matches the nickel and contributes another Nickel! Tell your family and friends !

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### 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](http://www.table2table.org). For an orientation, Call Emily at 319-337-3400

### 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](mailto:thecraigfamily@mchsi.com) or Marsha Lowe, [marshalowe@gmail.com](mailto:marshalowe@gmail.com). Thank you for your continued support of ToGather Together.

### OPPORTUNITY TO HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

The Iowa City AM Rotary is looking for host families to provide room, board and a family environment for a young woman from Spain who will be attending City High in 2017-18 school year. Rotary normally finds three families to host, each for around 3-1/2 months, between mid-August and June/July when the student goes home.

Host family members do not need to be Rotarians, nor do they necessarily need to have students attending City High. Successful host families have come in all shapes and sizes. What is required is for the family to welcome the exchange student into their home not as a guest, but as a member of the family for the time they are living with that family.

The student who will be arriving approximately one week before school starts in August is a young woman who will turn 17 during her stay in the U.S. She particularly enjoys music and the visual arts, as well as reading and getting together with friends. One sport she enjoys is swimming.

If you are interested, please contact Chris Knapp at (319) 621-4977.

### 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.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our Congregational UCC Vacation Bible School was a three-day adventure! Using a VBS curriculum offered by Heifer Project International, our theme was to understand why and how we help feed the world daily food, just as we receive food every day. Through conversations and stories about families, we discussed what families need to survive. One of the most important things, as a 4-year-old James Keogh stated, “families need hugs and kisses.” That was a great way to start our understanding.

Each child made a cut-out of their family, which you should check out on the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall, demonstrating the health of each one. But we realized that not all families around the world are as healthy as ours’. So we learned about different animals that Heifer sends to people who are hungry and how these animals are used to help them.

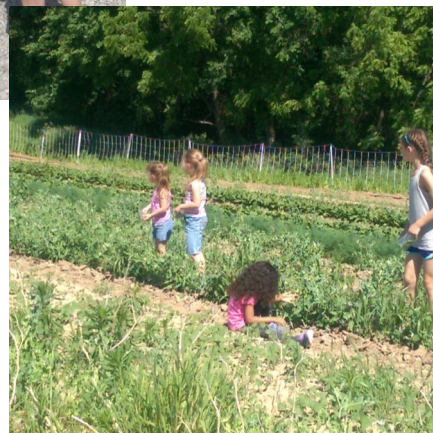
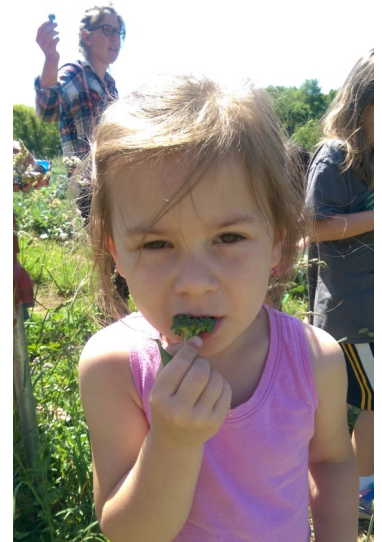
We are very fortunate to have Farmer Kate Edwards in our congregation. She farms vegetables on 7+ acres north of Iowa City and we visited her to learn why she likes to farm, what she grows and what she does with her vegetables. We learned that while she sells most of them to local buyers, she donates all the extra to the Coralville Food Pantry. She turned us all loose in the sweet pea patch with a plastic bag so we could take some home. Most of us ate as many as we bagged!

At the Scattergood School Farm, we learned about pigs and got to pet piglets. We took turns feeding two baby goats with big milk bottles and ate our fill of strawberries from the farm’s large patch.

On Wednesday, we visited the Coralville Food Pantry, taking them several boxes and bags of donated food, including sweet peas and asparagus from one of the farms. We not only saw all the different foods that the Pantry gives to hungry people in the County, we got to help stock shelves, clean chairs and fix up the Little Library of children’s books.

Our three days together were, indeed, an adventure which we’re glad to share with you through this report and photos taken by our wonderful leaders: Ruth Kuntz, Claire Ashman, Tina Koepnick, Terry Macey, Robin Groff, Ed Keogh, Erin Brown, Anna Mary Mueller and Amy Lewis. A huge THANKS to all for making our VBS so great!

### DOWN ON KATE’S FARM





**ADVENTURES AT SCATTERGOOD**



**SHARING FOOD AT THE CORALVILLE FOOD PANTRY**





# Our Adult Library

## "Hidden Figures"

Written By Margot Lee Shetterly

The true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space.

Quoted from cover of the book: "Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as 'human computers' used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women. Originally math teachers in the South's segregated public schools these gifted professionals answered Uncle Sam's call during the labor shortages of World War II. With new jobs at the fascinating, high-energy world of the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton, Virginia, they finally had a shot at jobs that would push their skills to the limits.

Even as Virginia's Jim Crow laws required them to be segregated from their white counterparts, the women of Langley's all-black 'West Computing' group helped America achieve one of the things it desired most: a decisive victory over the Soviet Union in the Cold War, and complete domination of the heavens.

Starting in World War II and moving through to the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement and the Space Race, "Hidden Figures" follows the interwoven accounts of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden--four African American women who participated in some of NASA'S greatest successes. It chronicles their careers over nearly three decades as they faced challenges, forged alliances, and used their intellect to change their own lives, and their country's future."

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee



Katherine Johnson



Dorothy Vaughn



Mary Jackson

# Our Children's Library

## "Creekfinding A True Story"

Written By Jacqueline Briggs Martin  
Illustrations by Claudia McGehee

Children and nature just seem to go together. The hero of this book about Iowa tells us, "As a kid I loved exploring the creeks and caves around my home. As an adult, once I heard there had been a spring-fed creek in that valley, finding it and restoring it became my dream."

"Restoring Brook Creek reminds all of us—kids, too—that dreams do come true and that our dreams make a difference."

"Eloquent narrative nonfiction to inspire the future caretakers of our planet."—*School Library Journal*

"Chronicling the true story of one man's quest to revive a stream rumored to have run through the prairies of Iowa, Jacqueline Briggs Martin relates the trials and triumphs in *Creekfinding*, a return to nature that proves that 'a creek isn't just water.'"—*Foreword Reviews*

"*Creekfinding* is a unique children's story quaintly illustrating Mike Osterholm's true-life undertaking. Though the narrative is simple, this story's message is not naive. Martin takes on the massive debate of man versus the earth and effortlessly switches it to man working with the earth as she relates Osterholm's tale. Using scratch-board, watercolor, and dyes, McGehee exhibits the colorful process of rediscovering and nurturing wildness. *Creekfinding* will have young readers thinking how they can find and support their own wilderness in the places they live. A thought-provoking, yet fun, non-fiction read for ages five and up."—*Children's Compass Chronicle*

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.

## **There are two Deacons of the Month in July:**

**For Sunday July 2:** Marcy Kuechenmeister (kuechen@mchsi.com or 319-338-2006)  
**For all remaining Sundays,** Shelagh Hayreh (shelagh\_hayreh@yahoo.com or 319-337-5760)

Please let them know of any changes.

<b>JULY</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Mike Groff and Robyn Wood-Groff</b>	<b>Jim and Diane Jetter Doug and Connie Parsons</b>	<b>Kathi Kogle Kevin Richards</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Leah DeGrazia Terri Macey</b>	<b>Shirley Wyrick Kathy Thede-Reynolds Bruce Reynolds Donna Janes</b>	<b>Joyce Myer Pat Goeldner</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Marnie Campbell Lee Wood</b>	<b>Erin and Dave Brown Tim and Sally Strang</b>	<b>Barb and Carroll Hanson</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Anne Romanowski Ann Ghabel</b>	<b>Marie Von Behren Lyle Tonne Candace Noble Connie Schumm</b>	<b>Jo and Steve Bowers</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Kathy Fait John Fuller</b>	<b>Charlie Platz Jo Benda Betsy Henson Edie Roberts</b>	<b>John and Randee Fieselmann</b>



# JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Communion - Fellowship in Rockwood - After Worship	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 JULY 4— OFFICE CLOSED	5	6 - Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon	7	8
9 - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood - After Worship	10	11 - Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon	12	13	14	15 No Men's Breakfast in July
16 - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood - After Worship - Church Picnic 5:00 pm in City Park	17	18	19	20 - Women's Luncheon 11:45 pm at Carlos O'Kelly's	21	22
23 - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood - After Worship	24	25 - Church Council 7:00 pm	26	27	28	29
30 - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood - After Worship	31					

# ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

7/3 Bob Hanson

7/4 Vicki Thomae  
Brian Umlah

7/8 Bill Lovin

7/10 Kathy Fait

7/11 Pam Willard

7/13 Michael Williams

7/18 Jo Ann Benda

7/19 Claire Ashman

7/22 Ruth Kuntz

7/23 Joan Parsons

7/24 Steve Wolken  
David Wilder

7/25 Jackie Searls

7/26 Marie Von Behren

7/27 Candace Noble

7/30 Jane Kinney  
Ann Romanowski  
Kathleen Wilder

## CHILDREN

7/1 Dean Woodhouse  
Adelaide Leeds

7/5 Nadia Spragg

7/9 Benjamin Hoefer

7/10 Colin Beerends

7/15 Ella Lewis

7/20 Nicole Day

7/28 Mitike Schumm



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

JULY 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