



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
OCTOBER 2017



Friends in Christ:

As summer came to an end, we saw number of significant natural disasters—floods in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal, the earthquake in Mexico, hurricanes in the United States and the Caribbean.

On the first Sunday in October we demonstrate our connection with Christians around the world by celebrating World Communion Sunday. We recognize that in spite of differences in nationality, economic condition, race, geography, and politics, we are united with women and men around the globe through our common faith in the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. In a sense, we at Congregational UCC do this every week. Members are traveling or returning from travels abroad all the time. Students worshipping with us come from around the world. Our native lands are many and relatives can still be found in them. On World Communion Sunday, we're just a little more aware that we are united with other Christians beyond national boundaries. We acknowledge our common faith and our common humanity. And we acknowledge our common share in the suffering of the world.

In the Congregational tradition we find ourselves involved with the poor, the hungry, the outcast—with those throughout the world who are often pushed to the edges. By faith we recognize that we're all in this together. We are Congregationalists. We may not talk much *about* our faith. But at our best we are great at *living* our faith out in the open.

As we celebrate the sacrament of communion in worship on October 1, we will also receive a special offering for hurricane relief efforts. Our gifts will go to support the long-term recovery efforts that are the special calling of the United Church of Christ among denominations in the United States. By an agreed on protocol, other churches come to disaster scenes early. We're there for the long haul.

Your gifts will go to support the relief and recovery efforts of international partners and your gifts will be meeting the unique needs of vulnerable individuals and families in the United States. In the United States, UCC Disaster Ministries fills gaps in services through the following provisions:

- Spiritual care
- Community organizing
- Repair and reconstruction of homes
- Tools
- Building materials
- Volunteer coordination

While our efforts are long-term, we are already helping in many places. Your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing makes immediate responses possible. You can find out how those gifts are being used by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/onegreathourofsharingucc>.

Please give generously. If you can't make it to worship on October 1, your special gift can be sent to the church. Let us give thanks for the connections we have with other people as we bear one another's burdens.

Peace,

*Bill*

## MILESTONES

**MOVED:** Showing the mobility of our members, Ruben Lebron, who joined our congregation last January, moved to Georgia in July. He is already worshipping at First Congregational Church, UCC, in Atlanta. A native of Puerto Rico, Ruben reports that family members in both Florida and Puerto Rico “are well despite the circumstances.” He also writes “I hope Congregational UCC remains a pillar of truth and a shining guide for the Iowa City community in these strange times.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 1 is World Communion Sunday. 2017 marks the eighty-first year of celebrating this day. World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it and after a few years the idea spread. Through our prayers and music on this day we recognize our connection with Christians in every nation.

### SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

During worship on October 1 we will receive a special offering for hurricane relief efforts. There is tremendous need in many places following the devastation of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in August and September. The offering will support UCC relief work that has already begun. For further information, please visit: [http://www.ucc.org/disaster\\_hurricane\\_2017\\_relief](http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_2017_relief).

### OCTOBER 6 IS HOMECOMING!

Potluck, Big Grill, and Parade! We have the Best Seats in Town at the corner of Clinton and Jefferson! Gather to eat between 4 and 5, stay to watch the Parade at 5:45

The Membership Board will provide water, milk, and tableware. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers may be purchased from the Big Grill on the Corner. The Mission Board will have drinks for sale. Please contact Rick Ruppert to help with the Big Grill from 4/4:30 until parade time. We welcome both experienced and first timers to participate with the brat sale. As always, we'll need set up, cooks, wrappers, servers, cashiers and tear down. A sign-up sheet will appear on the wall in Rockwood Hall in early to mid-September.



### 2017 WINTER OUTERWEAR CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

**WHERE:** The Kingdom Center/The Dream Center  
611 Southgate Ave (corner of Southgate and Keokuk)

**WHEN:** **Set up: Thursday, October 12: 10AM-5PM** – Transport all bags of coats and other items from UCC to the The Kingdom Center and sort items. Set up continues on **Friday, October 13: 9:30 AM** until all items sorted.  
**Distribution: Saturday, October 14: 8:30 AM -12 noon.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS Cont.

Please consider checking your closets and donating the following items: coats, snowsuits, hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, boots, heavy sweaters, hooded sweatshirts. We are also accepting winter blankets and Halloween costumes. Note: We always need clothing items for adult men.

- All items should be clean and in good condition.
- Clothes should be appropriate for school wear.
- Adult size clothing should be appropriate for high school students.

If you have questions or need items picked up, contact **Paula Forest 319-541-2083**. Thank you in advance.

### UN AIDS OFFERING

On **Sunday, October 15**, we will receive our annual special offering to support the UN AIDS program. We have been dealing with AIDS for over 30 years and UNAIDS estimates 34 million [30.9 million–36.9 million] people are living with HIV and nearly 30 million [25 million–33 million] people have died of AIDS-related causes since the first case of AIDS was reported in June 1981. Global AIDS response continues to show results as a record number of people access treatment and rates of new HIV infections fall by nearly 25%. Please give generously to support this work.

### MEMBER GATHERINGS

The Women's Lunch will be held on October 19 at **Thai Spice** on Mormon Trek beginning at 11:45 am. Since the third Saturday in October (October 21) is also the day of the Progressive Dinner, we will **not have** our men's breakfast this month. Join your friends for dinner instead!

### HAVE FUN GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Please mark your calendar for our **PROGRESSIVE DINNER** on Saturday, October 21, 2017. As in the past, we will all meet at one home for appetizers. Then, in small groups of 8 to 12, we will go to other homes for the catered dinner. After dinner, we will gather at a different home for dessert. This is always a special event for fellowship. Please don't miss it. You are sure to learn at least one fascinating fact about another member of our congregation that evening, reinforcing your experience that we are a uniquely interesting group! There is a sign up sheet on Page 11 for your convenience.



### IT'S OUR TURN ON OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>!

#### We Will be Hosting the Free Lunch

A sign-up sheet has been posted in Rockwood Hall. Please consider helping with food and/or time. This is an important effort that not only helps people in our community, but also lets them know that our church cares.

**Helping is fun! We make a great team! Join us!**



### THANKS TO YOU

We received **\$933** in our offering for the ToGather ToGether project of the Consultation of Religious Communities. ToGather Together provides free school supplies for 3,000 children & youth in need in Johnson County.

We received **\$1045** for our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering). TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at [www.tee.co.za](http://www.tee.co.za).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS cont.

### SERVING THE CHURCH

Every 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.

**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. Deep friendships develop while serving on church boards.

**What is involved in serving on a Board?**

Each of the six church Boards meets monthly, usually a weekday evening. Each board 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.

**We are currently working to fill vacancies for:**

**Christian Education (chair Amy Lewis)  
Membership (co-chairs Sharyn Reitz and Phyllis Ruppert)**

**Appointments will begin January 2018.**

If you would like to discuss any of these options, 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). For specific information on a given church board, contact the chair indicated above.

Sincerely,

Donna Hirst and Joyce Myer

### SEWING MATERIALS NEEDED

For a Women's Refugee Sewing group being started by IC Compassion. Materials requested include: needles, thread, measuring and marking tools, fabric, simple children's and women's dress patterns, knitting needles and yarn. A complete list is posted on the box marked for donations in Rockwood Hall. They are also looking for one or two more sewing machines in working order. See Pat Goeldner if you have questions.



### MAILE-GENE SAGAN MEMORIAL PODIUM

A beautiful cherrywood podium now graces Rockwood Hall. This gift was funded by the Sagen Family, in memory of Maile-Gene Sagen, a longtime member of our church. Maile's clear vision and articulate guidance helped shape church policies for many years. Maile passed away in June of 2015. The podium was designed and built by David Naso, the owner of David Naso Designs, here in Iowa City. The new church seal and a memorial plaque grace the front of the podium. Reverend Lovin announced the arrival of the podium at the beginning of the August 20, 2017 church service.

### HONORING HERMINE McLERAN

Losing a person from our church family is always difficult, but more so when that person has been one of the people that forms our "foundation". We've had to say goodbye to several of these people during the past few years and we seem lesser because they're gone. Choosing something to honor a person's memory is not always easy. Thinking of Hermine McLeran, whose giving, caring nature was evident not only among us but also in her professional life, we knew that something with others in mind would be most appropriate. In our lower narthex, please notice the bench placed for our comfort and think of Hermine.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS cont.

### MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CLASS

Enrollment is still open for an upcoming **Mental Health First Aid Class** on Monday, October 2nd and Wednesday, October 4th from 12:30-5:30pm at the Coralville Public Library. Please sign up soon if interested. The class is offered at no cost thanks to the Mental Health & Disability Services of the East Central Region. **Registration is required, to sign up email the instructor Peggy Loveless at [mhedspecialists@gmail.com](mailto:mhedspecialists@gmail.com).** Continuing Education Credits are available through Kirkwood upon request, please let Peggy know in advance if you would like to receive CEUs.

**Adult Mental Health First Aid Class**  
**Monday, October 2nd and Wednesday, October 4th**  
**12:30 pm -- 5:30 pm**  
**Coralville Public Library: 1401 5th St, Coralville, IA 52241**

Classes are offered at no cost and are sponsored by Mental Health & Disability Services of the East Central Region

#### What is Mental Health First Aid?

The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) program is an interactive 8-hour certification class that introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common treatments.

Specifically, participants learn:

- The potential risk factors and warning signs for a range of mental health problems, including: depression, anxiety/trauma, psychosis and psychotic disorders, eating disorders, substance use disorders, and self-injury,
- An understanding of the prevalence of various mental health disorders in the U.S. and the need for reduced stigma in their communities,
- A 5-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources and knowledge to assess the situation, to select and implement appropriate interventions, and to help the individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional care,
- The appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help resources available to help someone with a mental health problem.
- Similar to CPR, you will become certified as a Mental Health First Aider.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST EVENT

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City, and now also of Coralville, invites members of the Consultation of Religious Communities and of their congregations to attend a fall workshop, “Prophetic Sisterhood: Now More than Ever,” on Sunday, October 15, 2017.

The workshop will feature noted author and historian Cynthia Grant Tucker, whose book, *Prophetic Sisterhood: Liberal Women Ministers of the Frontier, 1880-1930*, illuminated the challenges facing early Unitarian women ministers, among them Eleanor Gordon, minister to our congregation from 1896 to 1900. Building on this, the workshop -- “Prophetic Sisterhood Now More Than Ever” -- will explore the history of Rev. Gordon and other pioneering women in liberal religion, and the ways we can build on their legacy today.

On October 15, Dr. Tucker will lead our Sunday service at 9:30 AM, and will speak on “Eve’s Daughters in Iowa’s Eden.” Following the service, the workshop will begin at 11:00. At noon, participants will enjoy a light lunch before resuming the workshop at 12:30. We will conclude at 2:30. They hope to host this event in their brand new building at **2355 Oakdale Road** in Coralville, but should construction delays occur, it will instead be held at the Kirkwood Regional Center. Location information will go out to registrants the week before the event.

Registration is required; the fee is \$20 per person, and the deadline to register is October 6. For more information or to register online, please visit **[uusic.org/prophetic-sisterhood](http://uusic.org/prophetic-sisterhood)**.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS

The month of October study theme is the story of Abraham and Sarah as told in Genesis chapters 12 – 17. Abraham is Father to the three faiths of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, and Sarah, in her old age, produced the first of God's promise to make the descendants of Abraham and Sarah number more than the stars in the heavens. Their story is one of the foundations of our faith and the children will get to create walking sticks and ancient-type sandals as reminders of this powerful Biblical story.

Beginning with two classes of children this Fall, we're excited to have 4 to 7 year old children in the upper Yellow Classroom, and 8 to 11 year olds in the lower White Classroom. Special THANKS to Rick Ruppert and Kevin Richards for moving furniture, hanging pictures and taking away unused objects to create a wonderful new space for the older children.

The Children's Choir is off to a good start this Fall with the opportunity to participate in worship on September 24<sup>th</sup> singing "He's a Great Big God." This will be followed on the last Sunday of each month with the children singing an important song from their Sunday School studies.

In October, they will begin learning new music for the Nativity Pageant which will be performed on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This would be a great time to have all the children of the church participate in Children's Church each Sunday!

Thanks to Terri Macey, Ed Keogh and Patty Roberts for being Teachers, for the Christian Education Board for their support and encouragement, and Colette Nakielski for her energetic and delightful choir directing!

Blessings for a wonderful Fall season,

Rev. Patte Henderson  
Director of Children's Programs



# Our Children's Library

## "Stepping Stones A Refugee Family's Journey"

Written by Margriet Ruurs  
Artwork by Nizar Ali Badr

We hope that our children will be able to empathize with those less fortunate than themselves. But, to do this, the children need to be able to visualize their plight.

This book, told from a child's perspective (without being frightening), allows us to see how war affects a family. It allows us to more fully "feel" the deprivation and struggles of the refugee.

"When war comes to Syria, Rama's happy, peaceful life shrinks, food becomes scarce, and bombs fall ever closer, until her family must leave their home. They walk 'to the end of the earth,' climb aboard a little boat, and are battered by the roiling sea, saying prayers for those who didn't make it any further. Ruurs writes purely and warmly, with the text set in both English and Raheem's Arabic translation on each page, of a family who become refugees. She deftly conveys the happiness of peaceful childhood, then the confusion and the fears born of war and migration, and the relief and curiosity of arriving at a new home—and the uncertainty whether it will be forever.

"An astonishing book that allows the humanity of refugees to speak louder than politics and introduces readers to one of Syria's incredible artists."—KIRKUS REVIEW (ages 4-8)

"This is a dual language picture book with text in both English and Arabic. In lyrical language, it tells the story of Rama and her family who are forced to leave behind everything they know and love—to search for a new home in a place where bombs do not fall. Carrying their belongings on their backs, their journey is painful and difficult, especially for the children. Thoughts of a better life help them persevere. And then they reach their future.

"Nizar Ali Badr is a Syrian artist. He composes images using rocks, and takes photographs of them. This makes the illustrations unusual and striking. It also makes them perfectly suited to a book that makes us think about the land, and the places we call home. Children will be amazed at how much an artist and sculptor can say through rocks.

"It's so important for us to try to understand the plight of people whose countries have been torn apart by war. Stepping Stones allows us to enter into the feelings and experiences of a young refugee girl, and by so doing, get an idea of her past and her future. It's a moving story, and one that I hope touches many hearts."—The Book Chook

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, KATHY FAIT, know of any changes.  
 She can be reached at mom2hdal@yahoo.com or 319-541-4551.

OCTOBER	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
1	Megan Carnes James Savage	Ann Gabel Vicki Thomae John Fuller Joyce Myer	Steve and Sue Wolken
8	Jessica Welburn Leah DeGrazia	Kevin and Tina Koepnick Kathi Koegle Kevin Richards	Jim and Diane Jetter
15	Bob and Claire Ashman	Carroll Hanson TBD Jean Willard Ellis Chen	Terri Macey Ann Romanowski
22	Sharon Garton Karen Smith	Derek Lehman Connie Parsons Dwight Schumm Temesgen Schumm	Mike Groff Robyn Wood-Groff
29	Kathy Thede Reynolds Bruce Reynolds	Anna Mary Mueller Edie Roberts Sally Strang Candace Noble	Bill and Janet Williams

# OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> - Worship Service @ 10:15 - World Communion Sunday - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> - Weekly Meditation 9:30 am - Diaconate 6:30 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	<b>4</b> - Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> - Homecoming Potluck 5:00 pm - Homecoming Parade 5:45 pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> -- Worship Service 10:15 am - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> - Weekly Meditation 9:30 am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> -Outerwear Setup at Distribution Area 10 am—5 pm - FRC Luncheon Noon	<b>13</b> - Outerwear Setup at Distribution Center 9:30 am	<b>14</b> Outerwear Distribution 8:30 am to Noon
<b>15</b> - Worship Service 10:15 am UN AIDS Offering - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> - Meditation 9:30 am - FRC Luncheon Noon - Membership 5:30 pm - Trustees 7:00 pm - Stewardship 7:00 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> - Women's Lunch @ Thai Spice on Mormon Trek 11:45am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> - NO Men's Breakfast - Progressive Dinner 5:30 pm
<b>22</b> - Worship Service 10:15 am - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> -- Meditation 9:30 am - Church Council 7:00 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> - FRC Luncheon Noon	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> - Worship Service 10:15 am Reformation Sunday - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	<b>30</b> - UCC Hosts Free Lunch	<b>31</b> - Meditation 9:30 am - FRC Luncheon Noon				

- |       |  |       |  |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 10/1  | Andrea Rauer<br>Margaret Beck                            | 10/12 | Ginny Clemons  |
| 10/4  | Bob Jury<br>Emily Legel                                  | 10/13 | Joyce Myer<br>Marnie Campbell<br>Vernette Knapp  |
| 10/5  | Jason Beerends   | 10/18 | Becky Hoefer   |
| 10/6  | Roger Jensen   | 10/19 | Elizabeth Oakes  |
| 10/7  | Bob Ashman<br>James Savage                               | 10/21 | David Carew  |
| 10/8  | Martha Ann<br>Crawford<br>James Robinson<br>Tara Weipert | 10/24 | Yvette Jury  |
| 10/11 | Dick Kruse   | 10/27 | Tim Strang<br>Betty Stein<br>Anna Mary Mueller<br>Patricia Hansche<br>Brian Romanowski |
|       |  | 10/28 | Charles Connerly<br>Jacob Wells  |



*Eat cake and celebrate!*

# Hurry It's Just Around the Corner!

## Progressive Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2017

5:30 pm - 9 pm

Dinner catered by the Bread Garden Market

Quarter rotisserie chicken meal

\$11/adults; \$5/children

We/I would like to participate by attending:

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

How you'd prefer to be contacted:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

We/I would like to participate by providing the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Providing hors d'oeuvres for 8-10 people

\_\_\_\_\_ Hosting appetizers for all participants

\_\_\_\_\_ Hosting the main course for 8-10 people

\_\_\_\_\_ Providing dessert for 8-10 people

We start together as a group for drinks/appetizers, then move in small groups to host homes for the main course, and then regroup for dessert.

Please check other options to help us plan:

\_\_\_\_\_ bringing children

\_\_\_\_\_ need transportation

\_\_\_\_\_ need accessible location

\_\_\_\_\_ vegetarian

Make checks payable to Congregational UCC.

They may be placed in offering plate with this form (in an envelope marked "Progressive Dinner" please to help us keep them straight) or returned with your payment to Nan in the church office by October 3.

For more information contact

Phyllis Ruppert at 354-2622 or [rpruppert@aol.com](mailto:rpruppert@aol.com)



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

OCTOBER 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