



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ NOVEMBER 2017



Last week I read about the legendary Jewish cable that read: “Start worrying. Details to follow.” I often feel as though that’s the advice we’ve been following for the past year. It’s been an extraordinary time of challenge and uncertainty for our nation. We can worry about the gun violence that shocks but is no longer unthinkable. We can worry about rising white nationalism that is careening toward normalcy. We can worry about the degradation of our planet and the degradation of our discourse.

Details to follow.

Recently I’ve been aware of how exhausted I’ve been by all of this. And I sense that many others are as well. And a recent column by Roger Cohen shook me out of some of this despair when he wrote: “America is still ‘this big, boisterous, brawling, intemperate, striving, daring, beautiful, bountiful, brave, magnificent country,’ as Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, put it the other day... Lament grows tiresome, as does a very high and righteous moral tone. Life is a curve, not a straight line. Of all the virtues, surely stoicism, decency and forgiveness rate near the top — particularly in a culture of facile complaint, indecent vanity and vindictive piling-on. Silence seems to me a near-forgotten quality.”

And I began to remember all those wonderful, daring, merciful, and bold things that have been happening around here in the last twelve months: the outpouring of support for members who went to Standing Rock to protect the land there; the generosity shown in our giving to One Great Hour of Sharing in the spring and to the hurricane relief offering this fall; children singing in worship and taking up more and more room in Rockwood Hall after worship; our growing and evolving ministry with refugees and immigrants in Iowa City; the courage of members who are exploring our own racism and white privilege; our presence on the Ped Mall during Pride Fest. We have come this far by grace, sheer grace. That is cause once more for thanksgiving, for gratitude. We are the heirs of a glorious and troubled past, living in a troubled and sometimes fearful present. And with some slight echo of gratitude in our hearts we might go forward with some modicum of compassion for others. We might show some basic Christian love, some basic Christian decency.

Even as we worry, let us give thanks.

Peace,

Bill





ANNOUNCEMENTS



RETURN TO STANDARD TIME

Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clocks back an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 4. Get some rest and join us for Sunday School at 9:15 am and Worship on November 5 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 am—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 5

Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes “All Saints Sunday.” This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. This year we will remember Hermine McLeran, Gretchen Snider, and a daughter of our church, Kristie Brown. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday in order to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. This year the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson will lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship. Please join us on Sunday, November 5, for this special time of worship.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Special UCC Offering Received on November 5

Imagine another world is possible—a world without hunger, without poverty, without violence, without discrimination. Across the United States, UCC congregations are imagining and working toward a new world. Each year we receive the Neighbors in Need Offering to support their efforts and programs. Please give generously to this offering on Sunday, November 5.

MEMBER GATHERINGS

The Women’s Lunch will be held on November 16 at the **Encounter Café** which is near the old Post Office at 376 S Clinton St. beginning at 11:45 am. The November Men’s Breakfast will be on November 18 also at the **Encounter Café** beginning at 8:00 am.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 23** and **Friday, November 24** in celebration of Thanksgiving.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2017

We want to thank you for your generous gifts to support the ministry and mission of the Congregational UCC again this year. Pledge cards were mailed in October. If you have not already done so, please prayerfully decide on the amount of your support for the coming year as you give thanks for God’s gifts and hope for the future. We ask that you fill out the pledge card and return it as soon as possible to help the Trustees as they prepare for the budget for the coming year.

Thanks again, Your Stewardship Board

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

This year our Mission Board is offering the opportunity to shop for alternative gifts after worship in Rockwood Hall on **Thanksgiving Sunday, November 19**. Think outside of the box and let your giving help others. Gifts can be made in honor of friends and family to the Heifer Project, Habitat for Humanity and Church World Service. Later in November we will put up the Mitten Tree and have gift tags available for Project Holiday, the Crisis Center and Toys for Tots.



Gifts for Parents

December 2nd

Sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities
Held at St. Mark's UMC, 2675 West Washington St, Iowa City

Donations and Volunteers Needed!

This annual, city-wide event gives children in our community an opportunity to experience the Joy of Giving. Children ages 3 to 14 get to "shop" for gifts for the significant adults in their lives. Volunteers help the children choose presents from among items donated for adults in their lives. Other volunteers wrap the gifts. All enjoy a free pancake breakfast provided by St. Mark's United Methodist Men. There are lots of ways you can be a part of this:

- 1) **Donate Gifts-** We need your donations of new or gently used items suitable as a gift for an adult. Ideas include: kitchen gadgets, tools, wallets, costume jewelry, Hawkeye items or flashlights. We are always short of men's gifts. **No clothing please.**

Deliver donations to Rockwood Hall at the church. These gift will be delivered to St. Mark's UMC Thursday **November 30th.**

- 2) **Donate Supplies-** We could also use donations of:

- Stick-on-bows, adhesive gift tags, tissue paper, transparent tape and gift bags.
- Large, handled paper shopping bags (like from Von Maur).
- Empty boxes (like shoeboxes or Amazon) of various sizes.

- 3) **Volunteer to Help-**

- **Set up-** We need people to set up and sort gifts **Friday, Dec. 1st, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00p.m.**
- **Sorting** (+ help set up tables at the beginning). Come when you can. See sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or join in when you are able. It's fun to gather small things into "gift bags."



Distribution Morning, December 2nd, we'll need lots of people (adults only)

- **Escort the kids**
- **Wrap the gifts** (bring your own scissors).
- First shift 8:30-11:00 a.m. or fuel up with pancakes starting at 8:00.
- Second shift 10:30-1:00
- Cleanup to follow.

Contact: Judy McRoberts at judy.mcroberts@gmail.com or 515/346-0313 or Edie Roberts at edie-roberts@uiowa.edu

CHOIR SUNDAY—DECEMBER 10

On December 10th the UCC welcomes another Special Music Sunday Performance by the UCC Choir featuring *A Christmas Cantata* by 20th century English composer Geoffrey Bush. This colorful composition featuring arrangements of traditional carols will be joined by instrumentalists around the area and from the university, conducted by Christopher Nakielski. In addition, it will feature oboe soloist Wei Wang, soprano soloists Marie Von Behren and Sarah Gilbert.





ANNOUNCEMENTS cont.



ADULT EDUCATION—BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL ACTION

During September and October, our 9:15 Sunday Morning adult education sessions considered “Who Are Our Neighbors.” We heard about the people around us, downtown and on campus. As we discussed what we had learned and talked about how we might respond to our changing neighbors, participants expressed an interest in learning more about the biblical and theological roots of our engagement with the community and the larger world.

Starting on Sunday, November 5, we’ll start exploring the Hebrew prophets, the ministry of Jesus, and our call to love our neighbors and care for the earth. We’ll pay special attention to some of the traditional scripture lessons for the season of Advent. (Advent doesn’t begin until December 3 this year—but sometimes it’s good to get a head start.) Join your friends in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 on Sunday morning for some great discussion and new understanding.

COLLECTING FOR THE CRISIS CENTER FOOD BANK AND SHELTER HOUSE

We will be collecting items for the Food Bank and Shelter House in October and November. 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 at edie-roberts@uiowa.edu.

Food Bank

Most needed items:

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

Shelter House

Most needed items:

Deodorant
Diapers (size 4 & med/lrg Depends)
Toothpaste
Shampoo/Conditioner
Facial Tissue
Laundry Detergent (high efficiency & regular)

Also needed:

Toilet Paper
Blankets
Ear Plugs
Over-the-counter Medications:
Antihistamine Sinus Medication
Acetaminophen DayQuil
Men & women’s work clothes (particularly white shirts & black pants)
Steel-toes boots

Please note: they do not accept chlorine bleach

LOOK AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Each year brings festivity and celebration as we move through Advent and the joy of Christmas. Mark your calendars so that you won’t miss these special events:

- December 3** - First Sunday in Advent; Lighting of the Advent Candle begins; Communion Sunday; Advent Lunch and Christmas crafts after worship
- December 10** - Second Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday; Alternative Giving after worship
- December 17** - Third Sunday in Advent; Children’s Christmas pageant presented during worship; Christmas caroling with the choir in the afternoon.
- December 22** - Church office closed
- December 24** - Fourth Sunday in Advent, worship at 10:15; Christmas Eve candlelight worship service at 5:30 p.m.; Christmas Fund Offering; Gala reception follows.
- December 25** - Christmas Day; Church office closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS cont.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's dramatization of the Nativity presented by your children will take place on **Sunday, December 17 at 10:15 am.** All children, ages 4 to 6th grade, are invited and encouraged to participate in this year's production. There are several speaking parts, as well as silent acting parts. Voices are needed for the Children's Choir as well.

Rehearsals take place during Sunday School, 9:15-10:00 a.m. and during Children's Church Choir, 10:45 -11:15 on November 26, December 3 and 10. A dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 16 at 10:00. Each child and their parent will be asked to sign a covenant signifying their commitment to take part in the Pageant.

Thanks to all families who participate in the preparation and presentation of this most holy Christmas play.



WELCOMING THE STRANGER A NOTE FROM YOUR MISSION BOARD

Our Christian faith calls us to be welcoming to strangers. Our congregation has responded in many different ways over the years to that call, especially providing a welcoming presence for refugees and immigrants. We are presently in a time where immigrants in our community feel fearful – threatened with detention and possible deportation. The Center for Worker Justice is currently working with faith communities to be responsive to situations that may arise and supportive to families affected.

Our Mission Board is hoping that we can gather resources to be helpful when such needs do arise. Specifically we would like to have a list of members who could provide skills and services to a family we would offer to help in a time of crisis. If a parent is detained, the other parent and children may need both emotional and logistical support until the situation can be resolved. Skills and time needed might include the following: Shopping for food or clothing or collecting such from various resources; transportation to appointments or shopping; babysitting, translating and interpreting – particularly Spanish. Please be in touch with me in person, by e-mail pgoldner@earthlink.net or by phone 319-338-1541 if you can offer time and skills to this effort or would like more information. I know this sounds a little vague about time and specifics but we know these situations are happening. CWJ and the committee are presently working with a family in Iowa City facing deportation.

This faith initiative that CWJ is putting together is still a work in progress. There are four working committees: Sanctuary, Rapid Response Teams, Legal Assistance and Human Services (family support described above.) The next meeting is November 13th at 6pm at the CWJ offices at 614 Gilbert Court. Donna Hirst, Megan Carnes, Lee Wood, Paula Forest and I have been attending.

Welcoming the Stranger: The Church and Immigration



REMEMBER
TO WELCOME
STRANGERS, FOR
BY DOING SO
SOME PEOPLE
HAVE
ENTERTAINED
ANGELS
WITHOUT
KNOWING IT.

Hebrews 13:2

ANNOUNCEMENTS cont.

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Our church served 180 lunches at the Free Lunch Program on October 30, 2017. So many thoughtful members of our church volunteered their time by donating and preparing food, serving and/or cleaning up on this day: Claire Ashman, Ethel Bloesch, Ginny Clemons, Bill Dickinson, John & Randee Fieselmann, John Fuller, Pat Goeldner, Betsy Henson, Donna Hirst, Marge Hoppin, Joan Jehle, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Emily Legel, Dean Logan, Margaret MacInnis, Nan Martin, Anna Mary Mueller, Ed Murph, Linda Muston, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts, Rick Ruppert, Jeff Schabilion, Connie Schumm, Betty Stein, Sally Strang, Svetlana Vanchugova, Steve Wolken and Lee Wood.



Thank you all so much for your time and cheerful assistance in making this day so successful and fun! Our next serving date is Monday, January 29, 2018. A signup sheet will be posted in Rockwood Hall by the first of the new year. As always, this wouldn't be possible without you! **Vicki Thomae**

NEW BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

For the past two years our adult education classes have taken time to examine and learn about issues of racial justice. We initially focused on a study prepared by the United Church of Christ on white privilege. When we completed this study, many of us felt that we had more to learn. We compiled a book list from various members of our congregation and formed two book study groups that met throughout the year. *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving was our introductory book. One group followed with *Tears We Cannot Stop* by Michael Eric Dyson and the other group read and discussed *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley.

This has been a very meaningful, thoughtful, and life changing study as we listen to the voices of our fellow Americans. These writers are reaching out, sometimes in despair, to call attention to the fact that many in our country have been denied their rights as citizens by institutionalized racism. We have grown to understand that all of us suffer when racial barriers exist and that we can never become the country that our constitution promises until we all can understand and become allies in this journey.

This year, the theme for our church is "Who is Our Neighbor?" We have decided that our book study fits this theme very well. Therefore, we will continue our study in January of 2018 with Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. We would like to reach out to those of you who have an interest in this topic and strongly encourage you to join us in this journey. If you are just starting out, we recommend that you read *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. If you would like to read and discuss this book before January, there will be a sign-up sheet downstairs at the church. Also, we will have a sign-up sheet for the January book study by Michelle Alexander. There will be copies of our book list for additional reading on the table as well.

VETERANS FOR PEACE ARMISTICE DAY OBSERVANCE

Veterans For Peace Chapter #161 is sponsoring an Armistice Day Observance to be held on Saturday, November 11th at the Clinton St. entrance **to Old Capitol**, Iowa City.. Bells will be rung @ 11:00 AM, as they were rung around the world at the end of WWI 99 years ago in 1918, and on each November 11th for decades thereafter. **Armistice Day is a day to promote PEACE and to remember the victims of war, both veterans and civilians.** The event will feature Veterans for Peace from throughout the state of Iowa. The event is free, and the public is welcome. This is the only Armistice Day Observance in the state of Iowa. More information , call 319 621-6766.

The 11th Hour
of the 11th Day
of the 11th Month



Our Adult Library

"The Radium Girls, the Dark Story of America's Shining Women"

Written by Kate Moore

Excerpts from book review in Seattle Times, republished in Cedar Rapids Gazette:

The young women sat in rows, heads bent, painting numbers on paper watch and clock faces with luminous paint. The paint that the workers were using in the first decades of the 20th century was not ordinary. It contained radium, a highly radioactive element, and the stuff was inescapable.

In "Radium Girls" author Kate Moore honors the lives of the painters as well as their deaths. She tells the compelling story of women whose work maimed and killed them while their employers, their doctors and their government turned a blind eye to their suffering.

The painters at the Radium Dial Co. and the Radium Luminous Materials Corp. were told repeatedly that radium wasn't dangerous, even though warnings about radioactivity had been trickling out since 1906. By the mid-1920's, the sick dial painters began to put two and two together. Their employers continued to turn them away, referring to them as a "menace" and blaming "women's clubs" for the painters' audacity to try to uncover the truth.

A determined group of sick women, knowing their days were numbered, was successful. In 1939 the U.S. Supreme Court declined Radium Dial's latest appeal, and the dial painters won. Survivors would be compensated and their death certificates would state their demise was workplace related.

By the time World War II broke out "dial painting" was the most feared occupation among young women and the government introduced new safety standards for those working with radium. A Manhattan Project scientist insisted that the same protections be offered to those working with an equally lethal substance, plutonium, because of the Radium Girls.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee



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 MITTMAN, know of any changes.

He can be reached at t.mittman@mchsi.com or 319-325-9027.

NOVEMBER	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
5	Roger and Melissa Jensen	Hayden Beerends Jean Otto Jason Beerends Laura Stunz	Bob and Gloria Hanson
12	Jim and Diane Jetter	Ethan Buck Elizabeth Oakes Eugene Buck Steve Hostettler	Richard Valentine Kathleen Clark
19	Martha Ann Crawford Emily Legel	Nicole Day Bryan Day Kathleen Day Bill Dickinson	Raven and Courtney Rowe
26	Stephen Warren Kristy Nabhan–Warren	Thomazin Jury Yvette Jury Bob Jury Ken Kuntz	Amy and Cindy Woodhouse

NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Satur-
			1 - New Member- Class 7 pm	2 - Voices of Soul Rehearsal	3	4 - Set clocks back before you go to bed!
5 -- All Saints, Jazz Worship Service 10:15 am NIN Offering - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	6	7 - Weekly Meditation 9:30 am - CE Board 6:30 pm - Diaconate 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	8 - FRC Lunch- eon Noon - New Member Class 7 pm	9 - Voices of Soul Re- hearsal 6:30 pm	10	11 VETERANS DAY Veterans for Peace Lunch- eon in Rock- wood Hall 11:00 am
12 - Worship Service 10:15 am - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am - 10th Anniversary Organ Concert 4:00 pm	13	14 - Meditation 9:30 am	15 - FRC Lunch- eon Noon	16 - Women's Lunch @ The Encoun- ter Café @ 11:45am - Voice of Soul Re- hearsal 6:30 pm	17	18 - Men's Break- fast @ the Encounter Café.
19 - Thanksgiving Sunday Worship Service 10:15 am - Alternate Giving - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	20	21 -- Meditation 9:30 am	22	23 THANKS- GIVING OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 - Worship Service 10:15 am - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	27 -	28 - Meditation 9:30 am - Church Council 7:00 pm	29	30 - FRC Luncheon Noon - Voices of Soul Re- hearsal 6:30 pm		



11/1 Frank Zlatnik
11/2 Sheryl Amos
11/7 Scott Hansche
Daniel Morgan-Harris
11/8 John Fuller
11/10 Michael Seidl
11/11 Jeanna Otta
11/13 Amy Lewis
11/14 Terri Macey
11/15 David Schoonover
Sara Murph
11/16 James Keogh
11/20 Marcie Kuechenmeister
11/24 Darin Wells
11/26 Lila Rose MacInnis-Baumert
11/29 Kevin Richards
Hayden Beerends
Alice Umlah

**CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!
IT'S YOUR DAY TO CELEBRATE!**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER 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

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

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