

Happy New Year



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ JANUARY 2018



Friends in Christ:

The old Congregational *Pilgrim Hymnal* has a version of Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem for the New Year, "Ring Out, Wild Bells." It's set to the tune DEUS TUORUM MILITUM (which roughly translates as "The God of Your Soldiers). This hymn is not in our hymnal, but maybe we should find some occasion to sing "Ring out the old, ring the new...Ring out the false, ring in the true," in these times when as the *New York Times* reported, "In [President Trump's] first 10 months in office, he has told 103 separate untruths, many of them repeatedly. Obama told 18 over his entire eight-year tenure. That's an average of about two a year for Obama and about 124 a year for Trump."

Maybe we should find some occasion to sing "Ring out false pride in place and blood, The civic slander and the spite" in these days when we have seen a rise in violent white nationalism.

May we should find some occasion to sing, "Ring out the feud of rich and poor; Ring in redress to all," in these days when we are seeing growing income inequality in our nation and in the world.

Maybe we should find some occasion to sing "Ring in the valiant...the larger heart, the kinder hand...Ring in the love of truth and right; Ring in the common love of good."

Or, maybe, we sing this hymn, we ring out those bells in many ways throughout the year. When we bear honest witness to the world as it is, we ring in the true. When we welcome refugees and support immigrants in their new lives, when we proclaim that each person and all people are created in the image of God, we ring out false pride. When we support the ongoing work of the Center for Worker Justice, we ring out the feud of rich and poor. When we feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, provide relief for victims of disaster we ring in the common love of good.

The light shines in the darkness. Hope rises from despair. A new year begins.

Ring out the old. Ring in the new. Ring out your own wild bells.

Peace,

Bill

P.S. I want to thank the congregation for your generous and kind Christmas gift. I am overwhelmed and filled with gratitude. Your support and affirmation of my ministry is a constant encouragement to me. It is a great privilege to provide pastoral leadership here as together we seek to be a light shining in the darkness. --Bill



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT EDUCATION AND OUR CHURCH HISTORY

As many of you already know, the new 50-year history of our church, *This Church On This Corner In This Community*, is complete and is now available for purchase at the church. This beautiful book is the result of a three-year-long group effort to be accurate, thorough and inclusive of written materials including the views and memories of a wide variety of our members (present and past) and affiliates. Please join us during Adult Education on **January 7 and January 14** to hear committee members discuss the process that was used. They will also discuss the book's contents and answer any questions for you. Bryan Clemons and Pam Willard will lead the class on January 7 and Randee and John Fielselmann will be the leads on January 14. All are welcome to attend either or both of those sessions.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATIONS ON JANUARY 7

Epiphany (the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the coming of the Magi) falls twelve days after Christmas, on January 6 each year. This year we'll extend the Christmas season an extra day and celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 7. In our 10:15 worship service we will bring our observance of Christmas to a conclusion, hearing the story of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew and sharing in the sacrament of communion. After worship our festivities continue in Rockwood Hall where we will enjoy Epiphany Cake.

MISSION BOARD FUNDRAISING AND THE ALTERNATIVE GIVING SALE*

This year's Alternative Giving Sale was a great success. The Mission Board offered a variety of art, crafts, food, and donation opportunities. Many thanks to the donors of goods and the members who staffed the two Sunday event. And the purchasers and givers, as well!

Current totals for the fundraising::

Heifer Project	-	\$1260.00
Blanket Project—Church World Service	-	\$ 175.00
Mission Board Cards and Knitted Items	-	\$ 631.00
Christmas Fund	-	\$ 1,010.00
Red Lake Nation	-	\$ 258.00
UCC Global Initiatives	-	\$ 215.00
Gift Card Donations	-	\$ 50.00 (Many gift cards were purchased directly)

TOTAL ALTERNATIVE GIVING \$3,599.00.00

Other Mission Board fundraising throughout the year included:

Share the Harvest	\$ 410.45	Crisis Center Food Bank
Red Lake Nation	\$ 92.00	
Homecoming Drink Sale	\$ 72.00	IC Bus Passes for Needy

*Possible further updates!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men of the church will meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m., on Saturday, January 20, at the eastside Mid-Town Restaurant, 200 Scott Ct., Iowa City. The Women's Lunch will be on Thursday, January 18th, beginning at 11:45. Location TBD.

MISSION BOARD SPONSORS ADULT EDUCATION SERIES BEGINING JANUARY 21

On Sunday, January 21, the Mission Board will begin a new 4-session program on refugees and immigration.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 28

The Annual Meeting of the Congregational United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, January 28, in the sanctuary, following our 10:15 worship service. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2018, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary. Copies of the annual report will be available by Sunday, January 14 after worship. If you are responsible for a report for the publication, please get it to Nan by January 8 if possible.

DEACONS SEEK HELP FOR RECEPTIONS

Our Board of Deacons is forming a small team of members who are interested in occasionally assisting in our church funeral receptions. If you would like to be a part of this group, please email Vicki Thomae, Funeral Liaison for more information. Thanks! vickithomae@gmail.com.

FREE LUNCH JANUARY 29, 2018

It's our turn to host the Free Lunch in January. 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. If you have any questions you can contact Vicki Thomae or Edie Roberts.

THINK AHEAD FOR ANNUAL OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION

Each year in the fall, Congregational UCC joins with other congregations in providing winter coats for people of all ages, especially children. As winter items start to go on sale in the stores, now is a great time to let your dollar go further and purchase coats. Please store them at your home until the fall when they can be brought to the church and then taken to the distribution site.

SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE—MARCH 24-25

The annual Shelter House book sale will be March 24-25. The sale will be at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, and virtually all of the preparation for the sale will be in March. Set up will be March 18-23, all hands on deck every day.

What you can do before March:

- 1) Identify books to donate, store them in your home and be prepared to move them to the sale site late February. Books can get dropped off at the Fairgrounds beginning February 26. Volunteers will be needed to sort or move boxes February 26-March 16: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday
- 2) Plan to donate time in March. We will need people to move boxes, sort books into subject categories, box books, etc. A sign-up sheet will be in Rockwood Hall and you can begin to consider how you might assist.
- 3) We will need lots of dollies to transport book boxes. If you have a dolly that you would be able to loan this enterprise for the month of March, please let the church office know.

The sale is a full community effort, with very strong support from the area churches. Last year our church was exceptional in its generosity of volunteer hours and book donations. Let's beat our 2017 record.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

MEDITATION GATHERING

You are invited to join others for a time of silent prayer and meditation each Tuesday morning at 9:30 am in the Chapel just inside the Jefferson Street door. After a brief reading, participants sit silently for about 20 minutes. We conclude our time together with a brief period of conversation. This group is open to everyone. You do not need to attend every week in order to participate. We are all just beginning to pray, so feel free to join us when you are able.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE FRIDAY EMAIL?

Each week we send out a reminder to all members about upcoming events. If you are not getting the email and would like to receive it, please contact the church office.

LOOK AHEAD TO LENT

The season of Lent begins on February 14. We will hold our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. that evening. Easter is Sunday, April 1 this year (no fooling).

CRISIS CENTER NEWS

Alexandria worked at the front desk of the emergency room at Mercy Hospital for 11 years before she was diagnosed with kidney failure, hypertension, and heart blockage in March 2017. Her doctor encouraged her to seek out a less stressful job, so she started taking medical office professional certificate classes at Kirkwood in Iowa City. Alexandria pulled out all of the money she saved in her 401(k) in order to complete her education. She attends classes for four hours a day, four days a week, and works part-time for Iowa City.

In October, her savings ran out and she couldn't pay rent. Alexandria has been self-sufficient for years, so asking for help is very difficult. One day in class, Alexandria was thinking about being evicted, which brought her to tears. Her teacher noticed and encouraged her to write a letter seeking help from local churches and nonprofits. The Crisis Center provided her \$100 in rent assistance through the Emergency Assistance Program.

Alexandria is still facing serious financial and health challenges, but she is preparing to finish her certificate in December 2017 and is currently applying to jobs in the area and has heard back from several employers.

Our support helps people like Alexandria feed their children, keep their lights on, and avoid homelessness. Please keep the Crisis Center and its clients in your prayers.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Box Tops Clips—these are found on hundreds of product packages and are worth \$.10 for our schools. Box Tops Clips must be provided to an enrolled Box Tops for Education School (for submission by the School Coordinator before their expiration date).



You've probably seen these coupons on many of the products you use daily. I will be collecting them to pass on to the coordinator at Mark Twain Elementary School in Iowa City. The collection is ongoing. If you would like to pass your coupons on to me, I'll see to it that they are delivered. Edie Roberts

"THE GIVING SEASON"

Christmas, the "season of giving," is over, yet, we all know that sharing, even in small ways, makes a difference to many people all year long. Our schools request each student to supply facial tissue and hand sanitizer at the beginning of the school year. But, there are many children and, by the middle of the year, those supplies are running out. I will be collecting tissue and hand sanitizer during the month of January to give to Mark Twain School. Please think of us the next time you're shopping. A tub for donations will be in Rockwood Hall. If you have a connection with another school, please don't hesitate to take your supplies there. The need is great everywhere. Contact Edie Roberts with any questions: edie-roberts@uiowa.edu



GUIDELINES FOR PURCHASING NEW LIBRARY BOOKS FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

All church members have the opportunity to submit a book or periodical title for purchase consideration. The following criteria are suggested for selecting an appropriate book or periodical:

- It contains a Christian message or moral teaching
- It could be a spark for a discussion of Christian beliefs
- It could explore other religions
- It would offer ideas for coping with social situations as Christians
- It is biographical in nature.

The CUCC Library committee of three volunteers is responsible for the purchase of books, periodicals and supplies for the library. The Committee will submit a list of newly purchased titles to the CE Board quarterly.

Book titles may be recommended by any member of the church using a simple request form. (see below) The forms will be available on the Rockwood Hall Library shelf and in the church library. The Library Committee will determine if the request fits the criteria listed on the request form, and if acceptable, will purchase the recommended book.

If there is a question about the suitability of a donated or recommended book for the library, the CE Board will have final say over adding the book to the stacks.

Book Recommendation

Book Donation (circle one)

Title (or brief description) of book or periodical being recommended _____

Author _____

Reason for this recommendation and comments: _____

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



FROM THE IOWA UCC CONFERENCE

Dear Friends of the Iowa Conference,

Your generosity continues to make a difference. You have helped the Iowa Conference to sustain one of the strongest judicatory ministries in the United Church of Christ. We benefit from a highly capable staff of ministers who provide excellent services to congregations in transition, clergy in need of support, and members in preparation for authorized ministry. Last December, I was privileged to attend a nationwide meeting of conference ministers and judicatory officials. That experience confirmed for me that Jonna Jenson, Brigit Stevens, and Rich Pleva are among the most highly respected officers in conference ministry throughout our denomination.

Their dedication to their work is bearing fruit - in the day-to-day ministries that they sustain and also in their creative openness to new possibilities for our mission. Our recent partnership with the South Dakota and Nebraska conferences will assure that a highly effective judicatory ministry extends to our 330 shared congregations well into the future. The call of our own Rev. Brigit Stevens as the Executive Conference Minister gives us all confidence that the coming years hold for us closer relationships with our neighbors, a highly skilled and adaptable staff, and a stronger program of ministries.

Please hold Brigit and the Tri-Conference staff in your prayers. And please join me in sustaining our financial support of a ministry that strengthens our congregations, increases the resilience of our pastors, and boldly testifies to the grace of our Stillspeaking God.

In Faith, Hope, and Love,

The Reverend Cameron Barr
Moderator, Iowa Conference
Pastor, Grinnell United Church of Christ

Conference Minister, Rich Pleva
Associate Conference Ministers, Jonna Jensen and Brigit Stevens

IOWA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
5609 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
515-277-6369
www.ucciaconf.org

Our Adult Library

"Tears We Cannot Stop, a Sermon to White America"

By Michael Eric Dyson

Quoted from book cover:

"As the country grapples with racial division at a level not seen since the 1960's, one man's voice is heard above the rest. In his New York Times op-ed piece 'Death in Black and White', Michael Eric Dyson moved a nation. Now he continues to speak out in 'Tears We Cannot Stop' - a provocative and deeply personal call for change.

Dyson argues that if we are to make real racial progress we must face difficult truths, including being honest about how black grievance has been ignored, dismissed, or discounted.....Short, emotional, literary, powerful--this is the book that all Americans who care about the current and long-burning crisis in race relations will want to read."

"Here's a sermon that's as fierce as it is lucid.....This is how it works if you're black in America, this is what happens, and this is how it feels. If you're black, you'll feel a spark of recognition in every paragraph. If you're white, Dyson tells you what you need to know."

Michael Eric Dyson has been an ordained minister for 35 years. He is University Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University and is a contributing opinion writer for The New York Times. Ebony magazine named him one of the 100 most influential African Americans and one of the 150 most powerful blacks in the nation. Dr. Dyson is the author of 19 books.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee

It is utterly exhausting being Black in America - physically, mentally, and emotionally. While many minority groups and women feel similar stress, there is no respite or escape from your badge of color.

— *Marian Wright Edelman* —

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, **Edie Roberts**, know of any changes.

She can be reached at 319-338-8886 or edie-roberts@uiowa.edu

JANUARY 2018	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
7	Dwight and Connie Schumm	Emily Legel James O'Neil Terri Macey Temesgen Schumm	Bryan and Ginny Clemons
14	Hope and Matt Spragg	Isabella Myers Bea Hicks Mark & Carrie Whittaker	TBD
21	Dale and Patty Roberts	Carroll Hanson Bill Dickinson Heather and Ed Leighton-Dick	Kristy Nabhan-Warren Stephen Warren
28	Steven and Sue Wolken	Michelle Birt-Leeds Martha Ann Crawford Bob and Gloria Hanson	Donna Hirst Andrea Rauer

JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 - Diaconate 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	3	4	5	6 Epiphany
7 - 1st Sunday After Epiphany Worship 10:15 - Choir 9:00 Church School 9:15 - Epiphany Festival After Worship in Rockwood Hall	8	9 - Midweek meditation 9:30 am	10	11	12	13
14 - 2nd Sunday After Epiphany 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Church School 9:15 - Interfaith Celebration of MLK First Mennonite Church 7pm	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	16 - Midweek meditation 9:30 am - Stewardship Board 4 pm - Membership 5:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm	17 -	18 - Women's Lunch at 11:45 am. Call the office for restaurant info. - FRC Luncheon Noon	19	20 - Men's Breakfast at Midtown Restaurant at 8 am - Dasha Wemme Recitals 5:30 pm
21 - 3rd Sunday After Epiphany 10:15 - Choir 9 - Church School 9:15	22	23 - Midweek meditation 9:30 am - Church Council 7:00 pm	24	25 - FRC Luncheon Noon	26	27
28 - 4th Sunday After Epiphany Worship 10:15 - Choir 9 - Church School 9:15 -Annual Meeting After Worship	29	30 - Midweek meditation 9:30 am	31			

Happy Birthday to you

1/4	Bryon Day
1/7	Kai Bouma Olivia Groff
1/8	Bryan Clemons Eva Leighton-Dick
1/9	Ana Tracey Morgan-Harris
1/11	Diane Olson

1/15	Timothy Woolums
1/18	Carol Searls John Fieselmann
1/19	Connie Parsons
1/20	Ken Kuntz Donna Janes Eric Reynolds
1/21	Barbara McFarland
1/23	Susie Broiwn

1/24	Isaac Chen
1/25	Bea Hicks
1/28	Tyler Seidl\
1/29	James Smith
1/30	Derek Lehman
1/31	Bill Williams

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



JANUARY 2018 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
Director of Church School:	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 Church School ...pattehenderson@gmail.com
Children's Choir Dir....colette.nakielski@gmail.com
Communication Assist....cpatramanis@yahoo.com

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org