



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
FEBRUARY 2018



Friends in Christ:

Lent begins early this year, on February 14. Ash Wednesday does not often fall on Valentine's Day. When it does, we have the opportunity to see once more the connection of ashes to love, the connection of ashes to hearts, and especially the connection of ashes to our broken hearts.

The connection of ashes to sorrow for sin is a familiar part of the beginning of Lent. For millennia ashes have been used as a sign of repentance. Even more, however, ashes are a physical reminder of our mortality. We receive them with the words: "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."

The greater emphasis is on neither sin nor mortality but on the love that God has for us. With the ashes of the beginning of Lent we get at renewed sense of the love that the Creator has for all creation, including those of us who are created in God's very image. Reminded of our mortality and our finitude, we are also reminded of God's love that is with us in both our living and our dying. Dust we may be. But nothing can separate us from the sustaining love of God.

With this awareness newly fresh in our hearts, we are also called once again to look at and enter into the broken places in our lives and in our world. On the Sundays in Lent we will explore what we discover "...in the Broken Places" of our lives. We will begin this exploration on Ash Wednesday as we consider our brokenhearted condition as those who know grief, sorrow, pain, regret, and fear.

Throughout Lent members are invited to bring some broken object to church to be used in developing a new art work. Connie Schumm and other visual artists will take our broken objects, symbols of our broken lives and create something new from them.

Join us on Ash Wednesday, February 14 and on the Sundays in Lent as we enter the broken places and find God there to heal, to restore, to strengthen, and to make new.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

MISSION BOARD SPONSORED ADULT EDUCATION SERIES CONTINUES

Join the Church Reading Group reading *The New Jim Crow*. This group meets following the worship service on Sunday mornings. Dates: Chapter 1 February 4 - Chapters 2 and 3 February 11 - Chapters 4 and 5 February 18 - Chapters 6 and Action Steps. Beth Oakes is the facilitator. We welcome you all and please bring a friend if you wish.

WEEKLY MEDITATION CHANGE

You are invited to join others for a time of silent prayer and meditation each **WEDNESDAY AT NOON** 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.

MEMBER OUTINGS

The men of the church will meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m., on **Saturday, February 17th, at the Hamburg Inn, 214 Linn St in Iowa City**. The Women's Lunch will be on **Thursday, February 15, beginning at 11:45 at Vesta in the Iowa Landing in Coralville**. Please call or email the office to reserve your seat at the table!

FREE LUNCH NUMBERS

Our church served 147 lunches at the Free Lunch Program on January 29, 2018. 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, Michelle Birt-Leeds, Ginny Clemons, Kathleen & Nicole Day and the Girl Scouts, Bill Dickinson, John & Randee Fieselmann, John Fuller, Barb Hanson, Patte Henderson, Betsy Henson, Donna Hirst, Marge Hoppin, Kathi Koegle, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Ruth Kuntz, Emily Legel, Margaret MacInnis, Nan Martin, Edie Roberts, Rick Ruppert and Sally Strang.

Thank you all so much for your time and pleasant assistance in making this day so successful and fun!

Our next serving date is Monday, April 30, 2018. A signup sheet will be posted in Rockwood Hall by the first of April. As always, this wouldn't be possible without you!

ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT ON FEBRUARY 14

On Wednesday, February 14, our Board of Christian Education will host a pancake supper in Rockwood Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends and join others for pancakes, eggs, sausage, good company, and good conversation. Profits from the free-will donation will support our Christian Education Programs. It will help with planning if you sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall or call the church office (337-4301) to let us know how many will attend. But please join us even if you haven't done this.

After eating, we will hold our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00. This will be a time of music and song, scripture and prayer, and the imposition of ashes for those who want them. The worship service is designed for people of all ages.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES AT CONGREGATIONAL UCC

March 25 - Palm Sunday: Worship with Distribution of Palms, 10:15

March 29 - Maundy Thursday: Congregational meal in Rockwood Hall at 5:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae

March 30 - Good Friday: Worship in the Sanctuary at noon.

April 1 - Easter Sunday: Easter Breakfast at 8:30; Festival Easter Service with Brass and Choir at 10:15

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

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.

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, March 25th, we will dedicate our offering to OGHS. The United Church of Christ has at its core transforming lives! Why? Because we are all one in Christ.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are transformed through support that provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education, and disaster relief in the U.S. and internationally. **Let us give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.**



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



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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

“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



FRESH FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

There is a new sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall for 2018 for anyone who would like to provide flowers for worship. Flowers can be given in memory or honor of loved ones or in celebration of special events. Flowers can also be given simply for the joy and beauty that they bring. Questions? Please contact Jane Murphy at 351-9079 or at murphyjane51@gmail.com.

BE A PART OF TABLE TO TABLE'S VOLUNTEER TEAM

Our Volunteer Team delivers 45,000 lbs of food each week to agencies that serve the hungry, homeless, and at-risk populations of Johnson County. There are 19,500 food insecure people in Johnson County. We are looking for community members that have 2-3 hours a week and can help us rescue food! To learn more contact us at **319-337-3400** or volunteer@table2table.org.

CRISIS CENTER UPDATE

Since Dec. 1, The Crisis Center's Emergency Assistance Program has completed 40 housing and utility assists for those in our community. Of those, seven were for rent/deposits for new housing, 8 were electric bills, and 25 were assists on water bills.

In 2017 Congregational UCC gave \$4000 to support this work through the Common Fund. Thanks again for your support.

When Elenzie arrived in Iowa City, he was homeless and seeking a job. A local restaurant offered him a job yet, he was unable to find regular transportation and purchase the required uniform. He reached out to The Crisis Center for help. Volunteers and staff were able to provide him a 20-ride bus pass and a \$100 Crowded Closet voucher so he could buy the clothes he needed to get started.

After a few weeks on the job, The Crisis Center helped him pay the security deposit for an apartment and the last \$100 on his rent for the month of December. Although he could only afford an air mattress to furnish his new place when he first moved in, he was thankful to finally have a place to stay. Elenzie had this to say about The Crisis Center:

“I found a job on my own but I give credit to The Crisis Center because they’re not only there for resources. They’re in-house help. Even when you’re having stress or having problems that you can’t control or handle, and after you speak to your higher power about it... Okay, your life still continues. The Crisis Center is here to listen. And believe it or not, without a person there to care and listen, you won’t even begin to start your journey.”

FASTRAC FUNDRAISER

The School In Not Out Fastrac program will hold a fundraising banquet to raise money to help send Iowa students to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and to Civil Rights landmarks and museums in the south this summer. The date is **Thursday, April 19, from 6-9 pm at the Old Brick Church at 26 E Market St. in Iowa City.** The suggested minimum donation is \$25. For tickets you can contact teamcan.org or fastraciowacity@gmail.com.

UCCIC LENT ART PROJECT

Broken things put together in a new way can be more beautiful and powerful than they were before breaking. Kintsugi, the Japanese method of repairing broken ceramics with a lacquer mixed with gold, silver or platinum dust, emphasizes and celebrates scars. Some kintsugi pots are incredibly valuable. In the past I've used these ideas to make mosaic pieces using shards of pottery and broken mirrors.

Assemblage is a similar form or medium very much like mosaic or collage, but three dimensional. I propose that everyone bring at least one item to contribute to piece demonstrating how all our imperfect selves combine to make something beautiful. Pretty good congregational metaphor there in case you missed it. Your contribution may be something broken, a dish or piece of jewelry, a rock, a handful of sea glass, some thumbtacks, a collection of washers from that coffee can in the garage, a chewed up pencil from the bottom of your junk drawer - pretty much anything (in the case of some uglier bits be warned that I plan to employ gold spray paint!) Nothing too big please. And nothing ephemeral, like leaves or feathers, or wobbly like rubber bands. Just bring plenty.

The size of this piece will depend entirely on what is contributed. I am 100% certain we can make it all into something gorgeous. Once the bits are all in one place, there will be sorting, conceptualizing, placing and a lot of gluing, probably onto a sheet of plywood, or maybe glass. Then, depending on how the concept has come together, maybe clear resin to embed it.

I will be working on this piece at the church during Lent and would love to have anyone who's interested come by and help with sorting, brainstorming and gluing. Let me know and we'll find a time that works. Look for the collection box in Rockwood Hall!

Connie Schumm



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: _____

Our Children's Library

"The World Jesus Knew: A Curious Kid's Guide to Life in the First Century"

Author: Marc Olson
Illustrator: Jem Maybank

We live several centuries after Jesus and often have questions as we read the Bible about the area in which Jesus lived, and details about daily life in those times. Centuries of scholarship in the history, archaeology, and sociology have provided some tools to give answers to some of our questions about the Middle East – also called The Holy Land.

This attractive book contains maps, charts, graphs, interesting illustrations and text that is scattered in a reader-friendly format. Topics covered are: The Structure of Society; What Grows There? The Jewish People; Roman Rules and Their Army; Crime and Punishment; Getting Around; Home Life; Getting Dressed; The Working Life; Fishing in the Sea of Galilee; The Vineyard; Agriculture; Olives and Their Oil; The Life of a Woman; The Jewish Calendar; The Sanhedrin; The Jerusalem Temple; Crucifixion; Death and Burial, Illness and Medicine; Magic and Miracles; and a chapter on Jesus, His Words, His World.

The author, Marc Olson, is a theologian and a former pastor. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Pacific Lutheran University, and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary. He was awarded the Seminary's International Preaching Fellowship in 2007, which resulted in a year abroad, studying and teaching with his family in Tanzania, Israel, and Palestine.

This new book will be catalogued in the church library under "REF" for "Reference", but you will probably find it in the Sunday school classrooms.

Publisher: Sparkhouse Family, 2017

Age Range: 10-13 years

Grade Level: 4-6

Ruth Kuntz
Library Committee



Our Adult Library

"The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness"

By Michelle Alexander

Quoted from the book cover:

"Once in a great while a book comes along that changes the way we see the world and helps to fuel a nationwide social movement. 'The New Jim Crow' is such a book. Praised by Harvard Law Professor Lani Guinier as 'brave and bold' this book directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that 'we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it'. By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control -- relegating millions to a permanent second-class status--even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. In the words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a 'call to action'.

"The Bible of a social movement"

"A troubling and profoundly necessary book"

"Carefully researched, deeply engaging, and thoroughly readable"

"An explosive debut"

"If you care even a little about racial justice,

'The New Jim Crow' should be on your bookshelf"

San Francisco Chronicle

The Miami Herald

Publishers Weekly

Kirkus Reviews

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Michelle Alexander is a highly acclaimed civil rights lawyer, advocate, and legal scholar. She is currently an associate professor of law at Ohio State Univ. She once served as Law Clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackman.

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, Kathy Fait, know of any changes.

She can be reached at mom2hdal@yahoo.com or 319-541-4551

FEBRUARY 2018	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
4	Hayden Beerends Jeanna Otto	Larry and Sandy Miller Katie Hoefer Nicole Day	Kevin and Tina Koepnick
11	Jim and Diane Jetter	Ann Gabel Sally Strang Bill & Janet Williams	Kathy Thede-Reynolds Bruce Reynolds
18	Connie Parsons Jessica Welburn-Paige	Thomasin Jury Yvette Jury Bob Jury Candace Noble	Gloria Hanson Bea Hicks
25	Kate Edwards Derek Lehman	Leah DeGrazia Jean Willard Ellis Chen Sharon Garton	Steven and Sue Wolken

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Satur-
				1 - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rock- wood Hall	2	3
4 - 5th Sunday After Epiphany Worship 10:15 - Choir 9:00 Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship	5	6 - Diaconate 6:30 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7 pm	7 - Staff Meeting 10:30 am - Weekly Medita- tion Noon in the Chapel	8 - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rock- wood Hall	9	10
11 - 6th Sunday After Epiphany 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship	12	13	14 ASH WEDNES- DAY - Weekly Medi- tation Noon in the Chapel. - FRC Lunch- eon Noon in Rockwood Hall - Pancake Sup- per 5:30 pm - Ash Wednes- day Worship 7:00 pm	15 - Women's Lunch at 11:45 am at Vesta in Coralville.	16	17 - Men's Breakfast at the Hamburg Inn, Linn St in Iowa City 8:00 am
18 - 7th Sunday After Epiphany 10:15 - Choir 9 - Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship	19	20 - Membership 5:30 pm - Stewardship Board 7 pm - Trustees 7 pm	21 - Weekly Medi- tation Noon in the Chapel.	22 - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rock- wood Hall	23	24
25 - 8th Sunday After Epiphany Worship 10:15 - Choir 9 - Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship	26	27 - Church Council Meet- ing 7:00 pm	28 - Weekly Medi- tation Noon in the Chapel.	Mar 1 - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rock- wood Hall		



**Happy moments.
Happy thoughts.
Happy dreams.
Happy feelings.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**2/3 Beth Parker
Grace Stacey**

2/5 Steven Hanson

2/10 Frank Snider

2/11 McKenzie Brown

2/13 Steve Bowers

2/14 Laura Ghabel

2/15 Sharyn Reitz

2/21 Nicole Pearson

2/23 Ethan Buck

2/24 Eugene Buck

**2/27 Nicole Neems
Taylor McBurney**

2/28 Tom Mittman

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 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