



## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ APRIL 2018



Friends in Christ:

As you know, this year we celebrate Easter on April 1, a day associated with folly and frivolity, with jokes and jests.

In some ways the mood is a radical departure from Lent at Congregational UCC this year. During the days of Lent we engaged in the vulnerable work of opening ourselves to the broken places in our lives and in our world.

We brought broken items large and small, things that don't work, things that are damaged and shattered—symbols, perhaps of our own lives. Led by Connie Schumm, members have transformed these items into a stunning visual work of art that expresses both brokenness and healing.

We gathered before worship to talk about illness and separation and trauma and death—not easy topics for a Sunday morning. And as we talked about these things, we also found ourselves talking about healing and restoration and renewal and what might even be called the power of the resurrection.

We've gathered in the sanctuary to listen as scripture told about being alone in broken places, being judged in broken places. And as we listened we also heard that we are together in broken places, that we receive and give compassion in broken places, and that we even found a sense of generosity and joy in those places.

As Easter dawns, we find ourselves and our world still broken and at the same time called to a new wholeness.

Dr. Paul Brand is a hand surgeon, and as such is familiar with the delicate structure of the hand and the damage that can come to it. Reflecting on the resurrection, he writes: "One of the things I find most astonishing is that, though we think of the future life as something perfected, when the risen Christ appeared to his disciples, he said, 'Come and look at my hands.' Why did he want to keep the wounds of his humanity? Wasn't it because he wanted to carry back with him an eternal reminder of the sufferings of those on earth? He carried the marks of his suffering so he could continue to understand the needs of those suffering. He wanted to be forever one with us."

The *risen* Christ is still the *wounded* Christ.

As Easter people, we are still wounded people.

Even so, we celebrate, we give thanks, we rejoice. Traditionally the season of Easter extends for seven weeks. This year we begin our rejoicing on April 1 and maybe that can help us understand both our brokenness and the new life of the resurrection.

For centuries in Europe, the time following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (such Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

Limping and laughing, we greet the dawn of a new day.

Peace,

*Bill*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

## MILESTONES

Chris and Amy Lewis and family welcomed a new baby girl, Malia Kay Lewis, on March 16. Congratulations!

## IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| •April 1, Easter Sunday            | Breakfast starting at 8:15 a.m.; Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. |
| •April 8, Second Sunday of Easter  | Celebration of Communion during worship.  |
| •April 15, Third Sunday of Easter  | Children's Easter Pageant   |
| •April 22, Fourth Sunday of Easter | Spring Music Sunday   |



## HAVE BREAKFAST WITH US ON EASTER MORNING

Join with UCC members for Easter Sunday Breakfast starting at 8:15 a.m. The Men's Fellowship will be cooking pancakes, eggs and more! This is free and everyone is welcome! The breakfast will be followed by the Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. featuring brass music.

## MEMBER OUTINGS

The Women's Lunch will be on **Thursday, April 19, beginning at 11:45 at El Dorado located at 102 2nd Ave in Coralville.** Please call or email the office to reserve your seat at the table! The men of the church will meet for breakfast on **Saturday, April 21, at the Encounter Café, 356 S. Clinton St. at 8:00 a.m.**

## UCC HOSTS FREE LUNCH IN APRIL



It's our turn to host the Free Lunch in on April 30th. A sign-up sheet will be 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.

## FREE MAGAZINES!

Our library has accumulated several years of magazines. Instead of simply recycling them, we will place some of them in the magazine rack in the narthex near the coats. These are to take as you wish and do not need to be returned. Others will be added as needed.

## OGHS UPDATE

The current total of our 2018 OGHS offering is very close to \$3000.00. Stay tuned—there may be more!

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Thanks to every person who volunteered and submitted reflections for our 2018 Lenten Devotional Book. As members of the congregation have used these reflections to add to their prayer time during Lent, it is obvious that each of you took this task very seriously and contributed thoughtful and inspiring words. I hope this will be an annual project of Christian Education, so that we can continue to share our faith with each other in such a meaningful way.

Rev. Patte Henderson

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### JOHNSON COUNTY CROP WALK - SUNDAY, APRIL 8

The Crisis Center of Johnston County got a big boost in its fight against hunger from the 2017 CROP Hunger Walk with a donation of almost \$7000 for those in our community who are food insecure. And the CROP Hunger Walk hopes to raise even more this year in April.

Because of the generosity of the supporters of the Johnston County CROP Hunger Walk and other funding sources, neighbors could visit the Johnson County Food Bank more frequently than ever in a calendar year: 52,703 visits total. During those 52,703 visits, 12,590 people received nearly 1.6 million pounds of food from the Food Bank, which was the most ever distributed. Surprisingly, 41% of the people served were under 18; almost half were minors in need of meals. Over half, 54%, of the families served had at least one working adult.

#### **CROP Hunger Walk: A National Movement**

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service, an organization fighting hunger since the end of World War II. Participants include members of religious organizations, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger in the United States and around the world. Twenty-five percent of the money raised during the local walk stays in the community to combat hunger. In 2017, 906 CROP Hunger Walks were held nationwide. This year's participants raised about \$9,100,000, roughly a quarter of which supported 1,572 food banks, homeless shelters, soup kitchens and more in the U.S (<https://cwsannualreport.org/north-america/crop-hunger-walk/>).

**How can you help?** For the upcoming CROP Hunger Walk, there will be two Open Houses to collect your donation envelopes and educational materials: Zion Lutheran Church @310 North Johnson Street and Christ the King @ 325 Mormon Trek Boulevard. Both will be open from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup>. **The 2018 Johnson County CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30pm beginning in the dining room at the 1105 Project, 1105 Gilbert Court, next door to the Crisis Center.** Registration will begin at 1:00. To register and stay up to date and get more information, you can visit us online at [www.crophungerwalk.org/iowacityia](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/iowacityia) and/ or follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/johnsoncountycrophungerwalk](https://www.facebook.com/johnsoncountycrophungerwalk)



### NEWS FROM THE COMMON FUND

In February, the Common Fund's contributions to the Emergency Assistance Program provided 19 housing and utility assists for those in our community. Of those, 5 were for rent/deposits for new housing, 5 were electric bills, and 9 were water bills. Through money budgeted in our General Fund, Congregational UCC will give \$2,000 to the Common Fund this year.

Here's one story about the difference our giving makes:

VeVe is a single mom that has not been able to work for the past few months due to serious health issues. Because of this, she fell behind on her water bill while trying to afford rent, electricity and food for her family.

Money from the CRC's Common Fund was used to get the bill paid in full and enabled VeVe to get caught up on her bills. The Crisis Center also worked with VeVe to get her late fee waived, greatly reducing her past due amount.

VeVe says her daughters have been working hard to help her around the house while she's been sick. For her, she says, her family's well-being is the most important thing. "Every day I'm with my daughters is a good day. If we're together, they make me fight, they motivate me. For me that's the greatest motivation that I need; the love for my girls."

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN TO PRESENT EASTER PAGEANT



Our children will be presenting a musical pageant during Sunday morning worship on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The story is based on the text of John 21: 1-19, the post-Resurrection story of Jesus meeting the disciples on the beach of Lake Capernaum. The title is **Breakfast on the Beach**, a wonderful story of forgiveness and reconciliation that you won't want to miss. The children are hard at work learning lines and creating props, generating lots of excitement for this new presentation. Please plan on joining us on April 15<sup>th</sup> for this special event.

### MISSION BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATE

Open your hearts and clean out your cubboards! We are again partnering with Iowa City Compassion to help newly arrived immigrants in Iowa City with houseware items. Needed items include: dishes, glassware, pots and pans, kitchen towels etc. **Bedding is not needed at this time.** Please bring in your items to church in marked boxes. Questions or need items picked up? Call Paula Forest at 319-541-2083

### NAMIWalks 2018

The NAMIWalks for Johnson County is getting ready for the 2018 WALK on **April 28**. As NAMIWalks celebrates its 16th anniversary, we invite you to take part in NAMI's largest and most successful mental health awareness and fundraising event in the country. When you walk with NAMI, you join the movement to raise awareness of mental illness and raise funds for our mission to help individuals and families right here in our region. Register today and join us as we improve lives and our communities one step at a time. **If you need more info, you can contact Paula Forest at [paula-forest@uiowa.edu](mailto:paula-forest@uiowa.edu) or the NAMI organization directly at 319-337-5400 or [walks@namijc.org](mailto:walks@namijc.org).**



### OLD CAPITOL CRITERIUM HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 29

The arrival of spring brings renewed activity in downtown Iowa City—Friday evening music, movies on the Pentecrest, and more. Some events occur on Sunday morning and impact traffic patterns and parking around Congregational UCC.

The Old Capitol Criterium, the annual bike race, will be held on Sunday, April 29. After road construction two years, the race has returned to its previous route. This means that there will be better access to the church—including the Jefferson St. parking lot, which can be reached by driving south on Clinton from Market St.—on Sunday morning. Clinton Street will be closed between Burlington and Jefferson Streets, however. Traffic will be re-routed and street parking will be limited. All of this means that it will be a great morning to walk a little farther to worship! Start out a little earlier—or ride your bike—and join us for worship that morning at 10:15.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### COLLECTING FOR THE CRISIS CENTER FOOD BANK AND SHELTER HOUSE

We will be collecting items for the Food Bank and Shelter House in May and June. 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.

#### SHELTER HOUSE

Deodorant. Toothpaste, Razors  
Men's Underwear  
Over-the-counter Medications: Antihistamine, Sinus Medication, Acetaminophen, DayQuil  
Hotel/sample sizes of Shampoo, Conditioner, & Lotion, Foot Powder, Ear Plugs, Facial Tissues  
Laundry Detergent (high efficiency & regular)  
Grocery Store Gift Cards  
Iowa City/Coralville bus passes or strip tickets Men & Women's Work Clothes (particularly white shirts & black pants)

*Please note: they do not accept chlorine bleach*

#### FOOD BANK

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

### THE SENTENCING PROJECT CONCERT

The Sentencing Project, which compiles state-level criminal justice data from a variety of sources, tells us that the racial disparity in incarceration rates for black and white U.S. residents in the state of Iowa is 11.1:1 - a statistic that should give all of us pause. As an extension of our growing understanding of the issues related to race and mass incarceration and our study of *The New Jim Crow*, a group from the church plans to attend the Oakdale Community Choir concert on April 28th at 1:30 PM at Oakdale Prison. Nearly every week since 2009, around 30 inmates (the Inside Singers) and 30 outside volunteers (the Outside Singers) compose original songs, share written reflections, and perform together as the Oakdale Community Choir at Oakdale Prison for incarcerated audiences and outside guests. We encourage those in our church who are interested in music and/or racial justice and the prison system in Iowa to join us as we attend the concert at Oakdale Prison. Space is limited so one must sign up to attend! Please contact Beth Oakes if you are interested in attending the event with church members and she will let you know next steps. Beth's email is [beth@geneandbeth.com](mailto:beth@geneandbeth.com). Information about the Oakdale Community Choir can be found at <http://oakdalechoir.lib.uiowa.edu>.

### FASTRAC IN NOT OUT

Help send Iowa students to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Civil Rights landmarks and museums in the South this summer. This journey exposes them to college environments and teaches about the important struggles of the Civil Rights Movement. Cities on the tour will include Memphis, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Atlanta. Stops and tours will include the Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum, the National Civil Rights Museum built around the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was killed, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the Freedom Ride Museum, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and others. **Please join us on the evening of April 19, 6-9 p.m., at Old Brick Church to celebrate the successes of FasTrac students and learn more about our work in the community. A variety of engaging speakers and entertainment is planned.** QUESTIONS? Contact [fastraciowacity@gmail.com](mailto:fastraciowacity@gmail.com) or (319) 936-6611.

# Our Children's Library

## "Grit and Grace: Heroic Women of the Bible"

Author: Caryn Rivadeneira

Illustrator: Katy Betz

Preteen girls and boys will find our new book interesting and thought-provoking. It contains creative first-person retellings of the stories of eighteen women. Some of these women are barely mentioned in the Bible, but God worked through them as he does with people today. These are some of the super-heroes of the Bible!

After a powerful foreword by Sarah Bessey and a moving introduction by the author, the reader encounters stories of imperfect, brave, and extraordinary women. We are reminded that there are still strong, smart, feisty, and determined women in our world who are doing God's work. It is hoped that these stories will help young people realize that their life matters.

The author, Caryn Rivadeneira, is on the worship staff of Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church and lives in a Chicago suburb. She is the author of seven books – for children and adults. In her Introduction she says, "My favorite thing about the Bible is that God gave it to us to be wrestled with and wondered about."

Rivadeneira included things in each chapter to help readers think about what they have read: (1) Fast Facts – tidbits to help you look at some of the issues these women faced; (2) Think About It – Questions to reflect upon after reading; (3) Get the Full Story – References to the Bible to read what those writers said about these women; (4) Prayer Prompt – Something for the reader to talk to God about.

Publisher: Minneapolis, MN: Sparkhouse Family, 2017

Age Range: 8-12 years

Grade Level: 3-7

Ruth Kuntz

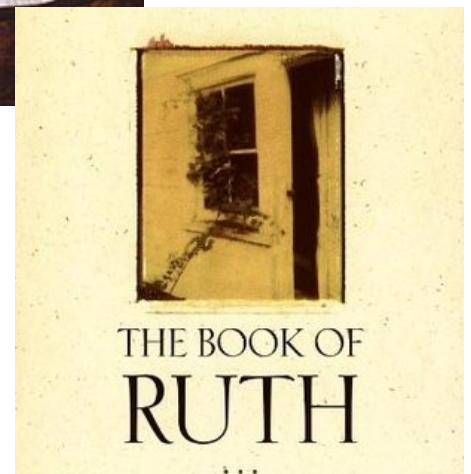
Library Committee



*Rachel*



*Rebecca*



# Our Adult Library

## "Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family and Church"

By Sarah Griffith Lund

Quoted from the book cover:

"Sarah Griffith Lund takes the lid off mental illness in this raw, honest look at her father's battle with bipolar disorder, the helpless sense of déjà vu as her brother struggles with his own mental illness, and serving as spiritual advisor for her cousin, a mentally ill man executed for murder. Through the challenges and despair, she shows how churches can be safe havens for people who have brain diseases and for their loved ones."

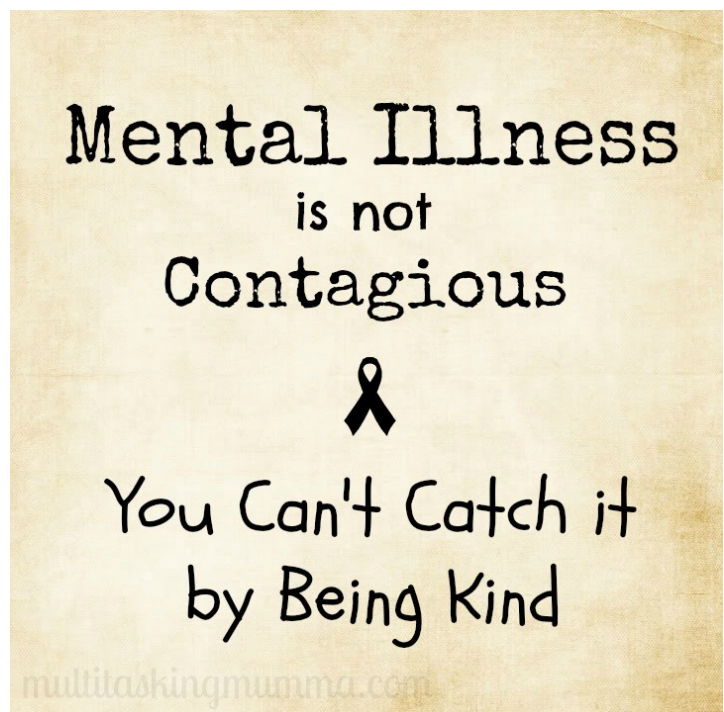
"Sarah's gift to us is not that she answers all the questions. It is that she tells us the truth. She writes about the stories we are told to hide."

"A brave and beautiful memoir, told with compassion and tenderness, that will open up conversations about some of the most neglected, shadowy corners in our human experience."

"Sarah affirms that to tell the true story is to heal. Her faith comes alive in the telling and we, as readers, can find hope in her words."

Sarah Griffith Lund is a Regional Minister on the Conference staff of the United Church of Christ in Florida. She has served churches in Brooklyn, Minneapolis, and New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee





# Our Adult Library

## "It's Not Yet Dark: A Memoir"

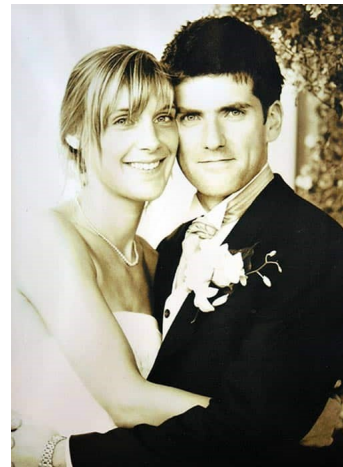
By Simon Fitzmaurice

Quoted from Barnes and Noble review:

"In Simon Fitzmaurice's extraordinary new memoir, the young filmmaker, husband, and father of five draws us deeply into his inner world through simply expressed and beautifully stark prose. When Fitzmaurice was diagnosed with ALS and told he had only four more years to live, he went against all prevailing medical opinion and chose to be put on a ventilator in order to stay alive. "It's Not Yet Dark", written using an eye-gaze computer, offers an astonishing journey into a life that, though brutally compromised, is lived more fully than most, revealing at its core the potent power love has to carry us through."

Simon Fitzmaurice was an award-winning writer and film director, holding honors in master's degrees in both Anglo-Irish literature and drama, and film theory and production. He recently died in Oct of 2017 after living in Greystones, Ireland. This book (published in 2017) was originally published in Ireland in 2014.

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, Shelagh Hayreh, know of any changes.  
She can be reached at [shelagh\\_hayreh@yahoo.com](mailto:shelagh_hayreh@yahoo.com)

<b>APRIL 2018</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Ethen Buck Hayden Beerends</b>	<b>Amy and Cindy Woodhouse Roger and Melissa Jensen</b>	<b>Dwight and Connie Schumm</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Michelle Birt-Leeds Sharon Garton</b>	<b>Edie Roberts John Johnson Rick and Phyllis Ruppert</b>	<b>Raven and Courtney Rowe</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Jean Willard Ellis Chen</b>	<b>Chris and Vernetta Knapp Dale and Patty Roberts</b>	<b>James Robinson Megan Carnes</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Jennifer Hrabe Noel Carver</b>	<b>Amanda Bouma Thomazin Jury Jacob Wells Vicki Thomae</b>	<b>Gloria and Bob Hanson</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Emily Legel James O'Neil</b>	<b>Hope and Matt Spragg Carroll Hanson Bill Dickinson</b>	<b>Ginny and Bryan Clemons</b>

# APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>Worship 10:15 w/ Brass</b> <b>Breakfast 8:15 am</b> Choir 9:00 Church School 9:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	<b>4</b> - Staff Mtg 10:30 am - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rockwood Hall - Weekly Meditation Noon - Knitting Group 2 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> - 1st Sunday after Easter Worship 10:15 - Communion - Choir 9:00 Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall - CROP WALK 1:30 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> - Weekly Meditation Noon in the Chapel  - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rockwood Hall	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> - 2nd Sunday After Easter 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Children's Easter Pageant - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> - Membership 5:30 pm - Stewardship Board 7 pm - Trustees 7 pm	<b>18</b> - Staff Mtg 10:30 am - Weekly Meditation Noon	<b>19</b> - Women's Lunch at 11:45 am at El Dorado in Coralville.  - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rockwood Hall	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> - Men's Breakfast at the Encounter Café.
<b>22</b> - 3rd Sunday After Easter 10:15 - Special Music Sunday - Choir 9 - Church School 9:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> - Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> - Weekly Meditation Noon in the Chapel.  - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rockwood Hall	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> - 4th Sunday After Easter Worship 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hal OLD CAPITAL CRITERIUM	<b>30</b> -UCC hosts Free Lunch Noon					



*4/1 Bill Hoefer  
Ellis Chen*

*4/6 Jerry Walker*

*4/7 Del Brown*

*4/9 Grace Whittaker*

*4/12 Mary Lea Kruse  
Darius Ghabel-Lopez*

*4/15 Magill Schumm*

*4/19 Ann Ghabel*

*4/20 Amanda Bouma*

*4/22 Randee Fieselmann*

*4/25 Patty Roberts  
Jacob Koepnick*

*4/26 Anna Whittaker*

*4/27 Robert McFarland*

*4/29 Jo Bowers  
Maggie Keogh*

*4/30 Oscar Lewis*

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

APRIL 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**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>The Rev. William Lovin</b>
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 .....uccicce@uccic.org  
Children's Choir Dir....colette.nakielski@gmail.com  
Communication Assist....cpatramanis@yahoo.com

**Visit our Web Site:** [www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)