



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
MARCH 2018



Friends in Christ—

This year March takes us all the way to the end of Lent, as Easter is Sunday, April 1. During this month of longer days and (we hope) warmer temperatures, our bodies have the opportunity to relax a little. We've made it through the cold and snow; we've avoided or overcome the colds and flu. With mud and rain, spring summons us to new life.

At the same time, we continue to explore what it means to be "in the broken places" this Lent. Through conversations and worship and art we keep daring to look at those places and situations, the institutions and relationships that are in some way shattered and in need of repair. At a recent adult education session, we discovered that it can help to consider our contributions to our congregation-wide art project—those broken items, those things that don't work, those things that can't or won't be used again—as a way to reflect on this broken world.

What we find in the broken places is not always what we would expect. We find isolation *and* community. We find judgment *and* forgiveness. We find sorrow *and* joy. As we look and listen, we even find God present in new and surprising ways.

Yes, there is more - much more - to life than our brokenness and the brokenness of this world. But sometimes when we look in those places we can better see the healing, the abundance, and the wholeness that surrounds us. Lent gives us that opportunity. We look at who we are. And in the final week of Lent, this year the final week of March, we look closely at Jesus who broke bread and who was himself broken.

And in doing so we might better see the light of resurrection on Easter and better hear the good news that Christ is risen and calls us into new life.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Please remember to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening so that you get to church on time.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

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|------------------------------------|---|
| •March 25 Palm Sunday | Worship with Distribution of Palms, 10:15 |
| •March 29 Maundy Thursday | Congregational Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm
Communion and Service of Tenebrae |
| •March 30, Good Friday | Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon |
| •April 1, Easter Sunday | Breakfast starting at 8:30 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 |

MEMBER OUTINGS

The Women's Lunch will be on **Thursday, March 15, beginning at 11:45 at Mosely's BBQ at 525 Gilbert Street in Iowa City.** Please call or email the office to reserve your seat at the table! The men of the church will meet for breakfast on **Saturday, March 17th, at the Bluebird Diner on Market Street in Iowa City at 8:00 a.m.**

FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY

Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. Because so many people enjoyed the burst of color last Easter, our Diaconate invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Tuesday, March 27.*

SOUPER BOWL UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who gave generously to the "Souper Bowl of Caring" offering after worship on February 4. We received over \$800 - our largest offering for this cause since we started in 2008! All the money raised has been sent to the food pantry at the Crisis Center.

NEW VISITATION COMMITTEE



The Membership Board invites interested members and friends to join a newly-rejuvenated Visitation Committee. This group will visit members unable to attend church, perhaps once a month. We have had such a committee in the past years. Please contact the office or Sharyn Reitz at sharynreitz@gmail.com or 319-333-9587 if you are interested in this important outreach to our congregation.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, March 25, we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation.

One Great Hour is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. It began in the Episcopal Church in 1946 when a goal of one million dollars per year was set for World Relief. That year members were challenged to raise "one million dollars in one hour." Since 1949 this

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

offering has united Christians of many denominations, including the UCC, in a common cause. In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others in standing in solidarity with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. Your generous gift will support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts. You can watch videos about the work that OGHs makes possible here: http://www.ucc.org/oghs_oghs-videos.

Let us join in this great tradition and give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.

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.

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.

JOHNSON COUNTY CROP WALK - SUNDAY, APRIL 8

Spring arrives and we get out our walking shoes for the annual CROP Walk for Hunger Relief. This year's walk will be held on Sunday, April 8, starting at 1:30 p.m., beginning in the dining room at the 1105 Project, 1105 Gilbert Court, next to the Crisis Center. Many Congregational UCC Youth and Adults know this as the location of the Free Lunch Program.

To sign up for the CROP Walk and get a sponsor sheet, please talk with Paula Forest, our Walk Coordinator, or call the church office.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

KICK OFF LUNCH FOR NAMI

NAMI Johnson County is getting ready for the 2018 WALK on **April 28**. Their KICK-OFF Lunch is --Thursday, March 8 at 11:30 at the Coralville Radisson Hotel. Call **319 -337- 5400** to make reservations. Watch for more WALK information in our weekly bulletins and monthly newsletter. If you need more info, you can contact Patte Henderson or Ruth Kuntz.

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."

COOL CONGREGATIONS: AN EARTH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Be a Cool Congregation! Add a new dimension to your stewardship program! Help your congregants make a tithe to the earth by pledging to reduce energy use, cutting carbon pollution and saving money. Attend the training workshop on Saturday, April 14, 8:30am – 12 noon, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City. Learn how to run a Cool Congregations program in your congregation. Free. Register online at iowaip.org, click "Upcoming Events". Pre-registration required by April 11.

This is the first in a series of programs addressing climate change solutions that every Iowa City resident can implement in their daily lives at home, at work, at school; at any organization. These solutions will improve the quality of life for all residents and contribute to the city's effort to reduce the carbon emissions of Iowa City.

The city of Iowa City is looking to its citizens to assist in achieving the goal of reducing the city's greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% by 2025 and 80% by 2050. This series of programs will give citizens a hands-on way to take practical action to be part of the local climate solution in Iowa City.

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**.

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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, as well as Alabama State University, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Georgia State University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, 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 or (319) 936-6611.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LITTLE CREATIONS DAYCARE

Little Creations Academy, Inc., the licensed daycare center of the New Creations International Church, 2929 East Court Street, Iowa City, has a need for adult volunteers to fill three openings on Monday through Friday, working with paid staff members. Two volunteers will be utilized for the preschool classroom (one at 9am-1pm; the other at 1pm-4pm). The third volunteer would work from 12pm-3pm, floating to provide breaks for other staff members. Volunteers' schedules can be arranged to allow sharing of these positions. Classroom volunteers will not be the primary care providers. They will work alongside the teachers and help with basic care of the children (e.g. hand washing, prepping for and cleaning up after activities, helping to serve and clean-up after meals, and overall supervision of the children) in the classroom they are in. Lesson plans and activities will be determined by paid staff. Volunteers won't be responsible for any diapering. Little Creations Academy requires volunteers to have a state background check and doesn't require volunteers to have experience working with children.

Volunteers may qualify for compensation via the Foster Grandparents (FG) program. Foster Grandparents are volunteers ages 55 or older who serve 15 to 40 hours per week in parochial schools, daycares, or community centers. Foster Grandparents may be eligible for a tax-free stipend to supplement income, as well receiving transportation or travel reimbursement. In Johnson County, contact Julie Lefebure ([563-580-0458](tel:563-580-0458) or jlefebure@uwiservice.org) about this program. The FG program would cover all costs related to the background check.

For volunteers not participating in the FG program, Little Creations Academy will cover the costs related to the background check. If you are interested in one of these volunteer positions, or have further specific questions, please contact Little Creations Academy director Kimana Pearson at 319-499-1764 or via littleacademy@gmail.com. They are looking to fill these positions as soon as possible, ideally no later than March 1st.

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



Our Children's Library

"Psalms for Young Children"

Author: Marie-Hélène Delval

Illustrator: Arno

The adults in our church have a packet of Lenten devotions to read and ponder during Lent. This 2008 book for children is new to our collection of children's books. It contains paraphrases of psalms in language appropriate for young readers. They express feelings familiar to children: fear, uncertainty, comfort, contentment, amazement, and gratitude. The 38 psalms could be used singly in the same way that adults read their daily Lenten devotion.

The font is large and easily readable. The paintings of exotic settings with bold outlines and rich colors feature children in the natural world. The book received The Association of Theological Booksellers "Theologos Award for Best Children's Book" in 2008. It is catalogued in the children's section of the church library under "Old Testament," but will be displayed in Rockwood Hall during March when it is not being used.

Publisher: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2008

Age Range: 4-8 years

Grade Level: K-3

Are your children asking questions about Lent and Easter? We have a large collection of relevant books shelved under "Holidays" in the church library. You might want to look at the following (age and grade via Amazon.com) books which are displayed in Rockwood Hall.

The Easter Story by Carol Heyer

Three Easter Journeys by Ro Willoughby

A World of Holidays: Easter by Catherine Chambers

The Very First Easter by Paul Maier

The Easter Story by Brian Wildsmith

Ages 4+, Grades 2-3

Ages 8 and up

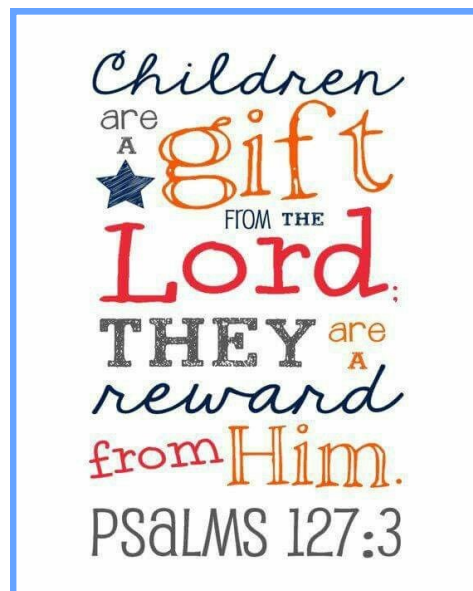
Ages 8 and up

Ages 4-8, PreSchool-2

Ages 5-8, Grades 1-2

Ruth Kuntz

Library Committee



Our Adult Library

"The Butterfly Mosque"

By G. Willow Wilson

Quoted from the book cover:

"The butterfly Mosque" is American writer and journalist G. Willow Wilson's remarkable story of converting to Islam and falling in love with an Egyptian man in a volatile post-9/11 world.

Inspired by her experience during a college Islamic Studies course, Wilson, who was raised an atheist, decides to risk everything to convert to Islam and embark on a fated journey across continents and into an uncertain future. She settles in Cairo where she throws herself into a culture based on her adopted religion and where she meets Omar, a man with a mild resentment of the Western influences in his homeland. They begin a daring relationship that calls into question the very nature of family, belief, and tradition. Torn between the secular West and Muslim East, Wilson records her intensely personal attempt to forge a "third Culture" that might accommodate her values without compromising them or the friends and family on both sides of the divide."

"A remarkable journey, one that illuminates the humanity in us all"

The Seattle Times

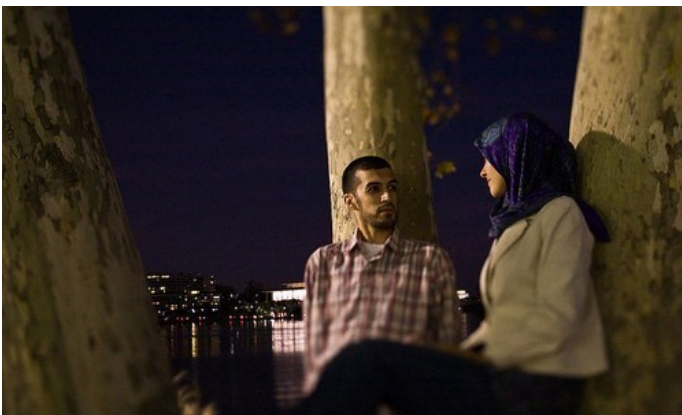
"An eye-opening look at a misunderstood and often polarizing faith"

Booklist

"The Butterfly Mosque proves a tremendously heartfelt,
healing cross-cultural fusion"

Publishers Weekly

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, Jane Murphy, know of any changes.

She can be reached at murphyjane51@gmail.com

MARCH 2018	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
4	Ed and Rebecca Keogh	Richard Valentine Kathleen Clark Lenore Maybaum	Bob and Claire Ashman
11	Eugene Buck Elizabeth Oaks	Roger and Melissa Jensen John Fuller Sheryl Amos	Mike Groff Robyn Wood-Groff
18	Margaret MacInnis Martha Ann Crawford	Karen and James Smith Deb and Stuart Cobb	Joyce Myer Ann Romanowski
25	Jo and Steve Bowers	Scott and Patricia Hansche Bill and Becky Hoefer	Steven Warren Kristy Nabhan-Warren

MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rock- wood Hall	2	3
4 - 3rd Sunday in Lent Worship 10:15 - Communion - Choir 9:00 Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rock- wood Hall After Wor- ship - New Member Pot- luck 5:30	5	6 - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	7 - Weekly Medita- tion Noon in the Chapel	8 - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rock- wood Hall	9	10 - Daylight Savings Time begins 2 am on Sunday morning.
11 - 4th Sunday in Lent 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall Af- ter Worship	12	13	14 - Staff Meeting 10:30 am - Weekly Med- itation Noon - Bill Lovin out thru 3/18	15 - Women's Lunch at 11:45 am at Mosely's BBQ on Gilbert St in Iowa City.	16	17 - Men's Breakfast at The Bluebird Diner on Market Street in Iowa City 8:00 am
SPRING BREAK						
18 - 5th Sunday in Lent 10:15 - Choir 9 - Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall Af- ter 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 - PALM SUNDAY OGHS Offering Worship 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Church School 9:15 - Choir Rehearsal 11:30 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall Af- ter Worship	26	27 - Church Council Meet- ing 7:00 pm	28 - Staff Meeting 10:30 am - Weekly Medi- tation Noon in the Chapel.	29 - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rock- wood Hall -Maundy Thursday Din- ner 5:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Wor- ship 7:00 pm	30 - Good Friday Wor- ship Noon	31



Happy Birthday

Time to Celebrate

3/1 Sandra Lacina

3/2 Sandra Miller

3/4 Barb Hanson
Ian Wells

3/5 Lyle Tonne

3/6 Melissa Reynolds

3/9 Willem Morton

3/10 James Jetter

3/13 Joan Buxton
Izzy Brown

3/15 Sylvia Woolums

3/23 Isabella Myers

3/24 Carrie Whittaker

3/29 Rebecca Keogh
Rachel Anderson

Have a doggone wonderful day!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH 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

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Office Manager.....uccicsec@uccic.org
Financial Secretary.....sharynreitz@gmail.com
Music Director... christopher-nakielski@uiowa.edu
Dir of Church Schooluccicce@uccic.org
Children's Choir Dir....colette.nakielski@gmail.com
Communication Assist....cpatramanis@yahoo.com

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org