



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
MAY 2018



Friends in Christ—

This month we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our church building. On three Sundays, May 6, 13, & 20, the 9:15 a.m. adult education sessions will explore the history and architecture of our building. We will have a festive worship service on May 20, which is also Pentecost Sunday (wear red), and after worship we will celebrate with a wonderful meal in Rockwood Hall. A great time is being planned and there is more information about our celebrations in this newsletter.

As we celebrate and give thanks, it is apparent that change is the one constant in our building and our congregation over the last 150 years. The entrance was changed, eliminating the outside stairs. The front doors keep changing. We added office space and a Christian education wing. Our sanctuary has been remodeled and reimagined several times. We finally got around to renovating the kitchen a few years ago. And now we are preparing to install a new, much-needed, user-friendly elevator.

We change our building because our lives and our world keep changing. As the old hymn tells us: "New occasions teach new duties/Time makes ancient good uncouth." We have a noble history on this corner. But while we have a past, we don't live in it. Each generation of stewards of this building have cared for it, used it, and changed it in order for it to be of service to the needs of both the current and future members. We can best give thanks for work of everyone who handed this building on to us by caring for it and shaping it ways that look toward our future.

I am grateful for this building, for the myriad of ways in which it has supported and continues to support our community, for all who care for it in ways seen and unseen. Please join us as we celebrate this month.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PENTECOST IS SUNDAY, MAY 20

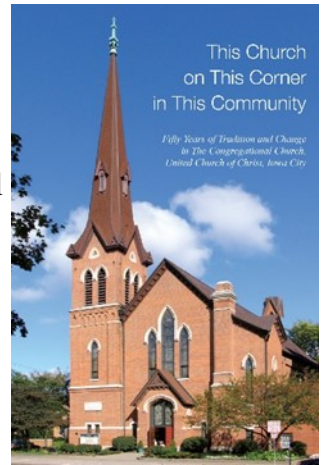
This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey “from ashes to fire.” Pentecost marks God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. As we have in recent years, we invite everyone to please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, May 20.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Each year in May we recognize high school graduates in our congregation. This year Grace Whittaker, daughter of Mark and Carrie Whittaker, will graduate from City High and will be attending Loras College in Dubuque in the fall. The Diaconate will have a book available in Rockwood Hall where you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Grace and we will celebrate her graduation on May 20th..

IF YOU MISSED YOUR OPPORTUNITY!

Our beautiful new UCC History Book, *This Church on This Corner in This Community*, will be on sale every Sunday in the month of May. Look for them in Rockwood Hall after worship services. They are \$10.00 per book and any donation toward the cost of all of them is always welcome!



Come Celebrate with Us

150th Anniversary of our Church Building with special service, music, and old-fashioned Sunday noon dinner, with strawberry desserts.

May 20, 2018

From the minutes of October 3, 1866, of the Congregational Society of Iowa City:

Our interests as a society demand that we make immediate efforts forward building a house of worship next season.

From The Iowa City Republican, January 2, 1867:

The Congregational Society has purchased the lot on the corner of Clinton and Jefferson Streets.

- The laying of the cornerstone June 9, 1868.
- The Congregational building is under roof and secure and ready for the 148 foot spire.
(Weather permitting) November 4, 1868.
- Church dedicated on December 19, 1869



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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION IN MAY

- May 6:** Church Minutes – October 3, 1866 “our interests as a society demand that we make immediate efforts toward building a house of worship next season.”
Presenter: John Fieselmann
- May 13th:** Iowa City Republican – January 2, 1867 “Neat, tasty building”
Discussion group led by James O’Neil.
- May 20th:** “The loyal Congregationalist who built our church.”
Presenter: Randee Fieselmann

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

Theme: “Building a Firm Foundation” *Luke 6: 46-49, Galatians 5: 22-26*

When: Wednesday to Friday, June 3 – 5 9:00 – Noon

What: Messy fun as we learn how to be strong in our faith: projects, games, music, snacks

Who: Ages 4 - ?



Register Now* and Bring a Friend!

*Registration forms near each door to the church. Please return to Patte Henderson or the church office.

SUMMER WORSHIP—SAME TIME, SAME PLACE

Our Sunday worship time will continue to be at 10:15 a.m. throughout the summer.

OGHS THANKS!

Thanks to everyone—adults and children—who gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday. We received over \$3,700. This money provides a valuable lifeline to refugees and victims of disasters around the world. If you still want to give, you can use the special OGHS envelopes in the pews and/or put “OGHS” in the memo line on your check.

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.

IMMEDIATE NEED: Diapers, Baby Wipes and packaged pacifiers. These can be placed in the collection box or taken directly to the Crisis Center Food Bank.

MEMBER OUTINGS

The Women’s Lunch will be on **Thursday, May 17, beginning at 11:45 at the Tuscan Moon in Kalona.** Please call or email the office to reserve your seat at the table! The men of the church will meet for breakfast on **Saturday, May 19, at the Waterfront Hy-Vee in Iowa City beginning at 8:00 a.m.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Our church served 140 lunches at the Free Lunch Program on April 30, 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, Bill Dickinson, John & Randee Fieselmann, John Fuller, Shelagh Hayreh, Betsy Henson, Marge Hoppin, Joan Jehle, Kathi Koegle, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Terri Macey, Nan Martin, Anna Mary Mueller, Linda Muston, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts, Rick Ruppert, Betty Stein, Svetlana Vanchugova and Lee Wood.

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, July 30, 2018. A signup sheet will be posted in Rockwood Hall by the first of July. As always, this wouldn't be possible without you! *Vicki Thomae*



POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN - A NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL

As we face the interconnected evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation, there is a chance to come together to lift impacted voices and work together for change.

Along with over 30 states, the Iowa Poor People's Campaign is planning a public rally in Des Moines on Monday, May 14th at 2:00-3:00 p.m. And they are holding Nonviolent Moral Fusion Direct Action Trainings to prepare for that rally.

These trainings will include:

- An overview of the history and principles of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
- Simple and fun songs
- Stories and testimonies from folks around the state impacted by systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation
- PPC's commitment to nonviolence and why that's an essential commitment for all those wishing to join in the actions
- Childcare if needed; they are also hoping to help with transportation if needed (but can't guarantee it)

TRAINING DETAILS:

Saturday, May 5, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary Community Church, 2205 E. Grantview Dr., Coralville..

Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

Attending this training does not mean you must participate in the day of action on May 14. Nor does it mean you are committing to engage in civil disobedience. This training can be a great step in connecting with other Iowans in the campaign and learning about the opportunity to join the action.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH: PEACE & NONVIOLENCE IN A TIME OF CLIMATE CHANGE

An evening of reading, reflection and book-signing with longtime activist, priest, author and Nobel peace prize nominee, John Dear, will be held on Friday, May 4, St Thomas More Church, 3000 12th Ave., Coralville. A reception will be held at 6:00 p.m. A talk, followed by a book signing and refreshments will begin at 7:00. Fr. Dear's new book, *They Will Inherit the Earth*, is a landmark work which connects the way of active nonviolence with solidarity with Creation; shows how our global epidemic of violence and war could only lead to catastrophic climate change; and why we need to help build up the global grassroots movement of nonviolence if we are to protect creation. For more information, please call: 319-337-2173 or 319-931-1185

CRISIS CENTER: FASTING ON THE 21ST

The average cost of a low-income meal is \$2.36. The average SNAP (food stamp) recipient's benefits cover only \$1.86 of each meal.

In other words, **food stamps cover about 21 days of food each month** before they run out completely, leaving individuals and families to stretch their resources to the max until the first of the next month. Without resources like the food bank, many low-income families would be without enough food in their cupboards to feed their families for over a week.

The Crisis Center is encouraging the community to give up a meal on May 21st and set up a sustainable, monthly donation of \$21. Check the box next to *Show my support by making this a recurring donation* and enter your payment details to set up a secure monthly gift of **\$21: enough to cover 2.5 families' food bank visits and get them through their time of need.** Thank you for your ongoing support.

WRITING SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED FOR THE PROJECT "LOVE LETTERS: WHAT MATTERS MOST"

In collaboration with the UNESCO City of Literature and Little Village, Honoring Your Wishes, a program of Iowa City Hospice, invites the community to submit writings based on themes from the book *The Four Things that Matter Most: A Book about Living* by Ira Byock, MD. Dr. Byock invites us all to incorporate the themes of love, forgiveness, and gratitude into our daily lives. What do we want to tell the people we love? What do we appreciate about the people in our lives? How can words help us heal? Given that we never know what tomorrow may bring, how can we honor and strengthen the relationships in our lives each day?

Inspired by the themes of love, forgiveness and gratitude, people may select one of the following:

- Write a letter to an individual who has taught you something about these themes.

- Write a reflection/story about a person who taught you to love, forgive, or express gratitude.

- Write about how incorporating these themes allowed you to be able to say goodbye to a significant person in your life.

Writings may be sent to jane.dohrmann@iowacityhospice.org, by fax at 319-351-5729, or by U.S. mail to Jane Dohrmann, Honoring Your Wishes, Iowa City Hospice, 1025 Wade Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. Please include your name, email address, and phone number.

Submissions must be limited to 1000 words and received between February 1 and July 31, 2018 to be considered for prizes. Writings will be judged by community leaders. The first prize winner will be invited to read his or her submission on Sunday evening, October 7, 2018, at the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts as a part of the UNESCO City of Literature's Iowa City Book Festival. Dr. Ira Byock will be the evening speaker. The winning entry will be printed in *Little Village* magazine.

For additional information, please go to www.honoringyourwishes.org.

RISE TO THE OCCASION—GIVE US A LIFT!

The campaign for the new elevator.

As many of you are aware, we need to replace our current elevator due to changes in the state code. Work is in progress for the new elevator installation and so is our campaign to cover the costs. We plan to raise \$200,000.00. This amount should cover all the costs of demolition, electrical updating, new construction and installation for the elevator and tuck pointing of the interior of the tower as well as giving us a “surprise” cushion for unforeseen necessities.

Work will hopefully be completed by the fall. Accommodations for those who are unable to navigate the stairs to reach the sanctuary will be available in Rockwood Hall.

Please let us know what you would like to give. Donation cards are available in the office or you may contact Nan in the office by phone or email and tell her what your contribution will be. You may take up to 4 years to donate the amount you choose. So rise to the occasion and help us get our much needed new elevator. We will all benefit from this addition to our building and improved accessibility for those coming through our doors.



Our Children's Library

"Who Counts? 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, and 2 Sons"

Authors: Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sosso

Illustrator: Margaux Meganck

Who Counts? is a recent addition to our church library. It is a contemporary retelling of the three Biblical parables with numerical themes: the good shepherd, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. The culturally diverse characters and present-day settings will be appealing to young children, and adults will appreciate the notes for parents and teachers in the back of the book. The authors give some background on the Christian tradition regarding the stories which focus on repenting and forgiving. Levine and Sosso do not intend to erase those traditions, but "seek to add a new understanding based on what we imagine Jesus' original audiences would have heard. That audience would not think that the man who lost his sheep, the woman who lost her coin, or the father who lost his older son were symbols for God. This is because God doesn't lose us. Nor would they think of the sheep and the coin as examples of repentance, because sheep and coins don't repent...In our reading, the three stories are connected. The first two stories set up the third. The main message is about counting, searching for what is missing, and celebrating becoming whole again."

Levine and Sosso suggest to parents and teachers that when we adults read parables we should ask ourselves these questions: "Where am I in the story? How am I like the man who lost his sheep, the woman who lost her coin, the father who feels he may have lost both his sons? Do I ever feel like the lost one? How am I like the younger brother who does not want to stay home? How am I like the older brother who does everything his father tells him but who does not feel that he is loved? Have I lost something, or someone, and not paid attention? Is there someone I take for granted? What, or whom, have I forgotten to count?"

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Sandy Eisenberg Sosso is the Director of Religion, Spirituality and the Arts Initiative at Butler University in Indiana. Margaux Meganck is a freelance artist and children's book illustrator in Portland, Oregon.

Publisher: Louisville, KY; Westminster John Knox Press, 2017

Age Range: 3-8 years

Grade Level: Preschool-2

Ruth Kuntz, Library Committee



Our Adult Library

"The Miracle Season"

By Kathy Bresnahan

Quoted from the book cover:

"On August 11, 2011, Caroline Found, a 17-year-old all-state volleyball player, was tragically killed in a moped accident on her way to the University of Iowa hospital to visit her terminally ill mother, Ellyn.

Caroline's death and that of her mother twelve days later shocked her Iowa City community and devastated her father Ernie Found and siblings Gregg and Catharine. Equally affected were her Iowa City West volleyball teammates and coach Kathy Bresnahan, who were counting on "Line" to lead them in their quest to repeat as state champions.

Told in author Bresnahan's straightforward manner, "The Miracle Season" chronicles how "Coach Brez" and the West team attempt to overcome their collective grief while playing the game that serves as a daily reminder of their loss. As the team struggles to replace Line, we watch Coach Brez and her players attempt to move forward through the tears, laughter and memories of their fallen teammate.

Guided by the spirit of Line, the Women of Troy regroup and go on a late season run that leads to a dramatic finish in the state championship match.

Anyone who has struggled to overcome life's challenges will appreciate this story of strength, faith, perseverance and love."

Author Kathy Bresnahan was the varsity coach at Iowa City West High from 1987-2000 and 2005-2013. She currently lives in Iowa City.



Caroline Found

Our Young Adult Library

"Becoming Madeleine; a Biography of the Author of A Wrinkle in Time"

By Her Granddaughters, Charlotte Jones Voiklis and Lena Roy

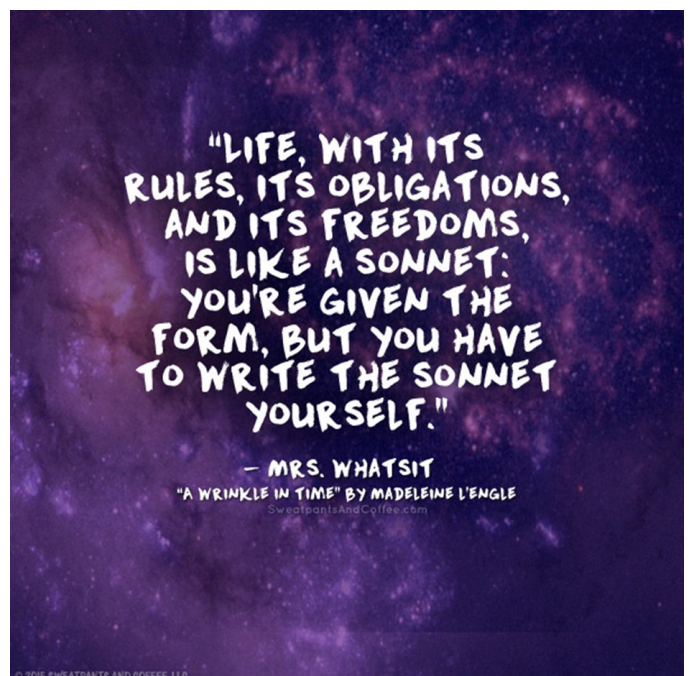
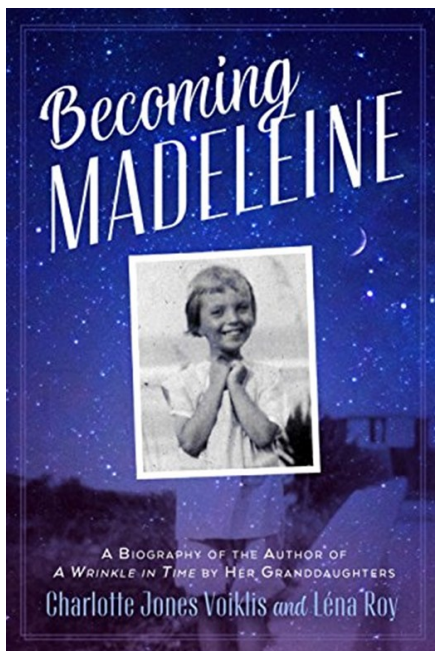
Quoted from the cover of the book:

"The story of Madeleine L'Engle, whose many works for children and adults are beloved around the world, is a story of obstacles--a lonely childhood, financial insecurity, countless rejections of her writing. But it's also a story of perseverance and triumph. Using never-before-seen archival materials that include photographs, poems, letters, and journal entries from throughout Madeleine's life, her granddaughters weave together an in-depth and unique view of the famous writer for young readers."

This biography can be found on the bookcase in Rockwood Hall or in the Adolescent section in the Church Library.

There are also many books by Madeleine L'Engle in the Library, both in the Adol section and among the Adult books. On the Library work desk, look in the 2- drawer file under L'Engle, Madeleine.

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, Vicki Thomae know of any changes.
She can be reached at vickithomae@gmail.com

MAY 2018	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
6	Isabella Myers Mark McBurney	Dick and Mary Lea Kruse Jessica Welburn-Paige Nicole Pearson	Ray and Linda Muston
13	Ann Gabel Donna Janes	Nicole Day Sally Strang Bill and Janet Williams	Kevin and Tina Koepnick
20	Heather and Ed Leighton-Dick	Anna Tracy Daniel Morgan-Harris James Savage Ron Erving	Kate Edwards Derek Lehman
27	Jane Murphy Laura Stunz`	Chris and Amy Lewis Mark and Carrie Whittaker	Jim and Diane Jetter

MAY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	2 - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rockwood Hall - Weekly Meditation Noon - Knitting Group 1 pm - Dalaie Choi Recital 7:30 pm	3	4	5
6 - Worship Service 10:15 - Communion - Choir 9:00 Church School 9:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	7	8	9 - Weekly Meditation Noon in the Chapel	10 - FRC Luncheon Noon in Rockwood Hall	11	12
13 - Worship Service 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	14	15 - Membership 5:30 pm - Stewardship Board 7 pm - Trustees 7 pm	16 - Weekly Meditation Noon in the Chapel - Knitting Group 1 pm	17 - Women's Lunch at Tuscan Moon in Kalona 11:45 am.	18	19 - Men's Breakfast at the Waterfront Hy-Vee in Iowa City at 8 am.
20 - Worship Service 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Church School 9:15 - 150th Anniversary Dinner in Rockwood Hall 11:30 am	21	22 - Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	23 - Weekly Meditation Noon in the Chapel.	24	25	26 - Dasha Wemmie Recitals 3 pm.
27 - Worship Service 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Church School 9:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall - Dasha Wemmie Recitals 3 pm	28	29	30 - Weekly Meditation Noon in the Chapel.	31	JUNE 1 - Von Behren Recitals 5:30 pm	2 - Von Behren Recitals Noon



5/5 Ed Leighton-Dick

5/6 Raven Rowe

5/14 Edie Roberts

5/16 Vea Johnson
Gloria Hanson
Barbara Sisley

5/19 John Rauer
Pat Goeldner

5/20 Judy Doorenbos
Janet Williams
Betsy Henson

5/22 Karen Smith
Courtney Nelson

5/24 Kathy Thede-Reynolds
Margaret Loghry
Megan Carnes

5/27 Cynthia Kemp

5.28 Robyn Wood Groff

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY 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
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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