



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ JULY 2018



Friends in Christ:

As the immigration crisis continues, government officials recently suggested that we heed the advice of Paul and his “clear and wise command in Romans 13 to obey the laws of the government.”

As we mark Independence Day this month, perhaps we should listen to Paul once more. Those words at the beginning of Romans 14 have long been the cudgel of tyrants. They provided the defense of those who enslaved other human beings in this nation. And they have worried the consciences of many of the faithful who have run up against unjust and even evil governments.

But Christianity always carried with it a relativizing challenge that questions all authorities less than the One holy and living God.

So we Christians have a long history of *not* following Paul’s “wise and clear command.” Before Paul even began *persecuting* Christians, let alone *joining* them, Peter stood before his accusers and stated “We must obey God rather than human authority.” This month we remember again that New England Congregationalists and others took up arms against the power of the Crown.

The German pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, struggled mightily with those words of Paul before joining the plot to assassinate Hitler.

And for obeying God rather than human authority Martin Luther King, Jr. ended up in the Birmingham jail. Members of our own congregation came close to crossing Paul’s line—if they didn’t actually cross it—in joining in solidarity with native Americans at Standing Rock.

At some of our best moments, we Christians just haven’t done a very good job of heeding Paul’s “wise and clear command.”

And we haven’t done a good job at this because at our best we don’t choose a few sentences from the Bible and take them as our marching orders.

We look for the larger context of the words of scripture that they might speak to us in even more challenging ways.

Even as we read those challenging words: “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities,” we sense that they are neither as straightforward nor as unambiguous as the attorney general thinks they are. They lead ultimately to this conclusion: “The commandments...are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”

This is where all of what Paul writes is leading us—the fulfillment that is love.

As the poet wrote: “No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.” Parents are leaving home because of love for their children. Love is the fulfillment of the law, not obedience. If our government is intent on following the “wise and clear command” of Paul, then let this administration—and we the people—acknowledge that love—not putting children in cages, not warehousing them in abandoned big-box stores, not imprisoning them with their parents—but love is the fulfillment of the law.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, July 1, we will mark the end of the Iowa City Jazz Festival with a jazz worship service at 10:15 a.m. The Dick Watson quartet will provide the music for our worship. Please join us—and bring some friends along.

UCC HOSTING JULY FREE LUNCH

It's our turn to host the Free Lunch in July (July 30). 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. Vicki Thomae



IT'S ALMOST PICNIC TIME!

It's warm....the sun is staying up awfully long....I'm very hungry....that must mean it's time for this year's Congregational UCC Summer Picnic!!!

Date: Sunday, July 22 **Time:** 5-7 pm

Place: City Park Shelter #12

Membership Brings: Pulled BBQ pork and pulled BBQ chicken sandwiches (adults) and hot dogs (kids)

You bring: Dinnerware, drink, lawn chairs (optional); side dish or dessert (OK, you can bring both if you want to!)

Also: Fascinating and delightful conversation. Getting acquainted with new members and getting ever better acquainted with long time members. See you there! Kevin Koepnick

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WOMEN'S JULY LUNCH NEWS

The Women's Lunch will be on July 19 beginning at 11:45 am. They will meet at the **Tabooleh Restaurant** located at **210 2nd Street in Coralville**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



IOWA UCC RAGBRAI TEAM

The Iowa UCC RAGBRAI team this year will consist of 16 riders. They will be coming into Iowa City on Saturday, July 27. At press time we are considering hosting the team, allowing them to sleep at the church that night. The riders would like showers, however, and that's where our members come in. If you can offer your shower to a rider, please call the church office—337-4301—and let Nan know.

WELCOME BACK TO STUDENTS

On August 17 our congregation will again welcome students to Iowa City and the new school year with cookies and lemonade. So many students walk by our front door that first weekend before classes begin and we want them to know they are welcome here in our church. It is hard to pass up a free cookie, so we have a chance to speak with many students.



The Membership Committee needs volunteers for two shifts, from 11:00am to 1:00 pm and from 1:00 pm to 3:00pm. We will also need cookies. If you have not provided cookies or bars recently this would be a great time to help with the baking. Baked goods should be brought to the church kitchen by 10:30 am on Friday, August 17. Please contact the church office if you are able to help in person or with cookies.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRESSIVE DINNER



Please mark your calendar for our progressive dinner on **Saturday, September 29, 2018**. As in the past, we will all meet at one home for appetizers. Then, in small groups of 8 to 12, we will go to other homes for the catered dinner. After dinner, we will gather at a different home for desserts. This is always a special event for fellowship. Please don't miss it. You are sure to learn at least one fascinating fact about another member of our congregation that evening, reinforcing your experience that we are a uniquely interesting group!

REFLECTIONS FROM A PASTORAL COUNSELOR

With mid-term elections about 4 months from now, we may be hearing many politicians talk about "traditional family values," often leaving the impression that one size fits all. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been a victim of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. NCADV adds that on a typical day there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide, while an average of 20 people experience intimate partner physical violence every minute--which equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually.

Further, the Huffington Post reports from 2001-2012 US troops in Afghanistan suffered 6488 deaths, while 11,766 women were murdered by their current or ex male partner in the US during those same years. Gives a new meaning to "home sweet home." Studies indicate anywhere from 20 to 33% of female teens have experienced violence while dating.

So, it may be beneficial to ask those running for office and promoting "traditional family values" if they favor the violent or non-violent tradition.

Bruce

For more information, please visit the CPCS website at <http://www.cpcsofiowacity.org>.)

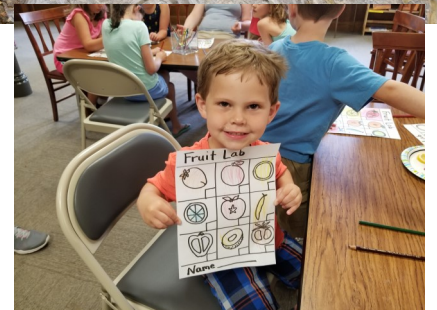
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS AND FUN TOO!

Our Vacation Bible School theme, “Building a Firm Foundation,” was based on 2 biblical ideas: the parable of the 2 foundations (Luke 6: 46-49) and the Apostle Paul’s teachings on the Holy Spirit’s fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-26). Through the construction of a building using stone and cement and a building use wooden blocks on sand, we learned which foundation lasted when assailed by a torrent of water. So our first lesson was that our “foundations” requires a solid base.

The second lesson taught us that with that foundation, the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the positive behaviors that lead us to live faith-filled lives: love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Through lessons on the meaning of how to live each of these “fruit,” including singing, art-work, examining real fruit, and games, everyone seemed to be inspired to live lives full of these fruit. The yummy fruit snacks each day added to the learning fun.

Twenty children of our church attended the 3-day event, with 7 very helpful adults insuring the enriching quality of the learning. They are Tina Koepnick, Cynthia Kemp, Ed Keogh, Claire Ashman, Kevin Richards, Patte Henderson, and Diane Jeter, our faithful snack preparer. Thanks to everyone, child and adult, who added fun, creativity and meaning to our VBS!



A NIGHT OF HOPE

Robert and Claire Ashman and Donna Hirst attended the Night of Hope Service in Clinton, Iowa the evening of June 15. This service was held in support of the Bethel A.M.E. church which was vandalized with racial graffiti two weeks earlier. Approximately 20 people went from Iowa City; Bob, Claire and I got to ride in a 16 person van which was much easier than driving.

The service was Friday night, and people came from all over Eastern Iowa. Clinton's Bethel A.M.E. church is likely close to 100% African American; the building is a large old stone church - probably once Catholic. The sanctuary was larger than our church's and the stained glass windows, woodwork, and fixtures were beautiful. The church was filled to near capacity, with approximately half black and half white worshippers. The music was excellent with several solos and classic strong African American vocals. Six separate ministers spoke including Iowa City's Anthony Smith who is the head of the Johnson County Interfaith Cluster. They had a roll call of all the churches represented.

Rev. Clark Olson-Smith, who is the current leader of the Clinton County Interfaith Cluster, talked about the organization that is forming in Eastern Iowa, and I think that most of the attendees were very pleased to be part of this event which was the first regional gathering of these churches. I found the service to be inspirational, and it was exciting to be part of a very important gathering to address racism and racial injustice.

Our church joined the Johnson County Interfaith Cluster last March. The organization informally called JCIC was founded in 2017. Currently about 16 Iowa City churches have joined including the local synagogue and the mosque. Additional churches are in the process of joining. The vision of JCIC is to build a multi-cultural, faith-based community organization that advocates justice for the residents of Johnson County, IA as well as for those who live beyond it. The member organizations of JCIC, with the support of the Gamaliel Network and in covenant with Quad Cities Interfaith, commit to a long-term, productive collaboration that creates justice, especially for persons of color experiencing racial and economic inequality in the county, region, and state.

JCIC is currently organized into three tiers. The executive committee is composed of leaders from the local African American churches. A cluster group composed of one or two members from each of the participating churches meets monthly, and I am our church's representative. Each participating church is building one or more core teams, and our church has begun this process. James Robinson has volunteered to be the core team coordinator for our congregation. Training sessions to build relationships between institutions and individuals are held regularly and to date Bob Ashman, Donna Hirst, James Robinson, and Megan Carnes have gone through the 6 hour training. About six additional members from the congregation are currently working with their schedules in order to take the training. I am very pleased to be a part of a group taking positive steps to counter racial injustice, and these activities seem like a fitting complement to work our church began with an in depth adult education class and the formation of two subsequent white privilege book clubs.

Donna Hirst



**REPLACEMENT
CONSTRUCTION
TO BEGIN SOON!!!!**

SO.....

(Continued Next Page)

RISE TO THE OCCASION—GIVE US A LIFT!
THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

As you know our current elevator is soon to be replaced and updated. 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.



If you build it they will come and ride!

Our Children's Library

Parables challenge us to make connections between the biblical stories told by Jesus and what happens in our own lives. This time of year many of us in Iowa have planted seeds, and are now watching the plants grow. It is a good time to reread three versions of the same story: in Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, and Luke 13:18-19. Here are four books in our children's library collection that appeal to different ages.

The Marvelous Mustard Seed

by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso.

A new book in our collection (2018) shows the life cycle of a single mustard seed. The colorful pictures and clear text appeal especially to 4 to 8 year olds. Parents and teachers will appreciate the note for them at the end of the book.

The Seeds That Grew to be a Hundred

by Victor Mann (Concordia, 1975).

Matthew 1:1-17 is featured in this Arch Book. The personalized seeds help move the drama as they fall on hard-packed, rocky, weedy, and good soil. Elementary age children enjoy the color and clear story line of the Arch books.

Parable of the Sower

by Helen Caswell (Abingdon, 1991)

A modern farm girl observes what happens to seeds which are sown in various places. The author makes the point that the farmer who sowed the seed was like someone who tells people about God. Not everyone that person talks to really *listens*.

Parables for Kids

by Danae and Dr. James Dobson (Tyndale, 1999).

“Grandpa’s Garden” is a contemporary story based on the Parable of the Sower. Upper elementary children would be able to read and appreciate the analogies.

Ruth Kuntz, Library Committee



Our Adult Library

"Faith, a Journey for All"

By Jimmy Carter

Quoted from the book cover:

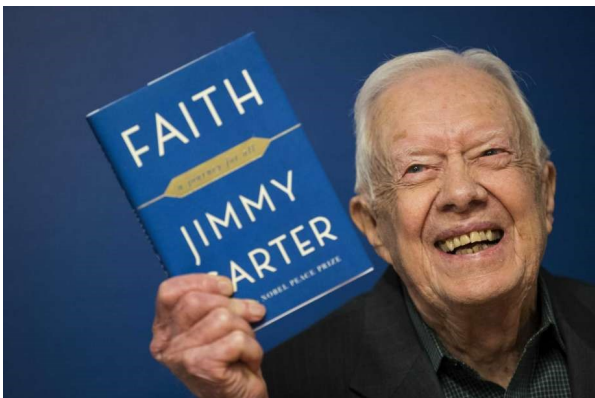
"All his life, President Jimmy Carter has been a courageous exemplar of faith. Now he shares the lessons he's learned."

He writes, 'The issue of faith arises in almost every area of human existence, so it is important to understand its multiple meanings. In this book, my primary goal is to explore the broader meaning of faith, its far-reaching effect on our lives, and its relationship to past, present, and future events in America and around the world. I also emphasize the religious aspects of faith since this is how the word is most often used, and I have included a description of the ways my own faith has guided and sustained me, as well as how it has challenged and driven me to seek a closer and better relationship with people and God.'

As President Carter examines faith's many meanings, he describes how to accept it, live it, how to doubt and find faith again. A serious and moving witness from one of America's most admired and respected citizens."

Jimmy Carter was the 39th president of the United States 1977-1981. In 1982 he and his wife founded The Carter Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people around the world. Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. He is the author of 30 books.

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, Marcy Kuechenmeister, know of any changes. She can be reached at kuechen@mchsi.com or (319) 331-4410.

JULY 2018	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
1	Anna Mary Mueller Sharon Garton	Jeanne Bonde Kevin Koepnick Shirley Woolums Joyce Myer	Steven Warren Kristy Nabhan-Warren
8	Deb and Stuart Cobb	John Johnson Margaret MacInnis Martha Ann Crawford Lenore Maybaum	Kathy Fait John Fuller
15	Darin Wells Diane Olson	Eugene Buck Elizabeth Oakes Ethan Buck Katie Hoefer	Dwight and Connie Schumm
22	Betsy Henson Joan Jehle	Jennifer Hrabe Noel Carver Jo and Steve Bowers	Erin and Dave Brown
29	Rick and Phyllis Ruppert	Mike Groff Robyn Wood-Groff Marnie Campbell Leah DeGrazia	TBD

JULY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 - Worship Service Jazz Music Sunday Communion 10:15 - Children's Church During Worship - Fellowship in Rock- wood Hall After Worship	2	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5	6	7
8 - Worship Service 10:15 - Children's Church During Worship - Fellowship in Rock- wood Hall After Wor- ship	9	10	11	12 - Foreign Rela- tions Luncheon Noon	13	14
15 - Worship Service 10:15 - Children's Church During Worship - Fellowship in Rock- wood Hall After Worship	16	17	18 - Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon - Knitting Group 1:00 pm	19 - Women's Lunch at 11:45 am at Tabouleh in Coralville.	20	21
22 - Worship Service 10:15 - - Children's Church During Worship - Fellowship in Rock- wood Hall After Worship - Church Picnic at City Park 5-7 pm	23	24 - Foreign Rela- tions Luncheon Noon -	25	26	27	28
29 - Worship Service 10:15 - Children's Church During Worship - Fellowship in Rock- wood Hall After Worship	30	31	.			

Dean Woodhouse 7/1

Bob Hanson 7/3
Adelaide Birt-Leeds 7/3

Vicki Thomae 7/4

Nadia Spragg 7/5

Bill Lovin 7/8

Benjamin Hoefler 7/9

Kathy Fait 7/10
Colin Beerends 7/10

Pam Williard 7/11

Ella Lewis 7/15

Jo Ann Benda 7/18

Claire Ashman 7/19

Nicole Day 7/20

Ruth Kuntz 7/22

Joan Parsons 7/23

Steve Wolken 7/24
David Wilder 7/24

Jackie Searls 7/25

Marie Von Behren 7/26
Hope Spragg 7/26

Candace Noble 7/27

Mitike Schumm 7/28

Jane Kinney 7/30
Ann Romanowski 7/30
Kathleen Wilder 7/30

Christine Taylor 7/31
Linda Muston 7/31
John Henson 7/31
Stuart Cobb 7/31



We hope all your birthday
wishes and dreams come true!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY 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:

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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