

### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ OCTOBER 2018



#### Friends in Christ:

The Rev. Russell Coats died last month. You didn't know him. He was the pastor of the Evangelical United Brethren church my family attended when I was a child in Peoria. And because I was only a child at the time, I don't have a lot of memories of Rev. Coats. Once, after he moved from the Peoria church, I ran into him at a church camp in the mid-sixties. He seemed both surprised and disappointed that I had "long" hair. (It really wasn't long then, but it would be later—although you wouldn't know that now.)

What I do remember is a children's sermon the Rev. Coats gave. He must have done this each Sunday, although I only recall one of them. He showed us the exoskeleton of a 13 year cicada that had recently emerged. It was fascinating. And I remember nothing else—no moral, no lifelesson, no religious insight.

I ponder this occasionally—when I'm writing a sermon, when I'm planning a conversation with the children of our congregation, and this time of year when the locusts/cicadas are chirping loudly. I don't know the "lesson" that we were supposed to learn that Sunday morning, but I know what I did learn: that all of the wondrous and mysterious creation had a place in the sanctuary of the church and in our worship of God; that children are an important part of a congregation; and that wonder and welcome are needed as much as if not more than morals and insights.

Preaching to adults and talking with children are part of my calling as a minister. They are also occasions of challenge and joy. I said to the recent new member class that this is a congregation that knows how to listen to sermons (the new members tended to agree with that) and that the listening you provide has been of great encouragement and help to me. We also have, as you have probably noticed, children who know how to talk and who are often quite ready to share their thoughts during the children's message. This, too, is both helpful and challenging!

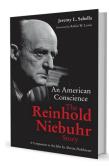
I don't know what the youngest among us will remember in the coming years about our Sunday mornings in these days. But I hope that they take with them a sense of wonder and welcome from this place and share it in the world.

Peace,

Bill



#### UPCOMING FILM AND DISCUSSION



REINHOLD NIEBUHR: AN AMERICAN CONSCIENCE is an award-winning documentary that was shown on the PBS series "American Experience" last year. The film details the life of Reinhold Niebuhr, a theologian whose ideas influenced American religious life from the Great Depression through the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Niebuhr's story raises important questions about changes in American society and challenges us to rethink the public role of religion in American life today. The 55 minute film will be shown at Congregational UCC on Wednesday, October 3 at 6:30 pm and again on Thursday, October 4 at 3:00 pm. Bill's brother, Robin W. Lovin, who served as a consultant to filmmaker Martin Doblmeier, will lead a discussion of the film. There will be a supper preceding the film at 5:30 pm. Let the office know if you would like to attend the supper and film.

#### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 7 is World Communion Sunday. 2018 marks the eighty-second year of celebrating this day. World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it and after a few years the idea spread. Through our prayers and music on this day we recognize our connection with Christians in every nation.

#### 2018 WINTER OUTERWEAR CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

**WHERE:** The Kingdom Center/The Dream Center

611 Southgate Ave (corner of Southgate ad Keokuk)

WHEN: Set up: Thursday, October 11: 10AM-5PM – Transport all bags of coats and other items from

UCC to the The Kingdom Center and sort items. Set up continues on Friday, October 12: 9:30 AM

until all items sorted.

Distribution: Saturday, October 13: 8:30 AM -12 noon.

Please consider checking your closets and donating the following items: coats, snowsuits, hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, boots, heavy sweaters, hooded sweatshirts. We are also accepting winter blankets and Halloween costumes. Note: We always need clothing items for adult men.

- All items should be clean and in good condition.
- Clothes should be appropriate for school wear.
- Adult size clothing should be appropriate for high school students.

A collection box will be placed in Rockwood Hall for your convenience. If you have questions or need items picked up, contact **Paula Forest 319-541-2083 or any member of the Mission Board.** 

#### NEW ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE

For the past two years, our Sunday morning adult education class has sponsored a book study series that has focused on issues of social justice. This fall we plan to read America's Original Sin - Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America by Jim Wallis. Wallis is a bestselling author, activist, preacher, teacher and pastor. He has written more than ten books. He teaches at Georgetown University and has taught at Harvard University.

The Oaknoll study Group will continue their sessions on the Third Thursday of the month; October 18th and November 15th at 2:00 pm. We will meet at the Oaknoll retirement center.

If we have people who would like to meet on Sunday following the church service as we have done in the past, please put your name and email or phone number on the sign up sheet that is found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall downstairs. Please indicate your preference.

If you have questions, you may contact sallystrang@mchsi.com.

#### MEMBER GATHERINGS

The Women's Lunch will be held on October 18 at Monica's in Coralville beginning at 11:45am. The Men's Breakfast will be on October 20 and will meet at the Waterfront Hy-Vee beginning at 8:00am.

#### SAVE THE DATE! OCTOBER 19 FOR HOMECOMING!



Potluck, Big Grill, and Parade! We have the Best Seats in Town at the corner of Clinton and Jefferson! Gather to eat between 4 and 5, stay to watch the Parade at 5:45

The Membership Board will provide water, milk, and tableware. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers may be purchased from the Big Grill on the Corner. The Mission Board will have drinks for sale. Please contact Chris Knapp to help with the Big Grill from 4/4:30 until parade time. We welcome both experienced and first timers to participate with the brat sale. As always, we'll need set up, cooks, wrappers, servers, cashiers and tear down. A sign-up sheet has been placed in Rockwood Hall.

### IT'S OUR TURN ON OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>!

It's our turn to host the **Free Lunch on October 29**. A sign-up sheet has been posted in Rockwood Hall. Please consider helping with food and/or time. This is an important effort that not only helps people in our community, but also lets them know that our church cares.

Helping is fun! We make a great team! Join us!



#### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 4

Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes "All Saints Sunday." This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday in order to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin' in. This year the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson will lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship.

#### THE IMMIGRATION FUND PROVIDES ASSISTANCE

The Immigration Fund, one of several of our church funds, was established in 2017 by an anonymous donor. The Fund is to be used to provide relief for individuals and other immigration issues. The Fund's use is monitored by the Mission Board. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact the church office.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We received \$933 for our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering). TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at <a href="https://www.tee.co.za">www.tee.co.za</a>.

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

We will be collecting items for the Food Bank and Shelter House in **October and November**. 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)

#### **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

#### SERVING THE CHURCH

Every year in January a slate of new members for the various church boards is presented to the congregation for approval. Work to prepare this slate occurs throughout the fall and is managed by the two Council Members At Large, Donna Hirst and Joyce Myer.

This work is now underway, and we would like to invite all members of the congregation to consider serving on a Board. Serving on a Board is an excellent way to develop close working relations with other members of the church. Many of my dearest friendships developed while serving on church boards together. What is involved in serving on a Board? Each of the six church Boards meet monthly, often on a weekday evening. Each of the boards has different responsibilities, and thus the tasks undertaken by each board are different. For example, the Membership Board plans the church picnic and other fellowship events; the Trustees provide oversight of the church budget and the building.

In addition to positions on church boards, there are also a number of positions representing the church to particular agencies or organizations. Members of the church serve as representatives to the Eastern Iowa Association, the Community Pastoral Counseling Service, the Common Fund and a number of others. As an alternative to serving on a church board, you might serve as a special church representative.

We encourage you to consider offering your name for consideration to serve on a Board. If you would like to discuss any of these options, please contact Donna Hirst (<u>donna-hirst@uiowa.edu</u>; 351-5253) or Joyce Myer (<u>mike and joyce@msn.com</u>; 354-0961).

#### EASTERN IOWA ASSOCIATION—NEWS AND DUES

Congregational UCC is part of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Eastern Iowa Association of the Iowa Conference. In the UCC, Associations are geographic gatherings of congregations. The Eastern Iowa Association meets annually in September. This year our delegates, Ethel Bloesch and Bea Hicks, attended the meeting in Tipton along with Bill Lovin.

We support the Association financially by paying dues of \$2 per member of our congregation. These funds combined with those from other congregations in the Association.

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#### EASTERN IOWA ASSOCIATION CONTINUED

- Provide financial support for "Members in Discernment," who are preparing for ministry in the UCC. (The Rev. Raven Rowe and the Rev. Ryan Downing received this support when they were in seminary).
- Provide financial support for the Regional Youth Event and church camps.
- Provide adult and youth programs in the Association.
- Support the Committee on Ministry in providing oversight and support to Authorized Ministers.

Thanks again for your giving that supports the Eastern Iowa Association.

#### FRESH FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

There is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall for anyone who would like to provide flowers for worship.

Flowers can be given in memory or honor of loved ones or in celebration of special events such as birthdays and anniversaries. This information will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Flowers can also be given simply for the joy and beauty that they bring. Questions? Please contact Jane Murphy at 351-9079 or at murphyjane51@gmail.com.

#### AFTER WORSHIP HOSPITALITY

The Membership Board wishes to encourage Church members to especially extend hospitality to visitors and new comers after services. Try to bring them to Rockwood Hall to meet our extended church family. Thank you.

#### INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER BRUNCH GATHERING

Members are invited to a brunch featuring Reverend Jerome Bizimana of Rwanda. Reverend Bizimana is President of Remera Presbytery in Rwanda and the initiator of the Light Group, which brings together survivors and perpetrators of the 1994 genocide of Tutsi Rwandans. He will share how the church helps bring about reconciliation. The brunch will take place on **October 1**, from 10am to 1pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 140 Gathering Place Lane In Iowa City. All are welcome.

#### INTEGRATED VOTER ENGAGEMENT ASSEMBLY: FAITH DRIVEN JUSTICE

Johnson County Interfaith Coalition and the Iowa City NAACP invite everyone to a program addressing community issues in the upcoming election on **Thursday, October 4, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4330 St. Patrick's Dr., Iowa City**. Participants include the League of Women Voters, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Black Voices Project.

## DR. IRA BYOCK, PHYSICIAN AND AUTHOR, WILL PRESENT AT OCTOBER 7 AND 8 EVENTS

Renowned physician and author Ira Byock, MD, FAAHPM, will present "Saying The Four Things that Matter Most" at the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, October 7, 2018, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The presentation, part of the UNESCO City of Literature Iowa City Book Festival, is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Prairie Lights bookstore will provide books for purchase, and Dr. Byock will be available to sign copies following his presentation. **Pre-registration is recommended at http://bit.ly/ SayingTheFourThings**. Dr. Byock will also be the keynote speaker the following morning, Monday, Oct. 8 at the professional conference "The Best Care Possible" from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts. His keynote presentation is entitled "The Best Care Possible: Clinical and Cultural Leadership in the 21st Century." Fees: Physicians \$60; Students \$20; all other attendees \$30.For additional information or to register, please go to **www.medicine.uiowa.edu/cme** and click on Upcoming Programs, or go directly to **http://bit.ly/BestCareConference**. The registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 5, 2018.

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#### DR. IRA BYOCK CONTINUED

As one of the foremost palliative-care physicians in the country, Dr. Byock argues that how we die is among the biggest national crises facing us today. Byock's first book, *Dying Well*, (1997) has become a standard in the field of hospice and palliative care. *The Four Things That Matter Most*, (2004) is used as a counseling tool widely by palliative care and hospice programs, as well as within pastoral care. His most recent book, *The Best Care Possible* (March 2012) tackles the crisis that surrounds serious illness and dying in America and his quest to transform care through the end of life. It has been praised by the Wall Street Journal, the Economist and other major publications, and won the annual Books for a Better Life Award in the category of Wellness.

#### ROOTS OF INJUSTICE, SEEDS OF CHANGE

Saturday, October 13, 2018, Old Brick 26 E Market St Iowa City 9:30 AM 3:30 PM. The Beloved Community Initiative invites everyone to a day of learning about the historic and ongoing impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery. Their goal is to raise the level of knowledge and concern about these impacts, recognize them in ourselves and our institutions, and explore how we can begin to take actions toward "right relationship."

In the Doctrine of Discovery we find the roots of injustice. In the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we find the seeds of change. How can we nurture those seeds to bring forth the fruits of right relationship with all peoples?

This workshop is open to all people, high school age or older. There is no fee to attend the program but preregistration is required as space is limited. More information and registration is available <a href="here.">here.</a>

#### CENTER FOR WORKER JUSTICE CELEBRATION/FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, October 13, at 6:00 pm.** Sixth Anniversary Celebration and Third Annual Fundraiser at **UU Society, 2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville.** Tickets available online at www.cwjiowa.org. \$50 singles; \$90 couples; Table for 8 \$350. Support from Congregational UCC was instrumental in establishing the Center for Worker Justice in 2012. Now it's time to celebrate. Mark your calendars. Call your friends.

#### **RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 14**

One of the joys of being a downtown church is the challenges presented by downtown events. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Run for the Schools will be held on October 14. Some streets to the south and east of the church will be closed. The church and the parking lot will both be accessible. It might take a few extra minutes to get to church that morning. Plan accordingly, but plan to worship with us. Race maps can be found here.

#### THE GOOD LIFE REFINED

On Sunday, October 28 from 2-4:00 pm at the UI Student Center, 120 Dubuque Street in Iowa City, learn how our "stuff" contributes to climate change and how our faith traditions call us to reconnect with what is meaningful. Register for the event at www.iowaipl.org.



### GOING UP!!!!

There is still time to get your pledge/donation into the elevator campaign (and make another one!). Since all our costs need to be paid upfront, it is important that we know how much money we will have from your generous giving and how much we will need to either borrow or shift from other funds.

We want to be responsible stewards and make the best use of our financial resources. It will help us make some important decisions about paying the bills for this costly but necessary improvement to our accessibility.

You may contact the office directly by email or phone and let Nan know what you wish to contribute. You may have up to 4 years to pay your pledge.

Thank you very much.









#### REFLECTIONS FROM A PASTORAL COUNSELOR....

C ommunity
P astoral
C ounseling
G ervice

In the movie THE HORSE WHISPERER Grace experiences a very serious accident while riding her horse Pilgrim. Annie, Grace's mother, learns there is this fellow, Tom Booker, who works with horses in a different manner. It's as if he whispers to them--and Annie decides she wants to utilize Tom for healing.

Tom's style is to offer an invitation to try to establish a relationship by communicating care and respect in the hope of creating trust. Because it is a duet, not a solo, a relationship requires a dual decision, a mutual commitment. And either party is free to withdraw.

Such an approach parallels God's style. While God wants to be in relationship with humanity, it is presented as an invitation--which includes the freedom to drop out--and is never forced upon us. With any relationship, if we choose to drop out, it is important to ask what will benefit/cost be of not continuing. Maybe God is the People Whisperer . . .

Bruce

(The Rev. Bruce D. Williams is a pastoral counselor at the Community Pastoral Counseling Service (CPCS), which is comprised of six churches in the Iowa City area including this one. CPCS is at 30 N. Clinton St., Iowa City, IA, 52245, 319-337-2519.)

# Our Adult Library

# "Why Courage Matters; The Way to a Braver Life"

## By John McCain with Mark Salter

Published in 2004. Quoted from the book cover:

"As a naval officer, P.O.W., and one of America's most admired political leaders, John McCain has seen countless acts of bravery and self-sacrifice. Now, in this inspiring meditation on courage he shares his most cherished stories of ordinary individuals who have risked everything to defend the people and principles they hold most dear.

"Courage is not the absence of fear but the capacity for action despite our fears, McCain reminds us introducing the stories of figures both famous and obscure that he finds most compelling--Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, Sgt Roy Benavidez, 1960's civil rights leader John Lewis, and Hannah Senesh (Hungarian resistance).

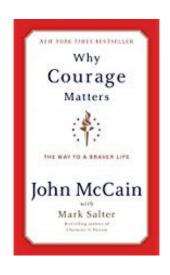
"These are some of the examples McCain turns to for inspiration and offers to others to help them summon the resolve to be both good and great. He explains the value of courage in both everyday actions and extraordinary feats. We learn why moral principles and physical courage are often not distinct quantities but two sides of the same coin. Most of all, readers discover how sometimes simply setting the right example can be the ultimate act of courage."

After a career in the U.S. Navy (P.O.W Vietnam War) and two terms as U.S. representative, John McCain was first elected to the U.S. Senate (Arizona) in 1986 and was reelected five times.

McCain recently passed away in 2018.

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee



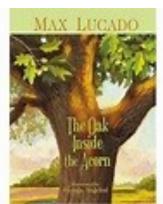




# Our Children's Library

<u>The Oak Inside the Acorn</u> by Max Lucado. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2006. Ages 6-10 years, but the message is relevant for teens and adults.

The latest edition of this book was printed in 2011. Our church library copy was published earlier, but has not been featured thus far in a review. It is timely and appropriate for a couple of reasons. One is that we tend to be more aware of falling leaves and acorns in this autumn season. The book may be read simply as a story of the way an acorn might grow into a tree.



A larger message is the one the mother tree gave to the little acorn, "Just be the tree God made you to be." From our early years we usually have a desire to be someone specific – a ballet dancer, a fireman, etc. Time and situations soon carry us from our safe zone. Teens often want to be all the things their friends are, but eventually discover they are unwilling or unable to copy the same path. They begin to discover their own skills, interests, and talents. God expands our understanding of the ways we can be the person God calls us to be. As we grow older we constantly find new ways to be "me."

Max Lucado has authored several award-winning children's books, as well as books for teens and adults.

In 2006 he was serving as minister for the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas.

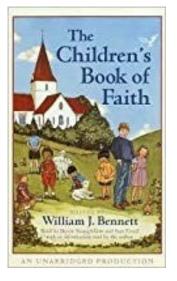
George Angelini has been creating illustrations for more than twenty-five years, and has won numerous awards for his work.

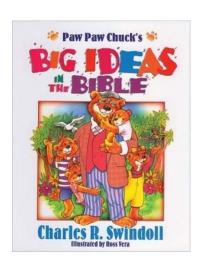
<u>Virtues</u>: If you wish to explore more of the virtues featured in Rev. Lovin's sermons you might want to look at these books in our church library:

Bennett, William J. The Children's Book of Faith. 2000. Grades K-4.

Swindoll, Charles. Paw Paw Chuck's Big Ideas in the Bible. 1995. Grades 1-2

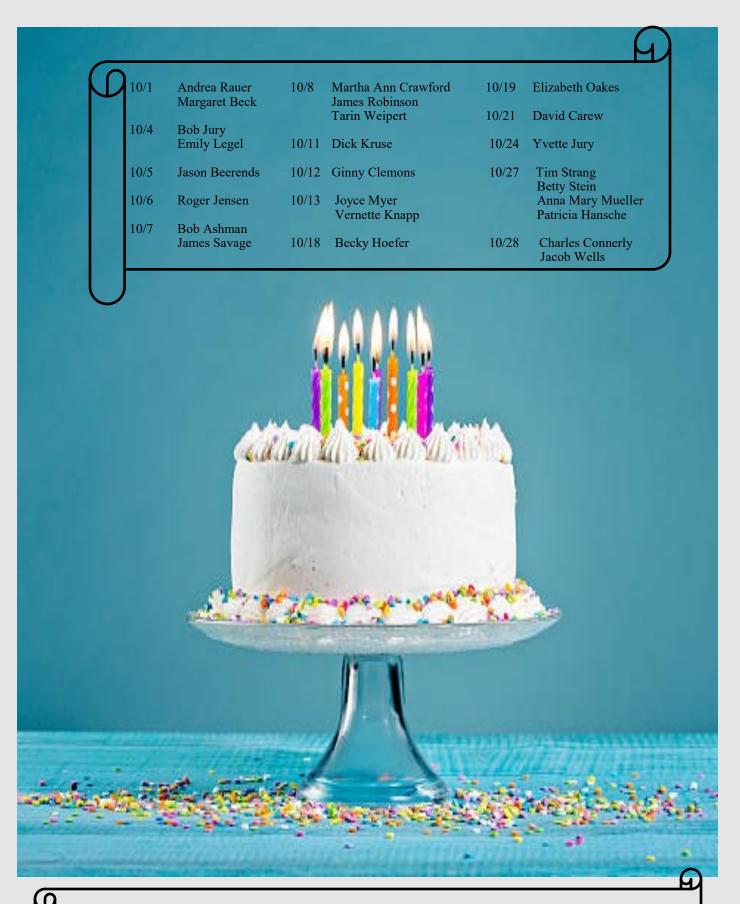
Ruth Kuntz, Library Committee





# OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COLLECTING FOR THE SHELTER HOUSE AND CRISIS CENTER FOOD BANK IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER	1	2 - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	3 - Knitting Group 3:00 pm - Nieburh Film Supper 5:30 pm - Nieburh Film and Discussion 6:30 pm	- FRC Lunch- eon Noon - Nieburh Film and Discussion 3:00 pm	5	6
7 - Worship Service @ 10:15 - World Communion Sunday - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am	8	9	- Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	- CRC Clothing Set-up 10 am—5 pm - FRC Luncheon Noon	- CRC Clothing Set-up 9:30am— 5pm	- CRC Clothing Distribution 9am—Noon
14 Worship Service @ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	15	- Membership 5:30 pm - Trustees 7:00 pm - Stewardship 7:00 pm	- Knitting Group 3:00 pm - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	18 - FRC Luncheon Noon - Women's Lunch @ Monica's in Coralville Adult Ed at Oaknoll	19	20 - Men's Breakfast @ the Waterfrong Hy -Vee 8:00 am
21 Worship Service @ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	22	23 - Church Council 7:00 pm	- FRC Luncheon Noon - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	25	26	27
28 - Worship Service 10:15 am - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	- UCC Hosts Free Lunch Noon	- FRC Lunch- eon Noon	31 - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm			



If we had words to make a day for you, we'd sing you a morning golden and true. We would make this day last for all time, then fill the night deep in moonshine.

Happy Birthday!

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

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER 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: Kristin Ramseyer Organist: Bill Crouch

Director of Church School: The Rev. Patte Henderson

Office Manager: Nan Martin

Financial Secretary: Sharyn Huriaux Reitz Christina Patramanis Communication Assistant: **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...... kristin-ramseyer@uiowa.edu Dir of Church School ......uccicce@uccic.org Communication Assist.....cpatramanis@yahoo.com

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org