



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
FEBRUARY 2019



Friends in Christ—

I recently saw a T-shirt at Raygun, now over on Dubuque St., that once again confirmed to me that it is, as they say, “The Greatest Store in the Universe.” It showed the tuning heads of several guitars and announced, simply, “Stay Tuned.”

Now, that might sound like good advice for these times when it often seems hard to keep up with world events. Stay tuned—more breaking news soon. As I write this the government shutdown is over, but a new one looms over the negotiations about border security this month. Stay tuned.

The downside of the “stay tuned” attitude is that we can become increasingly addicted to current events and checking our devices for updates. FOMO—Fear Of Missing Out—haunts people who worry about what’s happening in their social network as well as those who worry about keeping up with current events.

The Raygun T-shirt put all of this in a new a perspective—urging us to *keep in tune*, to be ready to play. Guitarists and other string players know that this might require tightening or loosening strings. It requires twisting and turning and *listening*. When I played trumpet in high school, staying tuned meant sliding and watching an electronic tuner. And if you play the piano or organ, staying tuned might require professional help.

In all cases, those who stay tuned are ready for interaction with others, ready to function as a group, ready to sound good together.

Stay tuned—because whether we’re working to create a sustainable world in the face of climate change, or to create racial justice, or to feed the hungry, or to welcome the stranger, or simply to live together as a congregation we need each other.

Life changes quickly. Stay tuned.

Peace,

Bill

P.S.: I thank everyone in the congregation for your gift at Christmas. I am filled with gratitude, not only for your Christmas gift but also but also for the ongoing gift of your call to me to be your pastor. Thank you for your support and prayers throughout the year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

MILESTONES

With thanksgiving for her life and in the hope of the resurrection, we announce the death of Virginia Spalding on January 25. A memorial service will be held at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 7, 2019.

THE ELEVATOR IS FINISHED

After many years of waiting and anticipation, our new elevator project is all but complete. While there are still a few items remaining to be finished up, the elevator is fully-inspected, approved, and functional. In terms of ease of use, convenience, and reliability, it is a huge step forward for our building and Congregation.

While there may still be a few bills to pay, the elevator's total cost will come in at approximately \$195,000. Our pledge payments and future fulfillment, as well as other individual donations, amount to \$133,000. That leaves around \$62,000 to be financed using other resources. Church Council and Trustees approved the use of \$82,000 from several church special funds, as well as a revolving line of credit from Hills Bank. These funds support the up-front costs of the unit itself and demolition, construction, and electrical work needed to complete the project in a timely fashion.

As our remaining pledges are completed, the revolving credit line will be paid back, and as much money as possible will be returned to Church special funds. There is no need for an additional pledge campaign. However, the sooner pledges are satisfied, the sooner the loan will be erased.

This special building, on this special corner, is home to a wonderful group of people - our Congregation. As always, thanks for your continued support.

FROM THIS



TO THIS



MISSION BOARD SPONSORS ADULT EDUCATION SERIES ON CLIMATE

Climate change is with us now. It is affecting us in numerous ways. By faith, we affirm that we are stewards of the earth, responsible for its well-being. Lots of people have been attending the Mission Board series of Adult Education sessions at 9:15 on Sunday mornings exploring ways in which climate calls us to respond as people of faith.

February 3	Sustainable Building	Dwight Schumm—LEED Accredited Professional Engineer
February 10	Sustainable Living	Dwight and Connie Schumm
February 17	Green New Deal	Shawn Sebastian
February 24	Sustainable Communities	Chuck Connerly, Director, UI School of Urban and Regional Planning
March 3	Where Do We Go From Here	

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CHRISTMAS FUND UPDATE

We received over \$2245 for our Christmas Fund Offering. This exceeds our \$1581 from last year. The Christmas Fund allows the United Church of Christ to assist retired pastors living on limited incomes, as well as to supplement small retirement annuities and health premiums and to provide emergency grants to active and retired clergy and lay employees. The mission of the Christmas Fund is to provide assistance dollars in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid.

Thanks again for your generous giving!

LUNCH AND BREAKFAST TOGETHER

The Women's Lunch will be held on **February 21 at Monica's in Coralville beginning at 11:45 am.** The Men's Breakfast will be on **February 16 and will meet at the Waterfront HyVee in Iowa City. They will gather at 8:00 am.**

THINK AHEAD FOR ANNUAL OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION

Each year in the fall, Congregational UCC joins with other congregations in providing winter coats for people of all ages, especially children. As winter items start to go on sale in the stores, now is a great time to let your dollar go further and purchase coats. Please store them at your home until the fall when they can be brought to the church and then taken to the distribution site.



UPDATE ON THE 2018 BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS FROM STEVE PANTHER

Thank you for having an Offering of Letters at Congregational United Church of Christ. Though there have been many challenges, this has been a good year for advocacy:

The Global Food Security Act has been signed into law.

The Farm Bill fully funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and improves international food aid programs.

The First Step Act provides criminal justice reform.

Bread's 2019 campaign will be announced in February. A focus will be on maternal and child nutrition and health. It can be tied into immigration: address the root causes that force people to immigrate. After the announcement, I can provide more details. I would be happy to do an adult forum and Offering of Letters at Congregational United Church of Christ in 2019.

2018 IOWA RELIGIOUS LEADERS STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE We Can No Longer Wait

Global climate change is one of the most pressing moral challenges facing our world. In late November, religious leaders in our state called on Iowans to find and implement solutions to climate change.

This statement was signed by our minister, Bill Lovin and Brigit Stevens, the Conference Minister of the Iowa Conference of the UCC, along with many others. You can read the entire statement at:

https://3269wy41t7y24chpte41marm-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/446/2018/11/Final-2018-Iowa-Religious-Leaders-Statement-on-Climate-Change.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0k-xYCtRzKUd33UgYTU7ReZP9VRebVQh2nmpMgwrZPI_hiX5SRTQLXd_s

REFLECTIONS FROM A PASTORAL COUNSELOR.....

How much does one's driving style reflect that person's view of the human condition and/or his or her theology? Consider some possibilities:

DRIVING STYLE	VIEW OF THE HUMAN CONDITION	THEOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING
Aggressive/Speeding	Survival of the fittest	God helps those who help themselves
Risk Taking	It won't happen to me	God has favorites
Ignoring Stop and Yield Signs	They're for other persons. I'm too busy & important	God is all-powerful & observing such signs signifies lack of boldness
Discourteous/Impatient	It's a competitive world, so hold your ground	God gives us a certain amount of time, so don't put things off

*One snowy winter day several years ago, there were 37 vehicles in the median or off the shoulder along I-380 between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Their various positions suggested they weren't there by choice. Do you suppose drivers of vehicles 2 through 36 thought "it won't happen to me"?

What do we want our driving to say about us and our understanding of God? If we take seriously, "Love your neighbor as yourself," how might that impact our driving? What's the relationship between love and safety?

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.)

A REPORT FROM ROXENE REDENIUS, 2018 PRESIDENT OF THE CONSULTATION OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Happy New Year to each of you! As we have ended one year and look to another, may we be ever mindful of our many blessings, including the presence of the CRC in our community. In this new beginning, and as I end my one year term as president, I am reminded of the joy and privilege we share in being able to help others through the CRC, by giving of ourselves, our time and our possessions.

In the past year a little more than \$42,000 was given to the Common Fund, which helps many who face eviction, remain safe and secure in their homes. (This surpassed our goal of \$36,000) The Winter Outerwear Clothing Drive helped approximately 1400 persons receive coats and other warm clothing to help get through this cold Iowa winter. The Center for Worker Justice continues to help low wage workers, regardless of race, ethnicity, or immigration status achieve social and economic justice. This past May they also assisted, and continue to do so, the 20 plus persons from Mt. Pleasant that were detained by ICE. And the Inside Out Reentry program helps formerly incarcerated persons build a new life in our community. The Gifts for Parents Event did not occur in 2018, but we are on track for a great event on December 7 of this year. All of these programs and events, and many more, are sponsored or supported by the CRC with volunteer hours and financial resources. Thanks to all of you for your support and involvement in all these efforts.

(Continued Next Page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CRC Cont.

We have accomplished a great deal in 2018 and we will continue our support of the projects and programs we have been involved in, but it is exciting to think about what we can do in the coming year. One "new" project we look forward to is an Interfaith Build of two Habitat homes. Watch for information about this soon and ways you can be involved. Maybe you are not a tool kind of person, but perhaps you can provide food or snacks for those who are, or discover you have new or hidden talents in construction! Or maybe you can donate books or time to the Book Sale in March, or eat salads in the spring or enjoy soups in November, all to benefit the Shelter House.

If you are a walker or jogger, you can join the NAMI Walk on April 27, or contribute to it to help those who deal with mental illnesses. If "food" is your thing, or helping to make sure everyone has enough to eat, donations and preparation and serving assistance are always needed at the Free Lunch Program, or at Iowa City Compassion. Table to Table helps get surplus food from restaurants and grocery stores to places that can use it, relying mostly on volunteers and the Operation Backpack Program through HACAP, helps make sure school children have enough food for weekends. In addition to filling and delivery of the backpacks, it costs \$200 per school year for each child. The Crisis Center is always looking for volunteers, as well as donations, in a variety of areas and skill sets. Contact them and they will gratefully find a spot for you to give of your time.

The list goes on and on and on. There is no shortage of places to go to give of yourself, or programs and events to participate in. The CRC will continue to keep you informed of ways to help others and to be involved. Please also let us know about things you are planning as well.

Thank you again for all that you have done in 2018 to work with and support the CRC, and help many in our midst. With all of us working together I am confident 2019 will be another year filled with helping others on their life's journeys. As we walk in accompaniment with them I know we will all be blessed as well.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as president of the CRC this past year, and I am grateful for all your help and support. As Pastor Jill Cameron Michel takes over as our leader in mid-January, I am confident we will all offer her that same support and look forward to what her leadership brings to us.

And now may we all go forth in peace and remember those who need our help.

JOHNSON COUNTY CROP WALK 2019

The 2019 CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, April 7th, at 1:30 p.m. and begin at the Free Lunch building at 1105 Gilbert Court. Registration will begin at 12:45 p.m.

The "RALLY" event will be on Tuesday, February 26th, from 4-6 p.m. at both Zion Lutheran Church at 310 North Johnson Street and Christ the King Lutheran Church at 325 Mormon Trek Boulevard, both in Iowa City. The rally is for those who would like to become a recruiter for their organization, and to pick up educational materials as well as donation envelopes. It is also a good time to meet members of the Crop Walk team and ask questions.

CROP works with Church World Service to transform communities around the world through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster, including the victims of the recent hurricanes here in the U.S. 25% of the money we raise goes directly to the Johnson County Crisis Center Food Bank. Please help us to help others.

Barb Lange
351-3762 (Home); 515-897-9335 (cell)
bj60lange@a.com

Carol Hulseberg 319-930-7157
hutch@netins.net

SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (SURJ) BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP SURJ BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP AT ICPL

Stand Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) is developing a book discussion group. The group will start with White Fragility: Why it's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin diAngelo. The first meeting will be February 5 (Tuesday) from 7:00 to 8:30 in room D at the Iowa City Public Library. They will probably be covering the first 30-40 pages.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Bryson Dean brvsondean.iowa@gmail.com who will send you more information and the specific pages that will be covered in the first session.

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Two upcoming Adult Mental Health First Aid Classes in February and March in Iowa City/Coralville. The February Class will be Tuesday, February 12th and Friday, February 15th from 12:30 – 5:30 pm at the Coralville Public Library (1401 5th Street, Coralville, IA 52241). The March class will be Tuesday, March 19th and Thursday, March 21st from 12:30 – 5:30 pm at the Johnson County Services Building (855 Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA 52240). Please sign up in advance by emailing Peggy at mhedspecialists@gmail.com. She will send you a Google form and once that is completed you will be registered for the class.

Classes are offered at no cost thanks to support from the Mental Health & Disability Services of the East Center Region. Classes are 2-days in the afternoon, lunch is NOT provided. 8 continuing education credits or CEUs are available upon request for a small fee, please contact Peggy in advance if you would like to receive CEUs for taking the course.

The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) program is an interactive 8-hour certification class that introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common treatments.

Specifically, participants learn:

The potential risk factors and warning signs for a range of mental health problems, including: depression, anxiety/trauma, psychosis and psychotic disorders, eating disorders, substance use disorders, and self-injury. An understanding of the prevalence of various mental health disorders in the U.S. and the need for reduced stigma in their communities,

A 5-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources and knowledge to assess the situation, to select and implement appropriate interventions, and to help the individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional care,

The appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help resources available to help someone with a mental health problem.

Similar to CPR, you will become certified as a Mental Health First Aider. More information is available at: <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>

LOOK AHEAD: *HOT TAMALES LOUIE* COMES TO CONGREGATIONAL UCC ON SUNDAY, MARCH 24

At its meeting in November, our Church Council approved the request from the Mission Board to use \$4000 from our "Engagement Fund" to support four performances of *Hot Tamales Louie* in eastern Iowa, beginning with a concert here on March 24. The Engagement Fund established by an anonymous donor in October, 2013. The donor requested \$12,000 each to fund the Crisis Center, the Common Fund, and the Eastern Iowa Center for Workers' Justice. These grants were completed in 2017. The remaining amount is to be used to fund initiatives that will enhance the church presence in and service to the community.

(Continued Next Page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Hot Tamale cont.

Hot Tamale Louie – The Story of Zarif Khan is a composition by University of Iowa professor of music John Rapson. The concert, which features live music, slides, and narration, will be performed in our sanctuary on Sunday, March 24, at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be both required and free. More information on tickets will be announced in the coming weeks. If you are interested in the CD/DVD of an earlier performance of *Hot Tamale Louis* at the Englert Theater, it is available for purchase (\$25) through HTLIC Media, Inc (a 501c3 nonprofit), 504 E. Bloomington Street, Iowa City, IA 52245. Attention, John Rapson.

In seeking funds to be a part of this project, our Mission Board noted that our congregation has provided significant support to immigrants and refugees in Iowa. We are also involved in interfaith work through the Consultation of Religious Congregations and the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition. This would provide a new venue for expressing our support of these efforts. This will enhance the church presence in and service to the community—a central goal of the Engagement Fund. Because we will be listed as a major sponsor of this project, it will increase our visibility in the community, therefore making it an appropriate recipient of money from the Engagement Fund. Our congregation is committed to interfaith cooperation and the support of immigrants and refugees. Music and free concerts for the public are also an important part of our common life. This project brings these interests and commitments together in a unique way that will increase our public visibility.



SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE FUNDRAISER, MARCH 30 – 31, 2019: CHECK IT OUT!

The annual **Shelter House Book Sale** will be held on **March 30, 10:30am – 4pm** and **March 31, 12pm – 4pm** at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, Bldg. C. They'll have gently used books plus music, movies, art, and vintage tees for sale. Dedicated book worms can purchase Early Entry passes for admission to the Book Sale before the general public. Passes are \$10 and early entry opens March 30 at 10am.



A book is a gift you can open again and again. Give yourself the gift of action, adventure, mystery, and romance while giving the gift of a brighter future and a place to call home for people experiencing homelessness. Proceeds of our book sale benefit Shelter House programs and support services including housing, employment, and mental health that help hundreds of men, women, and children each year to get back on their feet.

If you have books you'd like to donate, they can be dropped off at Bldg. B at the Fairgrounds starting February 24 from 1pm – 3pm. Donation drop-off will continue every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10am – 2pm and Sundays from 1pm – 3pm through the week of the sale! *Please direct all questions to Kaily Hoard at kaily@shelterhouseiowa.org.*

THINK SPRING—LOOK AHEAD TO THESE EVENTS ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT ON MARCH 6

On Wednesday, March 6, our Board of Christian Education will host a pancake supper in Rockwood Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends and join others for pancakes, eggs, sausage, good company, and good conversation. It will help with planning if you sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall or call the church office (337-4301) to let us know how many will attend. But please join us even if you haven't done this.

After eating, we will hold our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00. This will be a time of music and song, scripture and prayer, and the imposition of ashes for those who want them. The worship service is designed for people of all ages.

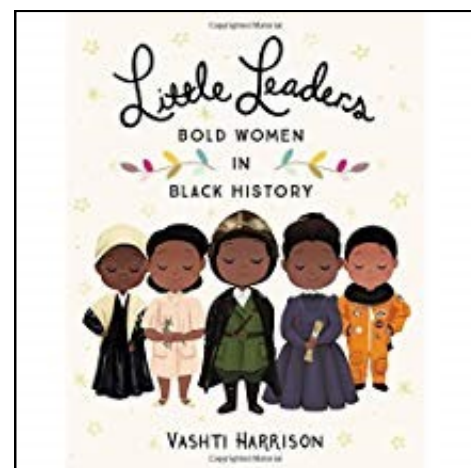
Books for Children

Black History Month

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison (Dec. 2017) – Ages 8-11, Grades 3-7.

This book was recently purchased for our church library. It relates true stories of forty trailblazing black women in American history. Some are well-known and others less so. Among them are Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth (abolitionists), Bessie Coleman (pilot), Alice Ball (chemist), Shirley Chisholm (politician), Katherine Johnson (mathematician), Maya Angelou (poet), Julie Dash (filmmaker), Audre Lorde (poetry and prose), Marcelite J. Harris (Air Force General) Harrison began this as a personal Black History Month project, before it grew into a book.

Each entry includes two to three paragraphs of biographical text, followed by a portrait (depicted as a black girl – every girl) in a background appropriate to the subject. The volume is beautifully designed and full of information about black women who made, and continue to make, history. A concluding “More Little Leaders” segment addresses the difficulty of picking out just 40 women for this book, and includes miniature notes on more women. This book was a *New York Times* and a *USA Today* bestseller.



You might also want to look at these books in our collection:

Grimes, Nikki.	<i>Come Sunday.</i>	1996, Grades K-2.
Nelson, Vaunda.	<i>Who Will I Be, Lord?</i>	2009. Grades K-4.
Polacco, Patricia.	<i>Chicken Sunday.</i>	1992, Grades 1-3.
Polacco, Patricia.	<i>Pink and Say.</i>	1994. Grades 4-up (Civil War)

Ruth Kuntz
Library Committee

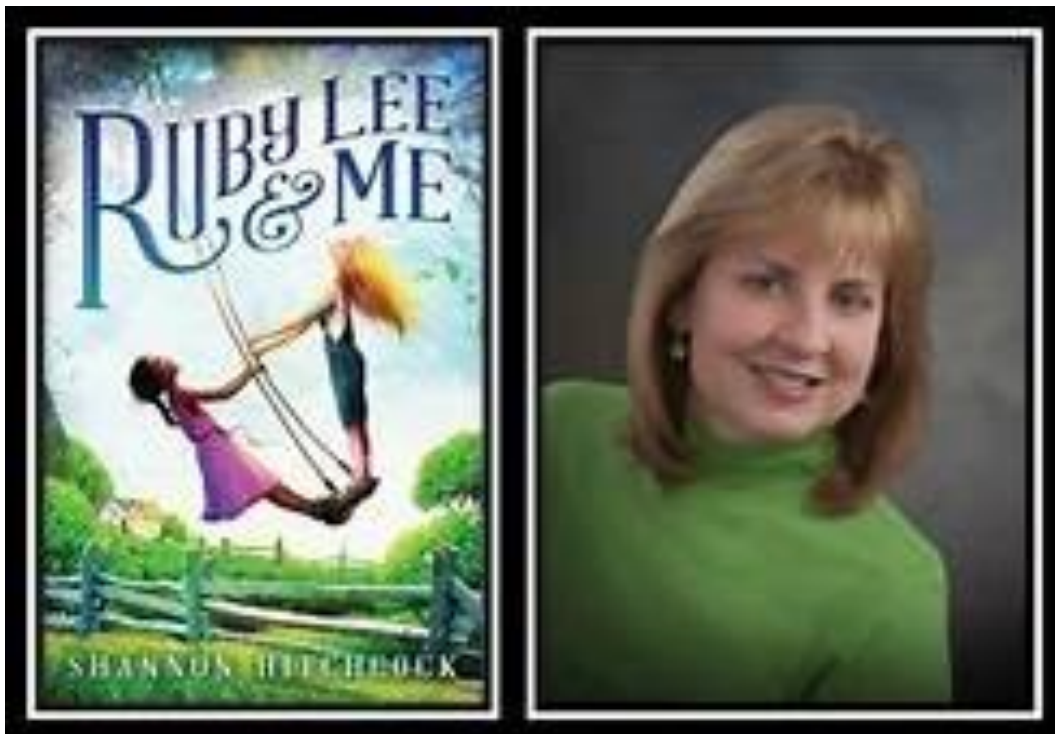
Books for Pre-Teens and Teenagers

“Ruby Lee and Me”

By Shannon Hitchcock

It is the summer of 1969, and it seems like things could not be any worse for 12-year-old Sarah. She has called her friend, Ruby Lee, the worst thing you could say to a black friend. Her 6-year-old sister is in the hospital after having been hit by a car while she was supposed to be babysitting, and she has had to move in with her grandparents. Now there is a new teacher in town. The first black teacher. Sarah does not understand all of the feelings in town. She is white, her best friend is black. She knows that whites and blacks can get along. Why must things be so confusing and uncertain?

Courtney Nelson, Library Committee





2/3	Beth Parker Grace Stacy
2/10	Courtney Rowe
2/11	McKenzie Brown
2/13	Steve Bowers
2/14	Laura Gabel
2/15	Sharyn Reitz

2/21	Nicole Pearson
2/23	Ethan Buck
2/24	Eugene Buck
2/25	Andrew Gabel
2/27	Nicole Neems
2/28	Tom Mittman

*Punxsutawney Phil predicts
you will have a WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY!!*

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship Service@ 10:15 - Communion - Souper Bowl of Caring - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship -Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	4	5 - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	6 - Weekly Meditation Noon -Foreign Relations Luncheon - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	7	8	9
10 Worship Service@ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship -Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	11 - Knitting Group 2 pm	12	13 - Weekly Meditation Noon - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	14 - FRC Luncheon Noon	15	16 - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee 8:00 am
17 Worship Service @ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship -Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	18	19 - Trustees 7:00 pm - Church Council 7:00 pm	20 - Weekly Meditation Noon - FRC Luncheon Noon - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	21 - Women's Lunch @ Monica's. 11:45 am	22	23
24 Worship Service @ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall -Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am	25 - Knitting Group 2 pm	26 - Council Meeting 7:00 pm	27 - Weekly Meditation Noon - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	28 - FRC Luncheon Noon		

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2019 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
Children's Music Director	Avery Nabholz
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Director of Church School:	The Rev. Patte Henderson
Office Manager:	Nan Martin
Financial Secretary:	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz
Communication Assistant:	Christina Patramanis
Custodians:	Douglas Herrera Claudia Landaverde

HOW TO CONTACT US

Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm
Phone: 319-337-4301

E-mail:

Minister.....uccicrev@uccic.org
Office Manager.....uccicsec@uccic.org
Financial Secretary.....sharynreitz@gmail.com
Music Director..... kristin-ramseyer@uiowa.edu
Children's Music Dir.....avery-nabholz@uiowa.edu
Dir of Church Schooluccicce@uccic.org
Communication Assist.... ..cpatramanis@yahoo.com

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org