



## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ MAY 2019



Friends in Christ—

As the Easter story in Gospel of Luke draws to its conclusion, the risen Christ tells his followers: “Stay in the city...”

It’s one of those Bible verses that we seem to take literally around here—and you know that doesn’t happen too often. Other congregations have moved out of the downtown area. In the past we were tempted to do so as well. But we have stayed in the city because we understand that is essential to our calling as a congregation.

On a recent warm Friday evening, I spent some time walking around downtown Iowa City to see our neighbors. There were students out in groups and waiting in lines to get into the bars, there were young adults enjoying meals at the sidewalk tables of an abundance of restaurants, there were families on their way to various destinations, there were people whose attire suggested they had been working late, and there were the homeless.

What struck me that night was the number of people by themselves—eating in solitude, going into a movie by themselves, hanging out at the bookstore, a part of no group. Yes, there is a difference between being alone and being lonely. Some might have been enjoying a little “me time” after a hectic week. Some might have just left friends or were on their way to a party. Still, on that night all the lonely people were very present.

And I was left to wonder what these, our neighbors, might be telling us about the mission and the priorities of our congregation. We have stayed in the city—where there are students who might want something other than bar life every weekend, where there are students whose preferences and choices can cut them off from others, where there are students who are lonely. We have stayed in the city—where people are finding their way in a demanding and changing world and often finding themselves alienated, lost, alone.

How will we as the remaining downtown liberal Christian congregation respond? How can we better get to know our neighbors? How can we better minister to and with our neighbors? We have an abundance of resources including a building in good repair, a great location, and a congregation ready for new challenges as we consider our priorities and our mission for the years ahead.

“Stay in the city,” the risen Christ tells us. And we have. “Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24: 49 RSV) Together, let us discover anew how we might best use that power for the good of our neighbors.

*Peace,*

*Bill*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUMMER WORSHIP—SAME TIME, SAME PLACE

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

### MEMBER OUTINGS

The Women's Lunch will be on **Thursday, May 16, beginning at 11:45 at Monica's in Coralville.** 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 18, at the Encounter Café at 376 S. Clinton St in Iowa City beginning at 8:00 a.m.**

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Every year we recognize the high school graduates in our congregation. This year Ben Day and Anna Whittaker will graduate from City High and Emily Buck will graduate from West High. Ben plans to work this summer and will attend The University of Iowa starting in August. He is interested in business, politics, and history. At this time he is leaning towards a major course of study in Business Administration with a possible emphasis in Finance. Anna will be attending Kirkwood Community College in the fall. Emily is still deciding about what school she will attend.



The Diaconate has books available in Rockwood Hall in which you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Ben, Anna, and Emily. We will recognize our graduates during worship on **May 12.**

### FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

We want to offer special thanks to all those who helped host our Free Lunch. It was, as usual, a hectic, fun, and enjoyable day.

Once again you came together to provide an amazing 144 tasty, healthy, meals for people in need. All your donations were appreciated whether it was cabbage or cookies or shepherd's pie or serving. We were often stopped and thanked for your efforts.



Their appreciation and mine go to: Ann Aschoff, Michelle Birt Leeds, Sue and Chuck Dayton, John Fieselmann, Kyle Flippo, John Fuller, Betsy Henson, Marge Hoppin, Joan Jehle, Kathi Koege, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Ruth Kuntz, Sandy Lacina, Margaret MacInnis, Nan Martin, Linda Muston, Joyce Myer, Connie Parsons, Patty and Dale Roberts, Rick Ruppert, Betty Stein, Sally Strang, Kathy Thede-Reynolds, Vicki Thomae, and Lee Wood.

Thank you all! Edie Roberts

### OGHS THANKS

Thanks to everyone—adults and children—who gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday. We received nearly \$4000 this year. This money provides a valuable lifeline to refugees and victims of disasters around the world. Your gifts make a world of difference.

### MYSTERY OF THE MONTH

We have a brass plaque that has been separated from its original placement on a piece of furniture or window. Do you have any clues as to the item which was memorialized? Please contact the office with any information.

In Memoriam  
**HORACE LESLIE STRAIN**  
Pastor - Sept 1905 - Aug 1908

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### ADULT EDUCATION WRAPS UP IN MAY

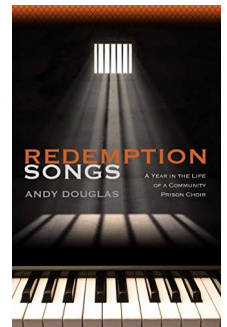
Our final 9:15 Sunday morning adult education classes for 2018-19 will be held on May 5, 12, & 19. Join us for lively discussion and opportunities for action.

### FASTRAC CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR DOCUMENTARY

Congregational UCC has supported the FasTrac program for over a decade. **On May 5**, FasTrac founder Henri Harper will join our adult education session to screen and discuss the documentary about the FasTrac 10th Anniversary Civil Rights/Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour. This trip was a chance to bring students into contact with the particular history of white supremacy and racist terrorism in the southern United States. Equally important was bringing students into contact with the institutions that were involved in building resilience and self-determination for those impacted by systemic racism.

### OAKDALE COMMUNITY CHOIR—*REDEMPTION SONGS*

After worship services on **May 12**, Iowa City-based writer and MFA graduate of the UI Nonfiction Writing Program, Andy Douglas, will read from and speak about his new book, *Redemption Songs: A Year in the Life of a Community Prison Choir*, that was released on April 1. For six years, the author volunteered with the Oakdale Community Choir, a performing chorale composed of both volunteers and inmates at the correctional facility in Coralville. Taking the reader inside the walls of this medium-security prison, the book offers a glimpse at how music and the arts are offering second chances to the incarcerated.



### OFFERING OF LETTERS

After worship service on **May 19**, Steve Panther from Bread for the World will talk about the annual “Offering of Letters” and give us the information about writing to Congressional leaders about legislation affecting hunger issues.

### STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL

Spring and summer bring great festivals to Iowa City—and close off some of the streets! **Sunday, June 2**, is the final day of the Iowa Arts Festival. Clinton, Dubuque, and Linn Streets will be closed between College and Jefferson Streets. Access to the church will be available from Jefferson Street and from Clinton Street coming from the north. Join us for worship at 10:15 a.m., but plan on a slightly longer walk.

### PENTECOST SUNDAY



We will celebrate Pentecost on **June 9**. 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, June 9.

### PRIDE FEST 2019

The Iowa City Pride Fest and Parade will take place on **Saturday, June 15**. As we have for well over a decade, Congregational UCC will have a booth on the Ped Mall during the afternoon. Look for our banners that tell everyone, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” Stop by and see us.

We are looking for members to organize our participation this year. If you’d like to help out, please call the church office—337-4301.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Mission Board, along with other church committees, have been setting up goals and priorities for our committee over the next few years. Many ideas were suggested and one that was of particular interest to many members was trying to find ways that our church, and its members, could address climate change. What can we actually do as a church? What can we do as members in any small or large way? We brainstormed what it is that we wanted to accomplish and how would we go about facing this huge global problem?

Because this topic is so large and complex, we came up with 3 ways to tackle the subject: spiritually, physically and politically. Because we wanted to make this a church project, we decided to start with the spiritual. Doing practical things that can make our lives cleaner, healthier and more satisfying.

We also decided to begin with information. You may have already noticed that we will be placing little hints in the Sunday bulletins on how we can each make small changes in our lives that will benefit the planet as a whole. To that end, Hope Spragg has made a suggestion box which has been placed in Rockwood Hall and we encourage anyone (adults and children) to put their own ideas into the box that can be shared with others in that Sunday Bulletin section. We hope this helps all of us to make this a commitment to do whatever we can to face this critical challenge together. It may seem like such a small thing, but because there are many of us, the impact is large.

Margaret Meade once said: *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has...*

We look forward to your suggestions. Please join us one step at a time.

Lee Wood, Hope Spragg, Connie Schumm and Terri Macey



### Reflections From A Pastoral Counselor

Frequently, there's a tension between culture and faith--due in large part to a difference in foundational principles. Whereas the culture emphasizes earning what you get (fairness) with the goal being success (winning), the faith accentuates grace (unmerited favor) with its goal being faithfulness (steadfastness). Living in both worlds can be akin to a person with one foot on a boat and the other on the dock. If the boat drifts enough, maintaining the stance becomes untenable..

The scripture scribes may have had this tension in mind when they wrote about being in the world but not of the world. And there may be times when we want to put both feet on the boat to see where the drifting takes us, while other times both feet on the dock seems more enticing. Framed yet another way: when the other driver is pulled over by the law for some infraction, we may want justice (fairness). But if we are pulled over, we often long for mercy (grace).

So, the issue becomes: how do we structure accountability, while allowing for second chances? How do responsibility and forgiveness travel together? Sometimes mental health therapy facilitates the discovery of answers. And other times it assists with clarifying the questions.

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.)





## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### UPDATE FROM THE COMMON FUND



In March the Common Fund's contributions to the Basic Needs Program provided 15 housing and utility assists for those in our community. Of those, 5 were for rent/deposits for new housing, 7 were electric bills, and 3 were water bills.

Before Sharon lived in North Liberty, she stayed at a shelter after moving to the area. "I've used CommUnity's services before for things like food and clothes, and I really think that helped me get to where I am now, but I try not to regularly use the services." However, having recently had surgery that put her out of work for a while, Sharon found it hard to catch up.

Sharon came to CommUnity when her water was scheduled to be disconnected the same day. As she was out running errands, she was left wondering, "Maybe they came already and shut it off." She decided to turn to CommUnity's Basic Needs Program for financial help. CommUnity was able to help her the same day that she came in and saved her from having her water disconnected during the cold, winter months.

Congregational UCC will provide at least \$2000 to the Common Fund this year. Individuals wishing to donate may write a check out to CommUnity with "Common Fund" in the memo line. Please place them in your offering plate or send them directly to CommUnity at the following address to be sure they are counted in the CRC budget:

CommUnity, 1121 S. Gilbert. Ct., Iowa City, IA 52240

### SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE UPDATE

The Shelter House Book sale in late March raised over \$27,000 for the Shelter House. This surpassed by far the previous high total of \$19,000 that was raised last year. Many members of our congregation donated books and volunteered hours—probably more than any other church in town.



Preparation for the sale started in late February with 0 books—and 42,500 books were donated by the community. Tens of thousands of books were left after the sale to go to many non-profits in the area. It was a wonderful event, and for volunteers it was an excellent opportunity to burn calories and exercise our brains. Thanks to everyone who made this possible!

### LOOK AHEAD TO...DECEMBER: Gifts for Parents Returns

Gifts for Parents, sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC), provides over 350 local children (up to age 14) the opportunity to select free holiday gifts for loved ones.

Lack of leadership meant that this important event was cancelled in 2018. In order to assure that this meaningful event will be held this year on December 7 at St Mark's United Methodist Church, the CRC has adopted a new "distributed leadership" model for its leadership team.

Volunteer leaders are needed for a half-dozen or so critical positions (ranging from Gifts Manager, to Gift Wrap Manager, to Clean Up Coordinator).

Please consider being part of this joyful community event. If you are interested or have questions, contact John Barr at [BarrJohnO@sau.edu](mailto:BarrJohnO@sau.edu).



Consultation of Religious Communities

## **CHURCH COUNCIL DEVELOPS ACTION PLAN CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ON MAY 19**

Over the past year our Church Boards and the Church Council have been looking at our life together and developing plans for the coming year. Some 60 members of our congregation serve on the boards and council and the responses of other members are important as we move forward. **After worship on May 19** we will gather to reflect together on the current action plan and hear the suggestions of church members.

What follows is a summary of priorities that will be discussed.

### **MISSION:**

Financial Support—CommUnity Crisis Center Foodbank, Shelter House, Center for Worker Justice, Eastern Iowa Bond Project, Mt. Pleasant family needs  
Volunteering—Habitat for Humanity builds, Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, Center for Worker Justice, Free Lunch Program  
Book Discussion Groups  
Church Green Committee

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Develop youth ministry—meet with and survey youth; compile a contact database, encourage youth involvement  
Handle “difficult topics” in discussions  
Teach about faith  
Science and faith curriculum  
Continued development of children’s choir  
Adult education—speakers from community organizations; new opportunities

### **DIACONATE**

New worship experiences

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Improve communication with members and non-members  
Renew the visitation committee  
Support members in crisis  
Distribute a revised print directory every year and a pictorial directory every 5 years  
Interact with visitors in Fellowship Hall

### **TRUSTEES**

Continue excellent maintenance of building, keeping alert to new needs

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Promote greater sense of “ownership” among members in 30-50 age range



# Books for Adults

## “White Rage, the Unspoken Truth Of Our Racial Divide”

By Carol Anderson

First Published in 2016

Quoted from the book cover:

"Since 1865 and the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, every time African Americans have made advances toward full participation in our democracy, white reaction has fueled a deliberate, relentless rollback of any gains. Carefully linking historical flashpoints--from the post-Civil War Black Codes to expressions of white rage after the election of America's first black president--Anderson renders visible the long lineage of white rage and the different names under which it hides. Compelling and dramatic in the unimpeachable history it relates, White Rage adds a vital new dimension to the national conversation about race in America."

"A sobering primer on the myriad ways African American resilience and triumph over enslavement, Jim Crow and intolerance have been relentlessly defied by the very institutions entrusted to uphold our democracy"--The Washington Post.

"A powerful survey of American history as seen in the violent white reactions to black progress"--The Boston Globe.

A New York Times Notable Book of the Year

A Washington Post Notable Nonfiction Book of the Year

A Boston Globe Best Book of 2016

A Chicago Review of Books Best Nonfiction Book of 2016

Carol Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler Professor and Chair of African American Studies at Emory University. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Judy Doorenbos  
Library Committee



# Books for Pre-Teens and Teenagers

## "The War That Saved My Life"

By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Ada is a ten-year-old girl who lives in an apartment in London with her mother and 6-year-old brother, Jamie. Having been born with a clubfoot, Ada is unable to walk on her own, and has never been outside to play, but she sits at the window to watch her brother play.

The year is 1939, as World War II has begun, the government has started to evacuate children from the city of London, to the countryside. Ada's mother wishes to send Jamie to be evacuated, but not Ada. She does not believe anyone will want to care for Ada. Ada spends the summer learning to walk on her own so that she can go with Jamie and decides to leave without her mother knowing.

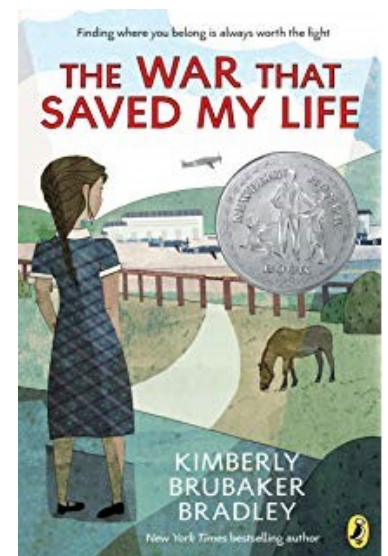
Ada spends the time in the countryside experiencing a life she never thought she would experience, learning things about herself she never thought possible. Ultimately, the time in the country ends, she returns to the city, returns to her mother.

Her life forever changed by World War II.

Publishers Weekly Starred Review  
Kirkus Reviews Starred Review  
The Horn Book Starred Review  
Recommended by School Library Journal  
Recommended by Booklist

Kimberley Brubaker Bradley's historical fiction has garnered great acclaim. Kim lives with her husband and family in East Tennessee. She loves to travel and first visited England when she was 13.

Courtney Nelson, Library Committee



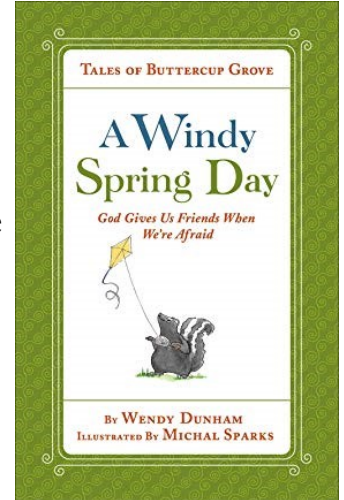


# Books for Children

The two books below are new ones to our church library.

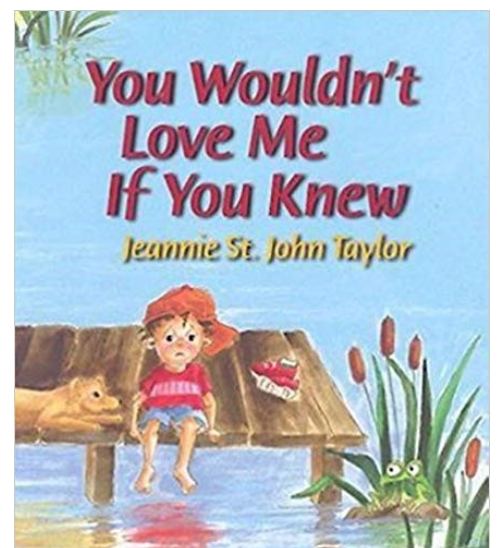
***A Windy Spring Day (God Gives Us Friends When We're Afraid)*** by Wendy Dunham, Illustrated by Michal Sparks. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2018. Ages 4 to 8 (early reader).

This is one of four books in the *Tales of Buttercup Grove* early reader series. Skunk is frightened when a strong wind blows through the forest and meadows of Buttercup Grove. Skunk cowers on his sofa with a blanket over his head, but still feels the need for a friend to come over and help him lose his fear. Raccoon plans a surprise for Skunk which will make the wind less fearful. A compassionate friend and some creativity transform the wind into a plaything instead of something to fear.



***You Wouldn't Love Me If You Knew*** by Jeannie St. John Taylor. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003. Ages 5-8, Grades K-3.

A gently used book with an essential theme of forgiveness. Our Sunday school classes used this book and found it to resonate with children. A boy did a very bad thing. He felt awful even though it was a secret and no one else knew about it. The boy went around doing good things for people. Everyone said, "You're such a good boy," but that made him feel worse. He thought he was a bad boy, and that no one would love him if they knew what he did. The boy's mother finally drew out his secret and was able to assure him that he was loved no matter what. Reviewers liked the emphasis on unconditional love that is not earned by doing good things. They also like the fact that the "very bad thing" is never defined because the boy whispers it to his mother. The author thus allows children to fill in the blanks, and it opens up the opportunity for discussion.



Ruth Kuntz, Library Committee



5/5 Ed Leighton-Dick

5/14 Edie Roberts

5/15 Elizabeth Groff

5/16 Vea Johnson  
Gloria Hanson  
Barbara Sisley

5/17 Dylan Beerends

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  
Hanna Leighton-Dick

5/27 Cynthia Kemp

5/28 Robyn Wood Groff

5/30 Oscar Hill

# MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> - Weekly Meditation Noon - FRC Luncheon Noon	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Worship Service@ 10:15</b> - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 - Fastrac Civil Rights Tour Adult Ed - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 - Mission Board 7:00 pm	<b>8</b> - Weekly Meditation Noon	<b>9</b> - FRC Luncheon Noon (Last FRC for Spring semester)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Worship Service@ 10:15</b> - Choir 9:00 - Sunday School Ages 9:15 - Andy Douglas Adult Ed - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship - High School Graduate Recognition	<b>13</b> - Knitting Group 2 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> - Weekly Meditation Noon	<b>16</b> - Women's Lunch @ Monica's. 11:45 am	<b>17</b> - Russian Guitar Festival 5 pm	<b>18</b> - Men's Breakfast @ the Encounter Café at 8:00 am
<b>19</b> <b>Worship Service@ 10:15</b> - Choir 9:00 - Sunday School Ages 9:15 - Steve Panther, Adult Ed - Committees Action Plan Discussion - Russian Guitar Festival 5pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> - Membership 5:30 - Trustees 7:00 - Stewardship 7:00	<b>22</b> - Weekly Meditation Noon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> - Von Behren Recitals 5pm	<b>25</b> - Von Behren Recitals Noon
<b>26</b> <b>Worship Service @ 10:15</b> - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	<b>27</b> - Knitting Group 2 pm	<b>28</b> - Church Council 7:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

MAY 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**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>The Rev. William Lovin</b>
Office Manager:	Nan Martin
Financial Secretary:	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz
Communication Assistant:	Christina Patramanis
Director of Church School:	The Rev. Patte Henderson
Music Director:	Kristin Ramseyer
Children's Music Director	Avery Nabholz
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Custodians:	Douglas Herrera Claudia Landaverde

#### **HOW TO CONTACT US**

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

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Dir of Church School .....uccicce@uccic.org  
Music Director..... kristin-ramseyer@uiowa.edu  
Children's Music Dir.....avery-nabholz@uiowa.edu

**Visit our Web Site:** [www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)