



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
JUNE 2019



Friends in Christ:

I've said before that I love the "summer church"—those gatherings of God's people on warm or hot summer Sunday mornings. The pace is slower. The dress is casual. The mood is relaxed. Throughout the worship service we become aware of God and our neighbor and ourselves in new ways as we rest in the stillness of the summer morning.

One of the distinguishing features of Congregational/UCC hymnals is the number hymns on the subject of changing seasons. We found them in the old *Pilgrim Hymnal*. And they are still found in the more recent *Hymns of Truth and Light* and *The New Century Hymnal*. When Congregationalists sing, we take note of the cycles of the sun and the moon and the earth. And right now we sing with joy that "the summer days have come again."

While we affirm that God is revealed to us through the scriptures and most fully in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our hymns suggest that we can also understand something of the Holy One through the natural world as it changes through the year.

We're not naïve about this. The beauty of spring and the fullness of summer bring with them the destructive power of tornadoes, storms, and hurricanes. We know as well that the cold of winter increases the problems of hunger and homelessness. And all seasons seem to be a time for war rather than a time for peace.

If God is to be seen in the changing seasons, we often have to look very hard. Maybe this is the real point. Discerning what God is doing in the world and in our lives and our congregation is difficult work.

This summer I will be preaching from the Acts of the Apostles during worship. Those New Testament stories tell of early Christians trying to make sense of their faith in a tumultuous world while facing often dangerous opposition. As I read through this book in recent months, I began to see anew its connections with our world and our times.

I encourage you to read through Acts in the coming summer months. And join us for worship in air-conditioned splendor—a little break from the heat and humidity.

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.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

During worship on May 19, we received four new members. They are:

David Dowling and Caroline Tolbert have lived in the Iowa City area for 13 years. David is a professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at UI. Caroline is a professor in the Dept. of Political Science. They have three children, a daughter in graduate school at Caltech, another daughter entering graduate school at UC Davis in the fall, and a son completing his junior year at West High. Caroline and David's family dating back to early 1800s were members of the Congregational Church in Harlan, IA and Boscobell, WI. David's parents are current members of the UCC in San Rafael, CA. Caroline's grandmother ('1910) and sister ('1979) are alumni of Grinnell College, a college related to the UCC.

Kyle Flippo is doing postdoc biomedical research at UI. He enjoys running, fishing, and woodworking. Kyle looks forward to meeting more members of the congregation and becoming a member of the church community.

Rachel Slezak is an Iowa native, nature enthusiast, and a counselor who works as a therapist at Cornell College. She has enjoyed getting to know church members and is excited to be a part of the community.

GRADUATION NEWS

Spring always brings graduation celebrations.

During worship on May 12 we recognized our High School graduates, **Ben Day and Anna Whittaker** who graduated from City High and **Emily Buck** who graduated from West High. Ben will attend The University of Iowa starting in August. Anna will be attending Kirkwood Community College in the fall. Emily will attend Smith College.

We also celebrate several college graduations:

Molly Shepherd graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. This next year she is taking a gap year during which time she will take the GRE, continue her work in the lab, and apply to graduate school. Molly's cross country team won the NCAA Championship for division 3 this academic year and she became an All-American in indoor track and her indoor track team was the runner-up at the NCAA Indoor Track Championship in March.

Nathaniel Lovin is graduating from Carleton College in June.

Evelyn Dowling, the daughter of new members David Dowling and Caroline Tolbert is also graduating from Carleton College. She will begin graduate school at the University of California, Davis, in the fall.

Congregational UCC member **Emily Legel** graduated from UI with a Masters in Urban Planning.

Congregational UCC friend **Colin Wilson** graduated from UI with a Masters in Vocal Performance. He will begin doctoral studies at UI in the fall.

Congregational UCC friend **Chanel Jelovchan** graduated from UI with a Masters in Urban Planning. She is moving to North Carolina.

GREEN COOL CONGREGATION

The first meeting of the Cool Congregation(al) UCC Work Group will take place on **Wednesday, June 5, 6:00 pm**, at the church. The Group's purpose will be to identify and recommend ways in which the church and its congregants can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. All are invited to participate. For more information, contact Chuck Connerly at charles-connerly@uiowa.edu.

CONGREGATIONAL UCC GIVES THANKS FOR THE MINISTRY OF PATTE HENDERSON

During worship on May 19, our congregation recognized the Rev. Patte Henderson and gave thanks for her ministry here as she retires as our Director of Children's Programs. Patte began her work here at a time when our programs for children needed renewal. She hit the ground running and brought her many gifts to these programs. She welcomed children, giving all of them a sense that they were valued by God and valued by this congregation. She helped bring new members into our congregation as parents saw what she and the church school program had to offer. She provided support and direction to our Board of Christian Education, strengthening their work.

The good news is that Patte is staying in Iowa City and will still be an active member of our congregation. There is a book in Rockwood Hall in which you can write your thoughts and good wishes to Patte as she concludes her service here.

The CE Board is in the process of hiring a new Director.



JUNE 2 - STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL

Spring and summer bring great festivals to Iowa City - and closes 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 IS JUNE 9 -WEAR RED!

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. Also on June 9,



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY - JUNE 9

What does church mean to you? Mission? Compassion? Community?...Praise? Prayer? Peace? There are as many different answers as there are people. But the value at the heart of every answer is the same: Love. The church is love.

Each year we receive a special offering that helps the church’s love to grow and thrive. The “Strengthen the Church” offering grows the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the “Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God’s extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church. On *Sunday, June 9* - Pentecost Sunday - we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S LUNCH - June 20

The Women's Lunch will be on **Thursday, June 20, beginning at 11:45 at Monica's in Coralville.** It's a fun time—everyone welcome! Please call or email the office to reserve your seat at the table!

MEN'S BREAKFAST - June 15

The June Men's Breakfast will be held at the new **Panera in the Old Capitol Mall, downtown Iowa City, at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 15.** All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends.

PRIDE FEST 2019 - June 15



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 have several opportunities for members to organize our participation this year. If you'd like to be a part of this, please talk with Edie Roberts, sign up in Rockwood Hall, or call the church office at 337-4301.

LOOK AHEAD TO THE JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 7, is the last day of the Iowa City Jazz Festival. The Dick Watson Quartet will lead a jazz worship service that morning at 10:15.



LOOK AHEAD TO THE CHURCH PICNIC - NEW LOCATION!

Our annual all church picnic will be held at the Terry Trueblood Recreation Center on Sunday, July 21, from 4-6 p.m. Please mark your calendar now and watch the Sunday bulletins, the Friday email, and the July newsletter for more information.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Reflections From A Pastoral Counselor



The human condition is a curious blend of fragility and resiliency, with the combination of each being unique to every individual. What may be a major obstacle for one person is a minor adjustment for another--and vice versa. And processing major or minor experiences varies since one size does not fit all.

Because people are like onions--we come in layers, which are based in part on developmental stages, chronology, and experiences--we sometimes need to process at one layer before moving on to the next one. So, for example, the processing we did in our 20s regarding our childhood may be different when we do such processing in our 40s. Our awareness changes with new insights and expanded understandings. Sometimes what seemed so simple at one time may become more complex later.

A seminary professor used to say, "Plow your past" and "lean into the pain." He was encouraging greater self-awareness and more effective processing. It may not be easy work but it can be liberating. And we may discover strength we didn't know we had since resiliency can be hidden and subtle.

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.)

BROKERAGE ACCOUNT CHANGES

We have evaluated the fee structure of our current brokerage account at USBank compared to other brokerage services. As a result, we have decided to switch to a Vanguard brokerage account, which promises much lower transaction fees. We will be closing the USBank brokerage account soon.

If you choose to donate securities in the future, please call the church office to obtain two necessary numbers. These are the Vanguard DTC number and the Church Vanguard account number. Then give your broker this information. Please let the office know whenever a donation of securities is coming to the church.. Since the transmission of the donation contains only numbers with no names attached, this will allow us to identify and credit your donation.

COMMON FUND UPDATE

For the month of April 2019, the Common Fund's contributions to the Basic Needs Program provided 18 housing and utility assists for those in our community. Of those, 6 were for rent/deposits for new housing, 7 were electric bills, and 5 were water bills. Congregational UCC will provide at least \$2000 to the Common Fund this year.

In April, Common Fund staff had the pleasure of meeting Natalie. She recently moved to Iowa City with her children because her daughter has autism and needs to be close to UIHC. While her husband works out of state, Natalie and her children have been living in a hotel.

Natalie came to CommUnity for assistance paying the deposit on a rental house. Because they were required to pay a deposit, first month's rent, and last month's rent on a home that was big enough for their family, they did not have enough money to cover the cost. CommUnity was able to help with the deposit and Natalie will be able to move her family into the home, with her husband joining them shortly.

They were also able to provide a Birthday Bag for one of her children, helping to make this birthday a special one, even during a big transition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

OPPORTUNITIES AT SHELTER HOUSE

Shelter House is in need of committed, weekly volunteers to help in our Job Lab and at our Front Desk. See below for information on each volunteer position:\

Job Lab Volunteers

Job Lab takes place from 8-10AM Monday through Friday and 1-4PM on Tuesdays. Volunteers help clients search for jobs, use computers, create resumes, apply for government assistance, and/or post various job openings. This position works closely with our Employment Case Manager, so you will have on-site support from Shelter House staff. **We need Job Lab volunteers for Tuesdays 8-10AM & 1-4PM, Thursdays 8-10AM, and Fridays 8-10AM.**

Front Desk Volunteers

Front Desk volunteers assist staff in meeting the needs of clients and guests. Among the responsibilities of Front Desk volunteers are doing client laundry, answering calls and greeting guests, explaining services to guests, facilitating Drop-In Services when community members come for items or other services, sorting in-kind donations and organizing the donation garage. This position works closely with our Coordinated Entry staff person. We encourage Front Desk volunteers to commit to a three-hour shift once a week.

Front Desk volunteers are needed for the following shifts: Monday: 9-12PM and 1-4PM; Tuesday: 9-12PM; Wednesday: 9-12PM and 1-4PM; Thursday: 1-4PM and 4-7PM

If you are interested in volunteering with Shelter House, please fill out the **Volunteer Application** located here <https://shelterhouseiowa.org/volunteer/> and from there, you will be contacted by our Volunteer Coordinator, Alex Linden, to set-up a brief interview. **If you have any questions**, please contact Alex at alex.linden@shelterhouseiowa.org or (319) 338-5416 ext. 221.



OPPORTUNITY WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In response to the recent lot rent increases, some residents of Golfview Mobile Home Court are moving to an adjacent mobile home park where lot rent will stay stable. A few of those people have reached out to us at Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity because they are unable to manage the move on their own due to disability and/or age. Because their need is significant, IVHFH have offered to lend a hand. So, IVHFH is asking for some help from supporters of Habitat, concerned members of our community, and anybody that wants to use their muscles as we help our neighbors in North Liberty relocate.

IVHFH will be busy with this one-time project each Friday until the end of June and can take up to five volunteers each day. If you are interested in volunteering for this special service opportunity, please send us an email or contact our volunteer coordinator, Leda, at (319) 337-8949 or leda@iowavalleyhabitat.org for more information.

Chantelle Navarro of KCRG and KCRG-TV9 did a recent [news](#) story detailing the crisis facing Golfview mobile Home Court residents.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition invites everyone to the first reading of a new Hate Crime ordinance at the Iowa City Council meeting on **June 4, at 6:30 p.m.**

HOUSING ISSUES FOR THOSE WITH PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

A presentation by Rachel Lehmann & Erin Sullivan of the Shelter House Rapid Rehousing Program on Saturday, June 22, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 140 Gathering Place Lane, 9-11 AM. Individuals with disabilities face unique and difficult challenges finding and maintaining affordable, stable housing in Johnson County. Shelter House offers a robust continuum of programs and supports focusing on emergency, stabilization, and long-term interventions in the areas of housing, employment, and mental health recovery.

Questions: Marcia Murphy murphyma87533@gmail.com.

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 in volunteering or have questions, contact John Barr at BarrJohnO@sau.edu.

And for folks who will want to donate to this program, suggestions include new or gently used items suitable as a gift for an adult, such as kitchen gadgets, tools, wallets, costume jewelry, Hawkeye items, and flashlights. There is usually a shortage of gifts for men. Watch for more information in the early fall about donation containers in Rockwood Hall. For more information or questions contact members Sue Dayton cdayton7@mchsi.com or Edie Roberts edie-roberts@uiowa.edu.

AND SAVE THOSE OUTERWEAR ITEMS!

Plan Ahead: It's never too early to be thinking about donations for the **Outerwear Distribution** (October 26 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church) Like the Gift For Parents (above) this event is sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC). As you do your spring cleaning check your closets for donations. Suggestions for the Outerwear Distribution: coats, snow pants, boots, hats, gloves/mittens, vests, heavy sweaters/sweatshirts. Watch for more information in the early fall about donation containers in Rockwood Hall and signup sheets for volunteers. If you have questions about these events contact Sue Dayton cdayton7@mchsi.com or Edie Roberts edie-roberts@uiowa.edu. And knitters, think about knitting some mittens, hats and scarves for our Mitten Tree!

INSIDE OUT REENTRY SPRING FUNDRAISER

Inside Out is holding an online Spring Fundraiser that aims to help them expand their Resource Center office hours. The Resource Center is where returning citizens can drop in to receive help searching for and applying for employment and housing, life skills training and tutoring, help with accessing community resources such as behavioral health, voting rights restoration, or to simply talk with staff and volunteers about challenges they are facing, and to receive support and encouragement. For a donation of \$50 or more, donors may choose to receive a special thank you gift of the Inside Out Reentry "All Iowans Deserve the Right to Vote" t-shirt or the Inside Out Reentry Community t-shirt. Donor's choice! <https://www.facebook.com/donate/344084089629372/>
You may also donate via paypal: [Donate to Inside Out Reentry](#)

Books for Adults

“Redemption Songs: A Year in the Life of a Community Prison Choir”

By Andy Douglas

Quoted from the book:

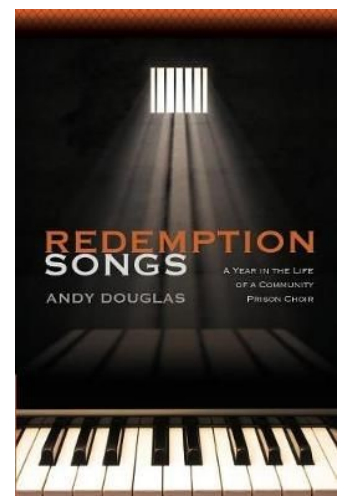
"Andy Douglas presents a panoramic understanding of music and incarceration from his distinctive experience in the Oakdale Community Choir. More than an account of the choir's work, the book is a deep insight into musical humanity under dehumanizing conditions. Douglas's work is evocative and thoughtful, deeply compassionate and humble, and brings the reader close to the troubled lives, wounds and hopes of the incarcerated men."

"The real lives of our incarcerated are a mystery to many of us, though for some two million Americans and their families, this is a world they know all too well. Over the last eight years author Andy Douglas has been allowed access, not as an employee or journalist, but as a member of a unique choral group composed equally of "insiders" and "outsiders" through a skilled blend of personal experience and essential information. Douglas bears witness to the intimacy and hope that a few hours of harmony can create behind bars."

"Douglas explores controversial issues of race, poverty, educational access, historical and cultural prejudice, and personal redemption. He weaves stories from the incarcerated, prison officers and wardens, counselors, and choral volunteers to shed light on their shared experiences--group singing inside a prison."

Andy Douglas is a writer and musician living in Iowa City. He holds an MFA in Nonfiction Writing from the University of Iowa, where he was the recipient of the Marcus Bach Fellowship for Writing about religion and culture. Douglas is active in the Community Sing movement, writes about social justice issues, does some spiritual direction work and leads a kiirtan and meditation circle.

Judy Doorenbos
Library Committee



Books for Pre-Teens and Teenagers

"Finding Fortune"

By Delia Ray

Written by Iowa City author Delia Ray, incorporating information about the history of Mississippi River pearl button trade, the story is about 6th grader Ren who has decided to run away. Ren decides to stay in the abandoned school-turned-guest house in the next town over. There she learns about the history of the Mississippi River and the importance of the pearl button trade in the tiny town of Fortune.

Ren is working to save her family from inevitable divorce once her father returns from active duty. While staying in Fortune, she works to help solve the mystery of Mrs. Baxter, the proprietor. Will Ren be successful in either of her quests?

Delia Ray is the author of other books which have been featured on Children's Choice lists in more than ten states. She lives in Iowa City.



Courtney Nelson, Library Committee

“What Do You Believe? (Big Questions About Religion)”

By the editorial team at DK/Penguin Random House, 2016.

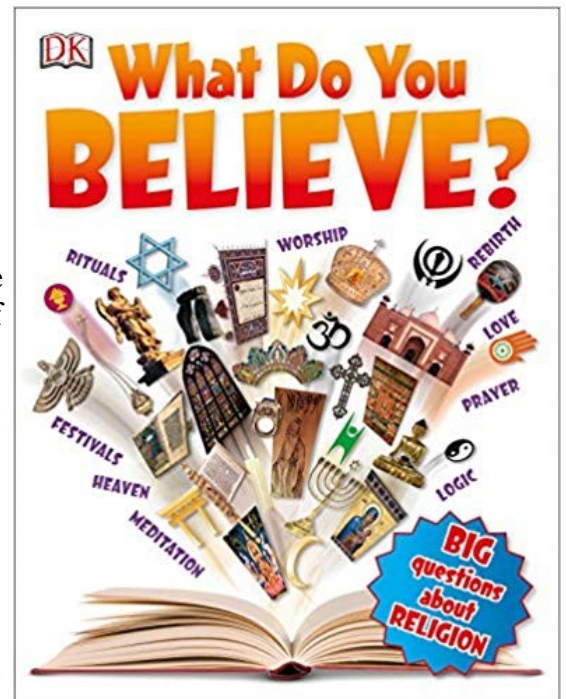
Big questions about religion are presented in a clear and unbiased text. Key concepts are broken down into manageable chunks of information, with major ideas being simply explained.

The first of four big sections is entitled “In the Beginning.” First it asks, “Why believe?” It deals with that subject in earlier times, in India, in the Middle East, to the Enlightenment and beyond.

Section two is entitled "The Big Ideas." Readers are introduced to the myriad ways people around the world choose to live and think. What isabout? describes Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Native religions, East Asian religions, new religious movements, modern spirituality, and atheism.

Section three is entitled “Why do you? Some subjects are “the good books”, prayer, festivals, feasts, & fasts, rites of passage, special clothing and hair treatments, eating traditions, and “giving up things.”

Section four is entitled “The Search for Answers.” It introduces philosophy of religion and asks, “What is God?” “They can’t all be right, can they?” “If religions preach peace, why is everyone fighting?” “Why do bad things happen to good people?” It describes the relationship between religion and science, the moral maze, and at the end asks, “Is religion redundant?”



As an adult, I found this book fascinating and thought-provoking. Parents and young people might find some help with big questions and a taking-off point for good family discussions.

Ages 7-10, Grades 2-5.

Ruth Kuntz
Library Committee

Happiness is a June Birthday!



6/1 *Martha Winegarten*
6/2 *Fielding Woolums*
6/3 *Jerilyn McCarty*
 Paula Forest
6/6 *Gloria Lacina*
6/7 *Ray Muston*
6/8 *Lee Wood*
6/9 *Gavin Nelson*
 Renn Morton

6/11 *Derek Willard*
6/16 *Ethel Bloesch*
6/18 *Sally Strang*
6/23 *Donna Bertogli*
 Melissa Jensen
 Carly Trout
6/25 *Dale Roberts*
6/27 *Ed Keogh*
 Jonas Ackerman

JUNE 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Iowa City Arts Festival
2 Worship Service@ 10:15 - Ascension Sunday - Communion - Choir 9:00 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship - Streets closed for last day of Arts Festival	3 Office Closed	4 - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 - Mission Board 7:00 pm	5 - Weekly Meditation Noon - Cool Congregation(al) UCC Work Group 6:00 pm	6	7	8
9 Worship Service@ 10:15 - Pentecost Sunday— Wear Red! - Strengthen the Church Offering - Last Choir Date 9:00 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship	10 - Knitting Group 2 pm	11	12 - Weekly Meditation Noon	13	14	15 - Men's Breakfast @ the New Panera in Old Capital Mall Iowa City at 8:00 am - Pride Fest Iowa City
16 - Worship Service@ 10:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship	17	18 - Membership 5:30 - Trustees 7:00 - Stewardship 7:00	19 - Weekly Meditation Noon	20 - Women's Lunch @ Monica's. 11:45 am	21	22
23 - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	24 - Knitting Group 2 pm	25 - Church Council 7:00 pm	26 - Weekly Meditation Noon	27	28	29
30 - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall						

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JUNE 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
Office Manager:	Nan Martin
Financial Secretary:	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz
Communication Assistant:	Christina Patramanis
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
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Communication Assist....cpatramanis@yahoo.com
Music Director.....kristin-ramseyer@uiowa.edu
Children's Music Dir.....avery-nabholz@uiowa.edu

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