



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
JULY 2019



Friends in Christ:

In recent years I've used these Sundays in the summer to preach extensively from a single book of the Bible, or in one case, two letters of Paul because each of them was short.

Usually that goes well, although I've discovered that we never really know what we're getting into when we dive into the depths of scripture. Preaching from Jeremiah for ten Sundays seemed unwise to many when I began that series three years ago. I mean, Jeremiah is not usually considered "summer fare." But it proved to be a fruitful exploration. On the other hand, shortly after I began to preach from Paul's brief letter to the Colossians, I realized how little I cared for any of it. That presented some challenges.

This summer I'm taking several Sundays to move through a significant portion of the Acts of the Apostles—that stylized and idealized story of the early church in the years after the resurrection. It seems especially good for these weeks because here we have accounts of travels to foreign countries, world capitals, and exotic destinations. We will hear of Mediterranean cruises and trips through the countryside. So, if you're having a staycation this summer, you can see worship each Sunday as a chance to get away.

I'll keep it light.

O.K.—I'll *try* to keep it light. It is summer, after all.

What happens when a group of uncertain followers of Jesus take the risk and start to show and tell people about the inclusive love of God? The book of Acts is one account of the results—success and failure—and some very strange events.

We will continue to discover the same results in our own lives and in this congregation as we show and tell the love of God.

*Peace,*

*Bill*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE REV. ANN MOLSBERRY SELECTED AS NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



In June, the Board of Christian Education met with the Rev. Ann Molsberry and recommended that we hire her as our Director of Children's Programs. The Council approved this at its June meeting.

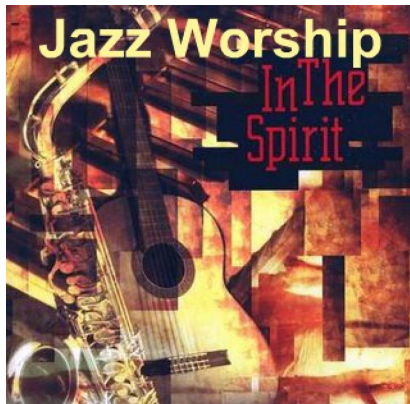
Ann has served several UCC churches as Director of Christian Education for over 30 years. In 2001 she received the Excellence in Teaching Award at the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Synod of the UCC. She graduated from Eden Seminary and was ordained in the UCC in November 2008. She has also served as an interim minister at several churches, most recently in Tipton.

Ann preached here twice in the past year and is known to some of our members. She grew up in Iowa City and moved back here a few years ago. Ann and her husband, the Rev. Bob Molsberry, were married here by the late Rev. Ed Heininger.

We welcome Ann to this position and to our congregation. She begins her work here this month.

### UCC JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, July 7, we will mark the end of the Iowa City Jazz Festival with a jazz worship service at 10:15 a.m. Our friends, The Dick Watson quartet, will provide the music for our worship. Congregational UCC member Ethan Buck will be sitting in on the sax. Please join us—and bring some friends along.



### JULY 7—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA CITY JAZZ FESTIVAL

Spring and summer bring great festivals to Iowa City—and closes off some of the streets! Sunday, July 7, is the final day of the Iowa City Jazz 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.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### WOMEN'S JULY LUNCH NEWS

The Women's Lunch will be on July 18 beginning at 11:45 am. They will meet at **Monica's in Coralville**. Let the office know if you would like to come. But, as always, last minute folks are most welcome!

### MEN'S BREAKFAST NEWS

The Men of the Church are on breakfast hiatus for July and August. Nevertheless, feel free to continue to eat breakfast daily. It's the most important meal of the day!

### IT'S ALMOST PICNIC TIME AT TERRY TRUEBLOOD REC AREA!

It's warm....the sun is staying up awfully long....you're very hungry....that must mean it's time for this year's Congregational UCC Summer Picnic!!! Check out the new digs! Lots of things to see and do!

**Date:** Sunday, July 21      **Time:** 4-6 pm

**New Place:** Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, 4213 Sand Road SE, Iowa City

**Membership Brings:** The Main Dish

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

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

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### UCC HOSTING JULY FREE LUNCH

It's our turn to host the Free Lunch in July (July 29). A sign-up sheet is posted in Rockwood Hall. You always respond generously to this effort and do so to provide well over one hundred tasty, healthy, meals to those in need. Many of the diners take the time to express their sincere thanks to us for all they receive from you. Whether you donate food or help serve or both, you are appreciated. Please consider signing up to bring food and/or to help serve. Vicki Thomae



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### IOWA CITY PRIDE—JUNE 15, 2019



We want to offer special thanks to all those who helped make our presence at the Pride Fest such a worthwhile effort. It was a lively, fun, and very rewarding day.

You all came together to show that our church not only has open doors, but open hearts and minds, as well.

Volunteers and cookie bakers included: Claire and Bob Ashman, Dianne Atkins, Megan Carnes, Noel Carver, Martha Ann Crawford and Shelby, Bill Dickinson, Chuck Dayton, Kyle Flippo, Paula Forest, Donna Hirst, Jennifer Hrabe, Tina Koepnick, Ruth Kuntz, Emily Legel, Nan Martin, Tom Mittman, Linda Muston, Kevin Richards, James Robinson, Rick Ruppert, Rachel Slezak, Laurie Stunz, Marie Von Behren, and Lee Wood.

Thank you all! The Mission Board and Edie Roberts

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

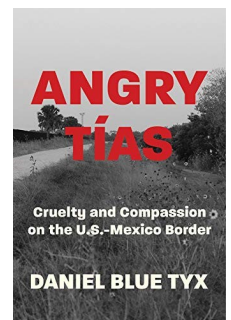
We received \$800 for our Strengthen the Church offering in June. The “Strengthen the Church” offering grows the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of 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. Your gifts will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.



### UPCOMING BOOK READING AND DISCUSSION

Members are invited to a reading from *ANGRY TÍAS: Cruelty and Compassion on the U.S.-Mexico Border* by author and Iowa City native, Dan Tyx on Sunday, July 7 beginning at 10:45 am at the Faith United Church of Christ, 1609 Deforest Ave in Iowa City.

In *Angry Tías*, journalist and McAllen, TX, resident, Dan Tyx recounts how an eclectic group of fed-up border women and under-resourced lawyers transformed their initial shock and anger at the horrors taking place in their own communities into a grassroots movement for democracy and accountability. Based on extensive interviews and reporting from detention centers, courtrooms, international bridges, and refugee shelters, the author weaves together the stories of activists and refugees into a narrative of a border community's resistance to creeping authoritarianism. Everyone is welcome to attend.



### 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 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](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com) or Edie Roberts [edie-roberts@uiowa.edu](mailto:edie-roberts@uiowa.edu). And knitters, think about knitting some mittens, hats and scarves for our Mitten Tree!



## Celebrating Joint Annual Meeting 2019

Anna Mary Mueller and Phyllis Ruppert were our congregation's delegates to this year's Joint Annual Meeting in Omaha. It was held at prairie campus of a new mosque, synagogue and Christian church. Here's a report from the Iowa Conference.

What a celebration we had at our first-ever Joint Annual Meeting of the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences UCC! More than 250 participants (IA – 75; NE – 89; SD – 63) had tremendous opportunities for connection, collaboration and creativity — building relationships across conferences as well as time to conduct business meetings separately.

We heard inspiring preaching from the Rev. Dr. Chris Davies, team leader of the UCC's Faith INFO Team, and the Rev. Brigit Stevens, executive conference minister of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences UCC. We worshipped amidst the backdrop of the inspiring new sanctuary of [Countryside Community Church UCC](#), a part of the [Tri-Faith Initiative](#). We had time to connect around the topics meaningful to those gathered during our open space time. We conducted business as separate conferences. We gathered for storytelling during our Saturday banquet. During our closing worship, we celebrated the installation and new ministries of our four associate conference ministers: The Revs. Ellis Arnold, Darrell Goodwin, Samantha Houser and Jonna Jensen. We poured out our gifts through our offering of \$3,085.60 for disaster relief to be split between three conference disaster ministry funds (IA – \$1,697.08, NE – \$833.11, SD – \$555.41; the split is based on the percentage of church membership in each conference as recorded in annual yearbook data.)

Thank you to so many who made this event a success — especially the hard-working and gracious staff and volunteers with our three conferences and our hosts Countryside Community Church UCC! Thank you to our many [vendors](#) who supported the event financially. It truly takes a village to host a Joint Annual Meeting.

If you missed our gathering, or want to relive the joy of it, you can find photos and videos on our Facebook pages including, but not limited to:

[Keynote address](#) and [preaching](#) from the Rev. Dr. Chris Davies

Slideshow from the Honorees Luncheon

[Tri-Conference Celebration](#) with the Rev. Brigit Stevens

Storytelling ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)) hosted by the Rev. Lindsey Braun

[Preaching](#) and [Storytelling](#) from the Rev. Brigit Stevens

[Installation of Associate Conference Ministers](#)

You may also read business meeting [documents](#) from each of the three annual meetings

Check out our [Photo Album](#) that captures the event!

We experienced so much laughter and shed a few tears with friends old and new! Next year promises to have all the feels and all the excitement of this past weekend. Save the dates for our 2020 annual meeting: Iowa Annual Meeting: June 19-21, 2020, Location TBD



## Reflections From A Pastoral Counselor



My auto therapist died recently. I had known him 40 years and valued not only his technical expertise and mechanical skill but also his commendable character and related trustworthiness.

When I called with a vehicle issue, hearing his voice was reassuring. If the needed intervention was going to be lengthy, he'd offer me a loaner from his "herd". If I needed something or didn't need it, he would tell me. His assessments were accurate and his motivation based on improving my situation (and the corresponding dependence many of us have on these machines with motors and four wheels). Our conversations evolved to include updates on family and our worlds in general. Unfortunately, he would bury two wives during the time I knew him.

He was friendly in a shy way. With time, our exchanges progressively included more laughter. Having a reliable relationship over several decades is a special gift.

After awhile, he reminded me of my primary care physician. Whereas my doctor would say, "You know, for a man your age . . .", my auto therapist said, "For a vehicle its age . . ." In both cases, the message was similar: adjust accordingly.

While my auto therapist was 84--which is better than the statistical average--I wasn't done doing life with him. I'm glad our paths crossed; I just wish the journey could have been longer.

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.)

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## CONGREGATIONAL UCC MEMBER, SANDY BOYD, READS FROM HIS NEW MEMOIR: *A LIFE ON THE MIDDLE WEST'S NEVER-ENDING FRONTIER*

Iowa City Public Library, Sunday, July 28, 2019 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm, Meeting Room A, Meeting Room B, Meeting Room C. University of Iowa legend and Congregational UCC member, Willard L. "Sandy" Boyd will read from and discuss his new book, *A Life on the Middle West's Never-Ending Frontier*, from University of Iowa Press. His new memoir, interspersed with personal wisdom gleaned over more than six decades of service and leadership, encapsulates Boyd's shrewd yet optimistic view of the public university as an institution. At every stage in his life--in the U.S. Navy during World War II, while practicing law or teaching, and in leadership positions at Chicago's Field Museum and the University of Iowa-- Boyd relied on his principles of open disclosure, inclusiveness, and respect for differences to guide him on issues that matter. This memoir provides a lens through which to examine our present situation, whether debating free speech on campus, the role of the arts and humanities in civil society, or the importance of funding for educational and cultural institutions.

## CRC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN CITY OF IOWA CITY SURVEY

Below is a link for a survey that asks questions about the community development and affordable housing needs in our community. This is a part of the City of Iowa City's update to its City Steps 2025 Consolidated Plan. When an agency such as Habitat for Humanity applies for federal CDBG/HOME funds from the City, it is more likely to receive that money if its proposed project addresses the needs identified by the community through this process. So, in order to direct these funds to where there is the greatest need, it is important to gather as much input as possible. Information has also been collected through public meetings and workshops. FYI: You do not need to answer every question for your survey to be submitted, including the demographic questions. Any input helps both the City and your local service agencies know and work to address community needs. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CitySteps2025>

# Books for Adults

## “Creating the Black Utopia of Buxton, Iowa”

By Rachelle Chase

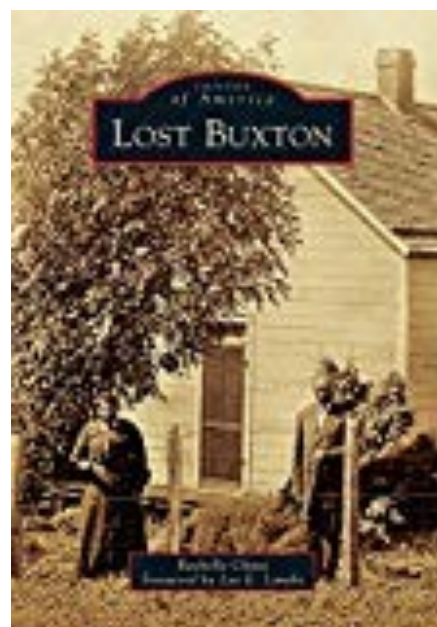
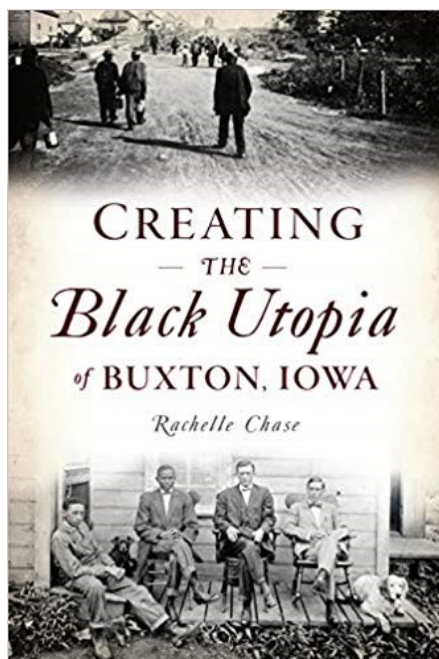
Quoted from the back cover of the book:

"Some have called Buxton a Black Utopia. In the town of five thousand residents, established in 1900, African Americans and Caucasians lived, worked and attended school together. It was a thriving, one-of-a-kind coal mining town created by the Consolidation Coal Company. This inclusive approach provided opportunity for its residents. Dr. E.A. Carter was the first African American to get a medical degree from the University of Iowa in 1907. He returned to Buxton and was hired by the coal company, where he treated both black and white patients. Attorney George Woodson ran for file clerk in the Iowa Senate for the Republican Party in 1898, losing to a white man by one vote. Author Rachelle Chase details the amazing events that created this unique community and what made it disappear."

Also by author Rachelle Chase is the book "Lost Buxton". In this book the author uses more than 175 rare photographs paired with quotes from former residents and newspapers.

In the news lately is the comment from Democratic Presidential Candidate Cory Booker that he, at one time, had ancestors living in Buxton, Iowa.

Judy Doorenbos  
Library Committee





# Books for Pre-Teens and Teenagers

## “Max, Best Friend, Hero, Marine”

By Jennifer Li Shotz

Justin is a boy whose older brother Kyle has died in combat.

Kyle was a marine who had a canine partner, Max. When Kyle died, Max was unable to acclimate to service without Kyle, and Max was sent home to live with Kyle's family. Justin was struggling to deal with Kyle's death. Max was struggling to deal with Kyle's death. Together, they walk through the various stages of grief. Throughout their time together, they discover there might have been more to Kyle's death than the accident it seemed to have been as reported.

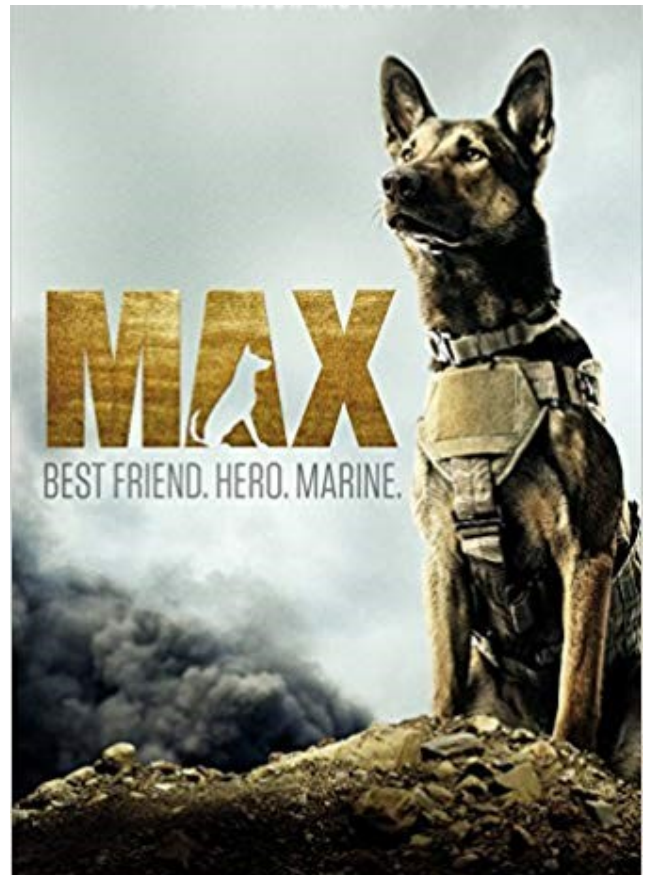
- Dogs have been used in the U.S. military since World War I.
- More than 3,000 dogs have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 1993.
- More than 60 dogs and 40 of their handlers have been killed in the service of their country in those wars.

This story is dedicated to their memory.

Courtney Nelson, Library Committee



Jennifer Li Shotz





# Books for Children

## “Sweet Corn and Sushi: The Story of Iowa and Yamanashi”

By Lori Erickson, Illustrated by Will Thomson.

Japanese Translation by Yasuo Ohdera & Shinji Yoda. Ames, IA:  
McMillen Publishing 2004

*July and sweet corn belong together. That made me think of this book in our library collection that deserves to be read for the first time or re-read.*

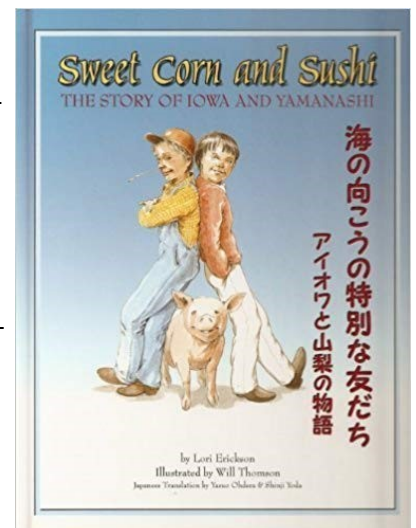
“Once there were two beautiful lands and two proud peoples separated by great distance and many differences. This is the story of how a wonderful friendship has blossomed between them. So begins the story of a most unlikely friendship. In 1959 the prefecture of Yamanashi, Japan, was devastated by two typhoons. Richard Thomas, an Iowan who had served in the U.S. military in Japan after World War II, helped organize an ‘Iowa Hog Lift’ that sent 35 pigs flying across the ocean to Yamanashi...That act of generosity laid the foundation for America’s first sister-state relationship with Japan. *Sweet Corn and Sushi* tells the heartwarming story of what can happen when pigs fly and cultural differences are bridged by goodwill.” (Amazon.com) In 2004 First Lady Christie Vilsack gave a copy of this book to each kindergarten child in the state of Iowa.

Follow-up note: 100,000 bushes of feed corn was sent with the 35 breeding hogs. I looked on the internet to find recent instances of contact between the sister-states.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack visited Japan in April 2010. He had official meetings with the Japanese Minister of Agriculture, then traveled to Kofu in the Yamanashi Prefecture for a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “hog lift.” He had also been present in Japan for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He remarked that three years after the hogs’ arrival the original hogs had multiplied to more than 500. Secretary Vilsack paid a visit to the Yamanashi Prefectural Museum of Art where he participated in a tree-planting ceremony of an oak tree. Secretary Vilsack stressed the importance of the diplomatic bond that had been formed between the U.S. and Japan as a result of the “hog lift”, noting that just as the tree planted today will continue to grow stronger roots and larger branches, so too would the relationship between Japan and the U.S. grow more solid over the next 50 years of friendship and cooperation. (IA Dept. of Cultural Affairs)

A number of Japanese from Yamanashi visited Iowa in 2018. Ten college students spent three weeks in visiting ESL programs and in job shadowing. One Japanese woman toured Iowa colleges and universities to learn how to improve Yamanashi’s higher education. Several students and teachers visited different high schools and toured Iowa. The governor of Yamanashi visited Iowa to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the partnership. As a part of his visit he shared in the rededication of the “Bell of Peace and Friendship” at the state capitol in Des Moines. Several Iowa farmers visited Yamanashi in 2017.

Ruth Kuntz  
Library Committee





Dean Woodhouse 7/1

Bob Hanson 7/3

Adelaide Birt-Leeds 7/3

Vicki Thomae 7/4

Nadia Spragg 7/5

Bill Lovin 7/8

Benjamin Hoefer 7/9

Kathy Fait 7/10

Colin Beerends 7/10

Pam Williard 7/11

Ella Lewis 7/15

Jo Ann Benda 7/18

Claire Ashman 7/19

Nicole Day 7/20

Ruth Kuntz 7/22

Joan Parsons 7/23

Steve Wolken 7/24

David Wilder 7/24

Jackie Searls 7/25

Marie Von Behren 7/26

Hope Spragg 7/26

Candace Noble 7/27

Mitike Schumm 7/28

Jane Kinney 7/30

Ann Romanowski 7/30

Kathleen Wilder 7/30

Christine Taylor 7/31

Linda Muston 7/31

John Henson 7/31

Stuart Cobb 7/31

Happy  
Birthday  
To Our  
July  
Birthday  
Folks

# JULY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 - Weekly Meditation Noon	4	5 IOWA CITY JAZZ FESTIVAL BEGINS	6
7 Jazz Worship Service@ 10:15 - Children's Church - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship - Iowa City Jazz Festival Ends	8 - Knitting Group 2 pm  <b>Bill Out</b>	9 - Foreign Relations Council Luncheon Noon  <b>through 7/21</b>	10 - Weekly Meditation Noon	11	12	13
14 Worship Service@ 10:15 - Bruce Williams preaching - Children's Church - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship <b>HABITAT FOR HUMANITY</b>	15  <b>Bill Out</b>	16  <b>through 7/21</b>	17 - Weekly Meditation Noon	18 - Women's Lunch @ Monica's. 11:45 am	19	20
21 - Worship Service@ 10:15 - Ann Molsberry Preaching - Children's Church - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship - UCC Family Picnic—Terry Trueblood Rec Area 4-6 pm	22 - Knitting Group 2 pm  <b>- Bill returns</b>	23 - Foreign Relations Council Luncheon Noon	24 - Weekly Meditation Noon	25	26	27
28  - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Children's Church - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	29	30	31 - Weekly Meditation Noon			



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

JULY 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
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

**E-mail:**  
Minister.....uccicrev@uccic.org  
Office Manager.....uccicsec@uccic.org  
Financial Secretary.....sharynreitz@gmail.com  
Communication Assist....cpatramanis@yahoo.com  
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)