



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
AUGUST 2019



Friends in Christ:

I've been preaching from the Acts of the Apostles this summer—following Paul around the Mediterranean. In late July we heard about Paul in Athens, the storied center of Greek thought and culture. One New Testament scholar called this city, “a great university town and a symbol of the ‘high culture’ where important ideas have value and are carefully considered by the intellectually curious.”

Those words also sound like a description of Iowa City, don't they? One hundred years ago, our town was often referred to as “The Athens of Iowa.” Like those ancients, we, too, are interested in ideas and culture. The City of Iowa City recently began a campaign to make us the “Greatest Small City for the Arts in America.”

Once again, this month the population of our community will increase by some 33,000 people as new and returning students gather to consider important ideas, create art, and attend a football game or two.

If you are walking downtown you will find yourself carried along by the sheer youthful force of all of them together.

If you are driving, you will want to honk at them as they weave in and out of traffic on bikes and skateboards.

If you are in a hurry, you will want to avoid them.

Instead: be kind. Smile. Welcome them, even as you were once welcomed when you came here as a stranger with fear and trembling.

All these people, the new and the returning, the young and the old, all of them are here because like you they have been called to this place. They have been called to study, to write, to make music and art, to explore, to discover, and with all of us to live joyfully and faithfully before the God of life.

It's a great time to be here in the Athens of Iowa.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



WOMEN'S AUGUST LUNCH NEWS

The Women's Lunch will be on August 15 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 August. Nevertheless, feel free to continue to eat breakfast daily. It's the most important meal of the day! The breakfast group will resume on September 17 at the Midtown Restaurant at 200 Scott Ct, Iowa City.



FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS *Providing Good Food and Hospitality Since 1983*

Our church served **159** lunches at the Free Lunch Program on July 29, 2019. So many thoughtful members of our church volunteered their time by donating and preparing food, serving and/or cleaning up on this day:

Claire Ashman, Dianne Atkins, Ethel Bloesch, Ginny Clemons, Sue & Chuck Dayton, Bill Dickinson, Kyle Flippo & Rachel Slezak, John Fuller, Shelagh Hayreh, Betsy Henson, Donna Hirst, Marge Hop-pin, Joan Jehle, Kathi Koegle, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Ruth Kuntz, Sandy Lacina, Margaret MacInnis, Nan Martin, Alfrieta Monagan, Linda Muston, Joyce Myer, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts, Patty Roberts, Betty Stein, Kathy Thede-Reynolds, Pam Willard and Lee Wood.

Thank you all so much for your time and assistance in making this day so successful and fun!

Our next serving date is Monday, September 30, 2019. A signup sheet will be posted in Rockwood Hall before the first of September. As always, this wouldn't be possible without you! *Vicki Thomae*

COMMENTS ABOUT THE FLP FROM OUR GUESTS:

- "The FLP is a vital part of our community. I am very thankful to the volunteers."
- "If I didn't eat at Free Lunch everyday and take seconds back with me, I would not be able to pay my rent and I'd be homeless again. You don't know how this affects everyone's spirits to have this for us - it really helps us a lot."
- "I appreciate having a warm place to socialize and eat for free, and the caring and respect shown to us by the volunteers."

AND FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS:

- "It makes me realize that there is a much bigger world out there than what I'm personally in contact with on a day-to-day basis."
- "The people at the FLP have needs that go far beyond hunger. We, as volunteers, can soften some harshness, not just with food, but with hospitality."



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

LOOK FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

- Church School for All Ages begins on Sunday with Rally Day (see below), September 8 at 9:15 am.
- The Choir returns on September 8 at 9:00 am.
- Our fall Progressive Dinner in the fall. (Date TBA)
- The UI Homecoming Parade—and our annual curbside cookout—will be held on Friday, October 19.

RALLY DAY IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH!

What will happen?

Children (*with parents*) will register for Church School and Children's Church.

9:15-10:15 Registration for Sunday School in the Preschool Room
(forms will be mailed ahead of time; extras will be available)
Family Picture and “Guess Who” project in the Yellow Room


Children's Church and Choir follows Children's Sermon during worship.

Come meet: Ms. Ann (Director of Children's Programs)
Ms. Avery (Director of Children's Choir)
And all the other kids and parents in your Church School!



And if you would like to assist the Church School program:

CHURCH SCHOOL NOTES:

- Please bring a family picture with you to Rally Day on September 8th.
 - We need 2 Church School teachers for the Older Elementary Class (**3rd, 4th & 5th grade**)
 - We need 2 teachers for a Preschool Class (3 & 4 year olds)
 - **Church School Re-Cycling Project**
- 

This year we will be re-cycling markers and crayons.
Crayola will accept any and all makes of markers.
Crazy Crayons will accept any and all crayons.
 Bring a BIG shoe-box for us to dedicate to this project.



OUR CHOIR RETURNS!

The wonderful UCC Choir will return to service on September 8. Interested in joining the choir? If so, see Kristin Ramseyer—our Choir Director—or any other choir member.



Don't Miss The Social Event of the Season....



Check the bulletins and September Newsletter for information and sign-up forms for our **PROGRESSIVE DINNER** in the Fall.

Here's how it works:

We will all meet at one home for appetizers.



Then, in small groups of 8 to 12, we will go to other homes for the catered dinner.



After dinner, we will gather at a different home for dessert.



This is always a special event for fellowship. You are sure to learn at least one fascinating fact about another member of our congregation that evening, reinforcing your experience that we are a uniquely interesting group!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Reflections From A Pastoral Counselor



Like life itself, psychotherapy is a journey. Just as wondering what lies over the next ridge or is around the upcoming bend, so going within ourselves often involves new discoveries and different awarenesses as we plow our past, exam the present, and move into the future.

When my father died, one of my professors said to me, "Lean into the pain." I don't think he was trying to be insensitive or cruel. Rather, I think he recognized that sometimes the best way out of a situation is through it, while maintaining an openness to additional learnings. Processing can move us out of stuckness.

It can take courage to stay on the therapeutic path and feel our feelings, experience our thoughts, and observe our behaviors. Yet, the benefits can be enhancing, liberating, redemptive as deeper understandings and more effective ways for interacting are obtained. The old adage about the definition of insanity is relevant: "Doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." May you travel well.

Bruce

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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SERVING THE CHURCH

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

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

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

We encourage you to consider offering your name for consideration to serve on a Board. If you would like to discuss any of these options, please contact **Barb Sisley at Sisleywebb@aol.com or Megan Carnes at carnesmegan@yahoo.com.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

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) 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 or Edie Roberts edie-roberts@uiowa.edu. And knitters, think about knitting some mittens, hats and scarves for our Mitten Tree!



LOOK AHEAD: GIFTS FOR PARENTS – DECEMBER 7, 2019 – ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

In planning for our next *Gifts for Parents* distribution on Saturday, 12/7/19, the Executive Committee is providing the following information to help you plan for making gift donations. More detailed information concerning volunteers for set-up and onsite work (on 12/5-7) will be available in the fall.

Suggestions for Items to Donate

Important reminder: All items should be new or gently used and clean. Please, no clothes with sizes – hats, gloves and scarves are welcome. Gifts for men are especially helpful. *If you donate items requiring batteries, please supply the batteries.*

Ideas for items to donate: (These are suggestions – use them to spark your imagination!)

caps, scarves, gloves
after shave lotion
knick-knacks
wallets
scented lotion
scented candle/decorative candles
Hawkeye items
flashlights (include batteries)
craft items
gas prepaid cards
car emergency kit
decorative soaps or bubble bath

jewelry, costume jewelry
unique coffee mugs/cups
wall art, shelf art, table art
Christmas tree ornaments
Amaryllis bulb
kitchen gadgets: aprons, cutting boards, potholders, dish towels, etc.
women's purses
hand tool sets
decorative key chains
tire pressure gauge
gift cards to local businesses



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CONGREGATIONAL UCC GREEN COMMITTEE PRESENTS: *Paris to Pittsburgh*
Wednesday, September 4, 7:00 p.m.

From coastal cities to America's heartland, *Paris to Pittsburgh* celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change.

And as the weather grows more deadly and destructive, they aren't waiting on Washington to act.

You can watch the trailer at <https://www.paristopittsburgh.com/>.



“We're all a resident of somewhere. So residents of cities have a huge role to play – that's where we can pull the levers on things like transportation decisions, land use decisions. People understanding where they live, where they work, how they get around – this is their everyday life that actually can make a real difference.” *Lauren Faber O'Connor, Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti*

“You know what's bad for jobs and the economy? Sea level rise, and coastal flooding, and saltwater intrusion into the Everglades where our drinking supply rests in South Florida. That will really devastate our region and actually, won't allow us to live there anymore.”
Congressman Carlos Curbelo, Florida's 26th District

“*Paris to Pittsburgh* shines a light on the many forgotten communities and people who have been affected by climate change in our country, as well as solutions for how we can fight back and reduce our carbon footprint. I'm proud to be part of this poignant and powerful documentary, we need meaningful change.”
Rachel Brosnahan, Narrator, Paris to Pittsburgh

Books for Adults

“We Are Displaced, My Journey and Stories From Refugee Girls Around the World”

By Malala Yousafzai, Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize

Quoted from the book cover:

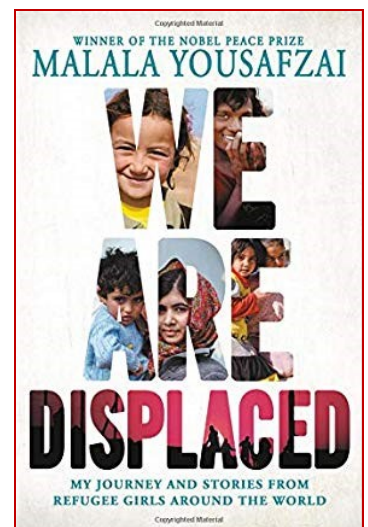
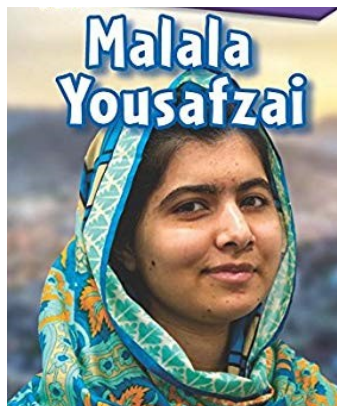
"Malala Yousafzai introduces some of the people behind the statistics and news stories we read or hear every day about the millions of people displaced worldwide.

Malala's experiences visiting refugee camps caused her to reconsider her own displacement--first as an internally displaced person when she was a young child in Pakistan, and then as an international activist who could travel anywhere in the world except to the home she loved. In "We are Displaced", which is part memoir, part communal storytelling, Malala not only explores her own story of adjusting to a new life while longing for home, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her various journeys--girls who have lost their community, relatives, and often the only world they've ever known.

In a time of immigration crises, war, and border conflicts, "We are Displaced" is an important reminder from one of the world's most prominent young activists that every single one of the 68.5 million currently displaced is a person--often a young person-- with hopes and dreams, and that everyone deserves universal human rights and a safe home."

Malala Yousafzai began her campaign for education at age eleven. Inspired by her father's activism, Malala soon began advocating publicly for girls' education, attracting media attention and awards. At age 15 she was attacked by the Taliban for speaking out. Malala recovered in the United Kingdom and continued her fight for girls. In 2013 she founded the Malala Fund with her father. A year later Malala received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her efforts to see every girl complete twelve years of free, safe, and quality education. She is currently a student at Oxford University.

Judy Doorenbos
Library Committee

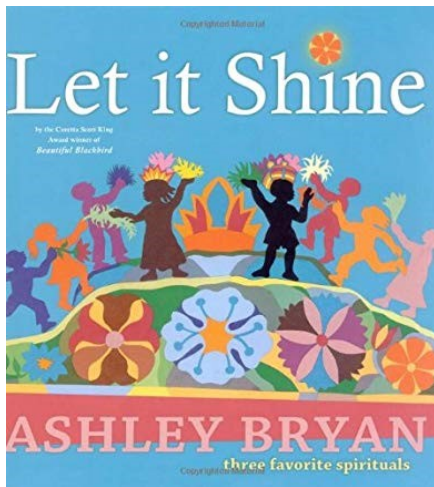
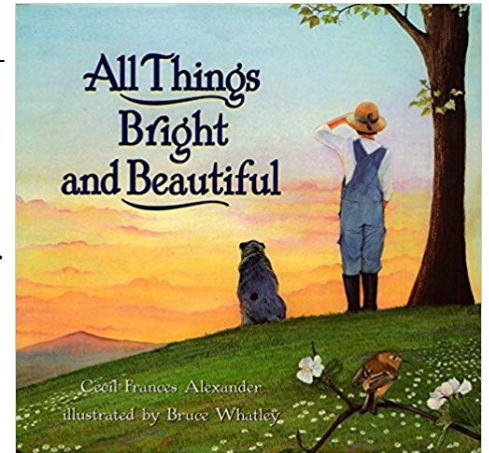


Books for Children

Our congregation enjoys the songs shared by the children in our church school. Their singing is infectious and adds much to our worship. This summer might be a good time for families to sing some favorite songs together from one of the books in our church library.

All Things Bright and Beautiful by Cecil Frances Alexander, illustrated by Bruce Whatley. NY: Harper Collins, 2001.

Alexander's hymn is beloved by many people. She was born in Ireland and wrote nearly 100 hymns. This one was written to help explain to children the opening words of the Apostles' Creed. Bruce Whatley brings new meaning to the hymn through his paintings of a little girl wandering the countryside in awe of the beauty around her.



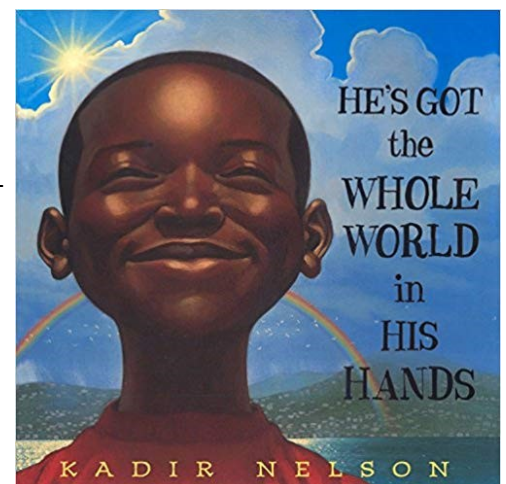
Let It Shine: three favorite spirituals by Ashley Bryan. NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007.

Ashley Bryan uses cut paper of bright colors to interpret the meanings behind three spirituals: "This Little Light of Mine," "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In," and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." This book was a Hans Christian Anderson Award nominee and two-time Coretta Scott King Award winner. Mr. Bryan lives in Maine.

He's God the Whole World in His Hands

by Kadir Nelson. NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2005.

Nelson has created a book which illustrates the world simply and beautifully as a child might see it. Nelson envisioned a multi-ethnic family representing the earth's diversity. He chose San Francisco as his setting with nearby ocean, mountains, and rivers to illustrate the song. Kadir Nelson has received several Coretta Scott King Awards, and medals from the Society of Illustrators. Mr. Nelson lives in California.



Ruth Kuntz
Library Committee



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/1 Kate Edwards
8/2 Lexine Schumm
8/3 Georgia Hill
8/5 Bob Stein
8/7 Betty Mather
8/9 Phyllis Ruppert
8/10 Kathleen Day
8/11 Sharon Garton
Shirley Wyrick
8/13 Denny Dudley
8/15 Margaret MacInnis
Fern Weir
8/16 Emily Koepnick
8/17 Whit Jury
8/19 Bill Nusser, Jr.
8/22 Jackie Sangster
8/24 Bill Dickinson
Tina Koepnik
8/25 Todd Nelson
8/29 Marg Hoppin
8/31 Betsy Boyd

AUGUST

CELEBRATE!

AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service@ 10:15 - Communion - Children's Church During Worship - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall Af- ter Worship	5	6 - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	7 - Weekly Medi- tation Noon	8	9	10
11 Worship Service@ 10:15 - Children's Church During Worship - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall Af- ter Worship	12 - Knitting Group 2 pm	13	14 - Weekly Medi- tation Noon	15 - Women's Lunch @ Mon- ica's. 11:45 am	16	17 NO MEN'S BREAKFAST
18 - Worship Service@ 10:15 - Children's Church During Worship - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall Af- ter Worship	19	20 - Membership 5:30 pm - Trustees 7:00 pm - Stewardship 7:00 pm	21 - Weekly Medi- tation Noon	22	23	24
25 - Worship Service @ 10:15 - Children's Church During Worship - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall af- ter worship.	26 - Knitting Group 2 pm	27 - Church Coun- cil 7:00 pm	28 - Weekly Medi- tation Noon	29 - Foreign Rela- tions Council Luncheon Noon	30	31

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 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
Dir of Church School	Rev. Ann Molsberry
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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Music Director.....kristin-ramseyer@uiowa.edu
Children's Music Dir.....avery-nabholz@uiowa.edu

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org