

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ NOVEMBER 2019



Friends in Christ:

A while ago I was standing in line at a store that had made a wonderful marketing move. They had put a freezer with ice cream bars right at the cash register. I was behind a mother whose young daughter was riding in the shopping cart. Looking down at all those frozen treats, the girl began to say, "I want those! I want those!"

The mother, who seemed like a wise and patient woman, calmly replied, "You can't always have everything you want." It was sound advice, good reasoning, and something many of us have probably said at one time or another—whether calmly or in exasperation.

And it seemed to work.

The girl was silent for about three beats as she took in those words. "You can't always have everything you want."

One. Two. Three. And then she cried out: "I need these! I need these!"

What do you need?

The problem is this: we usually think of satisfaction in terms of what we receive. When we *get* something—health, housing, love, food—then we say that our needs have been met. That, of course is not surprising, living in a consumer society in which we are constantly told that we need more and more and that those needs can be satisfied by what we purchase, what we get.

And yet our own experience tells us that something is missing.

Maybe we're confused about our needs. What if our greatest need is not to get but to give? How might we live if we realized our deep need to respond, to return? As we focus our hearts on what God has done, we find we are seized by a desire to respond to the amazing news that God created us, loves us, and calls us into a community of faith.

What do you need? We have, all of us, received so much.

What do you need?

Perhaps more than anything else, we need to give thanks with all that we have and all that we are.

Peace

Bill

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 3

Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes "All Saints Sunday." This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those

members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday in order to help us



look toward that day when the saints go marchin' in. This year the wellknown local jazz pianist Dick Watson will lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship.

WE HAVE A NEW OFFICE MANAGER!

While we are sad to have Nan Martin retire after keeping the office and the church running so well, the Church Council is happy to announce that we have hired Leo Agnew as our new office manager. After working in Human Resources for many years, most recently at the UI Libraries, Leo wanted to scale back and was delighted to find a position that could use his many skills. He brings a great deal of experience to this position with all of its varied activities. Please welcome Leo, who will be in the office from 9-2, Monday-Friday.

And Nan is not going away completely! She will still be working 2-5 hours/week, helping with the financial records. We're glad to have her around.





Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clocks back an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 2. Get some rest and join us for Sunday School at 9:15 am and Worship on November 3 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 am—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

CONGREGATIONAL UCC MISSION BOARD PRESENTS:

Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequality – a film by Shakti Butler Wednesday, November 6, 2019 7:00 PM 9:00 PM In Rockwood Hall

This film asks America to talk about the causes and consequences of systemic inequity. The film informs you about racial justice and how to commit to positive change. Please join us to watch the video: *Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequality* and stay for the discussion afterwards facilitated by the Rev. Meg Wagner, Missioner for Communication and Reconciliation, Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, Beloved Community Initiative.





IOWA RIVERS CHOIR FESTIVAL

An Ecumenical Choir Festival for Unity, Celebration, and Worship Sunday, November 10, 7:00 PM, St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4330 St. Patrick Dr., Iowa City, IA Guest Conductor: Dr. Brett Robison from Viterbo University in LaCrosse Wisconsin



The Congregational UCC choir will participate in this joyful celebration, which was developed by our choir director, Kristin Ramseyer. Choirs from six congregations each sing an anthem on their own. The choirs will jointly sing "Ride On, King Jesus" by Moses Hogan and "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" by Mack Wilberg as the concert closers.

STEWARDSHIP IS *HEART* WORK



The generosity and the commitment of a long line of members and friends—including you—have made our church on the corner stand strong. As we look forward to our ministry and mission in 2020, the Stewardship Board invites everyone to do the work of identifying and thinking about your heart's desire. If we lived out of our desires, if we acted upon our deepest commitments, we would astound ourselves with all we could do.

Your heart's desire—what is it: developing a loving relationship, nurturing a family, doing the work that you're best at and like to do best, creating a work of great beauty, making this city, this world a better place? What do you want?

What do you want for this congregation? That it would be a place of acceptance, of love, of kindness, a center where forgiveness is encountered, where the love of God is shown to the world?

What do you want? And what are you willing to do?

This is the work of stewardship. Your heart's desire is a gift from God. Being aware of what you want is another part of the responsible use of all that God has given to you. Desire needs to be nurtured. Right stewardship of your desires will give new vision. How are you taking care of and using the passion in your heart?

Please do some *heart* work and plan to give generously—even exceeding your expectations—to support the ministry and mission of Congregational UCC in 2020. Give so that we can continue, expand, and develop our worship of God, the Christian education of children, youth, and adults, the maintenance of our building, and our mission beyond our walls. Please send in your pledge card, send an email to the office, or call the church office with what you would like to give. Thank you.

WOMEN'S NOVEMBER LUNCH NEWS

The Women's Lunch will be on **November 21 beginning at 11:45 am**. As always, 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!

NOVEMBER MEN'S BREAKFAST NEWS

The Men's Breakfast will be at the Dandy Lion, at 111 S. Dubuque St. (on the Ped Mall) in Iowa City on November 16, at 8:00 a.m.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THIS YEAR'S UNAIDS OFFERING



In October. we received **\$725**, an increase from last year. *We have been dealing with AIDS for* over 30 years and UNAIDS estimates 34 million people are living with HIV and nearly 30 million people have died of AIDS-related causes since the first case of AIDS was reported in June 1981. Global AIDS response continues to show results as a record number of people access treatment and rates of new HIV infections fall by nearly 25%. Your generous giving makes a difference in many lives. If you still want to contribute, please write "UNAIDS Offering" on your check and/or envelope. *Thanks again!*

ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING will happen again this year! The dates are Sunday, November 24 and Sunday, December 15 during coffee hour in Rockwood Hall. This is an opportunity to give gifts to family members and friends that make a difference in the lives of those in need. These will include Church World Service, UCC Global Ministries and Heifer with Ginny Clemons doing lovely calligraphy on the Heifer cards. There will also be crafts made by our members and Fair Trade items. As is tradition we will also have the Mitten Tree and tags for toys for the Salvation Army in December.



THANKSGIVING CLOSINGS

Please note: The Church office will be closed on **Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29**, in celebration of Thanksgiving. Please have any material for the December 1 bulletin to the office by Tuesday, November 26.

LOOK AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Each year brings festivity and celebration as we move through Advent and the joy of Christmas. Mark your calendars so that you won't miss these special events:

- **December 1**: First Sunday in Advent; Lighting of the Advent Candles begins; Communion Sunday; Alternative Giving after worship
- December 8: Second Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday; Advent Lunch after worship
- **December 15:** Third Sunday in Advent; Children's Christmas pageant presented during worship; Christ mas caroling with the choir in the afternoon.
- **December 22:** Fourth Sunday in Advent.
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve candlelight worship service at 5:30 p.m.; Christmas Fund Offering; Gala reception follows.



December 25: Christmas Day; Church office closed.

NATIONAL HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK, NOVEMBER 16–22

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is an annual program where people come together across the country to draw attention to the challenges of hunger and homelessness. No one should have to worry about whether they will have food on their plate or a roof over their head. But the reality is that hunger and homelessness are widespread problems and affect far too many people.

This is a time for us all to start to think about what we are thankful for, a perfect time to share our compassion with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness and work toward a world where no one has to experience hunger or homelessness. NHHAW offers the chance to contribute to a national social movement.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

10AM-2PM, Student Bake Sale (and Wednesday, November 20 and Friday, November 22): Grab a sweet treat on your way to class! Local high school and university student organizations will host campus bake sales to fundraise and support individuals experiencing homelessness in Johnson County and surrounding areas.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

5-6PM, Housing is Health Care Discussion Panel: Housing and healthcare professionals discuss the intersection of housing and overall physical and mental health. We will explore the link between stable, safe, and affordable housing, positive health outcomes, and reductions in health care utilization and costs; presented by University of Iowa Health Care. Medical Education Research Facility (MERF) Urmila Sahai Auditorium, 375 Newton Road, Iowa City. RSVP online: bit.ly/HealthCarePanelRSVP.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

6PM, Foodies Fighting Homelessness: A fun and interactive opportunity for restaurants to do what they do best by serving their flavorful dishes to interested diners while giving community members a chance to interact and discuss issues facing our community today. Join us at one of the many participating locations in our community. *Tickets available online November 1, 2019.*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- 11:30AM 2PM, Soup Luncheon & Sock Drive: Join us for a community-wide event at The Congregational United Church of Christ Iowa City, 30 N Clinton St. Enjoy homemade soups, breads, and desserts. Bring free-will donations and new socks for our winter emergency shelter; presented by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church & Lutheran Campus Ministries.
- 10AM 2PM, Community Connections Day: Event open to all individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals experiencing poverty, and Veterans in our community to gain access to community resources and gear up for winter; presented by Johnson County Local Homeless Coordinate Board. Robert A. Lee Recreation Center, 220 S. Gilbert St, Iowa City.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

5PM, Lost in America film screening: Join us for a free, one-time special screening of Lost in America; a documentary film that follows director Rotimi Rainwater, a former homeless youth, as he travels the country to shine a light on the epidemic of youth homelessness in America. These youth are not outcasts; they are our future and by illuminating their stories we hope to serve as a catalyst for change. Iowa Theater, Iowa Memorial Union, 125 N Madison St, Iowa City.

HOPE LODGE IOWA CITY



The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge is located on Hawkins Drive near Carver Hawkeye Arena. It is a guest facility for individuals who are receiving cancer treatments at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Hope Lodge relies on volunteers to provide some programs and evening meals to their lodgers and their caregivers. For many years First Baptist Church of Iowa City (now closed) prepared and served a potluck style meal once a month at Hope Lodge. Dianne Atkins, Andy Bertolatus, and Chuck and Sue Dayton were part of this volunteer opportunity. We would like to continue providing a meal once a month and hope that some folks from

UCC might be interested in helping provide food and/or help serve the meal. If you have questions or are interested in hearing more about this please contact Sue or Chuck Dayton, <u>cdayton7@mchsi.com</u>

GENEVA CAMPUS MINISTRY FALL LECTURE



Dr. Cary Covington, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa, will speak on **Understanding and Responding to Our Polarized Politics: A Christian Perspective** at the Shambaugh Auditorium in the University of Iowa Main Library at 3pm on Sunday, November 3.

Dr. Covington has studied and published research on the institution of the presidency and on the impact and changing nature of the presidents' relationship with Congress in the legislative process. He is currently exploring the polarizing changes that are taking place in the American public's political attitudes and the role of religion in promoting or discouraging those changes.

The American political atmosphere has been increasingly poisoned by negative partisanship and ideological polarization. In this talk, Dr. Covington will address questions like: Is this a new phenomenon? Why is it occurring now? What can be done to limit its negative effects? As Christians, how should we understand our impulse to polarize and demonize our opponents? And as we confront these impulses in ourselves and in those around us, what does our faith call us to do?

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

<u>Important reminder:</u> 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 gift cards to local businesses 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



Consultation of Religious Communities



НАСАР

The **HACAP Food Reservoir** is looking for volunteers to help answer phones and take pledges for the 2019 KCRG TV9 & iHeart Media "**Giving More Than Thanks**" **Telethon** happening Thursday, November 14th from 5:00am-10:30pm. Event details are below!

- WHEN: November 14th, 2019. Shifts taking place from 5:00am-10:30pm
- WHERE: KCRG-TV9 Studios, 501 2nd Ave SE, CR
- WHY: To create awareness about food insecurity and raise funds to purchase food for distribution to those in need
- SIGN-UP: Help us answer phones by signing up for a 2 hour shift! <u>Click Here to Sign-Up</u>.

For more information on this project please email <u>volunteer@hacap.org</u>. Thank you in advance for your time!

PALESTINIAN PEACEMAKER, DAOUD NASSAR, TO SPEAK AT ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Daoud Nassar, Director of the Tent of Nations, will be speaking at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Thursday, November 14, at 7:00 p.m. Nassar, a Palestinian Christian farmer, is the Director of the Tent of Nations Project, an educational and environmentally conscious farm that seeks to build bridges between people, as well as between people and the land. For more information, please contact Meg Kiekhaefer at 3129-621-9565.

COMMON FUND NEWS

During the month of September, the Common Fund's contributions to the Basic Needs Program have provided 30 housing and utility assists for families in our community. Of those, 5 were for rent/deposits for new housing, 19 were electric bills, and 6 were water bills.

October marked a milestone for CommUnity! The Food Bank began new weekly hours, opening on Saturdays. This expansion of hours provides an extra opportunity for clients who work during normal business hours to receive our services.

With expanded hours also come more volunteer opportunities! Did you know that CommUnity's volunteers also conduct Basic Needs interviews in Coralville and North Liberty? If you're interested in volunteering with the Food Bank or Basic Needs Program, please visit <u>builtbycommunity.org/volunteer</u>.

Thanks again for your ongoing support of CommUnity's Basic Needs Program through the Common Fund of the Consultation of Religious Congregations (CRC).

TABLE TO TABLE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for a way to provide hunger relief in Iowa City? Table to Table is looking for new volunteers to collect food from donors and distribute it to those in need through agencies that serve the hungry, homeless and at - risk populations.

Volunteer Duties include

- Boxing and loading food donations into Table to Table vans
- Transporting and unloading food at recipient organizations such as community pantries, shelters, preschools, etc.

Most volunteer shifts start between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM or 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM and run around 2 hours. Routes run Monday-Saturday. Contact **volunteer@table2table.org** or 319-337-3400 for more information.

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Reflections From A Pastoral Counselor





CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

"TREAT Someone!"

The Children's Offering for the month of October and November is for **UNICEF**. Our UNCEF Offering will begin Sunday, October 27th and will continue through the month of November.

This year we will be collecting your unused foreign currency!

Folks in our church travel a lot

...and you probably came home with a few coins and bills in your pocket from other countries.

Now, what to do about all that loose foreign currency?

Since 1987 UNICEF has partnered with 10 international airlines (American Airlines in one of them) to create the <u>Change for Good</u> program. They have collected over \$156 million dollars in contributions in foreign and US currency.

Now, we will partner with them to contribute *our* foreign currency.



Please, look around the house, check you travel bags and your fanny packs... find that money you couldn't spend while you were visiting Europe or Israel or South America

...and put your change...<u>foreign or US</u>...in our UNICEF boxes this year!

We provide <u>Children's Bulletins</u> on the back table in the sanctuary. The bulletins are produced each week and are a way to engage children in the current morning's worship themes

Church School needs:

- Plastic peanut butter jars with lids
- Christmas Cards with Nativity scenes (No "Santas", snowmen, or elves, please!)





Thank you to Kathy Fait for her gift of cookie sheets for our cooking projects!



LOOKING AHEAD

First Sunday of Advent is December 1. We will begin practicing our Christmas pageant **"Christmas Rhythms"** during Children's Church.



Books for Adults

"The Far Away Brothers; Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life"

By Lauren Markham

Published in 2017 Iowa City One Community, One Book for 2019

Quoted from cover of the book:

"Growing up in rural El Salvador in the wake of the civil war, identical twins Ernesto and Raul Flores always had a fascination with the United States, a distant land of fantasy and opportunity--until, at age seventeen, a deadly threat from the region's brutal gangs forces them to flee the only home they've ever known. In this urgent chronicle of contemporary immigration, journalist Lauren Markham follows the Flores twins as they make their way across the Rio Grande and the Texas desert, into the hands of immigration authorities, and from there to their estranged older brother in Oakland, California. Soon these unaccompanied minors are navigating school in a new language, working to pay

down their mounting coyote debt, and facing their day in immigration court, while also encountering the triumphs and pitfalls of teenage life with only each other for support. With intimate access and breathtaking range, Markham offers an unforgettable testament to the migrant experience."

"In El Salvador, hermanos lejanos, aka the far away brothers are the children who have left the country of their birth behind and sought to start new lives in the United States. When twins Ernesto and Raul Flores became far away brothers, leaving their parents and other siblings behind, it was out of desperation. They were fleeing gang violence and threats on their lives. After a treacherous journey through Mexico to the United States author Lauren Markham met the twins while she was working as a school administrator. She tried to help them navigate life as undocumented teens in California. After the twins turned 18, she turned their story into her book "The Far Away Brothers."---The Gazette

Named one of the Best Books of the Year by The New York Times Book Review

Judy Doorenbos Library Committee



Books for Children

"Thanks and Giving All Year Long" by Marlo Thomas

Simon and Schuster, 2004. Grades 1 to 4, About second grade reading level.

This collection of whimsical stories, poems, and songs were sparked by Marlo Thomas' cherished memories of the holiday that brings together two great ideas: *thanks* and *giving* that we can celebrate every day of the year. Some stories are nice, some are funny, and some hit you hard with a message. A variety of artists contributed their work to the book.

There is a wide range of contributors. Among them are Shel Silverstein, Deepak Chopra, Paul Newman, Whoopi Goldberg, Jon Scieszka, Tiger Woods, Jennifer Anniston, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Robin Williams.

This is a book you can read straight through or skip around. Families with a piano or guitar might like to try the songs together. This is not a new book, but one to look at again each year. St. Jude Research Hospital received 100% of the royalties from the sales of this book.

I'm Thankful Each Day by P. K. Hallinan. Ideals, 2001. Grades Preschool to 3, Ages 2-6. The colorful illustrations and simple text make this story perfect for young children. It highlights the gratitude one has for the real treasures of life – the world, family, friends, and God's presence. It emphasizes non-material treasures in a clear, well-written manner. The poems are simple, but the vocabulary is varied and interesting.

The following books relate to the church school's Heifer Project:

Faith the Cow by Susan Hoover – a captivating story of the first animal sent overseas through Heifer Project International.

Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier – the true story of how a poor African girl was able to attend School after receiving a goat as a gift through a special international project.

Give a Goat by West Schrock – a true story of a class that was inspired to reach out with helping Hands. The process is described from inspiration to successful completion.

*Featured children's books may either be displayed in Rockwood Hall or in the church school classroom. They may be checked out from either place.

Ruth Kuntz Library Committee







CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS!





NOVEMBER 2019 Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

Sunday

					-	2 TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK.
3 Worship Service@ 10:15 All Saints Day Communion - Jazz Worship - Sunday School 9:15 For All Ages - Children's Church During Worship - Choir rehearsal 11:30	4	5 - Diaconate 6 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7 pm	6 - Weekly Medi- tation Noon - FRC Lunch- eon Noon	7	8 - Christian Science Bi- ble Study 11:00 am	9
10 Worship Service@ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Sunday School 9:15 - Children's Church During Worship - Choir rehearsal 11:30 am - Intra Choir@ St. Patrick's 7:00 pm	11 - Knitting Group 2 pm	12 - Staff Mtg 11:30 - FRC Lunch- eon Noon	13 - Weekly Medi- tation Noon	14	15 - Christian Science Bi- ble Study 11:00 am	16
17 Worship Service@ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Sunday School 9:15 - Children's Church During Worship Choir rehearsal 11:30 am	18	 19 FRC Luncheon Noon Membership 5:30 pm Trustees 7 pm Stewardship 7 pm 	20 - Weekly Medi- tation Noon	21 - Women's Lunch @ Mon- ica's. 11:45 am	22 - Christian Science Bi- ble Study 11:00 am	23 Men's Break- fast 8 am at Dandy Lion, at 111 S. Dubu- que St. (on the Ped Mall)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship Service@ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 - Sunday School 9:15 - Children's Church During Worship Choir rehearsal 11:30 am	- Knitting Group 2 pm BILL LOVIN	- Staff Mtg 11:30 - Church Coun- cil 7 pm	- Weekly Medi- tation Noon	THANKSGIV- ING—OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	
	OUT					

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER 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).

Worship

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:15 a.m.Worship11:15 a.m.Fellowship

Church Office is open Monday - Friday 9-3pm

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

The Rev. William Lovin

Office Manager: Financial Secretary: Dir of Church School Communication Assistant: Music Director: Children's Music Director Organist: Custodians: Leo Agnew Sharyn Huriaux Reitz Rev. Ann Molsberry Christina Patramanis Kristin Ramseyer Avery Nabholz Bill Crouch Douglas Herrera Claudia Landaverde

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