



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY 2020



Friends in Christ:

Even as our Christmas and Epiphany celebrations fade into the past and the season of Lent begins at the end of this month, we are continuing to think about gifts around here.

During worship in January, the children of the church sang about gifts. Many members have been attending the Sunday morning adult education sessions that are providing information on various social justice and social service programs in our community. At the end of the month, you will have the opportunity to get involved with one or more of these organizations, using your gifts for the common good. There's more about this inside this newsletter.

Everyone knows what a gift is—after all, we just finished the gift-giving season. A gift is given freely. A gift is not a reward for good behavior or payment for labor. A gift comes with no expectation of something in return. Gifts are somewhat easy to understand.

But often in the church when we start talking about “spiritual gifts,” suddenly we're not quite as clear about what is meant. We think of things spiritual as things that can't be seen. So are spiritual gifts unseen, unrecognized? Often that seems to be the case. Many people have no idea what “spiritual gifts” they have.

And yet, we do not need to think of these gifts as “supernatural” as opposed to our “natural” gifts, our talents and abilities. They become “spiritual” when they are put to the service of extending God's realm of love into the world. As one theologian put it: “The gifts put at the service of the congregation, and the gifts practiced in family, profession, and society, must not be separated. Being a Christian is indivisible.”

In the weeks ahead, let us celebrate the marvelous riches that we have in this congregation. Each one of us brings gifts to this community. Those who teach and those who sing, those who count money and those who visit the sick, deacons and trustees, those who are known as our leaders and those who come here only occasionally. Each person has something unique to offer.

Each person here today is special and to be cherished. Yes, I'm talking about *you*. God gave us this particular life, in this particular time, called us to faith practiced in this particular community—and gave each one of us different abilities and interests, different activities that bring us joy—*gifts* for the building up of the church. Can we begin to name them all? I don't think so. Any attempt at limiting what is a spiritual gift will be doomed, for the Spirit of God will not be limited.

Do what you like. Do what you have been gifted to do. Do it not just for your own sake but for the common good. I think we will find that the more each of us use the gifts we have been given, the more this church will grow, the stronger we will be.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

MISSION BOARD ADULT EDUCATION SERIES CONTINUES IN FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND ACT

Through February, our Mission Board continues to present a series of adult education meetings to increase awareness about social justice and service organizations in our community that provide volunteering and giving opportunities. These meetings will be at the usual 9:15 time on Sunday mornings.

February 2: Michelle Heinz, Executive Director of the Inside-Out Re-entry Community of Johnson County, will discuss the impact of mass incarceration nationally as well as in Iowa, and its impact on families and communities. She will describe the barriers facing individuals after incarceration and how as a community we can make changes to support citizens returning to our community.

February 9: Sarah Ziegenhorn of the Iowa Harm Reduction project. Harm Reduction is a social movement, public health intervention, and set of practical tools that helps people to improve their health, primarily relating to drug use. Its public health values and principles recognize that all people are inherently deserving of dignity, respect, and unconditional love.

February 16: Nicole Vanderlinden and Sara Knox will tell us about the CommUnity's Crisis Intervention Services. Nicole has volunteered with CommUnity as a crisis intervention specialist since the spring of 2017, talking via phone or online chat with people in crisis, offering a compassionate ear and universal positive regard. Sara Knox started with CommUnity in 2007 as a volunteer. She coordinated the Crisis Intervention Program as it became one of the first crisis centers in the US to offer crisis-chat services. Sara is a Master Trainer for Applied Suicide intervention Skills Training, having conducted more than 30 trainings. She has an MSW from the University of Iowa.

February 23: The mission of the Iowa City Free Medical and Dental Clinic, staffed by volunteer health professionals, is to provide quality comprehensive health care services to the uninsured and underinsured in our community. It also links them to community organizations appropriate for their needs. Laurie Stunz will host a presentation by Barbara Vinograde, the Executive Director.

YOU ARE INVITED TO STAY AFTER WORSHIP ON FEBRUARY 23 FOR THE VOLUNTEER FAIR, WHERE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EXPLORE VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

But wait! There's more!

March 1: Stu Mullins, the Executive Director of United Action for Youth (UAY) will lead the session. UAY has a rich history of empowering youth to lead happier and healthier lives, which Stu attributes to their motto of "unconditional positive regard" for all participants, community partners, and staff. He began his career there by developing an after-school art and music program for teenagers.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The February Men's breakfast will be held on Saturday, **February 15**, at the East Side Midtown Restaurant, 200 Scott Court, in Iowa City. We'll gather at 8:00 a.m.

WOMEN'S FEBRUARY LUNCH

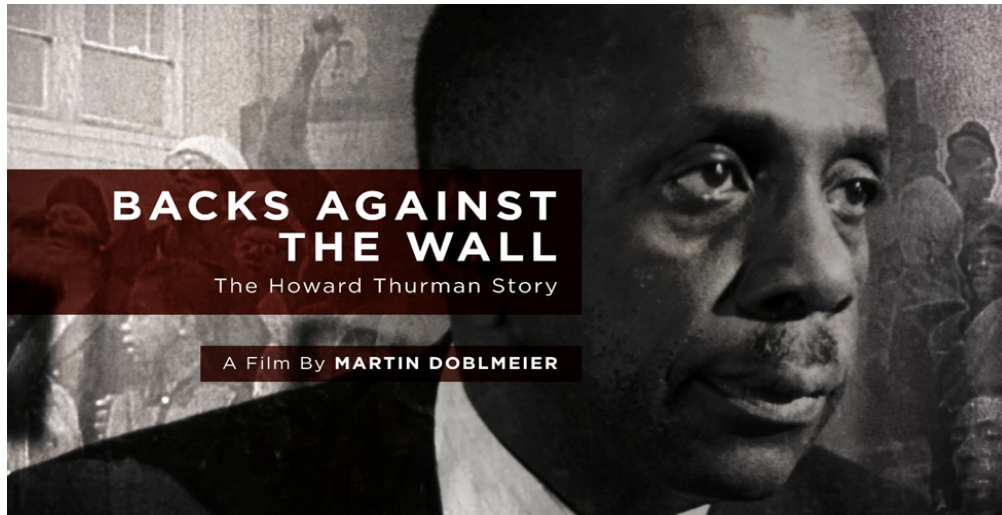
The Women's Lunch will be on **February 20, at 11:45 am**, at Big Grove Brewery. A congregation member describes Big Grove as a "Youthful, hip place for those of us who spend the winter in Iowa." Let the office know if you would like to come (319-337-4301). But, as always, last minute folks are most welcome!

MILESTONES

Wedding: James O'Neil and Bin Bin Zheng on December 16, 2019.

Death: Dick MacMillan, choir member, father of Shirley Woolums and great-grandfather of Sylvia Woolums and Fielding Woolums, on January 15. A funeral service was held at the church on January 25. We share in Shirley's sadness and in the hope of the resurrection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



CONGREGATIONAL UCC MARKS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH WITH SCREENING OF ***BACKS AGAINST THE WALL: THE HOWARD THURMAN STORY*** Wednesday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m. in Rockwood Hall

This film explores the extraordinary life and legacy of Howard Thurman, one of the most important religious figures of the 20th century. Born the grandson of slaves, Thurman became a “spiritual foundation” for the Civil Rights Movement, inspiring many of its leaders including Martin Luther King, Jr, Jesse Jackson and Congressman John Lewis. His book *Jesus and the Disinherited* is considered a spiritual classic.

In the mid-1930s, Thurman was the first Black American invited to meet Mohandas Gandhi who shared his strategy of non-violent resistance. Gandhi suggested it would be through the African American experience that the non-violence resistance movement could take on global significance. When Thurman returned to America, his writings and speeches planted the early seeds for the non-violent Civil Rights Movement.

SUMMIT ON THE STATE OF REFUGEE IOWA: STOP DEPORTATIONS AND KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

Saturday, **February 22, 9am-2pm,**
St. Patrick Church, Iowa City, Iowa.

Co-sponsored by Iowa City Catholic Worker House, Diocese of Davenport Social Action, and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (Iowa CCI).

Join dozens of refugees and hundreds of like-minded, everyday people from all walks of life for an exciting and informative Refugee Summit, with a special opening prayer and introductory greeting by Bishop Thomas Zinkula.

- Ground Ourselves in Prayer and Scripture Readings Focused on Migration, Welcoming the Stranger, and Loving Thy Neighbor;
- Hear First-Hand Stories from Directly Impacted Refugee Leaders; Who Will Guide Us In Workshops and Break-Out Sessions;
- Learn About the Moment We're in and What We Can Do About It;
- Connect with Friends, Family, and Community Around a Broad-Based "Put People First" Vision of the Common Good and a More Just and Democratic Society;
- Train in The Proven Effective Methods of Community Organizing, Catholic Accompaniment, and Deportation Defense;
- Plug into Our 2020 Year of Catholic Action to Protect Refugee Families and Children Campaign.

Lunch Will Be Provided - and Good Company!

Registration will open shortly. In the meantime, please mark your calendar and save the date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT ON FEBRUARY 26

On Wednesday, **February 26**, our Board of Christian Education will host a pancake supper in Rockwood Hall from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends and join others for pancakes, eggs, sausage, good company, and good conversation. It will help with planning if you sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall or call the church office (337-4301) to let us know how many will attend. But please join us even if you haven't done this. The supper is free. Donations will be used for our Christian Education program.

After eating, we will hold our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00. This will be a time of music and song, scripture and prayer, and the imposition of ashes for those who want them. The worship service is designed for people of all ages.

Easter is Sunday, April 12, this year.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

During Children's Church on Sunday mornings during Lent we will be talking about the different ways people pray. We will talk about what prayer is, we will use our fingers to pray, we will make prayer beads to keep track of our prayers, we will even learn to walk our prayers...all...in order to find *our* way to prayer.

One of our activities will be to construct a labyrinth. A labyrinth is not a maze. You do not get lost in a labyrinth (like you might in a maze). No, you *find* your way in a labyrinth. A Labyrinth is a very useful prayer tool, it can help you center yourself; it can help you calm yourself; it can even help you be mindful of yourself. We will be creating our own 5-circuit labyrinth in the Preschool classroom; and we invite *you* to come use the labyrinth for your prayer-time this Lent.

PEACE CAMP 2020: "Teaching love in action...to our youngest activists."

Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer will take on a very different look.

We will be hosting a Peace Camp. This is NOT your typical VBS—children will be given the opportunity to work at being peacemakers in this world and exploring the diversity that surrounds us.

WHEN: Week of Monday, June 7 through Friday, June 12th

(the first week school is out in Iowa City)

TIME: 5:30- 7:30 PM

WHERE: The Congregational Church UCC, 30 N. Clinton

WHO: Students who have *completed* Kindergarten through 5th grade

Camp counselors: young people who have completed 6th-9th grade

(You do not have to be a member of this church to attend or to be a camp counselor!)

Daily Themes:

Day 1: Let's Talk About Race

Day 2: Let's Talk About Poverty

Day 3: Let's Talk About Gender

Day 4: Let's Talk About the Global Community

Day 5: Let's Talk About Earth Care

Teachers, activists and disciples...We will need your help!

Could you *volunteer* to lead an activity during one (1) theme day for one (1) hour ...or could you make a referral for a *volunteer* leader/speaker for one of the following activities: *Yoga/Tai Chi, drumming, meditation/mindfulness, other faith/spiritual expressions, music, storytelling, science experiments, drama/dramatic reading, writing/journaling, cooking, language (Spanish, French, etc.), painting, outdoor games, fundraising, outdoor art installation, activism, travelogues, fun!* **Please contact Ann Molsberry 314-914-0180 TODAY!**

HOPE LODGE MEAL

Volunteers from our congregation provided an evening meal at Hope Lodge on January 14. Thanks to Ruth Kuntz, Ginny and Bryan Clemons, Barb Hanson, Dianne Atkins, and Sharon Reitz for their contributions. We will be serving another meal on **March 10** and most months following, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. A sign-up sheet for contributions to the meals will be posted each month on the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall. Hope Lodge is located at 750 Hawkins Drive, near Carver Hawkeye Arena. If you have questions, contact Sue or Chuck Dayton at: cdayton7@mchsi.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

GROUP TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR HANCHER PERFORMANCE OF *LAGRIME DI SAN PIETRO* (TEARS OF ST. PETER), BY THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

This Renaissance masterpiece—depicting the grief of St. Peter after his disavowal of Christ—will be brought to Hancher Auditorium on Saturday, **March 28, at 7:30 p.m.** It will be performed by one of the country's finest vocal ensembles and with famed director Peter Sellars crafting of this dramatically staged performance piece. This composition by Orlando di Lasso focuses the themes through a contemporary lens and suggesting that we must all grapple with—and accept responsibility for—the mistakes made in our personal pasts.

Congregational UCC members can purchase group tickets at the reduced rate of \$49.50. If you are interested in being part of this group, please talk with Bill Lovin or call the church office, 337-4301. We need to give a final count to Hancher on March 5.



CHECK IT OUT! THE ANNUAL SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 28, 10:30AM – 4PM AND MARCH 29, 12PM – 4PM

The sale will be at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, Bldg. C. They'll have gently used books plus music, movies, and art for sale. Admission is FREE but dedicated book worms can purchase **Early Entry passes** for admission to the Book Sale before the general public. Passes are \$10 and early entry opens **March 28 at 10am**. Proceeds of the book sale benefit Shelter House programs and support services including housing, employment, and mental health that help hundreds of men, women, and children each year to get back on their feet.

If you have books you'd like to donate, they can be dropped off at Bldg. B at the Fairgrounds starting February 23 from 2pm – 4pm. Donation drop-off will continue every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10am – 2pm and Sundays from 2pm – 4pm through the week of the sale! ****Textbooks, encyclopedias, and magazines not accepted**** Please direct all questions to T'Shailyn Harrington at tshailyn.harrington@shelterhouseiowa.org.

Interested in volunteering? Sign up at: bit.ly/booksale-signup. This is one day you won't want to miss!

JOHNSON COUNTY CROP WALK 2020

The 2020 CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, **March 29, at 1:30 p.m.** and begin at the 1105 Project, 1105 Gilbert Court, next to the CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank. Registration will begin at 12:45 p.m.

CROP works with Church World Service to transform communities around the world through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster, including the victims of the recent hurricanes here in the U.S. 25% of the money we raise goes directly to the Johnson County Crisis Center Food Bank. Please help us to help others.

OAKNOLL BOOK STUDY

The Oaknoll Book Study will reconvene on Thursday afternoon, **February 20, at 2:00 p.m.** We will continue to meet on March 26th, April 16th and May 14th. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board downstairs in Rockwood Hall. The format is a little different this year. We have had several excellent recommendations for study and so we have decided to let people choose from the recommended list or contribute a book talk or review of their own choice. Sally Strang will begin the sessions with poetry from Caleb Rainey's book "Look, Black Boy" and Camille T. Dungy's book "Suck on the Marrow." Other suggested readings are "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi and "Biased" by Jennifer L. Eberhardt. Questions? Please contact sallystrang@mchsi.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

FREE LUNCH UPDATE

We want to offer special thanks to all those who helped host our Free Lunch on December 30. It was, as usual, a hectic, fun, and enjoyable day.

Once again you came together to provide an amazing 188 tasty, healthy, meals for people in need. All your donations were appreciated whether it was cabbage or cookies or shepherd's pie or serving. We were often stopped and thanked for our efforts.

Their appreciation and mine go to: Claire Ashman, Dianne Atkins, Bryan Clemons, Martha Ann Crawford, Sue and Chuck Dayton, Kathy Fait, Randee and John Fieselmann, Paula Forest, Diane Duncan Goldsmith, Patte Henderson, Betsy Henson, Kathi Koegle, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Gloria and Sandy Lacina, Margaret and Lila MacInnis, Linda Muston, Joyce Myer, Connie Parsons, Sharyn and John Reitz, Patty Roberts, Rick Ruppert, Betty Stein, Vicki Thomae, Pam Willard, and Julie Wittig.

Special thanks goes to Lila MacInnis-Baumert who entertained our guests with a much appreciated violin concert.

Thank you all!
Edie Roberts

Please Note: We will serve at the Free Lunch Program again on Monday, March 30. Join us!

CHRISTMAS FUND UPDATE

More gifts for the Christmas Fund came in since the earlier report. The total given to the Christmas Fund offering was over \$1,800. The Christmas Fund allows the United Church of Christ to assist retired pastors living on limited incomes as well as to supplement small retirement annuities and health premiums and to provide emergency grants to active and retired clergy and lay employees. The mission of the Christmas Fund is to provide assistance in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid. Thanks again for your generous giving!

MITTEN TREE PROVIDES WARMTH IN WINTER WEATHER

For decades the Mitten Tree in Rockwood Hall has been a place for members and friends to give gloves, scarves, hats, and yes, mittens for children in the Iowa City Community School District. Congregational UCC member, Joan Buxton, started this effort when she was a school nurse. Now the Joan Buxton School Children's Aid Fund provides students with these needed items that we gather each year. Thanks to all who contributed. And thanks to Joan for starting this project.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE RECOGNIZES CONGREGATIONAL UCC ALTERNATIVE GIVING PROGRAM

Thank you for embracing a different—and difference-making—approach to gift-giving by hosting your recent alternative gift fair. Through the donations you've gathered, you're providing emergency assistance to people overcome by natural disasters or other crises. In addition, you support helps struggling families put food on the table through sustainable agriculture methods and clean, safe water supplies—both essential to eliminating world hungers and breaking the grip of crushing poverty.

THINK AHEAD FOR ANNUAL OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION

Each year in the fall, Congregational UCC joins with other congregations in providing winter coats for people of all ages, especially children. As winter items start to go on sale in the stores, now is a great time to let your dollar go further and purchase coats. Please store them at your home until the fall when they can be brought to the church and then taken to the distribution site.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Johnson County Interfaith Coalition's South District Voter Registration and Education Party

On January 16, 2020 the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, of which the Cong. UCC is a member, hosted a Voter Registration and Education Party at the Kingdom Center in Iowa City's South District. The party was a huge success with a rousing program, ten voter information tables, children's entertainment, and a free international meal. 197 people attended including 83 volunteers assisting with voter education, the program, child entertainment, and the meal. Our church was instrumental in the preparation for the party, support during the party, and basic logistical support before and after. Donna Hirst is the chair of the JCIC Voter Engagement Committee and as such was a central organizer of the party. Sally Strang was not only the coordinator of the food, but also the contact to local South District schools and a very successful fund raiser. Lee Wood was the coordinator of cookies, contacting the various JCIC congregations for donations and managing the hundreds of cookies during the party. Bill Hoefer donated his architectural skills to create layouts of all the Kingdom Center rooms with tables, chairs and services. Bruce Reynolds, Jane Murphy, Mark Brookfield and their friend, Michael Connell helped transport 16 of our congregation's tables to and from the Kingdom Center and then set up and wrapped tables in butcher paper. Megan Carnes staffed the French language voter information table, distributing information in both English and French. Pam Willard and several of the others above helped disassemble the party environment and restore the Kingdom Center for business as usual. In addition to time and expertise, our church donated \$500 to the party and was acknowledged in the printed program and from the stage. The following article written for the League of Women Voters provides many details.

The Voter - February 2020 Issue of the monthly League of Women Voter's magazine

Report on the South District Voter Registration & Education Party

It may have been a mere 8 degrees outside on January 16. but inside The Kingdom Center almost 200 people- guests and volunteers- gathered for an inaugural event in Iowa City- The South District Voter Registration & Education (Dinner) Party. The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition's Integrated Voter Engagement Committee was the prime mover of this outreach effort to bring non-white and/or non- English-speaking voters from the South District into the political process beginning with the 2020 Caucuses. The League of Women Voters of Johnson County was a co-sponsor, and 15 members were among the volunteers helping with voter registration and education, the 2020 Census, translation, food, and overall planning and coordination. League members included Donna Hirst, Chair of IVEC, as well as Gail Ardery, Colette Brodersen, Syndy Conger, Susan Craig, Cathy Eisenhofer, Diana Henry, Linda Meloy, Linda Schreiber, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Janice Weiner, Zach Wahls, Travis Weipert, Lee Wood, and me. (My sincere apologies if there is someone I overlooked.)

At the LWVJC voter registration table we spoke with at least 40 people, helping some to complete voter registration forms to take with them to Caucus Night, registering four voters who weren't going to the caucuses, and answering numerous questions concerning voter registration and voting rules.

Other tables in addition to ours were ones for the 2020 Census, both the Johnson County Republican and the Johnson County Democrats Caucuses, and Inside-Out. Interpreters for five languages, along with handouts, were stationed along the south wall of the Center where guests could converse with a volunteer conversant in Spanish, French, Swahili, Lingala, or Arabic. Also available in all five languages and English were free, colorful infographics that highlighted District concerns- about employment, education, affordable housing, health care and immigration- with the message that the remedies to these concerns evolved from informed voting.

Lady Gerri Allen and Pastor Vince Allen opened the program. Pastor Allen reminded guests of the power they wield both by voting and by not voting. Next was a spirited gospel performance by the Charisma trio. Pastor Tony Smith of the New Creations International Church and Chair of the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition acknowledged the contributions of those who conceived of, planned for, and made the evening party a success. North Liberty Council Member RaQuishia Harrington held herself out as a model of what can happen when people of color register, vote and run for public office themselves.

After Lady Gerri explained in English from the stage how the evening was to proceed, her explanation was successively repeated by translators in Arabic, then French, Swahili, Lingala and Spanish. This left me with the sense of what it must be like to be present at a meeting of the United Nations. The emphasis on having translators and translated materials was to underscore that this event was intended to make people for whom English is not their first language feel welcome, recognized, and included. The program from the stage ended with Caleb Rainey, Poet and Spoken Word Performer, whose performance emphasized how expectations (negative ones) can infect our educational settings and in turn influence the outcome of students of color.

(Continued on next page.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Among the invited local dignitaries that evening who came to meet and mingle with guests and volunteers were State Senators Joe Bolkcom and Zach Wahls, State Representative Mary Mascher, Johnson County Auditor Travis Weipert, Iowa City Mayor Bruce Teague, Iowa City Council Members- Mazahir Salih and Janice Weiner- and RaQuishia Harrington, North Liberty Council Member.

The evening closed with a free sit-down dinner catered by Selena's Creations and the Center for Worker Justice Social Enterprise Chefs. The food proved to be as wonderful as the fragrances that tempted all throughout The Kingdom Center during the pre-dinner program.

One can hope that the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition's vision- To build a multi-cultural faith-based community organization that advocates social justice- along with its mission- To organize for social equity, first and foremost for persons of color- took root and will flourish throughout the South District in the months to come.

Susan Enzle, LWVJC Voter Registration Coordinator

Reflections From A Pastoral Counselor

REFLECTIONS OF A PASTORAL COUNSELOR . . .

Although it's about halfway through the academic year, January 1st begins a new year--at least numerically. One of the ways we structure this newness is to formulate resolutions regarding a variety of themes and topics. For those who reflect on history, it may be a time to list the significant happenings from the previous year. Such may then inform resolutions or goals for the coming year.

Flipping the calendar from one year to another may generate a sense of a new beginning, a fresh start, another opportunity. Maybe they come with the hope of improvement, that things will be better, while learning from the past will make the future better. Such a perspective can lift one's spirit and energize one's motivation. (One college football even had a toy toilet on the sideline to help players forget a bad play by flushing it away so they could stay focused on the future!)

New beginning/fresh start/another opportunity is theological in nature because it is the essence of forgiveness. It's what allows us to not stay stuck in our brokenness and indifference, our disappointments and mistakes, our defeats and failures. This dynamic is summarized in a non-theological word: NEVERTHELESS. Though we have messed up, God nevertheless offers forgiveness. God's desire to be in relationship with us is nevertheless greater than our estrangement. Absolution nevertheless exceeds transgressions. That's because in the words of Lori Ann Wood our Creator is a "love-driven God."

Whatever the shortcomings of 2019, nevertheless there is a new year. May 2020 be a meaningful and pleasing year for all of us.

Bruce (The Rev. Bruce D. Williams, M.Div., L.M.H.C., is a pastoral counselor at the Community Pastoral Counseling Service, 30 N. Clinton St., Iowa City, IA, 52245. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 319-337-2519.)



CELEBRATING FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



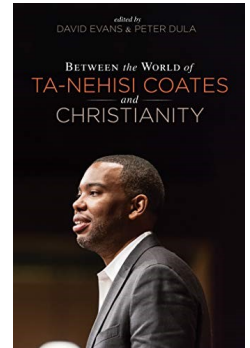
2/3	Beth Parker	2/21	Nicole Pearson
2/10	Courtney Rowe	2/23	Ethan Buck
2/11	McKenzie Brown	2/24	Eugene Buck
2/13	Steve Bowers	2/27	Nicole Neems
2/15	Sharyn Reitz	2/28	Thomas Mittman
2/16	David Balmer		

BOOKS FOR ADULTS

“Between the World of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Christianity” Collection of Essays edited by David Evans and Peter Dula

Quoted from the cover of the book:

"Between the world of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Christianity there appears to be the widest difference. Coates's brief comments on Christianity in his highly acclaimed 'Between the World and Me' makes clear that religious faith is alien to his own experience. Still, Christian audiences from congregations to theological schools engaged the text for its analysis of the state of race relations in the United States. In September 2015, Ta-Nehisi Coates tweeted, 'Best thing about Between the World and Me is watching Christians engage the work. Serious learning experience for me.' This volume takes that tweet as an invitation to theologians, ethicists, and religious studies scholars to engage the book, and as a challenge to do so in a way that is a learning experience for Coates, the authors, and readers."



“At its best, theology wrestles with the world we live in and what God calls us to be in the midst of this world. Coates' *Between the World and Me* was an unrelenting description of this world we inhabit. This collection of essays takes up the theological challenge to listen to Coates and speak with him to discern what faithfulness might look like in a world shaped by the violence of racism. It is a critical read.”

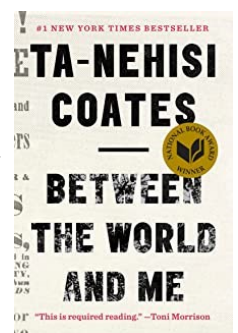
David Evans is Assoc Professor of History and Intercultural Studies, and the Director of Cross Cultural Programs at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

Peter Dula is Professor of Religion and Culture, and Chair of the Department of Bible and Religion at Eastern Mennonite University.

“Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Quoted from the cover of the book:

“What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? 'Between the World and Me' is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, 'Between the World and Me' clearly illuminates the past, bracingly confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.”



Ta-Nehisi Coates is a national correspondent for “The Atlantic” and the author of 2 other books. He is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. He lives in New York with his wife and son.

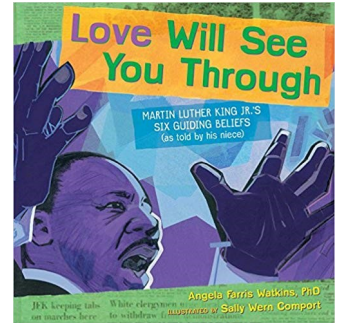
Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee

Our Children's Library

The following two books are recent gifts to our library:

Love Will See You Through: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Six Guiding Beliefs, as told by his niece, Angela Farris Watkins, PhD. Illustrated by Sally Wern Comport. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015. Grades 2-6.

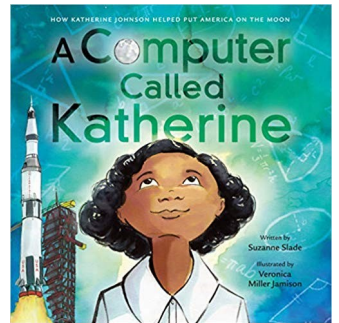
Angela Watkins is an associate professor of psychology at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a certified trainer of Kingian nonviolence, the principles and steps of social change espoused by her uncle. Watkins refers to her "Uncle Martin" as she shares the six guiding principles King practiced and lived by: (1) Have courage; (2) Love your enemies; (3) Fight the problem, not the person who caused it; (4) When innocent people are hurt, others are inspired to help; (5) Resist violence of any kind; and (6) The universe honors love. Watkins draws from examples in her uncle's life and shows how these principles are timeless and universal.



Sally Wern Comport uses intense shades of orange fuchsia and purple in her mixed-media illustrations. The font is bold and over-sized. Occasional portions of newspapers are used at turbulent times. *Publishers Weekly* finds her conspicuous portraits of hands to be especially striking.

A Computer Called Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Helped Put America on the Moon by Suzanne Slade. Illustrated by Veronica Miller Jamison. Little, Brown and Company, 2019. K-Grade 3.

From childhood Katherine Johnson loved numbers. She started college at fifteen, flew through all her math classes and became a math teacher after graduation. This retelling of her story focuses on her development as a black female mathematician. It deals with issues like the civil rights struggle, school integration, and the question about whether women should work at jobs traditionally held by men. Johnson joined a team of number crunchers called "calculators" at Langley Aeronautical Laboratory before breaking barriers as she joined NASA where her calculations helped pioneer America's first manned flight into space, its first manned orbit of Earth, and the world's first trip to the moon.



Suzanne Slade holds a mechanical engineering degree and worked on NASA's Delta and Titan rockets. She has written at least five other books. Veronica Miller Jamison is a fashion illustrator. This is her first picture book. She uses ink, watercolor, marker, and colored pencil to create spreads that emphasize math concepts.

These books will be displayed in Rockwood Hall or in the church school classrooms. They may be checked out there by Rev. Ann.

Ruth Kuntz
Library Committee

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 - Communion Sunday - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	3	4 - Staff Mtg 12:30 am - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	5 - Weekly Meditation Noon - Foreign Relations Lunch Noon - New Member Class 7:00 pm	6	7	8
9 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	10 - Knitting Group 2:00 pm	11 - Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon	12 - Weekly Meditation Noon - New Member Class 7:00 pm	13	14	15 - Men's Breakfast @ East Side Midtown Restaurant, 8:00 am
16 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	17	18 - Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon - Staff Mtg 12:30 am - Membership 5:30 pm - Trustees 7:00 pm - Stewardship 7:00 pm	19 - Weekly Meditation Noon - Film: <i>Backs Against the Wall</i> 7:00 pm	20 - Women's Lunch @ Big Grove Brewery, 11:45 am	21	22
23 - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	24 - Knitting Group 2:00 pm	25 - Church Council 7:00 pm	26 - Weekly Meditation Noon - Pancake Dinner 5:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm	27	28	29

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

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FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER



CHURCH STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am to 2 pm

Phone: 319-337-4301

Visit our Web Site: www.uccic.org

Pastor:

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Organist

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Bill Crouch

Avery Nabholz

Leo Agnew

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Nan Martin

Christina Patramanis

Douglas Herrera

Claudia Landaverde

uccirev@uccic.org

annmolsberry@gmail.com

kristin-ramseyer@uiowa.edu

Contact the Office

avery-nabholz@uiowa.edu

uccicsec@uccic.org

sharynreitz@gmail.com

nanm814@gmail.com

cpatramanis@yahoo.com

Contact the Office

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