



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
MARCH 2020



Friends in Christ:

Lent arrives in a nation and a world filled with uncertainty.

Covid-19 is spreading around the world—although no one knows how widely or how quickly it will spread or how deadly it will be.

The pandemic is causing economic concerns, troubling both consumers and the stock market, which is responding with a panicked sell-off.

With this news at the forefront, we might tend to forget about climate change, which continues to wreak havoc on the entire globe.

And, of course, we each have our individual lives with all of their demands, all of their concerns, and, yes, all of their *uncertainty* in these days.

In the midst of all of this, the days of Lent give us an opportunity to find strength and courage for our times. While popular imagination often sees Lent as a time of stringency and harshness, instead it offers us the chance to discover once more what UI Writers' Workshop graduate, Flannery O'Connor, called the "green seasons...the spring and summer of God's will." The very word "Lent," comes from a word that means "to lengthen." These are days for seeking the warm mercy of God.

Lent reminds us of the strength that we find when we are weak, weary, and worn out. For me that always brings to mind the words of Albert Camus, "In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger – something better, pushing right back."

On the Sundays in Lent we'll have opportunities in adult education and in worship to explore some of the resources that this season offers. Together we'll consider such spiritual practices as repentance, resilience, resistance, simplicity, and sufficiency. These practices help us to discover the faith, hope, and courage that we need in these uncertain days.

Peace,

Bill

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

- March 1, First Sunday in Lent, Sacrament of Communion
- March 29—Fifth Sunday in Lent—CROP Walk in the afternoon
- April 5—Palm Sunday—Worship with Distribution of Palms, 10:15; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 9 Maundy Thursday—Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 10, Good Friday—Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 12, Easter Sunday—Easter Breakfast; Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.
- April 26—Spring Music Sunday

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8.

Please remember to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening so that you get to church on time.

### SOUPER BOWL UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who gave generously to the “Souper Bowl of Caring” offering after worship on February 2. We received \$300. All the money raised has been sent to the food pantry at the **CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank**.

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. A signup 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](mailto:cdayton7@mchsi.com).

### OAKNOLL BOOK STUDY—CHANGE OF DATE FOR MARCH

The Oaknoll Book Study will meet on **March 19th** at 2:00 pm (*This is a new date*). Future meeting dates are 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.

### WOMEN’S LUNCH

The Women’s Lunch will be on **March 19, at 11:45 am**, at Goosetown on the corner of Market and Linn St.. Let the office know if you would like to come (319-337-4301). But, as always, last minute folks are most welcome!

### MEN’S BREAKFAST

The men of the church will meet for breakfast at **8:00 a.m., on Saturday, March 21**, at the Bluebird Diner on Market St. in Iowa City.

### JOHNSON COUNTY CROP WALK—SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Spring arrives and we get out our walking shoes for the annual CROP Walk for Hunger Relief. This year’s walk will be held on Sunday, **March 29** starting at **1:30 p.m.**, beginning in the dining room at the 1105 Project, 1105 Gilbert Court, next to **CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank**. (Many Congregational UCC Youth and Adults know this as the location of the Free Lunch Program.

To sign up for the CROP Walk and get a sponsor sheet, please talk with Paula Forest, our Walk Coordinator, or call the church office, 337-4301.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



### SHELTER HOUSE USED BOOK SALE

**THE SHELTER HOUSE USED BOOK SALE** will be held on **March 28 and March 29** at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, Bldg. C. As always, we need as many books as possible. In 2019 we collected 42,500 books, and earned \$27,000 for the Shelter House.

If you have books you can 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 before the sale. Large pick ups can be scheduled. We will definitely transport books from Rockwood Hall, and you can bring your book donations to the church at any time. **Contact Donna Hirst if you need special assistance in transporting books to the sale site. I am looking for a volunteer to assist me in transporting books from the church to the Fairgrounds during February and March.**

Go to: <http://bit.ly/booksale-signup> to sign up for one or more two-hour shifts.

For additional information contact Donna Hirst, [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu), 351-5253.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, **April 5**, we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation.

One Great Hour is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. It began in the Episcopal Church in 1946 when a goal of one million dollars per year was set for World Relief. That year members were challenged to raise “one million dollars in one hour.” Since 1949 this offering has united Christians of many denominations, including the UCC, in a common cause.

In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others in standing in solidarity with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. Your generous gift will support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts. You can watch videos about the work that OGHS makes possible here: [http://www.ucc.org/oghs\\_oghs-videos](http://www.ucc.org/oghs_oghs-videos).

Let us join in this great tradition and give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.

### FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY

Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. Because so many people enjoy the burst of color, our Diaconate invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301 or [uccadmin@uccic.org](mailto:uccadmin@uccic.org)) by **Tuesday, April 7.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### CONFERENCE MARKS MAHATMA GANDHI'S 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

The UI Department of Religious Studies is sponsoring a major conference marking Mahatma Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. The conference will be held **April 16-18**.

The Conference will celebrate one of the shrewdest political minds of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and reconsider his life, his ideas, and his legacy. It will feature ten major speakers from the United States, South Africa, and India.

Breakout sessions will cover a number of topics, including: Gandhi's early work in South Africa; Gandhi's religious ideas; Gandhi's views on gender equality; Gandhi's political views and skills; and the significance of Gandhi's assassination.

As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the Dept. of Religious Studies website:

[www.clas.uiowa.edu/religion](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/religion).

### Peace Camp 2020 "Teaching love in action...to our youngest activists."

**WHEN: Week of Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**

(the first week school in Iowa City is out)

**TIME: 5:30- 7:30 PM**

**WHERE: The Congregational Church UCC, 30 N. Clinton**

**WHO: Students who have *completed* Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

Camp counselors: young people who have completed 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade

(You do not have to be a member of this church!)

**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**

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

**Sign-up on the CE Bulletin Board in Rockwood Hall or**

**Please contact Ann Molsberry 314-914-0180 TODAY!**

### ONGOING FUNDRAISER FOR THE CHURCH AT HOUSEWORKS, IOWA CITY!

Decluttering and sorting your household items during these cold dark days of winter? If so, those unwanted items could turn into cash. The church has an account at Houseworks, a local consignment store. Just mention our church account number and when your items are sold, the income is credited to our account. This is an easy way to support your church while simplifying your life. Please consider donating household goods no longer useful to you and allow them to be recycled and taken to a new home!

Church Account Number: 20126

Houseworks: 1800 Stevens Drive, Iowa City (south of Hills Bank), phone 338-4357

Hours: 10am – 6pm Monday through Friday, 12pm to 6pm on Sunday

### 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 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.

### 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.**

### A LABYRINTH WALK

An ancient prayer tool that I have found very useful for my Lenten meditations is the labyrinth. The labyrinth is not a maze. There are no tricks to it and no dead ends. It has a single circuitous path that winds its way into the center. The person walking it uses the same path to return from the center and the entrance then becomes the exit. The path is in full view, which allows a person to be quiet and focus internally. Generally, there are three stages to the walk: **releasing** on the way in, **receiving** in the center and **reflecting** when you follow the return path back out of the labyrinth.



You don't have to have a physical labyrinth path to do a labyrinth walk. I make a labyrinth walk out of my walk to the pond that is close to my house. As I walk toward the pond, I meditate about things I am trying to "let go" of, while at the pond I meditate about any insights I might receive about this "letting go", and finally on the way home I meditate about how I will apply my new insights when I return home. The labyrinth can be used as a metaphor for life or even the Christian's journey: birth and living, then dying to an old way of doing things and finally the rebirth of a new self.

We created a 5-circuit labyrinth during Children's Church in the Preschool room for your use during this Lenten season.

*"For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you." Psalm 26.3*

*Blessings, Ann*

### ADDRESSING RACIAL BIAS IN CHURCHES

**Saturday, March 28, 10 am-2:30pm, Old Brick, Iowa City;** Cost \$15, includes lunch. Register: [tinyurl.com/BiasInChurches](http://tinyurl.com/BiasInChurches). This is a next step for vestries and other leadership circles who want to be serious about examining their own church or faith community for bias. We'll examine some of the structural racism that exists around us. We'll also look honestly at how bias and prejudice can affect our own interactions and ways of being Church. Facilitator is Dr. Ursuline Bankhead. Her bio info can be accessed at <https://www.drbankheadphd.com/about.html>.

### CHILDREN AND ADULT BOOK REVIEWS

There are no book reviews this month.



## Reflections From A Pastoral Counselor



### REFLECTIONS OF A PASTORAL COUNSELOR . . .

While attending a KC Royals baseball game some years ago, an extra-base hit by the home team caused many fans to stand. A fellow about 10 rows down had on a T-shirt with the following printed on the back: "Everybody needs a little therapy." One might wonder if such a position is coming from the chief sponsor of the Comprehensive Therapist Employment Act. And "everybody" is a bit too broad.

However, it is realistic to say everybody has issues because that's part of being human--though type and intensity of issues vary. And not all issues require therapy.

A more accurate shirt would state: "Everybody needs a little more self-awareness." Self-awareness is usually a starting point that remains foundational. It often facilitates identification of options and then enhances decision-making. Not having it is like a ship without a rudder.

Growth, insight, and understanding are typically built upon self-awareness. Effective self-awareness requires a willingness to be open and honest about oneself, including our behaviors, feelings, and thoughts. Such examination may be initially unsettling--depending upon what issues are discovered--but can be redemptive if an improved outcome is achieved.

Best wishes for constructive and productive self-awareness.

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 MARCH BIRTHDAYS



|      |                           |      |                                  |
|------|---------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 3/1  | Sandra Lacina             | 3/15 | Sylvia Woolums                   |
| 3/2  | Sandra Miller             | 3/19 | Willem Maybaum<br>Morton         |
| 3/4  | Barb Hanson<br>Ian Wells  | 3/22 | Nathanial Savage                 |
| 3/5  | Lyle Tonne                | 3/23 | Isabella Myers                   |
| 3/6  | Melissa Reynolds          | 3/24 | Carrie Whitaker                  |
| 3/10 | James Jetter              | 3/29 | Rachel Anderson<br>Rebecca Keogh |
| 3/13 | Joan Buxton<br>Izzy Brown | 3/30 | Gary Klinefelter                 |

# March 2020

| Sunday  | Monday                                | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|-----------|--|
| <b>1</b><br>- Communion<br><b>Sunday</b><br>- 9:00 Choir<br>- 9:15 Christian Education<br>- Children's Church<br><b>During Worship</b><br>- 10:15 Worship Service | <b>2</b>                              | <b>3</b><br>- Foreign Relations Lunch Noon<br>- Staff Mtg 12:30 pm<br>- Diaconate 6:00 pm<br>- CE Board 6:30 pm<br>- Mission Board 7:00 pm | <b>4</b><br>- Weekly Meditation Noon<br>- New Member Class 7:00 pm         | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>8</b><br>- 9:00 Choir<br>- 9:15 Christian Education<br>- Children's Church<br><b>During Worship</b><br>- 10:15 Worship Service                                 | <b>9</b><br>- Knitting Group 2:00 pm  | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b><br>- Weekly Meditation Noon<br>- Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon | <b>12</b>   | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>15</b><br>- 9:15 Christian Education<br>- Children's Church<br><b>During Worship</b><br>- 10:15 Worship Service  | <b>16</b>                             | <b>17</b><br>- Staff Mtg 12:30 pm<br>- Membership 5:30 pm<br>- Trustees 7:00 pm<br>- Stewardship 7:00 pm                                   | <b>18</b><br>- Weekly Meditation Noon                                      | <b>19</b><br>- Women's Lunch @ Goosetown on the corner of Market and Linn St., 11:45 am | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br>- Men's Breakfast @ Bluebird Diner, 8:00 am |
| <b>22</b><br>- 9:00 Choir<br>- 9:15 Christian Education<br>- Children's Church<br><b>During Worship</b><br>- 10:15 Worship Service                                | <b>23</b><br>- Knitting Group 2:00 pm | <b>24</b><br>- Church Council 7:00 pm  | <b>25</b><br>- Weekly Meditation Noon<br>- Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b>  |
| <b>29</b><br>- Crop Walk, 1105 Gilbert Court, 1:30 pm   | <b>30</b>                             | <b>31</b><br>- Staff Mtg 12:30 pm  |  |   |           |  |

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER



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Phone: 319-337-4301

Visit our Web Site: [www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)

**Pastor:**

Dir of Church School

Music Director

Organist

Children's Music Director

Office Manager

Financial Secretary

Stewardship Assistant

Communication Assistant

Custodians:

**The Rev. William Lovin**

Rev. Ann Molsberry

Kristin Ramseyer

Bill Crouch

Avery Nabholz

Leo Agnew

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Nan Martin

Christina Patramanis

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For up to date announcements, check us out on Facebook.