



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
September 2021



Friends in Christ—

With an abundance of caution, we plan to resume in-person worship on Sunday, September 12. This first Sunday after Labor Day is the traditional start of our program year. Masks will be required of all people in worship and we will observe social distance as well. There will be no coffee hour at first, although people are invited to go outside and talk after worship if they wish. Our air filters and air intake provide for high air quality in the sanctuary. While we are moving toward livestreaming the services, they will initially be recorded and posted later in the day on Sunday. (See the article below for more information on livestreaming worship.)

As you know, the rapid increase of the spread of the delta variant beginning in late July and the changing CDC guidance raised new concerns about the safety of in-person indoor gatherings. Out of an abundance of caution we postponed our original return to in-person worship date. We have consistently put the safety and well-being of people as our highest concern and that will continue. Our understanding of the situation continues to develop.

September is usually a time of new beginnings as people wrap up summer activities and return home. The school year is underway with new opportunities and new challenges for students of all ages. Here at the church the choir resumes singing and church school classes begin.

This year is different in just about every way possible. The newness of these days is tempered by the ongoing pandemic. The school year brings concerns about the health of students, teachers, and the larger community. And life in our congregation continues to be both vibrant and, well, different.

Scripture constantly reminds us that we live by faith, not certainty. The prophet Joel, who was often quite forthright in calling the people to return to God concluded one such exhortation with a resounding, “Who knows?” (Joel 2:14) When Ezekiel saw the valley of dry bones and was asked by God if those bones could live, he responded, “You know.” (Ezekiel 37:3) Ezekiel himself didn’t seem so sure.

We continue to plan and prepare, even as we have learned in the past year and a half to be ready for changes in our plans. My hope is that we will have a joy filled gathering here at the church on Sunday, September 12.

Peace,

Bill

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### Rally Day is Sunday, September 12, 2021

**Time: 9:15-10:00 am**

**Place: Upstairs Yellow Classroom in the CE area**

- Registration for Sunday School (forms will be mailed ahead of time; extras will be available)
- Family Pictures will be taken
- Sign-Up for Acolytes
- Opening Day Activity and Craft
- Muffins and juice will be served



### *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 Your teachers

...and all the other kids and parents in your Sunday School class!

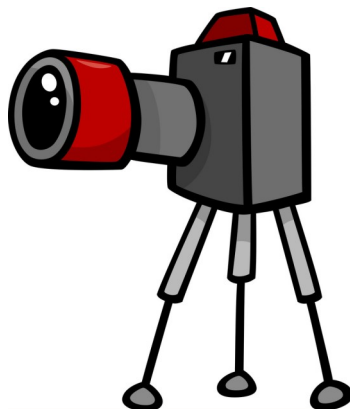
***(Face masks will be required.)***

### TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

As we move toward in-person worship there is a lot of activity in the sanctuary. The scaffolding that held the camera (and cameraman) has come down. The sound system has been moved up to the balcony. Two cameras have been installed at the back of the sanctuary. We are upgrading our equipment and technology so that we can live-stream worship services on Sunday morning.

John Johnson and Mark Kenaston have been recording the worship services each Saturday morning and posting them online by Sunday morning since March 202. They have moved from using one camera to two and are currently learning a complex digital video switcher that will handle all the artwork, audio, and video and make it all presentable. The switcher is extremely capable but definitely has a learning curve. It will be integrated with the best audio signal possible—and we hope that the recent electrical work has taken care of that weird background noise. The end result will be that everything flows and looks as professional as possible.

We are grateful to John and Mark for their consistent, high-quality work that has made it possible to share our worship services not only with members locally but also with friends of our congregation across the nation and around the world. As their work continues and live-streaming begins, there will be opportunities for others to be involved in this important work. Stay tuned!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS *Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983*

Our church prepared **90** lunches to go at the Free Lunch Program on Monday, August 30, 2021. The dining room continues to be closed due to COVID-19 and the delta variant precautions. At this time, there is no date set for reopening the dining room.



Thank you so much to all who volunteered by donating food for take-home lunches:

**Dianne Atkins, Sue Dayton, Bill Dickinson, Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, Shelagh Hayreh, Betsy Henson, Linda Muston, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts and Rebecca Weatherford.**

Special appreciation to **Betsy Henson, Tom Henson and Edie Roberts** for their cheerful onsite support.

Our next scheduled serving date is **Monday, November 29, 2021.**

*Vicki Thomae*

### SHELTER HOUSE BBQ BASH RETURNS—SEPTEMBER 24-26

BBQ Bash is back! September 24-26, Shelter House is hosting both virtual and in-person fundraising BBQ Bash events. [Both will deliver an evening of mouth-watering bbq smoked meats paired with delicious side dishes, prepared by the talented pitmasters at Pop's BBQ. Vegetarian options available.](#)



The in-person event will be hosted at the old Antique Car Museum in Coralville on September 24th from 5:30 - 8:30pm with delicious food from Pop's BBQ Iowa City, refreshing drinks from Big Grove Brewery, and live music from Ross Clowser Music. For the safety and well-being of our attendees & community, we are limiting the number of available tickets for the in-person element.

This will be their first return to in-person event programming in nearly two years, so they are hopeful for a helpful volunteer team. They need volunteers to help set up, tear down, food and drink service, and supervision of games. Volunteers will receive a meal voucher for the event! If you are available and would like to help, sign up at: [bit.ly/bbqbashvolunteer](https://bit.ly/bbqbashvolunteer)

For those who wish to participate virtually, Shelter House is excited to partner with Pop's BBQ and CHOMP Delivery again to bring your food right to your door (curbside also available). Meals can be redeemed all weekend from September 24th-26th. While enjoying your meal, you can access the virtual component of this year's event. Groove to some bluesy rockabilly music with our curated playlist, join in on Shelter House trivia, and learn more about why housing is a human right.

Get'cher tickets at <https://shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/>. \$40 for the in-person event, \$25 for pick-up/delivery.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### OPPORTUNITIES AT OCTOBER CANDIDATE FORUMS

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition is sponsoring two candidate forums in October.

1. At the Kingdom Center, 10:00-11:30. October 2, Board of Education
2. At the Kingdom Center, 10:00-11:30, October 16, City Council

There are several volunteer opportunities including:

1. Coordinator for setup of tables and chairs, the night before the event(s) - approx. 1 hour
2. Assist with set up, the night before the event(s) - approx. 1 hour
3. Coordinator for take down
4. Assist with take down
5. Assistant at the raffle table taking names and email addresses
6. Coordinator for the information booths (does not require expertise in issues) - work with agencies who will be attending

If you would like to join with volunteers from Congregational UCC and other local congregations, please contact Donna Hirst.

We are planning to have sack lunches for attendees to take when they leave. Various JCIC congregations have been hit hard by COVID, so we are requesting special donations from individuals within our JCIC churches to assist with the forum expenses. We are hoping you can assist us in making these October events a success by contributing \$50 or \$25. More would be wonderful, and any amount would be helpful.

If you are able to assist, send a check to:

Johnson County Interfaith Coalition  
Bea Hicks, Treasurer  
PO Box 966  
Iowa City, IA 52240

Put "2021 Candidate Forums" in the Memo Line.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### WINTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION IN OCTOBER

The Consultation of Religious Communities is delighted to announce that they are able to once again host the warm winterwear distribution. It will be held in the new winter shelter at the far east end of the Guide Link Center at 340 Southgate Ave, Iowa City.

They are looking for donations of new or gently used outerwear for children and adults. You can begin collecting clean items and keep them at home until further notice. Their highest priority is: winter coats & jackets of all sizes, and other outerwear (snow pants, hats, gloves / mittens, winter scarves, warm socks & winter boots). They will also gladly accept sweaters, sweatshirts & sweatpants. PLEASE carefully presort donated items, to remove items not listed here. Also, consider donating a box or two of large, strong trash bags (e.g., 33 gallon, with ties) that will hold several coats for the shoppers.

More information will be available by mid-September. But for now, please begin collecting needed items. And save the week of October 18 - 23 for volunteer opportunities.

Please note: the CRC Gifts for Parents event originally scheduled for Saturday, December 4, has been cancelled.

Thank you from your Steering Committee,

John Barr, **Paula Forest**, Barb Lange, and Carolyn Otis



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/3—Kathi Koegle, Noam Morton

9/5—Renn Morton, Sophie Neems

9/6—Kevin Koepnick, Jasper Morton, Alison Seidl

9/7—Robyn Hepker, Liliana Lewis, Doug Parsons

9/9—Patte Henderson

9/10—Haleigh Nelson

9/12—Dean Logan

9/13—Charley Platz

9/15—Nathaniel Lovin, Jean Willard

9/16—Shirley Woolums

9/19—Lenore Maybaum

9/21—Noel Carver, Matt Spragg

9/25—Evelyn Keogh

9/26—Bruce Reynolds

9/28—Cindy Parsons, Gail Zlatnik

9/29—Mike Groff, Cormac Warren





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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



**CHURCH STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

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

**The Rev. William Lovin**

Rev. Ann Molsberry

Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Avery Nabholz

Jenn Harden

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

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Douglas Herrera

Claudia Landaverde

Contact the Office

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