



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
November 2021



Friends in Christ:

I take a break from writing and look out at the trees and bushes along Jefferson St. They still retain most of their leaves. Even on this gray day, brilliant reds and yellows mingle with the green that endures. I am aware, however, that the days for such views are numbered. The rain of late October continues. More leaves will fall. The clocks will be set back and evening will arrive much sooner.

November arrives in shadows. It will take us from red leaves through bare trees to Thanksgiving and the first candle of Advent on Sunday, November 28.

I invite you to go deeper into this month of thanksgiving and preparation. Open your eyes to see what God is doing in the changing seasons, in the changing world, in your changing life—through all of the uncertainty and hope that mark our time

Keep looking around. What do you find that is holy, mysterious in these days? What brings gratitude to your heart and how do you show it? How will you begin to prepare for the Christ who comes at Christmas and each day?

Even in the darkness we might still glimpse a holy light, the presence of God.

We've been worshipping together in person for several weeks now. Our worship is evolving as we move through these days that offer new opportunity. I invite you to come and be with us during this month of thanksgiving and preparation.

I hope that Thanksgiving will be different this year, filled with appreciation, with hope, and with deep gratitude for this precious gift of life in this challenging time.

Peace,

Bill

Late Breaking News: We finished the Bible Study of the Letter of James in late October. The next study will be a four-session series looking at the biblical texts from the Christmas section of Handel's *Messiah*. Plans are in the works for gather (perhaps in person, perhaps on Zoom as we have been) on Wednesday evenings, November 17, and December 1, 8, & 15. I invite you to be a part of this special series as we move toward Christmas. Please let me know if you're interested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE NOW LIVE-STREAMED

On Sunday, October 31, we began live-streaming our worship services. If you are unable to join us for in-person worship for any reason, you can watch the worship service in real time, starting at 10:15 a.m. The services will also be posted after worship so that they can be watched at other times as well.

Here's the link: <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>

A big--huge--word of thanks goes to John Johnson and Mark Kenaston for all the work they have done to set up our live-streaming capability and for recording, editing, and posting our worship services each week since March 2020. Their efforts have been invaluable.

And thanks to everyone whose ongoing generous giving has supported this.

RETURN TO STANDARD TIME



Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clocks back an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 6. Get some rest and join us for Worship on November 7 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 a.m.—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 7



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. This year we will remember **Margaret Loughry, David Carew, Bill Williams, and Mary Heinger**. 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 to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. Our friend, the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson, will lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please join us next Sunday, November 7, for this special time of worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

During the months of October and November the Sunday school classes will be taking a very close look at the Lord's Prayer. If you're curious...ask a Sunday school student to recite the Lord's Prayer for you...or ask them where they are in the prayer.

On **Sunday, December 5th** *during worship*, the Sunday School classes will offer their version of the Christmas Story, "In Light and Darkness". We will be building the set, practicing our parts, and sharing the story during Sunday school time. If you would like to be in the play...please come and help us on Sunday, November 28th and Sunday, December 5th at 9:15!

CE Board members and family members will be having a set-construction workshop on Saturday, November 6th from 10-12. Please come and help build the set!



We will receive our Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering on Sunday, November 7. NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities.

THANKSGIVING CLOSING



Please note: The Church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25 & 26, in celebration of Thanksgiving. Please have any material for the November 28 bulletin to the office by Tuesday, November 23.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

WE GATHER TOGETHER—STEWARDSHIP IS HEART WORK

Pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2022 were sent out in early November. If you have not received one, please contact the church office. If you have received a card, please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the church by November 19. Your deeply considered, prayerful support will help us to continue our Church's mission in downtown Iowa City.

GIVING UPDATES AVAILABLE: If you have any questions about your giving to the church or if you would like an update on your giving, please call the church office (337-4301) or email our Office Manager, Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE CHURCH WORLD SERVICE OFFERING IN OCTOBER.



We received over \$2450 from our congregation. This will be combined with \$900 from our Mission Board's discretionary funds. This money will be used by Church World Service, to assist with disaster relief (Hurricane Ida and the earthquake in Haiti) as well as refugee aid (Afghanistan). You can still give. Please make your check out to Congregational UCC and put CWS in the memo line. You can find out more about the work that CWS is doing in response to Hurricane Ida [here](#). Information about earthquake response is [here](#). And information about the work of CWS to support refugees from Afghanistan is [here](#).
THANKS AGAIN!

LOOK AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Like everything else, our Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations are expected to be different this year. We are still in the process of creating inspiring and joy-filled events. Here are some dates to keep in mind.

November 28—First Sunday in Advent; Lighting of the Advent Candles begins.

December 5—Second Sunday in Advent; Children's Pageant

December 12—Third Sunday in Advent; Special Music Sunday

December 19—Fourth Sunday in Advent.

Christmas Eve is Friday, December 24.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank Top Ten Needed Donations: take donations to the food bank at 1045 Highway 6 East, Iowa City. Financial donations can be made via the website www.builtbycommunity.org or mailed to the office at 1121 S. Gilbert Court, Iowa City, IA 52245:

1. Financial donations
2. Hygiene products
3. Toilet paper
4. Canned meat
5. Baby Diapers and Wipes
6. Baby formula
7. Rice and pasta
8. Hearty Soups and Stews
9. Peanut butter
10. Laundry detergent

REBUILD NEPAL FOUNDATION PRESENTATION AT ICPL

Ernie Schiller, a member of St. Paul UCC of Donnellson, Iowa will be offering community presentations on Nepal & Mt. Everest and the work Rebuild Nepal Education Foundation is doing in Nepal. The presentation is entitled: Nepal—A look back at 5 Years After the Earthquake. Ernie is the Chair of Rebuild Nepal Education Foundation and working to raise awareness of the dire need in rural Nepal and to share information about the country & culture of Nepal.

This presentation will be open and free to the public. A 15-minute PowerPoint Presentation, featuring scenery of Nepal & the effects of the 8.7 Richter Scale event that took place in May of 2015, will be given. Come to see the wonderful scenery of Nepal and the mountains, including Mt. Everest. Come to find out how the earthquake killed 9,000 people in 30 seconds and witness the effects of the earthquake on the homes and schools. Also learn about how our volunteers work in these remote mountainous regions and assist in the schools. Come to find out how our 501 c(3) non-profit foundation based in USA, is helping as ‘educational missionaries’. Over the past 6 years, we have been to Nepal 5 times (before COVID-19), with hundreds of volunteers from the USA and around the world volunteering in the most remote areas of Nepal improving life of Nepalese children.

Website: www.rebuildnepaleducation.org

Times & Dates of Presentation:

Iowa City Library Sunday November 14th 2:00 PM

Ernie Schiller, 2224 204th Avenue, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

Home (319) 835-5689 Cell (319) 316-2354

Rebuild Nepal Education Foundation: www.rebuildnepaleducation.org

Foodies Fighting Homelessness is Shelter House's fundraising event that takes place during National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week. Foodies is a great opportunity for restaurants to showcase their unique specialties while bringing members of the community together for a common cause. This year's event is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 17th**.

2020 taught us many lessons, and the ability to be both resilient and flexible is one we have learned to rely on. Last year, we pivoted the event from a communal setting to offering both in-person dining and to-go orders. Restaurants still did what they do best – served their flavorful dishes – and ticket purchasers still enjoyed a night of full bellies and great conversation with friends and family. This hybrid model keeps event-goers safe, so we will continue with both options this year as we raise funds to support Shelter House's critical work.

Tickets will go live *very soon*. In the meantime, check out which local favorites are participating in this year's event!

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1	Frank Zlatnik
11/2	Sheryl Amos
11/7	Scott Hansche
11/8	John Fuller
11/10	Michael Seidl
11/11	Jeanna Otto
11/13	Amy Lewis
11/14	Terri Macey
11/15	Sara Murph David Schoonover
11/16	James Keogh
11/17	John Holmes
11/18	Ann Leefers
11/20	Marcia Kuechenmeister
11/26	Lila Rose MacInnis-Baumert
11/29	Hayden Beerends Kevin Richards



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER 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

Pastor:

Dir of Church School

Music Director

Organist

Children's Music Director

Office Manager

Financial Secretary

Custodians:

The Rev. William Lovin

Rev. Ann Molsberry

Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Avery Nabholz

Jenn Harden

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

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Contact the Office

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