

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ February 2023



Friends in Christ:

Most of us probably remember very little, if anything, of what we were taught in Sunday School. For some reason, however, I distinctly remember what my Sunday School teacher called "the difference between knowledge and wisdom." For him, knowledge was "having the facts." Wisdom was "knowing what to do with them." He said this often enough that those words found a home in my heart and continue to guide my thinking.

I learned this long before my second semester at divinity school when I encountered John Calvin's thoughts on the subject. In the first paragraph of the *Institutes*, Calvin says, "Nearly all wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves."

In Harry Emerson Fosdick's hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory," we sing, asking God to "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage." For some time now, we have been developing courage ("fear that has said its prayers" is how one person describes it). This year during the season of Lent, we will have many ways to "gain a heart of wisdom," as the Psalmist put it.

Our online Lenten reflections will use texts primarily from the "Wisdom Literature" of the Old Testament (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) and the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament. You can find out how you can be a part of this below. Our Zoom Bible study will explore the challenging book of Ecclesiastes (see below as well) and I will be preaching from Ecclesiastes on the Sundays during Lent.

It's been said that "The search for wisdom is a lifelong journey, fraught with bitter disappointments and unexpected delights." This Lent we'll continue that journey together in the hope that we might find wisdom for the living of these days.

Peace,

Bill

News from Christian Education



Sunday School will be getting ready for Lent by learning different ways people pray: The Lord's Prayer, the Labyrinth, prayer beads, the Five-Finger Prayer.

Children's Choir (all ages) Children's Choir will rehearse every Sunday during Children's Church. The Children's Choir will share on Sunday, February 26th, the last Sunday of the month.





Youth Group Gathering <u>Sunday, February 19th</u> at First Presbyterian on Rochester at 3 to 4:30.



Childcare in the Church Nursery is offered every Sunday 9:15-11:15 for folks to attend adult education, sing in the Choir, teach Sunday School, and attend worship. Come enjoy adult education classes, adult choir, and even teaching Sunday School! On **Sunday, February 19th** the choir will begin to have their after-worship rehearsals until Special Music Sunday (April 30th) so we will

offer extended childcare after worship in the nursery until then.

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 22. The Board of Christian Education is planning on serving a Pancake Supper that evening 6pm-7pm...come help us celebrate Mardi Gras (-a day late!!). Worship will be at 7pm.



HELLO

NEW MEMBERS

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED CONGREGATIONAL UCC ON JANUARY 29

Sarah Fairfield has sung in our choir for several years. She works for ICCSD as a teacher. Sarah enjoys music, travel, and reading.

Chris Lewis has been a familiar face here for many years. He grew up in Iowa City, met Amy at City High, played piccolo in the UI Marching Band and graduated in 2004 with a BS in Computer Science and Mathematics. Chris and Amy were married at Congregational UCC in 2005. In 2015 he received Masters of Systems Engineering from ISU. He and Amy are the parents of Ella, Liliana, Oscar, and Malia and two Golden Retrievers. Chris works at Leepfrog Technologies. Among other things, he coaches baseball and is a Party Parent in Nolte Academy's Nutcracker.

Marsha Lowe is a retired Christian educator who currently works as a spiritual director. She grew up in Cedar Rapids and graduated from ISU. Her interests include reading, walking, and spiritual direction. She has two adult children and three grandchildren and is married to Tim.

Tim Lowe is now retired from the UI College of Business. He also taught at the University of Florida, Perdue, and Penn State. Tim enjoys reading, auto repair, athletics, and golf.

Jerri MacConnell is a true mid-westerner. She grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and moved to Iowa in the mid-1990s. As a single mother she raised two daughters, of whom she is justly proud. Kristen has her doctorate in Higher Education and is the principal of the American School, in Barcelona, Spain. Jennifer is a clinical psychologist, in private practice in Iowa City. Jerri describes herself as a survivor. She has faced a number of health issues over the years. With the help of her walker, she is still on her feet. She is the current chair of the Iowa City Police Review Board. She tutors a student in the ESL program at Kirkwood C.C. Several years ago she participated in a Life Story class at the senior center. There she met Warren Paris. They have been married for 2 1/2 years. This is a sweet story of love blooming during the pandemic. Jerri has visited the church for several years and is ready to be an official member. She appreciates the worship services and takes advantage of the on-line opportunity when attending in person is difficult.

Larry Shostrom is a retired American Baptist minister. He has two adult children. Larry says, "Being involved in church has been central to my being my whole life. The tenets of the Gospel have informed my relationships, vocation, and values. Congregational UCC inspires and enriches my spiritual growth.

WE WELCOME YOUR HELP WITH THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

The Season of Lent is a time for reflecting as we seek to grow in knowledge of ourselves and in the knowledge of God (what John Calvin called "true and sound wisdom"). Last year's online daily reflections were very well received by the congregation. Again this year, individuals and/or families are invited to consider a Biblical text and share your thoughts. The theme is "Gaining a Heart of Wisdom," and the texts will be primarily from the "Wisdom Literature" of the Old Testament (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) and the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament. Patte Henderson, Bryan Clemons, and Bill



Lovin are coordinating the development of these reflections. We're inviting members and friends to write a short, one paragraph reflection on a particular Biblical text—we'll provide the text, you'll provide the reflection. If you are interested in being a part of this or have any questions, please contact Bill at <u>uccicrev@uccic.org</u> or call the church office at 337-4301 or call Patte at 594-7185 or Bryan at 330-7882.

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 15

Bible Study

During the season of Lent, Bill Lovin will be leading a Bible study looking at the book of Ecclesiastes. As with our other studies in recent years, this will be held on Zoom (to allow for interstate and international participation) and will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30. We will explore two chapters of Ecclesiastes each week. We'll start on February 15, take a week off for the Ash Wednesday worship service on February 22, and then continue through the five Wednesdays of March.

Please talk with Bill, call him at church (319-337-4301) or email him at <u>uccicrev@uccic.org</u> for more information or to let him know you are interested and he will send you the Zoom invitation.

It's been said that "Of all the books of the Bible, Ecclesiastes is perhaps the least straightforward." This makes it a good book for group study during Lent. Please join with others as we look at this "book about seeking, one that moves between cynicism and acceptance, worldliness and spirituality, anxiety and serenity."

ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT ON FEBRUARY 22

On Wednesday, February 22, our Board of Christian Education will host their annual pancake supper in Rockwood Hall from 6-7 p.m. Sure, it's a day after Mardi Gras, but we Congregationalist have never been ruled by the church calendar. 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 have

office (337-4301) to let us know how many will attend. But please join us even if you haven't done this.

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 distribution of ashes for those who want them. The worship service is designed for people of all ages.

Easter is Sunday, April 9, this year.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

• February 22—Ash Wednesday; Eggs, Sausage, and Pancakes from 6:00-7:00; Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

- February 26—First Sunday in Lent
- March 5—Second Sunday in Lent; Communion Sunday
- April 2—Palm Sunday—Worship with Distribution of Palms; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- April 6 Maundy Thursday—Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of Tenebrae
- April 7, Good Friday—Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 9, Easter Sunday—Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.
- April 30—Spring Choir Music Sunday
- Study of Ecclesiastes, each Wednesday: February 15, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29



WOMEN'S LUNCH—FEBRUARY 16

The February 16, women's lunch will meet at Mexico Lindo, 1857 Lower Muscatine Rd. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—FEBRUARY 18

The February Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 18, at the Waterfront Hy-Vee. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. Join us!



SACRED CONVERSATIONS TO END RACISM: 1.5 day Intensive Workshop on Zoom March 24-25, 2023

The Congregational UCC Mission Board is sponsoring a 1.5-day workshop on Zoom for members of the congregation. Our instructor will be Rev. Dr. Velda Love; information follows. If you are interested in registering send an email to: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu.

"Our world is a neighborhood. . . We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Martin Luther King, Jr., March 31, 1968

The United Church of Christ is guided by its faith and values, believing in, and affirming the full humanity of all people. However, we know that xenophobia, anti-BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) racism, anti-sexual orientation, and non-binary gender identities remain barriers to seeing and accepting all people as equal and worthy of respect.

"Race is not Real. Race does not exist biologically nor anthropologically, neither is there any reference to race in the 66 canonized books of the Bible. Race is neither scientific nor sacred. Race is an artificial social construct, and it serves a social function.

Racism is Real. Racism originates from the unholy belief that there are human groups with particular social and physical characteristics that make them superior or inferior to another human group. – *Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ*

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Velda R. Love

February 2017 - Present

Lead for Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice; Minister for Racial Justice United Church of Christ National Setting

Education

· 2006 Master of Arts in Theological Studies

North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL § Social Justice and Public Theology

· 2016 Doctor of Ministry Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL

§ African Centered Pedagogy and Social Transformation

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Friday, 6:00-8:30, March 24 Workshop I:

EXPLORING OUR BEGINNINGS THROUGH HIS-TORICAL AWARENESS

• Cultural historical education: Pre-Human & Pre-Colonial Existence

• Human migration

• A History: The Construction of Race and Racism

• The Doctrine of Discovery: Domination and the Christian Church

LISTENING TO CULTURES BEFORE COLONIAL-ISM

- The Impact of Intergenerational Trauma
- Our Siblings: North American Native Americans
- How You See Me

Breaks and small group dialogues will be scheduled to ingest and process the learnings from the workshop.

Saturday, 9:00-3:00, March 25 Workshop II:

REFRAMING CHRISTIAN NARRATIVES: TRUTH-TELLING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- The Origin of Race in America
- Dismantling the Myth of Race
- Cultural Theologies
- Understanding the Bible

HEALING: RESTORATION EQUITY AND INCLU-SION

- Overcoming Blind Spots
- Don't Put People in Boxes
- What Does the Lord Require?

CHRISTIAN CHURCH WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE:

• Strategies for a movement towards justice for all

• Community affirmation and agreement

Preparation for the workshop will include some prework, prereading and viewing resources. Information will be shared as individuals register.

UCC-JCIC CORE TEAM: SUPPORTING THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION

The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) is a multi-cultural, faith-based community coalition whose mission is to advocate for social justice and equity, first and foremost for persons of color.

Our congregation has had a "Core Team" supporting the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition since we joined the coalition in 2019. Thirty members of the congregation are currently members, and they receive general updates about activities of the organization and opportunities to support or volunteer throughout the year. Fewer than 1 update email is sent a month; we have a commitment that there will not be regular or irregular meetings. If you would like to be added to this group and receive the mailings, send an email to donna-hirst@uiowa.edu.



ALTERNATIVE GIVING UPDATE:

We received \$2380 for Heifer gifts during our Christmas Alternative Giving. An additional \$730 was raised for the CommUnity Food Pantry. And 16 hats, 4 scarves, and 30 pairs of mittens were on the Mitten Tree. Thanks to everyone to participated in this annual event. Your giving will make a big difference in the lives of people. Thanks to the Mission Board for coordinating the project. And thanks to Ginny Clemons for her calligraphy that makes the cards so special.

THINK AHEAD FOR ANNUAL OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION

The status of this year's Winter Outerwear Distribution is uncertain as the CRC considers its future. Even so, 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, gloves, etc. Please store them at your home until the fall when they can be then taken to the distribution site. If the CRC does not sponsor a distribution, there will be other options for donating winter outerwear.





SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE MARCH 25-26 860 QUARRY ROAD

Mark your calendars for the 2023 Book Sale! This two-day sale will be hosted on Saturday, March 25 and Sunday, March 26 from 10:30am-4:00pm, both days, at 860 Quarry Road, Coralville.

Each year, Shelter House creates a wonderland of adventure, mystery, and curiosity at the annual Book Sale. Tens of thousands of used books are generously donated by members of the community and sold at low prices to support Shelter House's critical work. This is truly a community fundraiser: many community members donate books, volunteer for, and shop at the Book Sale.

If you have gently used books, CDs, and DVDs, vinyl records, and puzzles, they can be dropped off at 860 Quarry Rd, Coralville **starting Sunday, February 19th.** Donation times will be *Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays* from 10:00am-2:00pm, and *Sundays* from 2:00pm-4:00pm. The book sale could not be done without the help of volunteers. This year is no different. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help sort and organize books and other donations, and prepare the space for the big sale. There's over a hundred slots we need to fill. Add your name to one or more slots today! Sign up today at: <u>bit.ly/booksale2023</u>.

(cont'd)

Community sponsors are one of the many reasons Shelter House's Book Sale is such a fun and engaging event. Become a sponsor and make your contribution at <u>www.shelterhouseiowa.org/donate</u>, or email T'Shailyn Harrington at <u>tshailyn.harrington@shelterhouseiowa.org</u> for more information.

Sponsorship Opportunities:	
Library Giant	\$500
Epic Poet	\$250
Novelist	\$100
Sonneteer	\$35

If you have many books to donate, you can take them directly to the site. You can also drop off books at Rockwood Hall and John Fieselmann or Donna Hirst can take them for you.

MILESTONES

Deaths:

Sandy Boyd died on December 13. A memorial service will be held at the University in the spring.



Lee Wood died on January 6. A funeral service was held at the church on January 9.

Baptisms:

During worship on Sunday, January 15 we baptized Oliver Bruce Reynolds and Piper Morgan Reynolds, the son and daughter of Eric and Lauren Reynolds and the grandson and granddaughter of Bruce Reynolds and Kathy Thede-Reynolds.



ART FROM THE INSIDE OUT EXHIBIT AT THE ARTIFACTORY—120 N. DUBUQUE ST.

Inside Out is holding an art show titled **Art from the Inside Out** from January 24 through February 20 at Artifactory. This event is free and open to the public and will showcase the incredible artistry of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals with more than 25 pieces of art.

Join us for a reception February 10 at 7pm, where some of the artists will be present to share their work, share spoken word, and attendees will have the opportunity to gather and build support for artists impacted by incarceration.

You can put a person's body behind bars but it is impossible to cage the imagination. Throughout time, people have turned to the arts to express their thoughts and emotions while incarcerated: memories, hopes for the future, regrets, work that expresses love for family, political commentary, humor, doodles that have helped pass the hours. **Art From the Inside Out** is meant to celebrate the talent and hard work of these artists as well as promote public awareness of the humanity and resilience of incarcerated people.



(cont'd)



The Artifactory gallery is officially open on Saturday afternoons from 1-4 pm for people to view the exhibit. Special appointments can also be made for groups to view the exhibit on weekdays or evenings.

Location: The Artifactory, 120 N Dubuque St., Iowa City, IA 52240

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEREVENTION PROGRAM HOLDS SOUPER BOWL

Tickets are now on sale for the <u>Domestic Violence Intervention Program's 2023 Souper Bowl</u>. Since it started 26 years ago, the Souper Bowl has grown into the nonprofit's biggest annual fundraising event, helping to ensure <u>DVIP can continue its mission</u> of advocating and providing support services for survivors of intimate partner violence, human trafficking, stalking and harassment.

This year's Souper Bowl is being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Coralville on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. A to-go option, with drive-through pick-up, and a delivery option are also available.

The event will feature 30 soups from local restaurants, including chicken noodle from 2 Dogs Pub, Tuscan tomato soup from Bread Garden and tomato Florentine from Bluebird Cafe in North Liberty, Nodo's broccoli cheese and bacon corn chowder from Red's Alehouse. Oasis and Trumpet Blossom Cafe will be providing vegan options.

There are <u>six ticket options</u> for the Souper Bowl:

• \$100 VIP Delivery and Pick-Up (5 soups, commemorative mug, VIP gift, and homemade confetti cookies, sales end on February 8th)

• \$75 VIP In-Person (Early access to soups, bowls, priority seating, commemorative gift and homemade confetti cookies, tickets must be purchased in advance)

• \$35 General Pick-Up (2 soups and commemorative mug, sales end February 8th)

• \$30 General Admission (Bowl and unlimited soup, tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door)

• \$30 Gift of Soup (purchase soup for staff, clients, or someone you want to share the soup-port with)

• \$15 General In-Person volunteer/student/sliding scale (unlimited soup, tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door)

As always, kids 12 and under eat for free.

DVIP opened its first shelter for people threatened by domestic violence in 1980, and now DVIP covers eight counties in southeastern Iowa — Johnson, Iowa, Cedar, Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Van Buren and Washington. The nonprofit provides emergency shelter, pet shelter, peer-to-peer counseling, education and prevention at the state and federal level, youth advocacy, a 24-hour hotline and other services to victims and survivors.

HELP TRAIL HELP OLDER ADULTS AT HOME

TRAIL volunteers are essential to their success. Volunteers assist their members in a variety of important ways, all of which are helping older Johnson County adults age more securely in their own homes. And you don't have to be a TRAIL member to be a TRAIL volunteer! Here are some of the ways you can play a vital role in helping members maintain their independence:

- Transportation to doctors' offices, for short errands, or even to the Eastern Iowa airport
- Home services, such as simple repairs, limited yard work
- Medical advocacy, i.e., accompanying members to doctor's appointments, asking questions, and recording instructions
- Phone check-ins for members who desire daily contact with TRAIL
- Helping to organize and staff **social, cultural and educational programming** to help TRAIL members make new friends, explore their interests, and remain active and engaged in our community
- Providing organizational leadership by serving on our **Board of Directors** or on one of our **board committees.**

TRAIL holds monthly Volunteer Orientation sessions designed to help participants learn about our various volunteer opportunities. Want to become a TRAIL volunteer? <u>Click here</u> to download a PDF that explains the Volunteer Services Program in more detail. Orientations sessions are scheduled on an ongoing basis and are listed in their <u>Calendar</u>. If you are interested, please reach out through their <u>Contact</u> page and a member of our Volunteer Committee will be in touch. In whatever capacity you'd like to serve, and for whatever time you have to give, they'd love to welcome you to the TRAIL team!

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa is currently in need of volunteers to support their programming at all elementary schools across the Iowa City Community School District. Volunteering is a great way to provide mentorship and enrich the lives of local students, and the students love seeing their volunteers each week! Classes are starting at several different grade levels at a variety of times throughout the Spring semester.

What Volunteers Do: They go into classrooms and teach students how money works, how education leads to career success, and how to start and run a business.

- **Experience Needed:** None. Volunteers don't need to know anything about those things because JA provides the full lesson, materials, talking points, and training to make the classroom experience successful. They just ask that volunteers provide their time, stories to share, and enthusiasm for the content they are teaching. Teachers are present during the sessions, and we give you all you need to have a fulfilling volunteer experience!
- **Time Commitment:** The time commitment is minimal it's about 30-45 minutes, once a week for 5 6 weeks. Teaching in pairs or tag -teaming classes is an option as well.

You can watch this video to learn more: <u>https://youtu.be/wSaSSHYCoTE</u>, or check out some of the upcoming opportunities here: <u>Find A Class - Junior Achievement (ja.org)</u>.

Anyone interested can email <u>klangrehr@jaeasterniowa.org</u>, or call (319) 862-1100 for more information and to talk over specific opportunities.

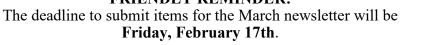


WANT TO GIVE ONLINE? SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR GIVING APP. Your giving makes a world of difference.



ONLINE DONATION

FRIENDLY REMINDER!







FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Providing Good Food and Hospitality since 1983 Our church served 125 lunches at the Free Lunch Program on Monday, January 30,

2023. <u>Thank you so much</u> to all who volunteered by donating food for this serving day: Dianne Atkins, Sue Dayton, John & Randee Fieselmann, Betsy Henson, Donna Hirst, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Linda Muston, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts and Rebecca Weatherford

Additional thanks to John Fieselmann, Betsy Henson, Kathi Koegle, John Reitz, Edie Roberts and Rick Ruppert for their valuable onsite support.

Our next scheduled serving date is Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2023! Vicki Thomae

CELEBRATING FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/3 Beth Parker Grace Stacy
- 2/11 McKenzie Brown
- 2/13 Steve Bowers
- 2/14 Laura Ghabel
- 2/15 Sharyn Reitz
- 2/21 Nicole Pearson
- 2/23 Ethan Buck
- 2/24 Eugene Buck
- 2/25 Andrew Ghabel
- 2/27 Nicole Neems
- 2/28 Tom Mittman





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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2023 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 Chi

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 Majesty Constable Jenn Harden Sharyn Huriaux Reitz Douglas Herrera Claudia Landaverde

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