



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
April 2024



Friends in Christ:

What a glorious Easter celebration we had on the last day of March! From the youth of the Confirmation Class leading the Sunrise Service, through breakfast in Rockwood Hall, to the echoes of the final anthem and postlude ringing in our hearts and our sanctuary, it was a festive and inspiring morning. Our Lenten preparations brought us to this joyful day. Along with everyone else, I am grateful all the people who made this possible.

I was busy with preparations leading up to Easter during the final weeks of March and took a couple of days off after Easter. So I finished my part of the Newsletter later than usual, which is why it's coming to you a little late. As usual, however, it is filled with good news about the ministry and mission of our congregation, opportunities for involvement, and information about upcoming events in our community. So please give this issue a look!

April is Earth Month and we're taking our theme from the title of Alma Thomas' painting "Earth Sermon: Beauty, Love, and Peace." This will be reflected in adult ed, in what happens in worship, and in various opportunities through the month. Some of this is still in the making, so look for more information in the days ahead. We hope to pair what we're doing at the church with events at the University during Earth Month.

The "Beauty" part of theme will especially be evident on April 28, the date of our Spring Special Music Sunday. And following worship that day our Membership Board will host a brunch for everyone. There is more information about this in the newsletter.

One final note: I will be taking some sabbatical time this summer. I'll be taking one month in July and will arrange to take the other two months later. I'm only taking one month now because we will be bringing new staff on and I want to be here in August to continue the momentum that we have developed in this time of rebuilding.

Peace,

Bill

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

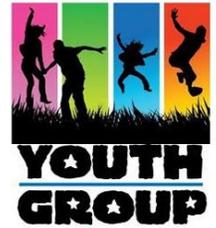
### April 2024 News from Christian Education



Sunday school students will be focused on the Parables this session...I love the parables!!

#### Youth Group

On **Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** the youth Group will be taking advantage of our downtown location, and they will be doing a scavenger hunt through our the neighborhood. **The youth group meets at the UCC church at 4-5:30.**



**Children's Choir** (all ages) will rehearse every Sunday during Children's Time. The Children's Choir will share on **Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> (Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> is Special Music Sunday).**

**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! The choir will continue to have extended after-worship practices for Music Sunday...which is Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to offer extended childcare after worship in the nursery until then.



**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> is Closing Day** for the Sunday School, we are planning our traditional Ice Cream Social and completing several Rainbow crafts.

Sunday, May 19th is also Ann Molsberry's last Sunday. Ann is retiring and taking some valuable time off from church-related activities. During this time, Bob and Ann will not be around much while they visit family and check-off a few bucket-list items!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**OUR UPPER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM HAS A VERY SPACIOUS CORNER AVAILABLE** thanks to the Brock Family Music Company. Their Steinway trained piano movers work all across the United States. They were able to safely move and recycle our upright Schaefer piano. Theresa Brock said “We will be sure to find it a good heavenly home.” We also give many thanks to Peter Bloesch who donated the much-needed Clavinova that now takes the place of the Schaefer.



### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SEEKS NEW DIRECTOR

This spring, Ann Molsberry will retire as our Directory of Children’s Programs. Ann has done an excellent job both of keeping the Christian Education program going through the height of the pandemic and of guiding its development and growth in recent years.

The Board of Christian Education is beginning the search for a new Director who can build on the strong foundation that Ann established. As the search begins, the Board is looking for a Congregational UCC parent to join the search team. If you are interested or know someone you would like to recommend, please talk to Sally Strang or Bill Lovin.

### SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY—APRIL 28 Spring Brunch after Worship

On Sunday, April 28th the Congregational Choir, under the direction of Dr. Chris Nakielski and accompaniment of William Crouch, will perform Mozart's Missa Brevis in F Major (KV 192). The performance will feature in-house soloists Marie Von Behren, Rebecca Weatherford, and guest baritone Simon Downs. Additionally, this piece will feature area professionals on strings, including Dr. Andrew Gentszch (violin), William Gentszch (violin) and James Ellis (cello).



This mass was composed in 1774 when Mozart was just 18 years old. It became known as the "Little Credo Mass" because of the Credo calls interspersed in the text of the third movement. This Mass, intended for Sundays and minor feasts, was in any case written for Salzburg Cathedral, where the Baroque tradition remained alive in all the music performed there.

The Membership Board is hosting a Spring Brunch in Rockwood Hall after our worship that morning. During this time, we will recognize members who joined the church this past year. The brunch will be catered. So, no need to bring anything. To help us plan, we would like to get an approximate count of how many people will attend. Please indicate on the sign-up sheets in Rockwood Hall if you plan to attend and how many may be coming with you. We are looking forward to this time to celebrate spring and enjoy beautiful music.

### WOMEN’S LUNCH—APRIL 18

The April 18th women's lunch will meet at Mexico Lindo in IC. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.



### MEN’S BREAKFAST—APRIL 20

The March Men’s Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, 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!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Save  
the  
Date!

### SAVE THE DATES!—ALL CHURCH GATHERINGS

The Membership Board is looking ahead to a couple of much-loved congregational events and we want you to be a part of them. Mark your calendars now and look for more information in the months ahead about:

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC—Sunday, June 23, in City Park

PROGRESSIVE DINNER—Saturday, October 5, at lots of locations

### 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.



**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING:** We have received over \$3960 so far—and there's still time to give! This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. For many years now, we have been on the list of Top 100 giving churches. 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 faith, hope, and love 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. Thanks again!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### WITH SADNESS AND IN THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

We give thanks for the lives of two long-time members of Congregational UCC who died in March.

Joan Parsons died on March 12.

Joan Jehle died on March 30.

Each of them used their different gifts to help make our congregation a better place. Please keep their family members in your prayers.

At this time there are no public events planned.

IN LOVING  
*memory*

### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS SPRING GALA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE.

Date: April 12th

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Unitarian Universalist Society  
2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville, IA 52241

Dress Code: Dress to Impress! We encourage you to wear attire that represents your heritage or cultural background, adding to the vibrant tapestry of our celebration.

Experience a night of celebration and community as we honor our past and look ahead to a future of continued impact.

What to Expect:

Indulge in a variety of delicious cuisines representing the diverse cultures we serve.

Be inspired by a captivating documentary showcasing our journey over 50 years.

Bid on unique items in our silent auction.

Celebrate community leaders and volunteers who embody kindness, generosity, and neighborly spirit.

Dance the night away...

Ticket Information:

Reserve your seat today! Visit [www.ncjc.org/ncjcspringgala](http://www.ncjc.org/ncjcspringgala) or email [chastity-dillard@ncjc.org](mailto:chastity-dillard@ncjc.org) for ticket purchases and more details.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Join Iowa Interfaith Power and Light on **Monday, April 22nd from 3:30pm-5:00pm** beginning at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral rain garden in Des Moines for a powerful call to climate action. Unite as Iowans of faith and conscience to urge MidAmerican Energy to close their coal plants and support a just energy transition by 2030.

Event highlights will include:

- 🌍 Reflections, prayers, and liturgy for climate action rooted in faith
- 🌍 Sharing the message that people of faith and conscience care about clean air and water, a just energy transition, and our coal communities
- 🌍 Educating the public about MidAmerican Energy's continued use of coal in Iowa

This event is free and open to the public. We encourage people of all ages to attend, as this is a family-friendly event!

You can learn more and register [here](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



### **THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS SPONSORING A TABLE at the Table to Table Annual Dinner on April 24.**

The event takes place on **Wednesday, April 24**, at Celebration Farm in the Double Round Barn. Celebrate the impact T2T's food recovery efforts make in our community and learn more about how you can be involved. Weather permitting the event will utilize both indoor and outdoor space. Funds raised from this event will help us rescue more than 130,000 pounds of good food and deliver it throughout the Johnson County hunger relief network. Learn more [here](#).

Want to join with others at our table? Please contact the church office at 337-4301.

### **AGAPE CAFÉ BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER Saturday, May 4**

The 31st annual Agape Café fundraiser taking place **on** May 4th, 2024 between 7:30am-11:30am. The fundraiser will be held at Old Brick Church, 26 E Market St, Iowa City. Please join them for a breakfast meal and a morning of visiting with our community.



Since 1993, the Café has provided a safe and comfortable environment for anyone who walks through their doors. That service comes irrespective of their race, gender, religion, socioeconomic status, or cultural background. Their patrons come from all walks of life. Many face homelessness and food insecurity. Agape Café gives guests a place to sit down and eat a free, restaurant-style, hot breakfast. They do this every Wednesday morning between 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. throughout the year.

Our mission is to serve our community with respect and dignity through food and kindness. And that mission is possible because of the generosity of the community it serves. Congregational UCC has provided important financial support to the Café in recent years. Come to breakfast and see what a difference we make.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**THANKS TO ALL** who helped with the Hope Lodge dinner on March 11: Diane Dahl-McCoy, Michelle and Adelaide Birt-Leeds, Rebecca Weatherford, Julie Wittig, Linda Muston, Joyce Myer, Andy Bertolatus, Bryan Clemons, Peter Spragg, Sue and Chuck Dayton. In addition, we had Bill Lovin and 5 confirmands helping out: Nadia Spragg, Collin Beerends, Dylan Beerends, Izzy Brown, and Ella Lewis. It was great to have these young people involved. Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday May 13. Check for the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

**FREE LUNCH**—we will serve at the free lunch program on Monday, April 29th at 12:00PM.



**SEE SOMETHING—SAY SOMETHING:** If you notice something in the building that needs attention—a leaky faucet, a loose railing, etc.—please let the church office know right away. Thanks.



**USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES:** There are still opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship during February. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY MORNING?**

This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to lead them in worship. Bill Lovin provides the material. You provide the spirit. Contact Bill if you are interested or would like more information.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> -CE Meeting, 6:30pm -Mission Board, 7:00pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> - 9:00 Church School breakfast - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service with communion	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> -9:00 Church school breakfast - 9:15 Christian Education - Choir Rehearsal - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> - Membership Board, 5:30pm - Deacons meeting, 7pm - Trustees, 7pm - Stewardship, 7pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> - Women's Lunch @ Mexico Lindo in Iowa City at 11:45 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee, 8:00 am
<b>21</b> - 9:00 Church School breakfast - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service - Confirmation class, 4pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> - Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>24</b> -Table to Table Dinner, 5:30pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> - 9:00 Church School breakfast - 9:00 Choir - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>29</b> -Free Lunch 12pm	<b>30</b>				

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### CELEBRATING APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Bill Hoefer
- 4/7 Del Brown
- 4/9 Grace Whittaker
- 4/12 Mary Lea Kruse
- 4/15 Magill Schumm
- 4/16 Loralyn Hogue
- 4/19 Ann Gabel
- 4/21 Diana Durham
- 4/22 Randee Fieselmann
- 4/25 Theresa Messlein  
Jacob Koepnick
- 4/26 Anna Whittaker
- 4/27 Joshua Woolums
- 4/29 Jo Bowers
- 4/30 Oscar Lewis



**FRIENDLY REMINDER!**  
The deadline to submit items for the May newsletter will be  
Friday, April 19th.



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

APRIL 2024 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

Custodians:

**The Rev. William Lovin**

Rev. Ann Molsberry

Dr. Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Majesty Constable

Jenn Harden

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Douglas Herrera

Claudia Landaverde

**[uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org)**

[anmolsberry@gmail.com](mailto:anmolsberry@gmail.com)

[c.nakielski@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:c.nakielski@cornellcollege.edu)

Contact the Office

[uccicadmin@uccic.org](mailto:uccicadmin@uccic.org)

[sharynreitz@gmail.com](mailto:sharynreitz@gmail.com)

Contact the Office

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