



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

July 2024



Friends in Christ:

During the month of July, I will be on a “mini-sabbatical.” I will be using this month to begin some writing about preaching that I have wanted to do for some time. As a congregation, we continue to be in a very positive time of renewal and rebuilding. This summer we hope to bring on a new staff person for Christian education. So, now is not the right time for me to take the usual three-month sabbatical. But one month will allow me to get started on this project and give me a good sense of what I will need to do next. This will most likely be followed up with further sabbatical time in 2025.

On Sunday, July 7 & 14, the Rev. Bob Molsberry will be preaching. Bob is a member of our congregation and spends most Sundays in the choir loft. He has preached here often and his sermons and worship leadership are well known and appreciated. On Sunday, July 21 & 28, the Rev. Libby Conley will be preaching. Libby is a Mennonite minister. She has been worshipping with us and attending adult education sessions for over a year. We look forward to this new voice in the pulpit.

If emergencies arise, pastoral care will be provided by either the Rev. Bob Molsberry from July 1-19 or the Rev. Ryan Downing from July 10-31. Ryan is the pastor at Faith UCC in Iowa City and well known to many as a member here before his ordination.

The summer offers us a wonderful opportunity to slow down, to look around, and to see one another and encounter God once more. If we feel like we are missing something in our lives—missing deep relationships, missing ourselves, missing God, then we can use these days to start looking again, in a new way.

This summer, take the time that is given to enjoy this beautiful world in which we live. I’m not talking about anything hurried. Sit for a long time and look at what is planted in your yard. Take a slow walk into the deep woods. Float on cool waters. Become familiar again with your home, this earth. Let nature tell you about itself and about its Creator. Hear the message that there is a season for everything and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Living in relationship with God is as much about enjoyment as it is about duty and rules and words like “must” and “should.” Indeed, as the early Protestant Reformers reminded us, the chief ends of humankind are to love God and to *enjoy* God forever. Who knows, we might even be able to see some good and lovable parts of ourselves that we have been overlooking for some time. We might discover just how loved we are in the sight of God.

See you in August.

Peace,

Bill

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH NEWS

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, JULY 4,
in celebration of Independence Day.



JULY 7—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA CITY JAZZ FESTIVAL

Summer brings great festivals to Iowa City—and closes off some of the streets! Sunday, July 7, is the final day of the Iowa City Jazz Festival. Clinton Street will be closed between College and Jefferson Streets. Access to the church will be available from Jefferson Street and from Clinton Street coming from the north. Join us for worship at 10:15 a.m., but plan on a slightly longer walk.

HELP AT HOPE LODGE THIS MONTH

Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, July 15. Watch for a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.



WOMEN'S LUNCH—JULY 18

The July 18th women's lunch will meet at Basta in downtown IC at 11:45am. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—JULY 20

The July Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 20. We'll gather at the Waterfront Hy-Vee at 8:00 a.m. Good food, great people. All Congregational UCC men who eat breakfast are invited. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. Please join us.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR KEN KUNTZ AND NANCY KUNTZ will be held at the church on Saturday, August 3, at 11:00 a.m. A reception with a light lunch will follow in Rockwood Hall.



WOULD YOU LIKE A GIVING STATEMENT? PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW



We are now half way through 2024. It's the time of year when some people like to see what they have given and to make sure that their giving to our church is current. If you would like a half-year financial giving statement, please contact Jenn Harden in the church office at 319-337-4301 or send her an email at uccicadmin@uccic.org. She'll be glad to send out a statement. Statements will be ready by July 12.

And thanks again for your generous giving as we rebuild and move forward!

WELCOME STUDENTS IN AUGUST

When the UI Fall Semester begins in late August, Congregational UCC will once again welcome the new and returning students. The exact dates and details are still in the works, but this will be an event designed to let students know who we are, what we value, and how they might find a spiritual home here while studying at the University. More information will be available in early August. In the meantime, if you have suggestions or would like to help with the planning, please talk with Martha Ann Crawford or call the church office at 337-4301.



ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2, WE ARE CONFIRMED Colin Beerends, Dylan Beerends, Izzy Brown, Ella Lewis, Jasper Morton, Noam Morton, Tyler Seidl, and Nadia Spragg and welcomed them into full membership in our congregation.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PRIDE PARADE KICKS OF IC PRIDE FEST—SATURDAY, JUNE 15

More than 40 Congregational UCC members and friends—many wearing the colorful new UCCIC tee shirts—joined in the Pride Parade in June. After the parade, our booth on Washington St. was a place for conversation and letting people know about our Open and Affirming Congregation. It was a great day for everyone. Thanks to Linda Muston, Hope Spragg, Martha Ann Crawford, Carson Fixmer, Rebecca Weatherford, Julie Wittig and Dianne Atkins for organizing our participation.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PICNIC SUNDAY!—JUNE 23

What better way to begin the summer than with our annual Church Picnic in City Park?



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PICNIC SUNDAY!—JUNE 23 (continued)



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



USHERS, GREETERS, HOSPITALITY AND LITURGIST OPPORTUNITIES: Sunday morning brings an abundance of opportunities to be involved in making the morning a time of joy and renewed energy. Everyone is invited to greet people coming to worship, to usher, to lead the congregation in worship and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.



WANT TO GIVE ONLINE? Scan the QR code for our giving app. Your giving makes a world of difference.

WHERE'S THE JULY CHURCH CALENDAR?

It's summertime! And that means most of our boards and committees and the Church Council are taking a little time off for rest and renewal as we prepare for a late summer and fall filled with opportunities for ministry and mission. The calendars for the months ahead will fill up fast, but July is kind of empty. So rather than print a calendar, please note the following:



July 9	Mission Board at 7:00 p.m.
July 15	Serving at Hope Lodge
July 18	Women's Lunch
July 20	Men's Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.
July 29	Serving at the Free Lunch Program

And, of course, we'll worship each Sunday at 10:15 a.m., with Coffee Hour following. And nursery care, the children's message, and Children's Church will continue on Sundays during the summer. We look forward to seeing you!



AUGUST NEWSLETTER: Please send articles for the August newsletter to the church office by Monday, July 22. Because Bill will be on sabbatical until August 1, we expect the August newsletter to be posted during the week of August 4.

NAME TAGS—as a welcoming gesture, church members are encouraged to wear their name tag for church services. This helps new members learn names. It also serves as a greeting to visitors. If your name tag is missing or you just can't find it, please contact the church office and ask Jenn to make a new one for you.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATING JULY BIRTHDAYS

Dean Woodhouse 7/1
Bob Hanson 7/3
Adelaide Birt-Leeds 7/3
Vicki Thomae 7/4
Nadia Spragg 7/5
Bill Lovin 7/8
Benjamin Hoefer 7/9
Kathy Fait 7/10
Colin Beerends 7/10
Pam Willard 7/11
Ella Lewis 7/15
Jo Ann Benda 7/18
Nicole Day 7/20
Ruth Kuntz 7/22
Steve Wolken 7/24
David Wilder 7/24
Chuck Dayton 7/25
Marie Von Behren 7/26
Hope Spragg 7/26
Mitike Schumm 7/28
Jane Kinney 7/30
Ann Romanowski 7/30
Kathleen Wilder 7/30
Christine Taylor 7/31
Linda Muston 7/31
John Henson 7/31
Stuart Cobb 7/31



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY 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

Pastor:

Music Director

Organist

Office Manager

Financial Secretary

Custodians:

The Rev. William Lovin

Dr. Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Jenn Harden

Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Douglas Herrera

Claudia Landaverde

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Contact the Office

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