



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
June 2025



SABBATICAL NEWS AND MORE

Friends in Christ—

During the month of June, I will be on a “mini-sabbatical.” I will be using this month to continue some writing about preaching that I started last summer. We continue to be in a very positive time of rebuilding at CUCC and I don’t want to be away for too long. Taking one month worked well last year and I expect the month of June will be productive for me and for our church. This will be followed up with a final month of sabbatical time in 2026.

The summer months always bring new opportunities and a change of pace. This month, Congregational UCC will hold and take part in some traditional June activities. We’re not really slowing down, but there are many opportunities to enjoy the good things that June offers us as we worship and work and play together.

On Sunday, June 8, we will celebrate Pentecost, the day that marks God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. Our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. We invite everyone to please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, June 8.

On June 15, we will begin our observance of Pride Week. You’ll be able to preview plans, posters, tee shirts, signs and giveaways that will be part of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Iowa City parade vehicle and booth. There will be special refreshments in keeping with the Pride theme. Then we’ll join with others in the Pride Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 21.

In the afternoon of June 22, we’ll gather in City Park for our annual church picnic. This is a relaxed, beginning-of-summer event that brings people of all ages together for conversation, laughter, and, of course, food. Bring games, bring musical instruments, bring your friends, and we’ll have a great time.

By the time June 30 rolls around, who knows what else we might be doing.

**I’ll be back at the church on July 1, and on Sunday, July 6, we’ll mark the end of the Iowa City Jazz Festival with a jazz worship service as our friends from the Dick Watson Quartet join us to provide the music.**

A month with many opportunities is here! I look forward to moving through it with everyone.

Peace,

Bill

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congregational UCC Iowa City Christian Education

# June 2025

- **Thank you to our Children's Choir Director Rachel Burchett and the children and youth for their gift of music "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" during worship May 4.**
- **A special thank you to everyone who participated in the Camp Stronghold bake sale fundraiser! Peter Spragg and Alex Butler raised over \$300 to contribute towards camp.**
- **Children's worship is available during summer and we will reconvene SS with Rally Day on Sunday, September 7!**
- **Mark your calendar for Iowa City Pride Festival Saturday, June 21! Children & youth (and families) are encouraged to walk with your church family during the parade and help at our booth during the day.**
- **Please join us for fellowship, food and games on June 22 for our annual church family picnic in City Park at 4 PM>**

### Church Family Calendar

**Sunday, June 1** Pancake Party in Rockwood 9:15  
**Children's Choir sings during worship/Children's Church**  
 Nursery open 9-11:30

**Sunday, June 8** **Pentecost - wear fiery colors to church and Peter/Alex camp send-off!**  
**No Sunday School**  
 Children's Church during worship  
 Nursery open 9-11:30

**Sunday, June 15** **Social Justice Sunday**  
 & Father's Day gift making during Children's Church  
**SUMMER NURSERY HOURS begin 10-11:30**

**Saturday, June 21** Pride Parade @ noon  
 Pridefest booth 1-6

*All are encouraged to attend/participate  
 Sign-up in Rockwood Hall*

**Sunday, June 22** Children's Church during worship  
 Nursery open 10-11:30  
**CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC 4PM**  
**@lower City Park Shelter 12**

### SAVE THE DATE:

**August 18-21 Monday-Thursday**  
**Vacation Bible School 8 AM-11 AM**

*Sign-up to volunteer or participate in Rockwood Hall.*

## CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SABBATICAL GUEST PREACHERS

While Bill is on sabbatical in June, 3 UCC ministers who are members of our congregation will fill the pulpit on Sunday mornings. Worship with us in June for a month of inspiring preaching.

June 1	The Rev. Craig Henderson
June 8	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
June 15	The Rev. Craig Henderson
June 22	The Rev. Craig Henderson
June 29	The Rev. Bob Molsberry



### WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8.

This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey “from ashes to fire.” Pentecost marks God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. We invite everyone to please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, June 8.

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—JUNE 8.

Each year we receive a special offering that helps the church’s love to grow and thrive. The “Strengthen the Church” offering grows the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the “Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God’s extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church. On Sunday, June 8—Pentecost Sunday—we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.



### SUNDAY, JUNE 8—STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL

Spring and summer bring great festivals to Iowa City—and close off some of the streets! Sunday, June 8, is Pentecost Sunday and the final day of the Iowa Arts Festival. Clinton, Dubuque, and Linn Streets 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.

### WOMEN'S READING GROUP

The Women's Reading Group will gather again on June 14 @10:00 in Rockwood Hall to discuss chapter 4 of *In the Sanctuary if Women* by Jan Richardson: “Say What You See: The Book of Hildegard of Bingen.” All women are invited and welcome to join the group at any time.



## CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

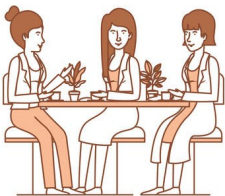
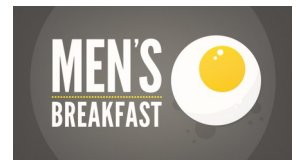
### MISSION BOARD MEMBERS INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE WITH THEM AND OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS AT THE IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL EVENTS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 21.

Join with members of our Mission Board in the Pride Parade and/or our Pride Booth on the Ped Mall. Last year more than 40 members of the congregation including friends and family enjoyed the celebration. In 2025 we welcome everyone to join us as we proudly show love and support for the LGBTQ+ community and celebrate the historic inclusive commitment of our denomination and congregation where all are welcome. For more information or to share your willingness to help contact any member of the subcommittee: Dianne Atkins, Martha Ann Crawford, Linda Muston, Hope Spragg, Rebecca Weatherford or Julie Wittig.



#### **MEN'S BREAKFAST—June 21**

The June Men's Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, 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 before the Pride Parade that morning.



#### **WOMEN'S LUNCH—June 19**

The June Women's Lunch will be held on Thursday, June 19 at Bistro in the Courtyard Hotel; 901 Melrose Ave. Please call or text Martha Ann Crawford to reserve a seat at the table: 319-855-8340

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### ALL CHURCH PICNIC—SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Summer is here and it's time for the Church Picnic. Bring your family, bring your friends, and join us on Sunday, June 22, at Shelter 12 in Lower City Park from 4-7 p.m. Restrooms and parking are near the shelter. Our Membership Board will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and tableware. You're welcome to bring games and play equipment, musical instruments, lawn chairs, and anything else that will make for a happy gathering. And if you have a UCC Pride T-shirts, the Membership Board invites you to wear it!



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



In April and May 5 new members joined our congregation. They are:

**Cassie Elsberg**—who will be a sophomore at UI this fall, studying criminology and statistics. Cassie is from Arlington, VA, and since moving 1000 miles away, she has found this congregation to be an incredible pillar of support. She is on the UI Ultimate Frisbee team and enjoys reading (essays and poetry), hiking, and the outdoors.

**Craig Fallis**—a student at UI who is interested in nursing. He says, “Most know me already, but I decided to officially join as this feels like home now.” Craig’s interests include sewing, gardening, music, organs, and cooking.

**Stephanie Frazee**—who moved to Iowa City from Cedar Rapids a year ago. She is a special education teacher at South East Middle School. She came to our church on the advice of a friend and loved the welcoming environment. She looks forward to becoming more involved. Stephanie’s interests include being active, social justice, and learning new things.

**Craig and Vicki Henderson**—Craig is an ordained UCC minister and most recently served at St. Paul UCC in Denver, IA. He enjoys worship, singing, pie baking, and walks with his cockapoo, Mrs. Weasley. Craig has been married to Vicki for 30 years. Vicki is a family medicine physician currently serving as Deputy Chief of Ambulatory Care Services at the VA Hospital. They have three grown children and, as Vicki says, “an ill-behaved cockapoo.” Vicki’s interests include knitting and reading.

### MISSION BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Mission Board held a half-day retreat in early March to set the agenda for this year. Our top 6 mission priorities were agreed upon after a survey of the members. These priorities include:



- 1 Food insecurity,
- 2 Immigration/refugees
- 3 Children/youth/childcare
- 4 Health/medical/mental health
- 5 LGBTQ+
6. Basic Living needs

As we receive requests for mission donations, we will emphasize these priorities, but these will not be exclusive as needs arise. Many of our donations will fulfill multiple priorities. The monies for these donations are drawn from the budgeted items in the annual budget and the special funds maintained by the stewardship committee. We are very fortunate this year to have received a bequest from David Schoonover’s estate to help support these activities.

So far, we have donated to the following organizations based on these priorities:

\$1950 to Little Creations Daycare. This includes \$1450 as part of our multi-year commitment to them and \$500 to help with consumable supplies such as diapers, gloves, crayons, and other craft supplies. (Priority 2 and 3) (*cont’d*)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

\$5000 United Action for Youth Festival of Flowers (Priority 3, 4, 5)  
\$2500 Free Medical Clinic (Priority 4)  
\$1400 Table-to Table (Priority 1)  
\$1000 Free Lunch Program (Priority 1) \$500 OneIowa (Priority 5)  
\$400 for Pride Parade participation

Our LGBTQ+ committee, chaired by Linda Muston, with several of our resident members at Oaknoll, hosted the Pride Alliance graduation celebration at the church on May 14. This was previously sponsored by the University but the Alliance was part of the cuts made to be in compliance with state law. There was a ceremony in the sanctuary and a reception in Rockwood Hall it was very much appreciated by the graduates, their friends and family.



### SPRING BRUNCH

After the choral offering of Jake Runstad's *The Hope of Loving* during worship on May 18, members and friends gathered in Rockwood Hall for our Spring Brunch. Members who had joined our church in the past year were recognized and a splendid time was had by all.

A big thanks goes to our Membership Board for planning this event: Marcy Kuechenmeister, Pam Willard, Sheilah McKenna, Joyce Myers, Dean Logan, Amy Lewis, Edie Roberts, Martha Ann Crawford, all lead by the Membership Board chair, Sue Dayton. Also helping were Vicki Thomae, Chuck Dayton, Jean Koch, Nathan Peters, and Torie Tann.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### IN THE COMMUNITY

#### ***THE CREATION***

The Chamber Singers of Iowa City, will present Franz Joseph Haydn's *The Creation* on Sunday, June 8, at 3:00 p.m. at the Voxman Music Building Concert Hall

Soprano **Jessica Pray Patel** as Gabriel/Eve

Tenor **Colin Wilson** as Uriel

Baritone **David Meyer** as Raphael/Adam

General Admission--\$20; Students are free.

You can purchase tickets [here](#).



#### **LATE BREAKING NEWS**

There always seems to be last-minute news that arrives at the church after the newsletter has been prepared. Catch up with the latest here:

**THANKS TO ALL** who helped with the Hope Lodge dinner on Monday, May 12: Diane Dahl McCoy, Ann Molsberry, Bryan and Ginny Clemons, Linda Muston, Dianne Atkins and Andy Bertolatus, Rebecca Weatherford, Chuck and Sue Dayton. Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be in July.



**THE NEXT 2 HOPE LODGE DINNERS** will be July 14 and September 15.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER**, October 4. Hope to get the signup sheet in the August newsletter.

#### **DRAINAGE PROJECT UPDATE**

##### **UPDATE**

The disturbed areas around our church are part of a once in a generation drainage project, designed to upgrade our capacity to handle precipitation and prevent damage to our foundation. We have replaced all gutters and downspouts and are taking advantage of the University's utility tunnel replacement project, to allow us to more effectively move water away from our building and into storm sewers. Excavation for underground tiling will continue on our east and south sides. All areas will be repaved as needed.

We expect the work to be completed during the first week of June. Parking at the church will be limited during this work. Your patience is appreciated.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### IOWA CITY NO KINGS PROTEST—JUNE 14

NO KINGS is a national day of action and mass mobilization in response to increasing authoritarian excesses and corruption: crack downs on free speech, detaining people for their political views, the threatened deportation of American citizens, and defiance of the courts.



**On Saturday, June 14, people will show up across the United States to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings** The flag belongs to us. Join your neighbors at the corner of Iowa and Clinton from 11 am-2pm.

*A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree.*



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

**USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES:** Each Sunday morning brings opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, 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.



**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

## June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> - 9:15 Christian Education - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service w/ communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> -	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Sunday Worship Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> - Women's Lunch, 11:45am at Bistro, IC - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> - Men's breakfast, 8am
<b>22</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Sunday Worship Service - Church Picnic, 4-7p	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> - Children's Church During Worship - 10:15 Worship Service	<b>30</b>					

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### CELEBRATING JUNE BIRTHDAYS

**6/2 Fielding Woolums**

**6/3 Jerilyn McCarty  
Paula Forest**

**6/6 Gloria Lacina**

**6/7 Ray Muston**

**6/9 Renn Morton**

**6/11 Derek Willard**

**6/16 Ethel Bloesch**

**6/18 Sally Strang**

**6/23 Melissa Jensen**



**ARTICLES FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER**  
are due to the office by Wednesday, June 18.



**THURSDAY, JUNE 19:** The church office will be closed in observance of Juneteenth.

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

JUNE 2025 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:**

Interim Director of CE

Music Director

Organist

Children's Choir Director

Office Manager

Financial Secretary

Sexton:

Custodian:

**The Rev. William Lovin**

Hope Spragg

Dr. Chris Nakielski

Bill Crouch

Rachel Burchett

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.