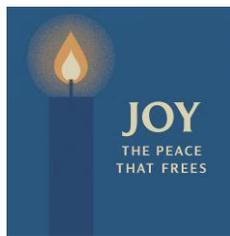


"Joy is everywhere; it is in the earth's green covering of grass: in the blue serenity of the sky: in the reckless exuberance of spring: in the severe abstinence of grey winter: in the living flesh that animates our bodily frame: in the perfect poise of the human figure, noble and upright: in living, in the exercise of all our powers: in the acquisition of knowledge. . . Joy is there everywhere."

~ Rabindranath Tagore, Bengali polymath (poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer, and painter) of the Bengal Renaissance period

"When we let go of our small self, joy rushes in." ~ Richard Rohr

"Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day." ~ Henri Nouwen



Sunday 12/14/25 "Joy-The Peace That Frees" 3rd Sunday of Advent

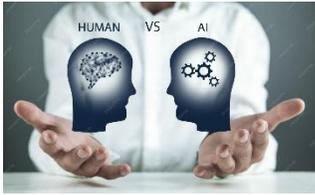
Philippians 4:4-7 and Luke 1:39-56



Join us for special music by Victor Dean during 11am worship this Second Sunday of Advent "Joy - the Peace that Frees"

Cookie Walk is this Saturday the 13th 9am-Noon. We need cookies to sell and people to purchase cookies. Please spread the word!!
Cookies should be dropped off by 8:30am on the 13th.

Weekly Inspiration



When Humans are as Bad as AI Rambling, by Pastor Rich

I had the strangest interaction today. I received an email that there was an autopayment scheduled for \$300 on this card that I had never used. There is a zero balance, and I did not receive this notice before. Here's where it gets weird. The person that I talked to after calling the number on the back of the card verified the payment was scheduled and could not understand what the problem was. In their mind, the system says there was an authorized autopay, so what's the problem? Eventually, I had to ask for a manager, who fortunately did immediately understand the problem. After extensive research, the manager concluded that it was a system glitch that they would immediately report.

I am not sure whether I should be more worried about the "system glitch" or about the human who lacked the capacity to understand. Systems can be fixed but the "fix" for humans is much more complex.

Our faith is about relationships. My fear is that too often many humans rely heavily on systems without any understanding of real life, let alone the reasoning behind the systems.

When COVID hit, the world shifted to a much greater level of automation and reduced human interaction. I predicted that after COVID, people would be hungry for more human interaction and that there would be some balancing. Particularly with the advent of AI (artificial intelligence), the opposite appears to be happening.

Perhaps this was part of what Jesus meant when he said, "There are many things I have to tell you, but you can't bear them now."

I believe that the hungering for more human interaction, for community, is something that is greater now than ever, yet many people have no clue how to engage; how to build community - how to make it happen for them.

We know that through our MCC QC faith community people engage life in a way that benefits their spirituality - all of their relationships with God, with creation and with other human beings. Medically speaking, this "abundant living" is very healthy.

How can we better get this message out to the community?

Love, Rich

Pastor's
Gone
Nuts!



Inquire within...



Stop by MCCQC @ 9am – Noon on Sat the 13th to donate \$3 or more and receive a bag of Texas Roadhouse peanuts and a card for a free appetizer.

**Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities. A progressive Christian community
Where YOU and YOUR spiritual journey are always WELCOME
2930 W. Locust, Davenport IA 52804 - Phone: 563.324.8281 Pastor Rich 563.940.9630**



Service at 11am on Sundays

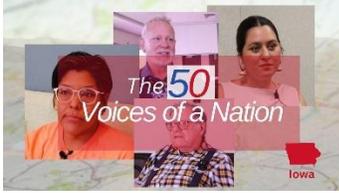
Regular Office Hours: Monday 9-5; Wednesday Noon-5pm; Thursday 9-11

Pastor Rich available by appointment or stop by on Wednesdays from Noon – 2pm

Special Announcements



Fa la la la...it is that time of year where we invite you to join in the singing of carols prior to worship service. Grab a set of bells from the ushers, the words to the songs and meet us in the sanctuary by 10:50AM. "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"



The 50 Voices of a Nation, the *Fulcrum*

The Fulcrum is a platform where insiders and outsiders to politics are informed, meet, talk, and act to repair our democracy and make it live and work in our everyday lives. The 50 Voices is a four-year multimedia initiative led by [The Fulcrum](#), traveling to communities in every state to uncover what motivated Americans to vote in the 2024 presidential election. Through in-depth storytelling, the project examines how the Donald Trump administration is responding to those hopes and concerns—and highlights civic-focused organizations that inform, educate, and empower the public to take action.

The following link features the State of Iowa and two grassroots organizations—[Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice \(Iowa MMJ\)](#) and [One Human Family QCA](#). We encourage you to watch. You will also have access to the first 11 episodes from other states.

[Immigrant Justice and Community Inclusion in Iowa - The Fulcrum](#)



For your safety: During Worship Service, the outside doors will remain locked after 11:10am and will not reopen until after service is over. There can be no exceptions regardless of who is at the door. Please do not text the ushers and ask them to let you in.

If you are late, please join us on Facebook Live and plan to attend the following Sunday. Thank you for your cooperation.



Please recycle all paper, cans and plastics in the recycle bin in our kitchen.



Humility Homes and Services is in need of Hats, Gloves, Hand warmers, Winter Coats (especially bigger sizes). Men's clothes, all sizes. Socks, Boots etc. Also Backpacks, Duffle bags, luggage medium to large or X-Large.

Please deliver to: Humility Homes, 1016 W 5th Street, Davenport. They are willing to pick up items as well. Call 563-322-8065 with questions or for additional information.

You can also drop off at MCCQC 2930 W Locust St Davenport on Mondays 10am-4pm or Wednesdays Noon-4pm. We suggest that donations be made by 12/10 as the weather is starting to get colder. THANK YOU to all who have donated to and supported Our Homeless Community.



[Check out the holiday resources and suggestions from One Home One Future](#)

[Sustainable Holidays | One Home One Future](#)



Ornament Class Participants





Recurring Events (All are at MCCQC unless indicated otherwise)

Banned Book Club- every Wednesday at 6:30pm

Bible Study – every Friday at 10am

Board Meeting – 4th Sunday at 12:30pm-2:00pm

Community Meal – 3rd Saturday at 5-6pm (12/20 Casseroles)

Dining Out – 2nd Tuesday at 6pm (1/13/26 TBD)

Game Night- 4th Saturday at 6pm in Social Hall. (we will play games on 12/31 instead during Sober New Year's Eve Party)

Let's Write & Create Studio – every Thursday from 6-8 pm

Recognition Sunday – 1st Sunday during service with potluck following

Sisters of Sobriety AA – every Saturday at 10am



Children's Story Time Every Sunday

Meshel RM and Mona Riteman are now rotating Sundays so that our children between the ages of 3 - 10 can experience this special time every week. Children are released after our opening hymn and will return to share communion. **Thank you, Mona and Meshel, for providing this ministry!**



YouTube video of “Women’s leadership during HIV AIDS celebrated at MCC Church Conference in 2005”.

Please take the time to watch this video that was shared during the online MCC Denomination World AIDS Day: 30-minute Observance of Reflection and Hope. The 7:35 minute video takes place at a MCC General Conference in Calgary in 2005, and covers the crucial role played by women, especially lesbians, in helping People with AIDS, and especially gay men, is recognized with a long-sustained ovation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=V Llzoe0DuRaR EE&v=gkE2PjT-sCw&feature=youtu.be>

Scheduled Events



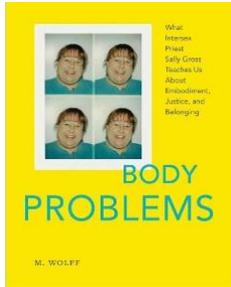
Saturday 12/13: Annual Holiday Cookie Walk 9am – Noon

Save the date on your calendars for the 7th Annual MCCQC Holiday Cookie Walk. We have some of the most talented cookie makers at our church...you will not want to miss this event! We provide containers and sell by the pound. We also take Venmo payments if you do not want to carry cash. **Don’t forget to sign the cookie sheet, please!** Questions...see Meshel, Jolene or call the church at 563-324-8281



Sunday December 21st Annual Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange

Check your closets, cupboards, drawers, attics and basement for items you really want to get rid of. Wrap them and bring to church on the 21st. Items can be useful, but it is way more fun if the items have no real purpose, or they are funny and unusual. For those of you who do not keep unused items around for long, grab something at a local thrift store such as Goodwill or D.A.V. There is always the Dollar Tree. Just do not spend more than \$8. If you are able, bring an appetizer or sweet treat to share. There will be a Contest, too...stay tuned for details!



Monday January 12th @ 6pm Body Problems book study on Monday nights beginning 1/12/26 with the 1st session led by author M. Wolff at MCC QC Social Hall

The Atlas Collective is a great local queer bookstore where the book can be purchased. Stay tuned for more details.



SAVE THE DATE!! Saturday February 21st Annual Chili Potluck Cook-off and Drag show at CASI 1035 W Kimberly Rd Davenport

Potluck Chili, Raffle Items, Silent Auction and 50/50...followed by a family-friendly Drag Show featuring 4 performers. Cost: \$10 suggested donation/person 8 years of age and older. Watch for sign-up sheets for volunteers and raffle baskets as we get closer to the date. Questions?

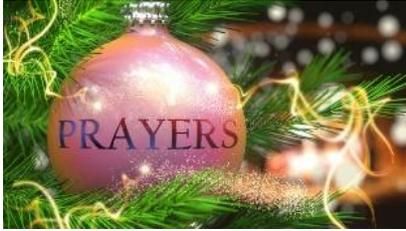
Contact the church at 563-324-8281 or message the hosts on Facebook.

Doors open at 4pm

Chili and raffle baskets must be delivered by 4:15pm

Potluck/activities begin at 5pm.

Beverages available for purchase. Cash bar.



PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please add/update prayer requests via email: richdhendricks@msn.com or call 563-324-8281

Greg Kennedy health concerns

Prayers for Dave Hendershot with cancer

Prayers for trans service members and trans community

Prayers for Zash

Osumo Kendgi asks for prayers for her sister Aggy

Amanda prays for Destiny and Beth

Marsha VZ asks prayers for her friend Teresa

Prayers for Bebe, Marvin and Princess Stephanie for health concerns

Prayers for Emmie R for continued healing

Deb offers prayers of thanks for the help she has received since Sue's passing

Sara M prays for her granddaughter's mental health

Patricia asks prayers for her sister-in-law who just lost her mother, and her sister, Kathy, recovering from shoulder surgery

Loretta asks continuing prayers for our country

Prayers for all families this month who will be without food stamps and for a good Thanksgiving for all

Sara prays for continued healing from her knee replacement

Prayers for the family of Mary Geneseo

For Jessica Snow and Kathryn

Prayers for Dixie as she recovers from hip surgery

Loretta prays for the leaders of our country

Prayers of comfort for Walt Youngman with the passing of Dave Ramsey

Prayers for Jeff T for health and healing

Julie asks for continued prayers for Raquel and her family.

Continuing health issues: Sharon Rash, RoxAnn Kowalski, Rich Voltz, Heather York, Jen Jarvis, Terri Patterson, Anna Hitchcock, Connie Hildebranski, Larry Hansen, Christine Jackson, Walt Youngman, Deb Calsyn-Polsen, Greg Starjohann and partner Roger, Larry Best and Russ Wood, Cliff Shade, Kevin Detra, Margaret Ristau, Donna Kuhl, Dixie Carter, Marvin Brown, Bob R

BY THE NUMBERS

MCC QC & those touched by our ministries thank you for your regular giving!

******For 11/30 offering, please consider using your Online Bill Pay feature at your bank, drop off in mailbox/office or mail checks to 2930 W Locust, Davenport, IA 52804**



<u>DATE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>
Nov 23 rd	50 (virtual 320)	1691.00
Nov 30 th	Snow day Virtual 100+ likes/comments	65.00 ****
Dec 7 th	68 (virtual 509)	1925.00
	General Fund Checking Bal	3859.82

Love God ~ Love One Another; everything else is window dressing ~ Love, Rich

Rev. Rich Hendricks Metro Community Church Quad Cities 2930 W Locust Davenport, IA 52804 563.324.8281