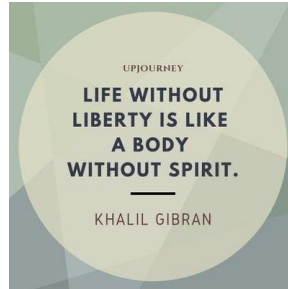


"Freedom is for everyone, whatever lifestyle they choose, as long as it's peaceful and honest" ~ Russell Means

"The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good, in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs or impede their efforts to obtain it." ~ John Stuart Mill

"And this I believe: that the free, exploring mind of the individual human is the most valuable thing in the world. And this I would fight for: the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected. And this I must fight against: any idea, religion, or government which limits or destroys the individual. This is what I am and what I am about." ~ John Steinbeck



Sunday 06/29/25 "Called to a New Freedom" Galatians 5:1,13-14,22-25 and Luke 9:51-56



NOTICE: The office will be closed 7/30 – 7/14/25. Pastor Rich and Jeff are attending MCC General Conference as well as taking a vacation from June 30th until July 14th. The church office will be closed throughout that time as Jennifer Robb, Administrative Assistant, will also be gone during the same time frame while attending the MCC General Conference and going on a road trip throughout the Southwest and Westcoast.

In our absence, if you need prayer or have a prayer request, please contact:

- Marsha Voigt-Zemo Marshavoigtzemo@yahoo.com
- Margaret Ristau meristau22@gmail.com

Contact Bebe Gray (Geis) for any emergency pastoral needs bbgray23@gmail.com

See you on Facebook!! Look for conference and travel pics!!



Sunday 07/06/2025 "Planes, Trains and Automobiles: Hate and Hope".

Please welcome our returning guest speaker Dr. Lisa Killinger. Such a privilege to share a reflection from a well-known global speaker. You do not want to miss this message! Plan to come early for coffee and join us after service for Potluck Sunday.



Sunday 07/13/2025 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Please join guest speaker Rev Melinda Pupillo, college chaplain at Augustana. She has shared our space before and it was truly a pleasure to hear her reflections. Come early or stay after for coffee and snacks.

Special Announcements



Saturday, July 19th @ 5-6pm Community Meal: Tacos with A Side of Art.

We are excited to share that the July Community Meal will include an Artist Reception featuring local artist Tabitha DeFrieze. We will serve beef, chicken and vegan tacos with a variety of toppings. Desserts, coffee, water and lemonade also. Please invite family, friends and anyone who could benefit from a free meal with a side of art. Contact the church with any questions at 563-324-8281. You can also message the hosts.



Save the Date!!

Sunday August 31st @ 1pm Annual MCCQC Picnic @ Fejervary Park in Davenport

Following church service we will head to Fejervary Park, Shelter #1 located by the playground. Hot dogs, burgers, buns, and condiments provided. Bring outdoor games if you have them and a side dish or dessert to share if you are able.
Contact 563-324-8281 with any questions.



Plastic Free ECO Challenge for Month of July Sponsored by the Davenport Metrocom NAACP Environmental Climate Justice Committee

Did you know that 40% of plastics consumed are single use and seem convenient yet they end up discarded in landfills or littered around parks, beaches, lakes and roadsides. **MEET THE CHALLENGE!!** Once per week we will all email how we substitute eco-friendly items rather than using single use plastic items. Jennifer is reaching out to the NAACP committee to determine the correct email. In the meantime, send to Jennifer at jennarobb0430@yahoo.com and she will keep track of your participation. At the end of the month, those individuals or groups who have completed all weekly challenges will receive a reusable straw with a cleaning brush and will be mentioned on the Davenport Metrocom NAACP website and Facebook page. **Here are some plastic items to replace:** all plastic/Styrofoam cups and the lids, plastic glasses, grocery bags, produce bags, plastic plates & cutlery, coffee stirrers, straws, cotton buds with plastic sticks (Q-tips), plastic and Styrofoam to-go containers and anything else you can think of. We do much of this already at church. Can we challenge ourselves to continue these eco-friendly practices in our own homes...at work...in public places?



Children's Story Time with Mona Ritemon

Children between the ages of 3 - 10 are invited to story time with Mona Ritemon every other Sunday. Children will be released after our opening hymn. **The next Story Times will be on June 29th and July 13th.**

We strive to be green! Please use our recycling bin for clean paper, bottles and cans. Interfaith Climate Care QC group meets every 4th Tuesday at noon (bring a sack lunch) at St. Paul Lutheran Church 2136 N Brady St, Davenport- anyone is welcome to join!



The next meeting is on July 22nd. Go to this link to receive the monthly newsletter.

interfaithcreationcare@gmail.com



***Conversations in Faith, Exploring the questions you're afraid to ask* is a new podcast being produced by Our Lady of The Prairie Retreat, and sponsored by St. Ambrose University, The Catholic Messenger and The Congregation of the Humility of Mary.**

Each podcast, to be released September 5th and then the first Friday of every month thereafter, will feature two representatives of different faiths who will explore questions submitted by you – questions you have been pondering but are uncomfortable asking. To submit questions, email them to conversationquestions@chmiowa.org

Questions may be submitted for a particular faith or can be general questions to be answered by any faith.

This Interfaith podcast will offer perspectives from the intersection of faith and spirituality. It will feature regular people answering questions FROM their faith perspectives, not FOR their faiths.

Podcasts will be uploaded to popular podcast platforms such as Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple, Amazon, etc. Go to those sites and "favorite," or "like" the podcast, ***Conversations in Faith, Exploring the questions you're afraid to ask*** and you will be directed to this podcast favorite each time you log in.

The conversations will be moderated by Barb Arland-Fye. The upcoming schedule:

September 5: Islam and Jewish

October 3: Methodist and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

November 7: Buddhist and Metropolitan Community Church

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 (7/19 Tacos and Artist Reception)

Dining Out – 2nd Tuesday at 6pm (July 8th is canceled and will resume on Aug 12th)

Game Night- 4th Saturday at 6pm in Social Hall. (6/28 bring a snack to share if able)

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

Scheduled Events



Friday June 27th and Saturday June 28th. Backyard Bioblitz

Hauberg Estate 1300 24th St in Rock Island

Free Event. Call 309-373-5080 for information.

Friday activities from 3-6pm and Saturday activities from 10am-2pm

Explore local wildlife and plants while helping document species with expert naturalists.

Activities include: LIVE Raptors; Guided Hikes; Nature Stations; Presentations, Arts& Crafts



Saturday June 28th 3-10:30pm Pride Party at Bass Street Landing 1601 River Dr Moline

Join The Project of the Quad Cities for our fifth annual Pride Party at Bass Street Landing on Saturday, June 28, 2025! **Admission to Pride Party at Bass Street Landing is FREE.** Get all the details at tpqc.org/pride

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: LIVE MUSIC - 3-7:30 p.m. DRAG PERFORMANCES - 8-10:30 p.m. For the list of performers and the 9 food vendors go to [Pride Party at Bass Street Landing | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/tpqcpride)



June 29th Picnic in the Park 1-3pm @ Ben Butterworth Parkway (east shelter) in Moline

Join QC Out and Proud at the Annual Pride Picnic! Come celebrate community, connection, and Pride with us! Bring a dish to share and enjoy an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship with LGBT+ folx and fams from across the Quad Cities. Let's eat, laugh, and thrive out loud!

The Project is looking for people to donate specific items. Contact Viminda at viminda@tpqc.org for more information.



Tuesday Aug 5th @ 6pm MCCQC Green Team Mtg in the MCC QC Social Hall

Consider joining the GREEN TEAM at MCC QC for creation care ideas.



Saturday August 23rd Twilight Riverboat Sightseeing Cruise Leclaire. Boat departs at 4pm

The cost for the 1 ½ hour cruise is \$22 per adult and you will need to book tickets in advance online or call Toll Free (800) 331-1467. There is no box office in site and tickets sell fast. We encourage you to carpool if possible, to make parking easier. Questions? See Patricia Bird.

[Sightseeing Cruise - Mississippi River Cruises on the Riverboat Twilight](#)



Save the date Sunday Sept 14th 4-5pm Environmental Vegetarian Potluck by QC Creation Care Coalition Fejervary Park Shelter #1 (details to follow)



Sunday October 5th QC CROP Hunger Walk 1-2pm registration/check-in. The walk begins at 2:15pm at the Caxton Building/Bethany for Children & Families 1701 River Drive in Moline

We're participating in the 2025 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. We're asking you to join us - with your steps and/or your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world. The route begins there and heads east on the sidewalk along River Dr. to the base of the I-74 bridge. You will step onto the pedestrian path and cross the bridge to Bettendorf, where you will turn and head back to the Caxton Building.

Please plan to bring jars of peanut butter and jelly to the walk. We collected 300+ jars last year and distributed them to churches that operate food banks. Please avoid glass jars if possible. Join our team and/or donate at:

[2025 CROP Hunger Walk - Metropolitan Community Church Quad Cities](#)

Check out our page on Facebook for pictures and updates. [Facebook](#)

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.

Office will be closed from June 30th – July 14th (refer to page 1 of newsletter)



PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

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

Greg Kennedy health concerns
 Kevin's brother Craig with mental health concern
 Bob R prays for better health
 Mark L prays for Mark K
 Prayers for Marsha VZ son-in-law Larry as he recovers from stroke
 Prayers for those struggling with depression
 Prayers for Kathie and Debbie
 Prayers for Dave Hendershot with cancer
 Prayers for trans service members
 Prayers for Zash
 Prayers for Bebe, Marvin and Princess Stephanie (furry family member)
 Marsha S prays for Teddy, Jayson and Family
 Angel P asks for prayers for friend Kelly
 Dale Gimm recovering from gall bladder surgery
 Prayers of comfort for Angel Pawlik facing the loss of her mother, Peggy Cole, who is in hospice.
 Prayers for Preston G for mental health
 Prayers of thanks for great Pride events so far and MCC QC strong!
 Loretta offers prayers of thanks for her friends, Diane and Kevin and his recovery from surgery
 Marsha S prays for Mery & Mel Jayson and family
 Cyndi asks for prayers for her son who is in the Army
 Prayers for continued healing for Russ and Larry
 Prayers for the trans community
 Prayers for peace

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

BY THE NUMBERS

MCC QC & those touched by our ministries thank you for your regular giving – THANK YOU!
 Use your Online Bill Pay feature at your bank, drop off in mailbox or mail checks to
 2930 W Locust, Davenport, IA 52804

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>
June 1 st	70 (virtual 279)	2497.00
June 8 th	55 (virtual 320)	1209.00
June 15 th	45 (virtual 339)	709.00
June 22 nd	58 (virtual 279)	1665.00
	General Fund Checking Balance	6308.05

Weekly Inspiration



Behold I am Doing A New Thing - Do You Not Perceive It? by Pastor Rich

Isaiah 43:16-19 says: "This is what the Lord says—

he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,

17 who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

18 "Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

19 See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

The verse always makes me think of my mentor in the law practice, John Hampton Stennis. Whenever we would venture into an unresolved area or issue in the law, we would come up with a solution and then he would quote: *Behold, I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth!*

The Isaiah passage is often used to express hope and anticipation for positive change, especially in challenging circumstances. It signifies God's promise to intervene and create something new and unexpected, even in the midst of difficulty.

Next week I will be preparing for and assisting with various aspects of our MCC General Conference "Transformational Weekend: Creating Oasis." We are doing many new things - including a two-hour time of "retreat" designed by Elder Hattie Alexander and me. I and, I am sure, many of our delegates feel like we have been trying to make a way in the wilderness (or, should I say, the Wild, Wild West?) of 47's hurtful policies against people on the margins. It will be wonderful to have some "oasis" time - and to actually get to worship together in person for the first time in six years (remember the COVID years?)!

Our Moderator, Cecilia Eggleston, put me in charge of 15 minutes of silliness for our first in-person meeting of the Council of Elders prior to the Conference. It's a tough assignment, but I think I can manage it!

Know that God is with you in your wilderness times. New possibilities do spring up where we thought none existed. I pray that you will make room in your life for positive change and personal spiritual growth.

Speaking of which, you won't want to miss the excellent messages from our Muslim sister, Dr. Lisa Killinger and Rev. Melinda Pupillo, respectively, for Sunday the 6th (and POTLUCK of course) and 13th.

I will see you THIS Sunday for some fun and inspiration before I go!

Love,

Rich

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