

Interfaith Ministries

Action Group

Comprised of those Ministry Action Teams (MATs) which work with other religious congregations in our community on a wide range of social issues as well as developing ecumenical ties with other faith communities.

Project Holiday Tree MAT

Setup and maintain a Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall to support the Salvation Army's Project Holiday. Tags on the tree identify the ages of children in need of gifts. These tags are taken and the purchased gifts are placed under the tree. A few weeks before Christmas, these gifts are taken to the Salvation Army and distributed.

FUMC/St. Mary's Social Events MAT

Our church and St. Mary's Catholic Church have hosted an annual ecumenical pot-luck supper for a number of years. We alternate by year which congregation hosts this dinner. Members of this MAT assist with setting up and clean up from this event.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration MAT

Each January, Dr. King's birthday is celebrated by an ecumenical event sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities. Members of this MAT assist with the preparations for that event.

Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) MAT

Meet with representatives of other faith communities to coordinate those activities which are done on a community wide basis such as Gather Together, Winter Outerwear Distribution, Shelter House Overflow and others.

Winter Outerwear Distribution MAT

Each fall this MAT works with the Consultation of Religious Communities to collect new and gently used clothing appropriate for school from pre-school (including infant wear) through high school, as well as winter outerwear (coats, jackets, hats, scarves, mittens, boots) for all ages. After collecting these items here at the church, MAT members volunteer to help distribute the items.

Neighborhood Block Party MAT

Assist with our annual block party with Gloria Dei, the Congregational Church, St. Mary's. This is held, usually, in late August. Members of this MAT help with setup, food preparation and clean-up.



Gather Together MAT

This is a project, sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities, benefits school students in Johnson County and the Iowa City Community School District. Gather Together provides needed school supplies to students without resources to provide their own. School supplies are collected here at church and then distributed to students of the school our church supports, Lucas Elementary School.

Shelter House Overflow MAT

Each winter, from November through March, area churches open their Fellowship Halls to provide sleeping areas for people who, because of limited room at the Shelter House, would be sleeping outdoors. Members of this MAT serve by staying overnight here at the church during the week we are hosting the Shelter House Overflow, provide transportation to and from Shelter House (where overnight guests register), help with the setup and take down of cots, provide food for breakfast in the morning and do the laundry of blankets and pillow cases.



Shelter House Overflow coordinator:
Sally Jablonski

MAG Leader:

Kazi Alward

Staff Liaison:

Rev. John Raab

CRC Representative/ Shelter House Overflow coordinator:

Sally Jablonski

Church Office

319-337-2857



www.icfirstchurch.org

Interfaith Ministries

First United Methodist Church
214 E. Jefferson St.
Iowa City, IA 52245

*“Many Gifts....
One Spirit”*