

The Open Door

May 2018

Who We Are

We are a community of God's beloved dedicated to **following** the teachings of Jesus as we live our faith by **loving** and **serving** all of God's creation and **striving** for justice and peace throughout our community, our nation, and the world.

**Congregational
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Perspective	1-2
Worship	2-3
Education	4
Service	5-7
Take Note	8
Worship Attendance	8
Birthdays, Anniversaries	8
Worship Schedule	9
Homebound Members	9
Recipe Corner	10
May Calendar	

Pastor Petersen's Perspective: On My Call as a Mother

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is poised to launch in at least 30 states and our nation's capital with 40 days of moral action beginning on Mother's Day, May 13th. This 40-day period is only the beginning as it will certainly take years to challenge and change the intertwined injustices of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and militarism, and ecological devastation that plague our nation in addition to altering our country's distorted moral narrative. Throughout these 40 days folks across the nation will engage in music and cultural arts, education, civil disobedience, and worship as we build a fusion coalition to continue this work in the years ahead.

I am involved with this movement, this campaign here in Iowa as my faith calls me to such action. I believe that being a follower of Jesus, seeking to live in God's ways of love, justice, and peace requires me to join together with others from different places and different races, from various faith traditions and those who claim no faith at all as the poor, the marginalized, and the moral agents of this nation lead this movement of moral revival.

Certainly, my faith, my understanding of who God is and who I am as a child of God has played a significant role in my decision to be an active participant and even a local leader in this movement. My recently accepted role as mother has also impacted this decision. I am the mother of a child of color. More specifically, I am the mother of a child who will grow up to be seen and treated as a Black man in a nation that seems to have an irrational fear of Black men, a nation in which young Black males are 9 times more likely to be killed by police officers than other Americans. I am the mother of a child with a foreign sounding name in a nation where irrational fear of foreigners seems to be on the rise, where such comments as "no, where are you from REALLY" and "go back to your country" are far too easily and often flung at those perceived to have a nation of origin other than the US.

I am proud to be the mother of Jabali, and I am overjoyed to have him with me wherever I may go. And, often as we encounter folks in our goings and comings

(folks who are almost without exception White), they tell me how cute he is. I usually respond with a “thank you” or a “his father and I certainly think so.” But I also wonder how these folks will view him as he grows older, as he gets bigger (and he shows all the signs of becoming quite tall), and as his skin perhaps becomes a darker brown. I wonder how these people who find him so cute as a young brown baby boy will perceive him and thus treat him as he grows into a big, tall Black man.

As a mother, I am called to care for my child—to feed and bathe and clothe him, to teach him about the world as he discovers his unique place in it, and to shelter him, protect him, and keep him safe. It hurts my heart and causes me to weep as I anticipate the days when Martin and I will have to share with him that he will be seen as a threat to someone’s personal safety simply because of the color of his skin and as an unwanted intruder simply because of his name.

As a mother, how can I not join this movement that challenges systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and militarism, and ecological devastation and seeks to make this state and nation a safe place for my child live? My faith and my motherhood call me to work for greater justice in this community, this state, this nation, and throughout the world. Are you called to such action as well?

How to get involved:

- Go to www.poorpeoplescampaign.org and sign the pledge card as you will then receive emails about ways to get involved here in Iowa.
- Like Iowa Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival on Facebook.
- Contact the Iowa Coordinating Committee at iowa@poorpeoplescampaign.org.
- Attend one of two Nonviolent Moral Fusion Direct Action trainings on Saturday, May 5th in Iowa City (9:30am-12:00pm) and Grinnell (2:00pm-4:30pm). Exact locations will be shared once you have registered; talk with Rev. Petersen, visit the Facebook page mentioned above, or email the above address to register.
- Come to the Capitol in Des Moines on Monday, May 14th at 2:00pm as we launch the campaign here in Iowa with a rally featuring poor and impacted folks as well as faith leaders and moral agents.

Worship ...

Guest Preacher

Carla Cain, our former Seminary Intern, will preach and lead worship on Sunday, May 20th while Rev. Petersen is away for continuing education. You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to welcome Carla back into our midst.

Holy Humor Sunday

On Sunday, May 27th, we will celebrate Holy Humor Sunday – a mixture of the sacred and the silly. Things will be done a little differently than usual, and there may be some surprises in store. You are invited to join in this special worship service as you relax, enjoy yourselves, laugh, play, and revel in God’s joy.

Centering Prayer

You are invited to gather each Wednesday evening for a time of Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to experience God’s presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. It is simply a wordless, trusting opening of one’s self to the divine presence. The group will meet in the **Chapel**, just off of the Sanctuary, on **Wednesdays, 5:15pm-5:45pm**. Please contact April Faidley with any questions.

Our Building Turns 100!

Our beautiful building turns 100 this year! May 5th marks the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our building. We are going to celebrate the occasion with a special worship service on **Sunday, May 6th** followed by an all-church potluck as we look back on and give thanks for the past 100 years. Please bring a dish to share along with your own table service. Drinks and napkins will be provided.

Our building can't turn 100 without inviting the community into the celebration as well! Plans are in the works for a community-wide event, and details will be forthcoming.



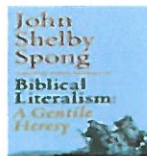
... Education

Racial Harmony and Justice Book Club

The Racial Harmony and Justice Working Group in Jasper County has started a book club in cooperation with the Newton Public Library in order to promote racial harmony and justice in our community. The book club usually meets at the library on the first Thursday of each month from **6:30pm-7:30pm**. All are welcome to participate. Books may be obtained by contacting the library at 641.792.4108 (library card required).

The book to be read and discussed at the **Thursday, May 3rd** meeting will be "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together In the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race" by Beverly Daniel Tatum. The May meeting will take place in the Parish House at Congregational UCC due to library renovations.

The book for the June 7th meeting is "Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire" by Margaret Regan.



Bible Study

Throughout this 12-week study, we are reading and discussing John Shelby Spong's book "Biblical Literalism: A Gentle Heresy: A Journey to a New Christianity through the Doorway of Matthew's Gospel." The group will meet on **Thursdays from 5:00pm-6:00pm** in the Parish House. Participants should read the assigned chapters and come prepared to discuss. The reading schedule for May is: May 3—Part III: Chapters 12 & 13; May 10—Part IV: Chapters 14-16; May 17—no meeting; May 24—Part V: Chapters 17-19; and May 31—Part VI: Chapters 20-23.

Please contact Rev. Petersen with any questions or concerns.



Morning Circle

The next meeting of *Morning Circle* will be **Wednesday, May 23rd at 9:30am** with TBD as hostess and the person giving devotions is Jane Ann Cotton. The group will begin their study of "Radical Hope: Letters of Love and Dissent in Dangerous Times" edited by Carolina De Robertis.

All are welcome to join us as we join together for fellowship, devotions, and study seeking to follow more closely in the way of Jesus.

... Service

Food Pantry Sundays

The first Sunday of each month we receive donations for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. On **Sunday, May 6th** a cart will be in the west entrance to receive gifts for the food pantry. The Salvation Army is in special need of tuna helper (not hamburger), Ramen noodles, canned fruit cocktail (peaches or pears), canned tuna, and macaroni & cheese. Of course, other canned or packaged foods are always accepted. They also need any kind of personal care items: such as diapers, bath soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, and laundry soap.



“Doggone Good Treats” Project

The Progress Industries partnership with UCC of making and baking dog treats will resume on May 14th at 2:00pm. The church kitchen will once again serve as the center for the making and baking of these all natural dog treats on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 2:00pm. PI participants and church members Stormy Storms, Marti Barker and Suzanne Van Zandt will work together to mix ingredients, roll out the dough, use cookie cutters to make bone-shaped treats, and bake them with assistance from a PI staff person.

The dog treats will then be transported either to JCARL or to the Farmer’s Market where donations will be accepted for the bagged treats. The funds received will go to JCARL. Obviously, this combined PI and CUCC project has resulted in many happy dogs and dog owners and will surely do the same into the future!

Contact Stormy Storms or Rev. Petersen if you’d like to participate. You can participate one time or many times. Whatever works with your schedule.

You will have a very gratifying experience!



Jasper County Animal Rescue League

On the third Sunday of each month we collect items to help the Jasper County Animal Rescue League (JCARL). The next collection date will be **Sunday, May 20th**.

Their current wish list is: paper towels, garbage bags, raw hides (for big dogs and small), peanut butter, bleach, dish soap, Fabuloso (the purple kind), laundry soap, liquid hand soap, rubber gloves, kitty litter, canned shredded and filet cat food, canned dog food (Purina), dry dog food (Purina), and dry cat food (Indoor Purina).

Cleaning Project with Progress Industries

In addition to our partnership with Progress Industries (PI) to bake biscuits for the Jasper County Animal Rescue League, we also work with PI participants and staff for a church cleaning project. This activity is back from its winter break! Under the guidance of Carolyn and Duane Hobbs a small group from PI will continue doing some light cleaning and dusting in the sanctuary, library and other areas of the church building. This cleaning project usually takes place two times per month, on Tuesdays at 11:00am. Check calendar for dates.

In order for this ministry to continue beyond May, new leadership is needed. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Carolyn Hobbs or Rev. Petersen.

Community Meal Update

The number of people served at the April 18th was down, possibly due to the weather. The fifty there shared a wonderful meal of homemade chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, corn, and cake for dessert with an additional twenty carry outs. The next morning, Bev Edge took leftovers to the Salvation Army's Food Recovery program. We received a lot of compliments about the delicious meal that was served. The assistance from all who participated produced another very successful evening of reaching out to others in the community.

This month CUCC is responsible for the Community Meal on **Wednesday, May 16th**. Please contact Bev Edge, April Faidley, or Marti Barker if you would like to join us from 5:00pm-7:00pm, or for even part of that time, or to provide a dessert. The more help there is, the sooner we are finished. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.



Community Meal

Notice of Special Meeting

A special meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, May 20th, 2018** immediately following the regular 10:00am worship service in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate and vote on our congregation's Nominating Committee.

This notice is being included here in accordance with our by-laws which require that such notice be given two (2) weeks in advance of any special meeting of the congregation in the newsletter or by first-class mail.



Prayers and Concerns

Please hold in prayer

- ◆ Phyllis Van Roekel and family following the death of her husband, Dwain, on Thursday, April 12th
- ◆ The family of Mike Knop, uncle of Rev. Petersen, following his death on Wednesday, April 11th
- ◆ Stormy's Mom
- ◆ Karen Petersen
- ◆ Lori Goodman
- ◆ Davis Carter, grandson of Jane & Gary Johnson



If you know someone in need of support – a visit, a call, a note, or prayer – please contact Rev. Jessica Petersen.



Blood Pressure Monitoring

Carolyn Hobbs will offer blood pressure monitoring any Sunday during Fellowship Time. If you are curious about your blood pressure reading, please let Carolyn know.



Opportunities to Serve

All volunteers/workers in the church are very much appreciated. Many of you are seen carrying on the work of the church and many things are done unseen, but just as appreciated. It takes many hands and minds to get everything done. Thank you so much for your willingness!

There are many different ways in the church to serve God and others. The more who help, the less work there is for each one. Signup sheets to provide flowers, greet, usher, serve as a lay reader, and host fellowship time are located in the vestibule. Please help if you can.

Additionally, there are a few members who may need transportation to worship and church activities. Please contact the church office to volunteer.

The office has great volunteers who come in monthly to assemble and ready this newsletter for mailing. If you would like to help, just call the office.

RAGBRAI UCC Team

As you are likely aware, Newton is the Wednesday, July 25th overnight stop for this year's RAGBRAI riders. A group of those riders will be fellow UCCers from across the state. This UCC team will be made up of 16 riders and 3 drivers, and each person is in need of a bed and a shower. Though host homes need not provide food for regular meals, offering food boxes with non-perishable items such as Gatorade, water, and protein bars (no candy please) that riders can grab in the morning and carry in their backpacks would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Rev. Petersen or the church office if you are interested and able to host one or more of our UCC siblings in faith.

Worship Attendance

<u>April Attendance</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
First Sunday	42	Easter 61
Second Sunday	56	36
Third Sunday	Easter 102	27
Fourth Sunday	48	33
Fifth Sunday	N/A	34



Birthdays to Celebrate in May

- 1-Lori Goodman
- 2-Sue Anderson, Jerry Sawin
- 3-Frank Ross
- 5-Azalea Mastio
- 8-Gary Yoder
- 12-Allison Pryke
- 16-Lynne Cottrell
- 17-Norm Van Klompenburg
- 21-Emma Stonehocker, Heather Hicks
- 25-Gary Johnson
- 27-Jasmine Yoder
- 29-Craig Armstrong



Anniversaries to Celebrate in May

- 1-Duane & Carolyn Hobbs
- 5-Our Beautiful Church Building
- 17-Don & Marilynn Deppe

Take note...

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday, May 9th at 6:00pm in the Parish House**. Please contact Craig Armstrong, our Moderator, with any matters you wish for the Council to consider as they meet. The Council meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm.

Congregational Conversation

We will not have our regular monthly Congregational Conversation on May 13th as that is Mother's Day. Please do plan to join us for our next Congregational Conversation on the second Sunday in June: June 10th.

Sponsor "God Is Still Speaking"

In an effort to get the word out about who we are as a congregation, we have a weekly airing on KCOB (95.9 FM and 1280 AM) on Sunday mornings at 7:35am. In an effort to better connect listeners with our local congregation, we have shifted the content of this early morning message as Rev. Petersen now offers a weekly reflection regarding how "God Is Still Speaking." ("Into the Mystic" can be accessed through our website or by visiting www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic.)

The weekly cost is \$25. You are invited to sponsor a Sunday or more to increase our community's awareness of what we are all about here at Congregational UCC. We are engaging in wonderful ministry together, and it's time that more folks know about it! Please send your donation into the office referencing "radio" or "God Is Still Speaking" if you are interested in donating.

Worship Schedule for May

Date	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
Christian Calendar Date	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Pentecost Sunday	Trinity Sunday
Special Events	Communion 100 th Anniversary of Church Dedication	Mother's Day	Carla Cain preaching	Holy Humor Sunday
Special Offerings	Food Pantry Donations		JCARL Collection	
Greeters	Lin Chapé	Ed & Suzanne Van Zandt	Marti Barker	Ed & Suzanne Van Zandt
Ushers	Jerry & Jamie Sawin	Lin Chapé, Les Morgan	Ed & Suzanne Van Zandt	Les Morgan, Ed Van Zandt
Lay Readers	Bev Edge	Lin Chapé	Suzanne Van Zandt	Les Morgan
Scripture	1 Kings 8:22-30	Isaiah 49:15-18	Acts 2:1-12	John 3:1-17
Worship Color	White	White	Red	Green

White symbolizes purity, holiness, and virtue, as well as respect and reverence.

Red represents fire – the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Green is the color of growth. It symbolizes the renewal of vegetation and the promise of new life.



We continue to remember our homebound members.

You are missed and continue to be cared for and held in our heartfelt prayers.

Marilyn Currant
Park Centre #1
500 1st St. N.
Newton, IA 50208

Betty Hotchkin
Park Centre #40
500 1st St. N.
Newton, IA 50208

Ann Raridon
St. Frances Manor
2021 4th Ave.
Grinnell, IA 50112

... Recipe Corner

Favorite Cheese Ball by Jane Ann Cotton
from *Windows Into our Kitchens*
(Congregational UCC Cookbook from 1981)



1 (8oz.) package cream cheese
1 jar old English spread
1 jar processed blue cheese spread
3 tsp. wine vinegar
Dash garlic salt
Finely chopped pecans

Combine all, except pecans, and chill about 1 hour before rolling in finely chopped nuts.

Fresh Strawberry Pie by Carolyn Hobbs
from *Windows Into our Kitchens*
(Congregational UCC Cookbook from 1981)



Crust:
1 cup flour
1/4 cup powdered sugar
1/2 cup margarine
1/4 tsp. salt
Melt margarine, add dry ingredients; pat into pan. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes.

Glaze:
1 cup sugar
2 tbsps. cornstarch
1 cup water
Mix and cook until thick and clear. Add 3 tbsps. strawberry jello. Cool and pour over fresh strawberries placed in pie shell. Refrigerate and serve with a spoonful of whipped cream.

Sundays

7:35am "God is Still Speaking" on KCOB
 95.9 FM & 1280 AM
 10:00am Worship
 11:15am Fellowship Time

MAY 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
		11:00am PI Cleaning	5:15pm Centering Prayer	5:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Racial Justice Book Club		Poor People's Campaign Trainings 9:30am-12:00pm Iowa City/Coralville 2:00pm-4:30pm Grinnell
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Communion 100th Anniversary of Church Dedication Food Pantry Donations			5:15pm Centering Prayer 6:00pm Church Council	5:00pm Bible Study		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Happy Mother's Day	2:00pm Poor People's Campaign Rally @State Capitol Des Moines 2:00pm PI Baking	11:00am PI Cleaning	5:15pm Centering Prayer 5:30pm Community Meal	5:00pm Bible Study	Deadline for Open Door Articles	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Pentecost Carla Cain Preaching JCARL Collection			9:30am Morning Circle 5:15pm Centering Prayer	5:00pm Bible Study		
Rev. Jessica at Next Generation Leadership Initiative May 15 - 21						
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
Holy Humor Sunday	2:00pm PI Baking	6:00pm Racial Justice Group	5:15pm Centering Prayer	5:00pm Bible Study		
NGLI						

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The Open Door is a newsletter for the members and friends of Congregational United Church of Christ.
Suggestions and submissions are welcome. Deadline for submission is the date indicated on the Calendar.

Pastor	Rev. Jessica Petersen	792-3773 (Office) 641-840-2672 (Cell)	revjessicapetersen@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant	Patricia Castline	792-3773 (Office)	uccnewton@mediacombb.net
Organist	Judy Brody	792-8129	ljbrody@windstream.net
Choir Director	Bev Thomas	792-6465	thomasb@iowatelecom.net
Custodian	Jim Christenson	792-3773 (Office) 641-781-0596 (Cell)	uccnewton@mediacombb.net
Health Ministry	Carolyn Hobbs	792-2687	cdhobbs@iowatelecom.net
Pastor Emeritus	David Raymond		

Church office hours: 9:30am-2:30pm Monday through Thursday (The office will be closed on Fridays.)



Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/NewtonUCC

Website: www.uccnewton.org

Iowa Conference: www.ucciaconf.org

United Church of Christ: www.ucc.org