

The Open Door

May 2020



CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

God is still speaking,

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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.

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A Message from Our Executive Conference Minister, Rev. Brigit Stevens

Dear Friends of the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences of the United Church of Christ. I am the Reverend Brigit Stevens, your Conference Minister. I love you. You are in my fervent and constant prayers.

Thank you. Thank you for all of the ways you are being church in these unprecedented days. Thank you for NOT gathering together. Thank you for finding ways to connect with each other, with our friends, and with our communities and neighbors, WITHOUT BEING TOGETHER IN PERSON.

A year ago, the Boards of Directors of our three conferences met together to pray and discern together WHY we are the United Church of Christ, in this time and in this place. Collectively we heard the Holy Spirit say:

We are called to live into God's extravagant welcome and to advocate for justice. So that, ALL know love, safety, belonging, and dignity.

Now, I am not an epidemiologist. I am not a physician. I am not a scientist nor economist. I am a Conference Minister with a pastor's heart.

I am firmly convinced that now is the time to CONTINUE connecting and BEING the church WITHOUT being physically together. We need to remain steadfast in our commitment to safety of our neighbors. This is how we love them, and us, best. It is important that at least through the month of May, and maybe also through the month of June, that we CONTINUE to protect and care for one another by NOT GATHERING TOGETHER.

I am so proud of you. You are doing this! You are working hard, being creative, stepping into new roles, trying new things. THANK YOU.

This COVID-19 global pandemic is teaching us how truly connected we all are to each other. Big cities in densely populated states may have been the first to experience the devastation and grief of the losses of this virus. But, we are not immune here in the Midwest. And we are not isolated or disconnected. The virus knows no geographic boundaries. It pays no attention to state or county or country lines.

When those of us who have the option to stay home, do so, we protect and care for not only ourselves, but also those who do not have the same choices. Putting others' wellbeing ahead of our own conveniences is the way we follow Jesus best today.

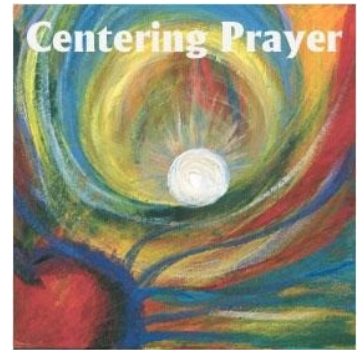
Please continue to be the church, from home. Let this be our act of solidarity and love for God and our neighbors. God bless you. Thank you.

How many times in your life have you wanted somebody to say that to you? “There isn’t anything you need to do right now. Do nothing.” There is an ad on TV for the app CALM. The image is fresh green leaves with rain glistening on them and falling through them. You can hear the soothing sound of the softly falling rain. Below this image it says, “Do nothing for 30 seconds” and a small circle of blue shows the countdown of time. Centering prayer is like that, quietly soothing and calming.

Based on our planned Centering Prayer schedule it would be happening now. Except, of course, we aren’t meeting in the chapel on Wednesday evenings. So Centering Prayer could be a victim of Covid-19, OR it could be a practice that thrives and grows as we choose it for ourselves. Sharing the time with others is special, and we will resume doing that when we can. In the meantime, if you haven’t participated, think about trying it now at home.

You could read a book about it or download an app for it, or you could just do it. Just sit and do nothing. In the chapel our “do nothing” time lasts for 20 minutes. But you can choose any length of time you want. You can try 30 seconds, or 2 minutes, or 10 minutes, or an hour, if you would like! Besides doing nothing, there is a tricky part, which is thinking nothing. You clear the chatter and busyness out of your head, you experience “being” instead of “doing.” You experience yourself simply as one of God’s beloved. You experience the glory of being alive in God’s world. You are open to dwelling within the divine and the divine dwelling within you. And then the time you decided upon ends. You resume your day. You can do it again the next day, or every other day, or once a week. Whatever you choose.

One last thought, a bonus. A strong immune system helps the body fight the Coronavirus, meditation strengthens the immune system, and centering prayer is a meditative practice. What more could you ask for?



From a Distance...

Of course, there is nothing that compares to being physically present with one another in worship, and yet this is what we need to do to “love our neighbors” during the current national emergency. In an attempt to remain connected to our worshiping community during this season of social distancing, we are offering worship online. The worship service can be accessed live at 10:00am on Sunday mornings via our Facebook page (facebook.com/NewtonUCC) or phone (Dial: 312-626-6799; when prompted enter Meeting ID: 624 681 423 followed by #; there is no participant number so simply press # again when asked). The full service will continue to be available for viewing on our Facebook page following the conclusion of worship; it will also be posted to our website (uccnewton.org) by noon each Sunday. A virtual bulletin is emailed out prior to each Sunday service and is available on our website (“Virtual Bulletins” under the “Worship” tab) on the Thursday before the service. Please contact Rev. Petersen if you need a hard copy of the bulletin delivered to you.

We have experienced a number of “hiccups” and technical difficulties in offering an online and streaming worship at Congregational UCC and are working on smoothing these out as they come. We apologize in advance for any problems that you may encounter in connecting to the service and welcome your feedback on how to improve the virtual worship experience over the coming weeks when we will not be able to worship in our sanctuary.

As you prepare to join in online worship with us, in addition to making whatever technical preparations you need to make, consider how to prepare your personal space for worship:

- *For Communion Sundays only:* Prepare a piece of bread or a cracker and a small glass of grape juice or wine (if you do not have these items on hand, you may use whatever “nibble” and “sip” you have available at home)
- Silence your phone and eliminate distractions
- Light a candle or some incense
- Open your Bible or browser to the scripture of the day
- Position your body in a posture for prayer and worship

Education

Zooming through the Gospel of Mark

Our regular Thursday evening Bible study is continuing to **meet via Zoom** (some online with video and others via phone with audio only) as we continue a 12-week study of the Gospel of Mark. All are invited to this virtual gathering on **Thursday evenings, 5:00pm-6:00pm**, to explore this earliest written and shortest gospel included in the New Testament. Study materials in addition to the gospel text from “Mark: A Listen Up! Bible Study” will be provided throughout the course of our study together.

Participants should be prepared to discuss any thoughts, questions, and curiosities spurred by the weekly reading. The May meeting and reading schedule is as follows: May 7th—Mark 9-10 (On the Way); May 14th—Mark 11-12 (It Happened One Week); May 21st—Mark 13:1-14:11 (Apocalypse Now); May 28th—Mark 14:12-15:15 (Our Place in the Passion).

If you are interested in participating, contact Rev. Petersen to receive the call-in information and supplemental readings.



Service and Outreach

Ring, Ring! Hello? Who's There?

by Jane Ann Cotton

In the last few weeks, it has been my privilege to reconnect with many members and friends of our church. A decision was made that during this unprecedented time in our lives due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we would call members who no longer live in the Newton area. Reaching out by phone would allow real conversation, letting each know that we are truly concerned about their welfare during this strange and difficult time.

I have been a member of our church since moving to Newton in 1961. The membership has changed over the years, some beloved members have died, some have relocated to other parts of the country due to marriage or changes in employment, some made the decision to move closer to family. We can only miss those who have passed away, but we can miss AND reach out to those who have moved away.

I had long conversations with a few that I knew when they were young members of our church. I hadn't “checked in” with them as they began their careers in other cities. As I made my calls I realized how much I missed the “regular” conversations we would enjoy if they had not moved. Some that I spoke with were genuinely pleased that we were chatting, sharing their family concerns as well. Others shared ways their professions have been impacted by the pandemic, like the challenges of changes in work schedules. I noted that our church services are currently available online, through Facebook, to comply with pandemic safety guidelines. Some shared their new email information, allowing us to send them the Open Door. Of course, some were completely unavailable from the last personal information in our records. I do regret that for some, there was no way to reconnect.

I am thankful to have had memorable conversations with many members and friends.

HAPPINESS IS



*...when an old friend calls
to see how you are.*



Prayers and Concerns

Please hold in prayer

- Meredith Caves, granddaughter of David & Dorothy Raymond
- Deanne, friend of Heidi Grandstaff-Fresh
- Khloe Sassman, friend of the Pryke and Stonehocker families
- Patricia Castline
- Stormy Storms



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



Masked Heroes

Thank you to those of you who generously responded to Progress Industries' request for donated homemade face masks. As you are likely aware, social distancing is not possible when working with folks with certain disabilities. These masks will be used to help keep PI staff and clients as safe as possible during this pandemic. Thank you again for your generosity!

Donation Wish Lists

Though we will not be receiving our regular monthly collections for the Salvation Army food pantry and the Jasper County Animal Rescue League. You are encouraged to consider continuing making donations to both organizations during the pandemic as they continue to serve the most vulnerable in our community. Here are their wish lists:

Food Pantry: tuna helper (not hamburger), pasta sauce, canned soups, cereal, and boxed macaroni & cheese (of course, other canned or packaged foods are always accepted)

JCARL: 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).

News from the Frontlines

by Heidi Grandstaff-Fresh

Hi, I just wanted to share with you my experience of helping those in need at this time. I have been soooo humbled and enriched by this experience. I truly feel blessed doing this work: from making meals with Jennifer Pryke, to distributing food for the foodbank, to getting clothing and bedding to those in need. People have been so amazing and so thankful for the help we are giving them.

Right now I am working with a homeless woman who has completed treatment and really needs our help finding housing. We have food and clothing available for her. I had her apply for work at Theisen's where my friend, Deanna, is a manager. The last piece is a place for her to live, a place where she can start on the path to stay clean and sober and be the productive person that she wants to be. Any help from all of you would be amazing!!

My faith has become soooo much richer through these experiences. I now feel so blessed for all we have and for the amazing people in our lives. Please let us join together in helping those in need, in doing what God asks of us. All acts of assistance and kindness will be appreciated. No questions asked and no judgments made.



What Do We Know and When Did We Know It?

by Church Council

It has become emblematic of these times that uncertainty can only be alleviated by facts. "I wish, I dream, maybe, if only, what about, why not try, what can you lose," don't get us any further than suggesting avenues of research. Until the results roll in, we don't know anything useful. Facts, alone, provide reliable data to calm uncertainties and help us chart a path forward.

This strategy applies to the church and our mission as well. There are various If-Then scenarios that we might consider. However, if they are not based in the facts that we have available to us, they don't produce anything that is valuable to us or that can be a basis for future plans. Which is all to say, let's look at the facts.

The vote at the last congregational meeting regarding whether we would move to a halftime pastor, was 13-12 against the proposal. This close vote does not give Council a clear direction in which to proceed. It seems a good time for all of us to review the facts.

Our income has been declining for several years as our membership has declined. This has been puzzled over and there have been a number of initiatives to attract members. Nothing that has been tried has turned this around. A useful fact is that the decline at our church mirrors the declines in UCC churches (as well as all mainline denominations) across the country. We can't put much trust in the "if we do this . . . , maybe we will attract new members."

The fact (#1) to keep in mind is that church attendance is nationally in decline.

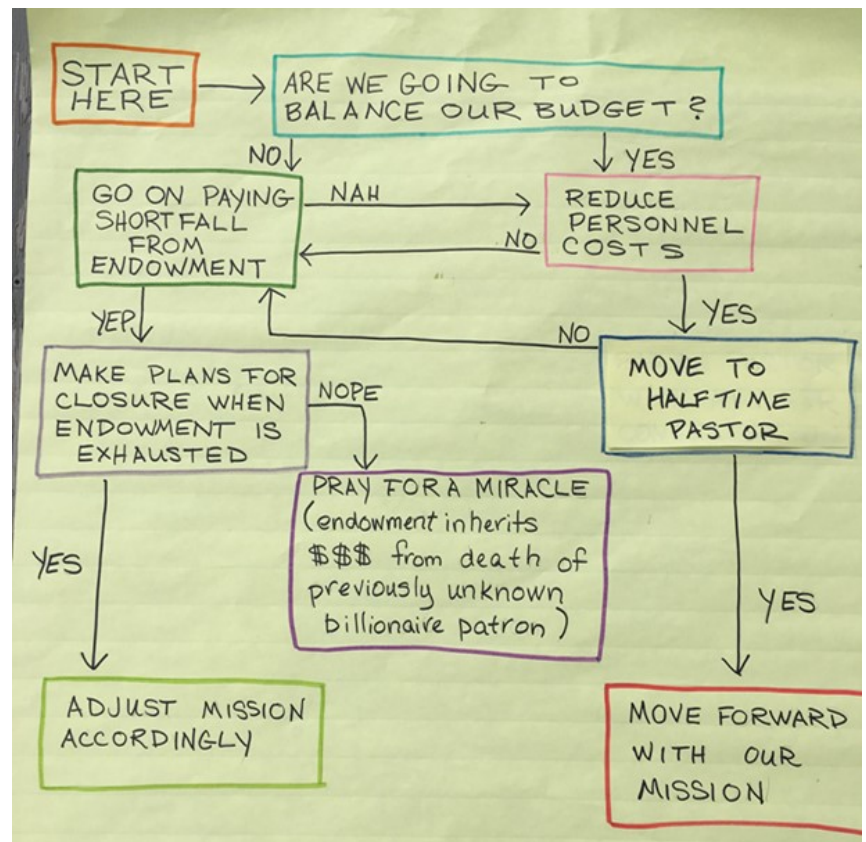
In 2019 our expenses exceeded our income by \$39,600, and in 2020 our expenses are projected to exceed our income by \$37,000. In order to meet our obligations, these shortfalls are met by drawing down endowment. **Fact #2: In order to balance the budget and reserve the endowment for unexpected large expenses, we need to find around \$40,000 yearly.**

Council has carefully reviewed our expenses and looked for imaginative ways to reduce them. All the suggestions that have come from the congregation for reducing expenses have been explored. We have been able to achieve some saving, approximately \$3500. That is, we need to reduce expenses by nearly \$40,000 every year, and Council's conscientious efforts have achieved a reduction of \$3500.

Our expenses largely fall into two categories. Physical plant expenses include building maintenance, utilities, insurance, lawn care, snow removal, elevator maintenance, etc. Personnel expenses include the salaries of the organist/pianist, the custodian, and the administrative assistant, and the pastor's reimbursement package, which covers salary, housing allowance, insurance, social security offset, fringe benefits, etc. Some of the savings have been in the area of physical plant, such as careful regulation of the thermostats to reduce utilities, and other savings have come from personnel expenses, such as lowering the number of hours we employ an administrative assistant. Nevertheless, Council runs up against this **fact (#3): Physical plant expenses comprise approximately 17% of our expenses and personnel expenses comprise 75%.** Gathering up all the physical plant savings we possibly can will not begin to add up to the \$40,000 we need.

This brings us to **fact #4: The pastor's remuneration package is 81% of the personnel expenses.** It is very, very hard, perhaps impossible, to find \$40,000 in savings without some of that savings coming from the pastor's compensation.

The conclusion would seem to be **fact #5: These are our options (see diagram to the right):**



Is US Bank about Us?: The Treasurer's Tribulations Applying for PPP

by Larry Leitner

Many of you might know that the stimulus package Congress recently passed included money for small business to pay employees. Congregational UCC counts as a small business, and the government would like for us to pay our four employees. The way the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) works is that these small businesses can apply for a loan that will pay 2.5 times their monthly payroll expenses. The loan has a 1% interest rate with the first six months interest free. The loan not only can be used for salaries. It also can be used for utilities. Most importantly, if you spend the loan (on salaries and utilities) within eight weeks of receiving it, the loan is forgiven and essentially is a cash grant to the business. So, it is in our best interest to get this loan.

After the stimulus package was passed, I computed that we could get around \$20,000 from the PPP. I contacted US Bank (the bank we use for our checking account). I got a response saying that it was going to take them a few days to be able to process applications. I was advised to be patient. A few days later, I received an email saying that they now were ready....to process applications from sole proprietorships. Obviously, not us!!!! The email said that they would be in the position to accept other applications shortly. A few days later, I received an email saying that they now were ready....to accept applications from other for profit businesses. Still not us. Again, the email said that they would continue to expand the types of businesses they could accept applications from in the near future.

We get to Easter weekend. Another US Bank email. This one said that they now could accept applications from non profits where "the bylaws" state that one person has "signatory responsibility." Well, we only need one person to sign checks so maybe this was us!! I contact US Bank and ask. I get back an email saying that they cannot help us determine any figures in our loan application. (I have no idea WHY my inquiry met with this response.) So, Easter afternoon, I go in and try to submit an application for PPP money.

Somewhat early in the application, it asks if we are US Bank customers. As soon as I say "Yes," it tells me that I need to establish electronic banking access to proceed further. They indicate that will only take a "few minutes." By the time I had our checking account set up for electronic access, I had been "timed out" of the PPP application. (Obviously, a few minutes was a bit erroneous!) I started over. I get past the electronic naming issue. I get everything in that I think they need. They then ask for what type of IRS organization we are. (Answer is not "church;" it's "religious organizations.") As soon as I put that in, I get a screen saying that we are, in fact, NOT able to apply at this time. However, by the end of the week, we should be able to apply, and I will be notified when we can.

Thursday, still no word from them. I keep hearing that funds are getting tight. I go in and try again. At this point, I get past the electronic banking issue AND the "religious organizations" issue. I have everything completed, and they want to ask me a "few more questions" (e.g., am I a felon, an embezzler, or some other type of low life). I answer, "No." The screen says "submit your application." I press submit. Instantly, I get a screen saying that we are ineligible to apply at this time. To try again in a few days. One hour later, the government announces that the PPP funds have been exhausted. I get an email from US Bank telling me that. The email also says that they are confident that Congress will appropriate more money for the PPP. The email says that, as soon as US Bank can process applications again, I will be notified.

On Thursday, April 23, more money has been put into the PPP. I hear nothing from US Bank. I go in Saturday morning to try to submit an application. I am instantly turned down as they are not accepting applications at this time. On Monday, April 27, I still have heard nothing from US Bank. I go in and try again. I get through the electronic banking. I get through the "religious organization" hurdle. I tell them again that I am not a low life. I breathe a deep sigh, say a prayer, ("God, if they don't take it smite them with something awful!!") and submit. SUCCESS!!!! (Sort of.) I have to go to a screen and basically divide up our compensation into various categories (salaries, pension, fringe benefits, etc.) and tell them how I can provide documentation for those payments.

I get through that. I then am supposed to "upload" some documentation. However, they do not say what sort of documentation they need. So, I call a local small business owner who had graciously agreed to help me. She said that, when she did it, all she had was an Excel spreadsheet justifying the expenses and that was accepted. So, I uploaded our 2019 budget summary.

At this point, our application is 60% done. According to US Bank, the next step is for them to verify our expenses, and I may have to provide further documentation. (They say that takes about 10 minutes. Yeah. Right.) After that (but I would advise you to NOT hold your breath) we sign the application and qualify for money to help with salaries and utilities.



Communications

Church Council Catch Up

In an effort to keep our congregation more informed regarding the various matters that impact our life together, notes from Church Council meetings are shared with our friends and members via this newsletter. Highlights from the March 11th Council meeting are below. Complete minutes of the meeting (which were approved by the Church Council during the April 8th meeting) are available in the church office; please contact Barbara Vasquez, Jennifer Pryke, or Rev. Petersen if you would like a copy.

Note: the March meeting took place prior to the decision to suspend in-person gatherings. Some of the decisions reported below have been altered since that time. Minutes of the April 8th meeting will appear in the next edition of this newsletter after they have been approved by the Council.

- Opening Devotions: An excerpt from the book “Canoeing the Mountains” by Tod Bolsinger was shared focusing on adaptive leadership. It discussed the fact that when we are facing adaptive challenges, we must adapt.
- Secretary’s Report: Minutes from Feb. 12 Council Meeting, Minutes from Mar. 1 Special Meeting, Minutes from Mar. 8 Congregational Meeting were approved as corrected
- Treasurer’s Report: We are down on non-pledged income, but on target for pledged. We are running about \$4,000 in the red. Working to add our Assistant Treasurer, Sonia Sledge, as a signer on our US Bank accounts. Fuller Scholarship folks need to know how much money they have to award. Finances will be examined and a number will be suggested. The United Church Fund is down \$20,000 putting it at about \$220,000. Corrected tax forms are being sent to impacted employees.
- Maintenance Report: A walkthrough will be scheduled with the committee to compile a list of issues to address.
- Questions and Suggestions from Tom Turk: Prior to the Mar. 8 Congregational Meeting, congregation was unaware that Bethany UCC was not interested in a half-time pastor and that Rev. Petersen would not be able to work half time exclusively for us. He asked about the Edward Jones special accounts such as flowers and worship, Service and Outreach, Choir Funds and why we budgeted money for these things now. It was explained that we are gradually using these funds with the intent of zeroing out these accounts, and we are budgeting what we expect to spend on those things. There is currently \$4200 designated for the choir fund. Suggested we find other uses for this money. Asked about the \$200 we pay the Association and suggested that we decrease the member number to 50 (dues are assessed per member). Asked about OCWM, what we pay, and how many pledges we are getting. We are giving 3% of our budget to the national UCC and conference. Rev. Petersen encouraged us to continue to do that because of all the resources available to us. Suggested that perhaps it should be 3% of our income rather than our budget. Suggested sending letters to people listed as members and telling them that we are in a financial crisis, and if they are no longer interested in being active members, we need to be informed. The bylaws state that the only way a membership can be terminated is by request of the member. Perhaps we need to look at the bylaws to decide if this needs to be changed. Discussion about contacting the members who don’t participate in any way. The Council needs to come up with a way to approach folks about this. Asked for copies of the financial reports and that they be made available every month (these reports are available in the church office every month).

- Discussion on congregational vote for half time pastor: Discussed where we are now. Seemed to some that the congregation voted “no” not because they were truly against the proposal, but they were overwhelmed by the new information about Bethany. The 12 to 13 vote is not strong enough to give the Council a sense of direction. Lengthy discussion about our reactions to the vote. This conversation will continue. Developed a timeline for moving forward: Congregational Conversation March 29, 2020 to discuss cost cutting and raising revenue; April 19, meet again to respond to the suggestions; Congregational Meeting for Budget Approval on May 3. *(This timeline has been altered due to COVID-19.)*
- Personnel Committee update: The final draft of the survey has been put into its online survey format. The plan is to distribute the survey on March 22. The congregation has three weeks to complete and return the survey. The end date is April 12. *(This timeline has been altered due to COVID-19.)*
- Coronavirus considerations: For communion, people will come forward to receive a wafer from Rev. Petersen; those who cannot come forward will be served. PI second grade tours are being postponed indefinitely.
- Casseroles for the homeless: Jenni and Heidi will plan this and a group will get together at the church to prepare the casseroles.
- A meeting is planned for 3/18 to discuss contacting seldom seen members.
- Report on video recorder: We can purchase a camcorder with microphone suitable for our recording needs and a tripod for \$100-\$150.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Church Council!

Should you have any questions regarding the work of the Council, you are encouraged to contact a member of the Church Council. The current members of the Church Council are as follows:

Moderator:	Samantha Sledge
Assistant Moderator:	April Faidley
Secretary:	Jennifer Pryke
Treasurer:	Larry Leitner
At-Large:	Lin Chapé
At-Large:	Heidi Grandstaff-Fresh
At-Large:	Norm Van Klompenburg
Pastor:	Rev. Jessica Petersen

Pandemic Reflections

by Lin Chapé

So many kindnesses . . .

Offering to help with errands

Calling family and friends

Donating to local causes

Sharing prayers

When life presents challenges . . .

Sharing the spirit and love

Sharing humor (on line, too)

Appreciating the favor returned

My dog is my local "family"

I'm talking "dog"

He's talking "human"

Thank goodness . . .

I'm still walking vertically

And he's still on all fours 😊!

I have faith . . .

That we'll move through this crisis

That we'll move through it together

Stay safe, stay healthy

Wear your mask

Greet with a wave

Smile with your eyes

Prayers for all.



Take note...

21st Century Giving

Congregational UCC is excited to offer you the opportunity to give online through Tithe.ly! You can give by visiting <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1633938> or by going to our website (uccnewton.org) and clicking the "DONATE" button. Additionally, you may give by downloading the Tithe.ly app on your smartphone and simply searching for "Newton Congregational United Church of Christ." Donations may be made using a credit card or a bank account. Tithe.ly gives those donating the option to cover the fees associated with each online giving transaction if you choose (these fees are lower when giving through your bank account). Please contact Rev. Petersen if you have any questions or difficulties giving through this new platform. And, thank you for your continued generosity during these challenge times!



Birthdays to Celebrate in May

1-Lori Goodman
2-Jerry Sawin
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
28-Jabali Mutai
29-Craig Armstrong



Anniversaries to Celebrate in May

1-Duane & Carolyn Hobbs
17-Don & Marilyn Deppe

Sundays

10:00am Online
Worship

May



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion 				5:00pm Bible Study via Zoom		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! 			6:00pm Church Council via Zoom	5:00pm Bible Study via Zoom		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				5:00pm Bible Study via Zoom		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				5:00pm Bible Study via Zoom		
31						
Pentecost 						

Worship Schedule for May

Date	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Christian Calendar Date	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Pentecost Sunday
Special Events	Communion	Mother's Day			
Scriptures	John 10:1-10	John 14:1-14	Acts 17:22-31	Acts 1:6-14	Acts 2:1-21
Worship Color	White	Gold	Gold	Gold	Red

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

Gold is a color of celebration and symbolizes joy in the light of day.

Red represents fire—the symbol of the Holy Spirit.



We continue to remember our local 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

Congregational United Church of Christ
308 E. 2nd St. N.
Newton, IA 50208

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

xxx

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	Barbara Vasquez	792-3773 (Office)	uccnewton@windstream.net
Organist	Bev Thomas	792-6465	thomasb@iowatelecom.net
Custodian	Jim Christenson	792-3773 (Office) 641-781-0596 (Cell)	uccnewton@windstream.net
Health Ministry	Carolyn Hobbs	792-2687	cdhobbs@iowatelecom.net
Moderator	Samantha Sledge		
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. David Raymond		

Office hours: 10:00am to 3:00pm Thursdays only (until further notice); not open to the public



Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/NewtonUCC

United Church of Christ: www.ucc.org — Iowa Conference: www.ucciaconf.org

Newton Congregational UCC: www.uccnewton.org