



**Congregational
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

The Open Door

June/July 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.

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**Pastor Petersen’s Perspective:
On School Shootings**

We are failing our children. Through the ancient prophets and through the life and ministry of Jesus, God has called us to care for the most vulnerable of our society, which most certainly includes our children. And day after day, month after month, year after year, we fail to do so.

Three school shootings on the final three Fridays of May—one at a California high school, another in a high school in Texas, and the most recent in an Indiana middle school—bear witness against us as a nation. And those are only the three most recent school shootings. When taken with the 20 additional school shootings that have resulted in injury or death this year, that works out to more than one school shooting per week in 2018. The evidence is undeniable; we are failing to care for these most vulnerable ones.

Our failure calls for repentance; our failure calls for confession; our failure calls for action.

These school shootings have not sprung up out of nowhere. We live in a nation that glamorizes violence and war. We live in a nation led by a president who in recent months has gone back and forth trading war threats and insults with North Korea’s supreme leader over his country’s development of missiles capable of reaching the United States. We live in a nation where local police and our borders continue to become increasingly militarized as they receive military grade weapons from the Pentagon. We live in a nation that claims more lives abroad while making us less safe at home.

We live in a nation that has way more gun deaths than any other developed nation as the US has nearly six times the gun homicide rate of Canada, more than seven times that of Sweden, and nearly 16 times that of Germany, according to United Nations data compiled by the Guardian. We live in a nation that has far higher levels of gun ownership than any other country in the world. Estimated in 2007, the number of civilian-owned firearms in the US was 88.8 guns per 100 people, meaning there was almost one privately owned gun per American and more than one per

American adult. We Americans make up less than 5 percent of the world's population yet own roughly 42 percent of all the world's privately held firearms.

We as a nation must confess how we have been complicit in the gun violence that plagues our schools—places meant to educate our young people, places meant to care for and nurture these most vulnerable ones. We as a nation must repent of our policies, procedures, and structures that have protected gun ownership rights over our children's lives. We must repent of our unwavering trust in violence; indeed we must repent of our idolatry, that is, our trust in the power of violence to solve our problems, to offer us salvation, rather than trusting in the God of love, justice, and peace whom Jesus revealed through his life and ministry.

To repent is not simply to say that we are sorry and to continue on. To repent is not about piling on the guilt for the wrongs committed. To repent is to turn away from the ill we have chosen and to choose to walk in another way, the way of peace, the way of justice, the way of life, the way of God.

We as a nation are failing our children. May we dare to confess, to repent, and to act that we might right our wrongs, that we might move forward on God's path caring for our children, nurturing these most vulnerable among us.

Worship ...

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**. There will be no Centering Prayer in June. Please contact April Faidley with any questions.

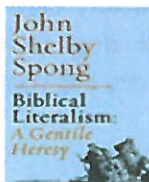


... Education

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 June 7th** meeting is "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together In the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race" by Beverly Daniel Tatum. The book for the **Thursday July 3rd** 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 Gentile 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 June is: June 7—Part VII: Chapters 24-25; June 14—Part VIII: Chapters 26-28; June 21—Part XI: Chapters 29-31; and June 28—Part X: Chapters 32-33 (final meeting).

Following the conclusion of this study, we will take a break for the summer and reconvene in September. Please contact Rev. Petersen with any questions or concerns.

MORNING
CIRCLE

Morning Circle

The next meeting of *Morning Circle* will be **Wednesday, June 27th at 9:30am**. Jamie Sawin will serve as hostess, and Judy Brody will offer devotions. The group is studying "Radical Hope: Letters of Love and Dissent in Dangerous Times" edited by Carolina De Robertis. We will be discussing pages 17 through 48.

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.

There will be no Morning Circle in July.

... Service

Food Pantry Sundays

The first Sunday of each month we receive donations for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. On **Sunday, June 3rd and Sunday, July 1st**, 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 these all natural dog treats will take place 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 dates will be **Sunday, June 17th and Sunday, July 15th**.

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

Thanks to the dedication of Carolyn and Duane Hobbs, we were able to work with PI participants and staff for a church cleaning project. Under their guidance, a small group from PI did some light cleaning and dusting in the sanctuary, library and other areas of the church building twice each month. This ministry will be on hiatus for the summer and will begin again in September under new leadership. Thank you to Heidi Grandstaff-Fresh for her willingness to work with PI to continue this ministry.

Community Meal Update

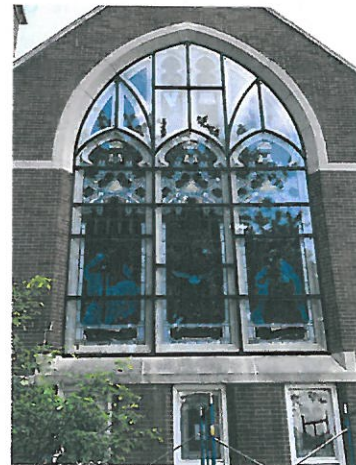
To “live our faith by loving and serving all of God’s creation” is a part of what we strive to fulfill at the Congregational United Church of Christ. Thus, participating in the Community Meal program where we serve others is a natural fit for our congregation.

On Wednesday, May 16th, at the First United Methodist Church, 61 meals were served and 10 carryouts were prepared. The menu consisted of chicken casserole, glazed carrots, fruit salad, and a variety of quick breads which were nutritious and tasty. Good food and fellowship made a great evening.

For our congregation, this is the last meal we’re responsible for until this fall. Unfortunately, when we resume, we’ll be missing a long time faithful worker, Brenda Wilson, who is moving to another community. She will be greatly missed as an important part of our crew, but we wish her all the best in this new adventure on her life’s journey. Enjoy your new home, Brenda!

Our Beautiful Windows!

Have you seen our beautiful windows? In addition to being able to see them from inside the sanctuary, they are now visible from outside of the building as well! The work is done, the scaffolding is down, and our two large stained-glass windows are now properly protected. Make sure you stop to take a look at them, as these pictures do not do them justice.





Prayers and Concerns

Please hold in prayer

- ◆ The family of Frank Ross following his death on Saturday, May 5th
- ◆ Stormy's Mom

✝ 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, mow the lawn, 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. We will house the team overnight in our church building. However, we do not have shower facilities and are looking for volunteers who are willing to let folks shower in their homes after a long day of riding. Additionally, we are encouraged to offer 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. Please contact Rev. Petersen or the church office if you are interested and able to offer hospitality to our fellow UCCers in either or both of these ways.

Worship Attendance

<u>May Attendance</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
First Sunday	39	34
Second Sunday	52	31
Third Sunday	48	30
Fourth Sunday	52	27

Birthdays to Celebrate in June

3-Suzanne Parker	16-Jacy Yoder
5-Sarah Penick	17-Duane Hobbs
6-Heidi Grandstaff-Fresh, Ann Raridon	18-Madeleine Joy
7-Alex Schoettmer	19-Don Swihart
8-Dylan Easterla	22-James Tool
9-Meredith McKay	25-Meredith Caves
12-Chelsea McNew	26-Benjamin Schober
	30-Samantha Sledge

Birthdays to Celebrate in July

2-Mady McKim, Marti Barker, Judy Brassfield	11-Talbot Mastio
3-Sherry Bachman	14-Mason Pryke, Lindsay Wilson
6-Rob Kahn	15-Mark O. Babcock
7-Brenda Wilson	20-Hilary Montalvo
8-Summer Margritz, Debbie Carter	29-Jenny Jensen

Anniversaries to Celebrate in June

2-Steve & Barb Holdsworth
5-Gayla Snook & Cindy Pollard
13-Nile & Donna McCoy
18-Tom & Jan Turk
22-Bill & Karen Shump
24-Alicia & Justin Mitchell
30-Kenny & Lora Caves

Anniversaries to Celebrate in July

10-Jim & Jennifer Pryke; Jim & Linda Christenson
11-Les & Teresa Morgan
18-James & Jenny Jensen

Take note...

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday, June 13th and Wednesday, July 11th 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

Education and faith formation is core to who we are as a community of faith as we are a community of God's beloved dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus. Though Jesus taught 2000 years ago, we as followers of Jesus are still learning. You are encouraged to gather together in the Parlor on **Sunday, June 10th at 10:45am** (immediately following worship) for a congregational conversation regarding education and faith formation. Come share your experiences and ideas as we discuss education here at Congregational UCC. Come listen and learn how we engage in faith formation as individuals and as this community of faith.

We will not have a congregational conversation in July.

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 June

Date	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
Christian Calendar Date	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Special Events	Communion			
Special Offerings	Food Pantry Donations		JCARL Collection	
Greeters	Ed & Suzanne Van Zandt	Marti Barker	Richard & Kay Hagedorn	Lin Chapé
Ushers	Craig Armstrong, Jerry Sawin	Duane Hobbs, Les Morgan	Lin Chapé	Richard Hagedorn
Lay Readers	Craig Armstrong	Jerry Sawin	Storm Storms	Bev Thomas
Scripture	Mark 2:23-3:6	Mark 3:20-35	Ezekiel 17:2-24	Mark 4:35-41
Worship Color	White	Green	Green	Green

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

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



Worship Schedule for July

Date	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
Christian Calendar Date	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Special Events	Communion				
Special Offerings	Food Pantry Donations		JCARL Collection		
Greeters		Ed & Suzanne Van Zandt	Lin Chapé		Ed & Suzanne Van Zandt
Ushers		Duane Hobbs, Stormy Storms			
Lay Readers		Suzanne Van Zandt			Bev Thomas
Scripture	Mark 5:21-43	Mark 6:1-13	Mark 6:14-29	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	John 6:1-21
Worship Color	White	Green	Green	Green	Green

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

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

One Two Three Four Cookies by Betty Hotchkin

from *Windows Into our Kitchens*

(Congregational UCC Cookbook from 1981)



1 cup butter	2 tsp. baking powder
2 cups sugar	1 tsp. cream of tartar
3 1/2 cups flour	1/2 tsp. baking soda
4 eggs (beaten)	1/2 tsp. vanilla

Cream butter and sugar; add the beaten eggs. Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, and cream of tartar. Beat well, add vanilla. Drop by teaspoon on well-greased cookie sheet. Bake in a 350° pre-heated oven for 8-10 minutes.

Ritz Cracker Cookies by Karen Shump

from *Windows Into our Kitchens*

(Congregational UCC Cookbook from 1981)



Ritz crackers
1 can condensed milk
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 cup finely chopped dates

Glaze:

1 cup powdered sugar
1 1/2 tbsps. milk
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Mix last condensed milk, pecans, and chopped dates in sauce pan. Cook over medium heat until it boils and thickens. Spread 1 tsp. of mix on Ritz crackers. Bake in a 350° pre-heated oven for 8 minutes. When cooled drizzle with glaze.

Sundays

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

JUNE 2018

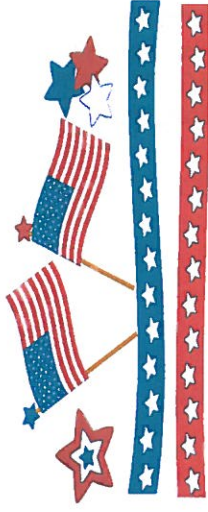



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
03 Communion Food Pantry Donations	04	05	06	07 5:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Racial Justice Group	08	09
10 10:45am Congregational Conversation	11 2:00pm PI Baking	12	13 6:00pm Church Council	14	15	16
17 HAPPY FATHER'S Day! JCAREL Collection	18	19	20	21 5:00pm Bible Study	22	23
24	25 2:00pm PI Baking	26	27 9:30am Morning Circle	28 5:00pm Bible Study	29	30

Sundays

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

JULY 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Communion Food Pantry Donations	02	03	04  Office Closed	05 6:30pm Racial Justice Book Club	06	07
08	09 2:00pm PI Baking	10	11 5:15pm Centering Prayer 6:00pm Church Council	12	13	14
15 JICARL Collection	16	17	18	19	20 Deadline for Open Door Articles	21
22	23 2:00pm PI Baking	24	25 Host UCC RAGBRAI Team 5:15pm Centering Prayer	26	27	28
29	30	31	01	02	03	04

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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.)



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Iowa Conference: www.ucciaconf.org

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