



**Congregational  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

# *The Open Door*

## May 2017

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 **servicing** 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 Carla Cain**

Last summer, I received a phone call asking if we here at Congregational UCC would be interested and willing to work with a seminary intern throughout the course of the 2016-2017 school year. As I had served in various internships during my seminary career, I was excited to have such an opportunity presented to us. The internships in which I had served during seminary were of great benefit to me in discerning my call to ministry as I came to better understand my particular gifts and growth areas for ministry. The Church Council approved, and it was with great joy that we welcomed Carla Cain, a student at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, as she began her internship with us in September 2016.

Carla’s service with us over the course of these past months has been a gift to me in a number of ways. Since I began my pastorate here back in September 2011, I have rarely had the opportunity to sit back and listen to another preach, to hear another’s perspective on our sacred text, and to be challenged to go then and live. I have enjoyed being able to listen to Carla preach one Sunday each month, to observe her unique preaching style and see that style develop over time, and to engage in conversation with her about the text prior to the worship service. Carla’s presence has provided me with the opportunity to worship in a different way than I have grown accustomed to over the past five and a half years, and for that I am thankful.

Throughout Carla’s internship, as her supervisor, I have been tasked with helping her to develop her gifts for ministry and to better understand her call to serve. Much of this work has been around worship preparation and leadership, an area where she had little experience and a great desire to learn. As I have engaged in conversation with Carla regarding worship, I have had to think more deeply about my own process of worship planning and preaching as I explain to her my rationale for choosing this particular scripture or structuring worship in this specific way. I have learned much about my own worship and sermon preparation process as I have sought to help Carla to develop her own style, and for this I am thankful.



Over the course of her internship, Carla and I have engaged in conversation around not only worship, but about all kinds of theological topics. We have discussed prayer; we have talked about the meaning of repentance; we have conversed about the church and God's call to work for justice. I have thoroughly enjoyed the theological conversations we have shared together as it isn't every day that such opportunities for discussion present themselves. Throughout Carla's time here, I have had someone right across the hall with whom to think through these interesting topics, and for that I am thankful.

During the past several months, I have seen Carla become a valuable part of this community of faith. I have witnessed her interact with you all during committee and Council meetings, on Sunday mornings before and after worship, and at other times during the week. I have seen relationships grow between you all and her. I have seen you offer her your support and constructive criticism as she engages in this learning process. I have heard Carla share her thoughts regarding how healthy she has experienced our congregation to be (and as a church consultant, she has experienced a lot of churches!). While Carla has been serving here with us, I have gained another perspective, a deeper understanding of who you are, who we are as a congregation, and for that I am thankful.

Carla's time with us here at Congregational UCC is now drawing to a close. Her final Sunday with us will be Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. I strongly encourage you to come share in celebrating her months of service with us that Sunday as we send her off and wish her well as she continues on this journey of faith and in her ministry discernment.

It has been a gift for me to get to know and to work with Carla. Her presence will certainly be missed as she concludes her internship with us. I will continue to hold her in my thoughts and prayers as her journey continues and will be forever grateful for the time she has shared with us. I hope you will do the same.

## ... Worship

### Graduate and Intern Celebration and Blessing

On **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** we will have much to celebrate! In addition to celebrating and giving thanks for Carla Cain's ministry here with us, our high school graduate, Catfish Cottrell, will be recognized and blessed during the worship service. A reception will also be held after worship to honor both Catfish and Carla as we wish them both well as they embark on the next stages of their journeys.



### Music Sunday

On **Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** we will lift our voices in song as we sing, sing, sing each piece of the worship service (well, to be honest, there will be a few spoken pieces as well). Join us for this music-filled worship experience and add your voice to the chorus as we sing out praises to our amazing God, offer our prayers of joy and thanksgiving and of sorrow and mourning, and listen for the good news of God's love and blessed assurance proclaimed through dearly beloved hymns. Come! Let us sing!

### Discovering the Truth about Poverty

All are encouraged to participate in a two-session video series as we begin to educate ourselves regarding our recently adopted congregational focus: to develop relationships with our neighbors living in or near poverty. The first portion of the series will take place on **Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am and Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm**. During this first session, we will simply view the film "The Line: Poverty in America." The second portion of the series will take place on **Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am and Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. During this second session, we will view a TED Talk by Mia Birdsong entitled "The Story We Tell about Poverty Isn't True" and engage in discussion about this talk and "The Line."

You are encouraged to attend one meeting for each portion of the series. All gatherings will take place in the **Sanctuary** and last no longer than one hour. Childcare is available upon request (contact Rev. Petersen no later than Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> for first session and Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> for second session). Please contact Rev. Petersen with any questions.



### Bible Study

Our Bible study group meets on **Thursdays, 5:00pm-6:00pm** in the Parish House. Our current study focuses on Katharine Doob Sakenfeld's book "Just Wives?: Stories of Power and Survival in the Old Testament and Today." Our reading schedule for the remainder of the study is as follows: May 4<sup>th</sup> - Chapter 4, May 11<sup>th</sup> - Chapter 5, and May 18<sup>th</sup> (final meeting) - Chapter 6. All are encouraged to join us.

Our weekly Bible study will take a break for the summer and begin again in September. Contact Rev. Petersen with any questions.



### Morning Circle

The next meeting of *Morning Circle* will be **Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am** with Jane Ann Cotton as hostess and giving devotions. The group is studying the book "Jesus: The Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary" by author Marcus J. Borg. During this meeting we will be studying Chapter 5 of the book.

All are welcome to join us as we deepen our understanding of who Jesus was and what that means for us as people of faith seeking to follow in Jesus' way. Want to participate? Join us on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Parish House.



## ... Service

### One Great Hour of Sharing

On Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, we received our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This special offering of the United Church of Christ enables us to reach people and communities affected by disaster, displacement, or poverty. Through OGHS, we provide assistance to families and communities around the world, helping them to become stronger, healthier, and better equipped to address hardships and catastrophes.

Thank you for your support. Because of your generosity, as a congregation we raised \$595.00. These funds will join together with other moneys raised throughout the UCC to respond to the many critical needs present in our world today. Thank you!



### Food Pantry Sundays

The first Sunday of each month we receive donations for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. On **Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** 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, spaghetti (12-16 ounce packages or 1 pound packages), canned fruits, spaghetti sauce, 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.



### 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 21<sup>st</sup>**.

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).



### "Barking Good" Project

The Progress Industries partnership with UCC of making and baking dog treats in the church kitchen has resumed again. They will be baking these all natural dog treats on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 12:15pm. Dozens of treats will be produced and shared with JCARL. Our church has helped PI move toward its target goal of getting out into the community setting which has provided a wonderful opportunity for all involved.

The dog treats produced not only make for happy dogs, but happy people too. So, to lend a hand, contact Stormy. You'll have a very gratifying experience if you do.

### 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. Under the guidance of Carolyn and Duane Hobbs a small group from PI is doing some light cleaning and dusting in the sanctuary, library and other areas of the church building. This cleaning project takes place two times per month, on Tuesdays at 10:30am.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Carolyn Hobbs.



## SHARE Iowa

Self Help and Resource Exchange (SHARE) is back in Newton as our Newton Area Ministerial Association began offering this program through our churches in April. SHARE brings people together to build and strengthen community through volunteer service by providing access to good, nutritious food at affordable prices. Through SHARE, members of the community (there are no age, income, or membership requirements to participate; though participants are encouraged to volunteer with SHARE or elsewhere in the community) will have an opportunity to sign up for a food box for up to 50% off supermarket prices. Items available vary each month and include meats, grocery items, fresh fruits and vegetables, and even desserts. The May menu can be found on the reverse side of this page (p. #6).

**Orders may be placed** by contacting Rev. Petersen, our local host organization, First United Methodist Church (641.792.4648, ask for Pastor Gary), or online ([www.shareiowa.org](http://www.shareiowa.org)) **and must be received by Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**. Payment is required when you place your order; you may pay by cash, check (made out to: First Christian Church), EBT, or online using Pay Pal. **The May delivery/pick-up day will be on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am-8:30am at First United Methodist Church.**

If you would like to volunteer with SHARE, you may contact Rev. Petersen or Rev. Gary Marzolf at First United Methodist Church. You are also welcome to drop in to meet the volunteer coordinators on a distribution day and see what SHARE is all about. If you would like to serve our congregation by taking orders, please contact Rev. Petersen.







**SHARE**

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**MAY MENU**

**A. Best Value Package \$28**

"Save up to 50% on your groceries"

- ✓ 12 oz Beef Rope Sausage
- ✓ 1 lb Ready to Cook Breaded Chicken Tenders
- ✓ 1 lb Fully Cooked Beef Hamburgers
- ✓ 1 lb Ready to Cook Pork Chops (Omaha Steak)
- ✓ 1 lb Organic Yukon Gold Shredded Hash-Browns
- ✓ Oatmeal Raisin Cookies
- ✓ Russet Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage
- ✓ Peppers, Apples, Kiwi and Mango



**B. Grocery Package \$14.50**

"Purchase with an (A) to double your fruits and vegetables"

- ✓ Russet Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage
- ✓ Peppers, Apples, Kiwi and Mango
- ✓ 1 lb Organic Yukon Gold Shredded Hash-Browns
- ✓ Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

**C. Meat Only Package \$14.50**

"Purchase with an (A) package to double your meat"

- ✓ 12 oz Beef Rope Sausage
- ✓ 1 lb Ready to Cook Breaded Chicken Tenders
- ✓ 1 lb Fully Cooked Beef Hamburgers
- ✓ 1 lb Ready to Cook Pork Chops (Omaha Steak)

**D. Grill Box**

"Tis the Season"

**\$28**

- ✓ 2 - 8 oz Sirloin Steaks
- ✓ 2 - 14 oz Beef Hot Dogs
- ✓ 2 lb IQF All Natural Chicken Breast
- ✓ 1 lb Fully Cooked Pulled Pork
- ✓ 5 - 6 oz. Black Angus Hamburgers

**E. Steak Box**

**\$22**



- ✓ 8 - 6 oz Sirloin Strip Steaks, Tenderized

**F. Angus Burgers \$24**

- ✓ 7.5 lb / 20 - 6 oz Burgers - 80% Lean



**G. Frozen Variety Box**

**\$32**

- ✓ 1 lb 80% Ground Beef
- ✓ 1 lb 85% Ground Turkey
- ✓ 2 lb Chicken Thighs
- ✓ 20 oz Roast Beef Deli
- ✓ 1 lb Breaded Chick Tenders
- ✓ 1 lb Deli Ham
- ✓ 1.5 lb Pork Loin Roast
- ✓ 1 lb Bacon
- ✓ 16 oz. Frozen Vegetable
- ✓ 5 Oatmeal Cookies
- ✓ 2.5 lb Pancake and Sausage on a Stick

**\*CHOICE ITEMS:** Must purchase one package A, B, C, D, E, F or G to qualify.

**H. Chicken Roasts \$14**

"Great for Memorial Day Festivities. How about a BBQ Chicken Sandwich?"

- ✓ 3 - 2 lb Chicken Breast Roasts Fully Cooked

**I. Baby Back Ribs \$13**



- ✓ 2lb. Ken Davis Fully Cooked Pork Loin Ribs in BBQ Sauce

**J. Picnic Cheese Pack \$16.50**

- ✓ 10 oz Co-Jack Burger Slices
- ✓ 8 oz Cheddar Cheese Spread
- ✓ 12 oz American Slices
- ✓ 8 oz String Cheese
- ✓ 8 oz Colby Jack
- ✓ 8 oz Co-Jack Block

**K. Mini Turkey Corndogs \$12.50**

"Kids will be out of school soon"

- ✓ 5 lb Bag





## Prayers and Concerns

### Please hold in prayer

- ◆ The family of Joanne Austad following her death on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Charlotte Ross and family following the death of her father on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ The family of Scott Kingery following his death on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Larry Brody
- ◆ Julia Snyder, daughter of Stormy Storms
- ◆ Victoria Hutchins
- ◆ Carrie Osborne
- ◆ Sue Anderson
- ◆ Jim Lukefahr
- ◆ Ann Raridon
- ◆ Lori Scheck, cousin of Heidi Grandstaff-Fresh



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 in May during Fellowship Time. If you are curious about your blood pressure reading, please let Carolyn know.

## Community Meal Update

Congregational UCC has been responsible thus far for eight Community Meals. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, nineteen volunteers provided dessert and/or worked to prepare and serve the meal. Wonderfully caring church workers met the needs of 100 people at the First Lutheran church.

This outreach project is a part of who we are as a congregation in that we “..... live our faith by loving and serving all of God’s creation .....,” so if you haven’t yet participated there is still time to do so on **May 17<sup>th</sup>** before we take a break for the summer months. If you have not yet joined in this endeavor, please consider doing so. New people are always welcome to our crew. Remember that an added bonus is the enjoyment of visiting with other community members and eating a delicious meal.

Please contact one of the chairpersons if you are interested in joining in this worthwhile experience. The chairpersons are: Bev Edge—Menu Preparation; April Faidley—Desserts; and Marti Barker—Serving & Clean-Up.

## 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.

If you are willing to be a greeter, please contact Marti Barker. Additionally, there are a few members who may need transportation to worship and church activities. Please contact Duane Hobbs 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.

## Worship Attendance

<u>April Attendance</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
First Sunday	42	42
Second Sunday	36	56
Third Sunday	34	(Easter) 102
Fourth Sunday	39	48
Fifth Sunday	N/A	Will be reported in the June/July Newsletter



### BIRTHDAYS to Celebrate in May

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



### Anniversaries to Celebrate in May

- 1-Duane & Carolyn Hobbs
- 10-Steve & Bonnie McGinley
- 17-Don & Marilyn Deppe

## Take note...



### Sponsor "Into the Mystic"

In an effort to get the word out about who we are as a congregation, we have begun to sponsor a weekly airing of a podcast by UCC General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, on KCOB on Sunday mornings. The weekly cost is \$25. You are invited to sponsor a Sunday or two or four 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! Contact Rev. Petersen or simply send your donation into the office referencing "Into the Mystic" if you are interested in donating.

### Chapel Progress

A committee consisting of Chairperson April Faidley, Jan Turk, Jim Christenson, Marti Barker, and Pastor Jessica are moving forward with the chapel renovation. This area will be a place for individual or small group meditation and prayer as well as Bible study and similar activities.

Next time you're at church, visit the chapel and see what's happening. Just remember that this project is a work in progress. A planned dedication will occur in the future upon the chapel's completion.



## Worship Schedule for May

Date	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Christian Calendar Date	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter
Special Events	Communion		Graduate & Intern Celebration & Blessing	Music Sunday
Special Offerings	Food Pantry Donations		JCARL Collection	
Greeters	Sonia & Samantha Sledge	Bev Edge	Ed & Suzanne Van Zandt	Marti Barker
Ushers	Gary & Melissa Pearson	Ed & Suzanne Van Zandt	Craig Armstrong, Duane Hobbs	Tim & Lynne Cottrell
Lay Readers	Larry Leitner	Les Morgan	Jerry Sawin	Bob Van Drimmelen
Scripture	John 10:1-10	John 14:1-14	John 14:15-21	Psalm 98
Worship Color	White	White	White	White

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

**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 Center #1  
500 1<sup>st</sup> St. N.  
Newton, IA 50208

Betty Hotchkin  
Park Centre #66  
500 1<sup>st</sup> St. N.  
Newton, IA 50208

Jean Jensen  
Park Center #51  
500 1<sup>st</sup> St. N.  
Newton, IA 50208

Jim Lukefahr  
Newton Village #14  
110 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. W.  
Newton, IA 50208

Steven McGinley  
1003 E 15<sup>th</sup> St. S.  
Newton, IA 50208

Carrie Osborne  
Iowa City Rehab  
3661 Rochester Ave.  
Iowa City, IA 52248

Ann Raridon  
St. Frances Manor  
2021 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Grinnell, IA 50112

Carol Robinson  
Newton Village #206A  
110 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. W.  
Newton, IA 50208

Jean Townsend  
1310 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.  
Newton, IA 50208

## Scalloped Tomatoes



### Ingredients

- Olive oil
- 2 cups (1/2-inch diced) bread from a French boule, crusts removed
- 16 plum tomatoes, cut 1/2-inch dice (about 2 1/2 pounds)
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic (3 cloves)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup julienned basil leaves, lightly packed
- 1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Heat 3 tablespoons of olive oil in a large (12 inch) sauté pan over medium heat. Add the bread cubes and stir to coat with the oil. Cook over medium to medium-high heat for 5 minutes, stirring often, until the cubes are evenly browned.
3. Meanwhile, combine the tomatoes, garlic, sugar, salt, and pepper in a large bowl. When the bread cubes are done, add the tomato mixture and continue to cook, stirring often, for 5 minutes. Off the heat, stir in the basil.
4. Pour the tomato mixture into a shallow (6 to 8 cup) baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with the Parmesan cheese and drizzle with 2 tablespoons of olive oil.
5. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes until the top is browned and the tomatoes are bubbly. Serve hot or warm.





**Sundays**

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship Time

# MAY 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 30	01	02	03	04	05	06
9:00am Truth about Poverty - Session 1	6:00pm Truth about Poverty - Session 1	5:00pm Worship & Music		5:00pm Bible Study SHARE Orders Due		
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
9:00am Truth about Poverty - Session 2 Communion Food Pantry Donation 11:45am Service & Outreach Mtg.	12:15pm PI Baking 6:00pm Truth about Poverty - Session 2	10:30am PI Cleaning	6:00pm Facilities & Finance	5:00pm Bible Study		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 Mothers Day			9:30am Morning Circle 5:30pm Community Meal	5:00pm Bible Study	Deadline for Open Door Articles	SHARE Delivery/Pick-up @ First United Methodist
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Carla's Last Sunday Graduate Recognition JCARL Collection	12:15pm PI Baking	10:30am PI Cleaning				
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
Music Sunday	 Memorial Day		6:00pm Church Council			

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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	641-792-3773 (Office) 641-781-0596 (Cell)	uccnewton@mediacombb.net
Health Ministry	Carolyn Hobbs	792-2687	cdhobbs@iowatelecom.net
Seminary Intern	Carla Cain	515-418-7444	cjc1460@gmail.com
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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