



The Open Door

JUNE 2021

**CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking,
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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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.

THE DOORS ARE OPEN!!!

We have made our way through a very difficult and trying time. We adopted new ways of worshipping and socializing together. We made do with what was available. We painstakingly learned new skills. Our nerves sometimes frayed thin, we worried, worried, and worried some more. And sometimes we were filled with gratitude for simple, daily blessings.

In truly record-breaking time the vaccines have opened up new possibilities. This Sunday, May 30th, 2021, the church doors will **OPEN** for in-person worship at 11 a.m. Rev. Mark Holmes has agreed to preach in our sanctuary as a supply pastor. Bev Thomas will be on keyboards. This same service will livestream on facebook at 11 a.m.

The service will be shorter than it was in the past; we will not be singing hymns, praying in unison, or passing a collection plate. You can place your monetary gifts in the basket at the back of the church. If you want an announcement made or a joy & concern shared, these requests can be written on cards at the back of the church and will be read during the service by the liturgist. At this first service, the order of service will be projected on the wall, rather than passed out on a paper bulletin.

(cont. p. 2)

The CDC guidelines we have adopted at this time are:

- 1) If you are fully vaccinated, you may attend without a mask and do not need to socially distance from others.
- 2) If you are not yet fully vaccinated, or you choose to do so, protect yourself by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.
- 3) At this time, we will not sing hymns, pray aloud, or have refreshments after the service.

Please note:

Disclaimer: Newton Congregational United Church of Christ cannot guarantee that in-person attendance at a church event will not result in contracting the Coronavirus that causes Covid-19 or any other virus, bacteria, or illness. Newton Congregational United Church of Christ assumes no liability for any communicable disease believed to be contracted at the church. Persons who attend any event at the church do so at their own risk. For the utmost caution, members may choose to wear face masks at all times over their mouths and noses, to avoid touching other attendees, and to use hand sanitizer after touching any surfaces or objects. Please stay home if you have signs of a communicable illness of any kind.

SERVICE & OUTREACH

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Matthew 25: 35-36

Our mission is to serve others, especially the marginalized and vulnerable. Each month the newsletter is publishing our growing outreach, tallying the donations made to different organizations and projects and reporting gestures of caring.

During the month of May the Open Door received the following updates:

Monetary contributions:

Progress Industries Foundation
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Friends of the Newton Library
Sycamore Rehabilitation Services
United Way of Jasper County
Discover Hope 517

Salvation Army Food Bank
Jasper Country Conservation
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Special Olympics Iowa
Newton Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
The Alzheimer's Association



How about letting the newsletter know about YOUR service, outreach, and gestures of caring? You can:

- 1) email or call the newsletter editor: aprilfaidley@gmail.com; at 515-478-6493
- 2) drop off a note at the church office.

If you have already submitted some donations to the newsletter, please only report new ones. If you are reporting for the first time, submit your year-to-date totals.



2021 Max and Evelyn Fuller Scholarship Recipients

Each year Newton Congregational United Church of Christ is honored to award educational scholarships from the Max and Evelyn Fuller Scholarship Fund. The 2021 recipients are:

Nicholas Sulzberger —Iowa State University
Physics

Grandson of Duane and Carolyn Hobbs

Adam Simons —University of Iowa
Speech and Hearing Science
Grandson of Don and Marilyn Deppe

Josh Deppe —University of Northern Iowa
Psychology
Grandson of Don and Marilyn Deppe

Elena Turk —University of Iowa
Theatre Arts and Chemistry
Granddaughter of Tom and Jan Turk

Reid McGinley —Iowa State University
Finance/Accounting
Grandson of Bonnie McGinley

Joy Faidley-Leitner —Iowa State University
Psychology/Mathematics
Daughter of April Faidley and Larry Leitner

Jacob Robertson —Coe College
Public Accounting/Business Administration
Grandson of Tom and Jan Turk

Reece Caves —DMACC
Nursing 3 + 1 RN program
Grandson of David and Dorothy Raymond

Alexis Borgestad —University of Iowa
Advance Degree Specialty-Endodontist
Granddaughter of Bonnie McGinley



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/3 Suzanne Parker

6/4 Bev Thomas

6/5 Sarah Penick

6/6 Heidi Grandstaff-Fresh

6/7 Alex Schoettmer

6/8 Dylan Easterla

6/9 Meredith McKay

6/12 Chelsey McNew

6/16 Jacy Yoder

6/17 Duane Hobbs

6/18 Madeleine Joy

6/19 Don Swihart

6/22 James Tool

6/25 Meredith Caves

6/26 Benjamin Schober

6/30 Samantha Sledge



6/2 Steve & Barb Holdsworth

6/5 Gayla Snook & Cindy Pollard

6/13 Nile & Donna McCoy

6/18 Tom & Jan Turk

6/22 Bill & Karen Shump

6/24 Alicia & Justin Mitchell

6/30 Kenny & Lora Caves



SPRUCE UP!

As we have reported in previous newsletters, Lin Chapé and Marti Barker generously donated their time to an extensive survey of the church building and the parish house in order to compile a list of jobs that need to be done to organize and refurbish the church. Many of our spaces look tired and outdated. We need fresh, clean, uncluttered surroundings to lift up our spirits, help us get on with our mission, and perhaps to influence potential pastoral candidates to think well of us.

Many of these jobs are underway. Please join the effort.

Pastoral Care

We are grateful to have Rev. David Raymond available to provide pastoral care. If you have a pastoral emergency, please reach out to Rev. Raymond directly at (641) 521-1506 or davidray@mediacombb.net, or through the church office (staffed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:00am-3:00pm). Thank you, David, for blessing us with your care.

EDUCATION

Minor Feelings Book Study

As with much of the country, our study group has become aware of the rise of hate-based incidents against Asian-Americans. To understand this horrific discrimination more deeply, we are studying *Minor Feelings* by Cathy Park Hong. The book was named one of Time's 10 Best Nonfiction Books of the Year in 2020 and is a National Book Critics Circle Award Winner.

Schedule:	JUNE 3	An Education
	JUNE 10	Portrait of an Artist
	JUNE 17	The Indebted

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595726192?pwd=cm9FTXkrVlhrQmkvalEwVitGZW9nZz09#success>

Meeting ID: 835 9572 6192

Passcode: 377178 [If you need assistance, contact Jane Ann Cotton or April Faidley]

The Book Study will take a summer break during July and August, resuming in September.

This study is a laity-generated educational program. The participants choose the books and research additional material to add to the discussion. We hope the books we choose will interest others. If you have a book in mind that you would like to read and discuss in a group format, please let us know, through the church office, what you would be enthused about studying. We would be most happy to welcome you into our study!



We miss our local homebound members.

We hold them in our heartfelt prayers.

Take a moment to call, write, or visit them!

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

Bev Edge
Village Assisted Living
2571 Guthrie Ave, Apt. 1402
Des Moines, IA 50317
(515) 299-1845

Betty Hotchkin
Park Centre #40
500 1st St. N.
Newton, IA 50208
(641) 791-4687

Norma "Jeannie" Johnson
200 S. 8th Ave E.
Newton, IA 50208
(641) 275-5393

Prayers and Concerns

Lin Chapé

Marilyn Deppe

If you know someone in need of support—a visit, a call, a note, or a prayer—please contact the church office.

JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is one of the oldest celebrations of the abolition of slavery in the world. While this holiday is not an official government holiday in any U.S state, it is recognized as a ceremonial observance in roughly half of the U.S states.

The history of Juneteenth can be traced back to June 19th of 1865. This is when the Union Army, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that all former slaves were now free. Although President Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, slavery hadn't ended in Texas because there weren't enough Union soldiers in the state to enforce the new order. However, the sound defeat of General Lee in April of that year and the arrival of the Union soldiers under Granger strengthened the forces sufficiently to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

On June 19th, 1865, Major General Granger read General Order Number 3 to the people of Texas. This order stated: "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer." Reaction to this order by the former slaves was as varied as you could imagine. Some stayed on under their former masters in a working capacity, while others left immediately. Some headed North and others headed to other parts of the South looking for family members. As more and more families united, they remembered fondly the day they acquired their freedom and began to celebrate it as Juneteenth. The day gained further prominence during the Civil Rights Movement.

Guest Editor Revery

The Westman Islands are a small chain of islands south of Iceland. Most of the islands are uninhabited, but some 4332 people call these islands home. An even larger number of puffins are found on the islands. Scientists estimate that 1.5 million puffins, about 20% of all puffins worldwide come to the islands to raise their young.



In the spring, puffins build nests in the safety of the rocky cliffs. During the summer, the parents take advantage of the ample food supplies to feed their pufflings (a cute name if ever there was one). By August the pufflings are old enough to fend for themselves. They come out of their nesting caves driven by hunger. Unfamiliar with where to go, many pufflings gravitate toward the lights of the nearby inhabited islands. But the lights do not always signal food and safety.

The pufflings arrive exhausted from the trip only to be met with dangers. Were it not for the good people living in the Westman Islands, most of these pufflings would die. But this is the part of the story I am delighted to share.

In the late evening, typically after midnight, the children living on the island gather empty boxes and venture out in search of the wayward chick. It has become a fun adventure for the children with most finding more than four chicks each night. The chicks are taken to their homes and cared for before being taken to a nearby rescue mission where the pufflings are tagged and registered. Those that are underweight are fed until they are strong enough to release. Eventually all the baby puffins are returned to the wild where they can flourish and perhaps return the following year to continue the cycle.

I imagine the weary children, who had barely fallen asleep, waking up with a spirit of determination, searching the familiar hiding places with a goal of rescuing these young birds. I imagine the joy of finding one of these creatures and knowing that at the end of the day, their efforts had saved a life. And then getting up again the next night and doing it all over. It makes me envious, longing to accompany these kids in their rescue missions.

I don't expect we will find any wayward pufflings in our community. But if we look closely, we might find some folks who feel lost, who are searching, who need a caring and committed soul willing to reach out and offer a bit of kindness. Until we can visit the Westman Islands, perhaps we can be inspired by the Icelandic children and offer our care and compassion to those nearby.

Peace,

Howard Boles, Pastor

Columbus First United Methodist Church

Columbus, Indiana



JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 30	May 31	1	2	3	4	5
11 am Worship in the sanctuary & livestreamed on facebook	Memorial Day	Video taping of Meditation and Musical Mo- ments		5:30 pm <i>Minor Feelings</i> book study via ZOOM	National Doughnut Day	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11 am Worship in the sanctuary & livestreamed on facebook		Video taping of Meditation and Musical Mo- ments	6:00pm Church Council, Parish House	5:30 pm <i>Minor Feelings</i> book study via ZOOM		World Day Against Child Labour
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11 am Worship in the sanctuary & livestreamed on facebook		Video taping of Meditation and Musical Mo- ments		5:30 pm <i>Minor Feelings</i> book study via ZOOM		Juneteenth (see p. 5)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
11 am Worship in the sanctuary & livestreamed on facebook Father's Day		Video taping of Meditation and Musical Mo- ments			Midsummer Eve	Deadline for submissions to newsletter
27	28	29	30			
11 am Worship in the sanctuary & livestreamed on facebook		Video taping of Meditation and Musical Mo- ments				

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Administrative Assistant	Anne Gerken	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	Jane Ann Cotton	521-3547 (Cell)	jacotton@pcpartner.net
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. David Raymond	521-1506 (Cell)	davidray@mediacombb.net

Office hours: 10:00am to 3:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; not open to the public



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

Newton Congregational UCC: www.uccnewton.org