

The Open Door

February 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 **serving** all of God's creation and **striving** for justice and peace throughout our community, our nation, and the world.

Congregational UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor Petersen's Perspective: On My Personality

As you may recall, I am a participant in the UCC Pension Board sponsored Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI). NGLI provides participants with ten years of fully-funded education in order that younger pastors in the UCC might be energized and sustained to engage in transformational leadership. I am currently in my third year of the program and recently attended the yearly core education event in Carefree, Arizona. This year's focus was on Communication Styles and Team-building. During our time together, the members of my cohort explored our own personalities and communication styles that we might more fully understand where we are coming from in addition to learning about the diversity of personalities and communication styles that are out there.

Prior to traveling to Arizona, I took the Myers-Briggs assessment. I had taken this assessment before when in college but didn't remember too well what letters I had been assigned. I received the letters and much more upon arriving to class that first day!

In case you are unfamiliar with the categories used in Myers-Briggs, they are as follows: Extroversion (focus on the outside world and get energy through interacting with people and/or doing things) or Introversion (focus on the inner world and get energy through reflecting on information, ideas, and/or concepts); Sensing (notice and trust facts, details, and present realities) or intuition (attend to and trust interrelationships, theories, and future possibilities); Thinking (make decisions using logical analysis to achieve objectivity) or Feeling (make decisions using person-centered values to achieve harmony); and Judging (tend to be organized and orderly and to make decisions quickly) or Perceiving (tend to be flexible and adaptable and to keep options open as long as possible). It is not the case that an individual is simply either one or the other of each of these pairs, rather everyone can and does use each of these parts at least some of the time. But, individuals have preferences out of which we live. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is simply a tool to help folks become more aware of their particular style and to better understand and appreciate that people differ from one another.

It occurred to me that it might be helpful to you all to better understand my preferred ways of being in the world as we continue to engage in ministry together. So, you want to take a guess at my Myers-Briggs personality type?

I came out as an ENTP (Extroversion, Intuition, Thinking, Perceiving). According to the very extensive report I received, as an ENTP, I tend to be an “enthusiastic innovator, seeing new possibilities, different theories, and new ways of doing things.” I “have a lot of imagination and initiative for starting projects,” and “being competent is very important to [me].” I am “energized by what is new and different,” and I can find “it hard to apply [myself] to the sometimes necessary details involved in finishing projects.” I am “most interested in logically analyzing ideas and theories” and “can speak to all sides of an issue.” Also, as an ENTP, I am mostly interested in “exploring ideas and possibilities” and “reaching logical conclusions about them.”

As I read through my report, I found the explanations to quite accurately describe my preferences for being in the world. Mind you that though I see myself relying heavily on my intuition and thinking, I am also aware of facts and present realities (sensing) and the feelings of my own and others (feeling); I am also quite aware that this has been an area where I’ve been challenged to grow throughout my life.

In addition to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, we also explored the Hermann Brain Dominance Instrument to better understand our preferred communication styles. This exploration took the form of looking through a good number of colored cards (blue, red, yellow, and green) with a word and an explanation of that word written on them and choosing the card that we related to most. It took me a while to read through all of the cards (I wanted to find the “right” one that really spoke to me) and then to narrow it down to one from the three blue cards and one yellow card I held in my hands. Then it hit me, “Jessica, you have three blue cards and one yellow. Clearly you should choose a blue card with a 3-to-1 preference.” And so I selected a blue card with the word “RATIONAL” printed at the top followed by this description: “Making choices on the basis of reason as opposed to emotion.” I had to laugh to myself a bit realizing that the decision-making process I had just utilized was a clear living out of these words.

I had never heard of the Hermann Brain Dominance Instrument (HBDI), as I would guess is also the case for some of you, so I had no idea what it meant that I was now to understand myself as a “Blue.” I came to learn that HBDI is about communication styles. In simplified form, reds are most concerned with relationship, connectivity, and feeling; blues are most focused on thinking and objectives; yellows focus their attention on possibilities and imagination; and greens concern themselves with specifics and step-by-step processes that lead to an end result. I also learned that blue and red are generally opposite styles as are yellow and green.

As I heard more about the communication style associated with “blue,” it was quite easy to see myself and my preferred mode of communicating. Blues are interested in logic and order, facts and data. Blues enjoy analyzing and editing and value efficiency. And, blues typically engage in non-personal, straight-line thinking. In short, blues like to get down to business. Though I understood this blueness to clearly be my preferred style for communicating, I was also quick to share with my group that this preference for straight-to-the-point, analytical communication did not mean I was unaware that feelings are real and that relationships play an important part in communication as well as living together with others. But, again, I admit that the relational, feeling pieces are something I have had to (and continue to) develop as I realize it is not my natural way of being in the world.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time of study in Arizona this past January and believe it provided me with valuable information and experience for my continued ministry. Through exploring my personality and communication preferences, I have grown in understanding how these are assets as well as limitations to me as I seek to engage in ministry and interact with others. It has also helped me to better understand where others are coming from; not everyone is just like me (if you can believe it! 😊). The time spent in study and conversation with my cohort during this time served to further broaden my perspective and understanding of the various differences we all have as human beings. (I was the only ENTP and the single “blue” among us. A third of my cohort came out as ENFPs and over half identified as “reds.”)

I hope that this brief glance into my personality and communication preferences will prove to be helpful to you, as it certainly will be for me, as we continue to work together to more fully follow in the way of Jesus.



Bible Study

You are encouraged to join in our Bible study group. The group meets in the **Parish House** each **Thursday** at **5:00pm-6:00pm**. We are reading and discussing the book “The Bible: A Biography” by Karen Armstrong. Through the course of the book, Armstrong discusses the conception, gestation, and life of history’s most powerful book. If you are interested in participating in this 10-week study, please purchase a copy of the book. We are reading and discussing one chapter per week. Our February schedule is as follows: February 2nd—Chapter 3; February 9th—Chapter 4; February 16th—Chapter 5; February 23rd—Chapter 6. Contact Rev. Petersen with any questions or concerns.

New Library Books

There are two new books available in our Church Library that you are encouraged to check out and read. “How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian” by John Dominic Crossan was recently used for our Thursday evening Bible study. It is an interesting and challenging read (just ask anyone who was a part of the Bible study group!) that addresses the question: “Is God violent?” The book was donated by Kathy Fisher (one of our out-of-town Bible study participants). Additionally, Marcus Borg’s “Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary” was donated by Sherry Bachman. This book is currently being read and discussed by our Morning Circle group. Borg puts forth a new paradigm for understanding who Jesus was and what that means for those who seek to follow him. Why not check one out today? Happy reading!



Morning Circle

The next meeting of *Morning Circle* will be **Wednesday, February 15th** at **9:30am** with Jamie Sawin 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 2 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 February 15th at the Parish House.

... Service

Progress Industries

A helping hand has been extended to Progress Industries in the form of a place to eat lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Each member of the group (usually no more than eight) brings their own lunch, and they are with a counselor. They spend about an hour in the dining room and do some activity following their lunch.

Duane and Carolyn Hobbs have served as hosts and would welcome some volunteers as back-up when they cannot be present.

This new requirement that PI persons get out in the community for work projects and other activities means they need this kind of help. Other places that have provided space include the Elks Club, the YMCA, and perhaps other churches.



Food Pantry Sundays

The first Sunday of each month we receive donations for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. On **Sunday, February 5th** 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.



"Barking Good" Project

The Progress Industries partnership with UCC of making and baking dog treats in the church kitchen ended for 2016 on October 17th. It will resume again in April of 2017. Dozens of treats have been 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



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, February 19th**.

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

Our partnership with Progress Industries (PI) working with PI participants and staff for a church cleaning project ended for 2016 on November 22nd. It will resume again in March or April. Under the guidance of Carolyn and Duane Hobbs a small group from PI was doing some light cleaning and dusting in the sanctuary, library, and other areas of the church building.



Prayers and Concerns

Please hold in prayer

- ◆ Ann Raridon
- ◆ Carrie Osborne
- ◆ Sue Anderson
- ◆ Jim Lukefahr
- ◆ Patricia Hybl
- ◆ Jo Austad
- ◆ Joseph Geiger Jr., Sherry Bachman's uncle



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 in the Nurse's Nook during Fellowship Time the second Sunday of each month. If you are curious about your blood pressure reading, stop in to see Carolyn on **Sunday, February 12th**.

Community Meals Update

On Wednesday, January 18th, seven Congregational United Church of Christ volunteers served eighty-five meals at the First United Methodist Church. Also contributing were ten bakers who furnished poke cake for dessert which was enjoyed by everyone along with Bev Edge's white chicken chili. Thanks to all who participated.

If you have not taken the opportunity to assist, please consider doing so. CUCC is responsible for the meal on the third Wednesday of every month, and new workers are always welcome even for one evening with the next date being **February 15th**. Be adventuresome and try something different. You won't regret that you did.

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

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, 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>January Attendance</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
First Sunday	40	27
Second Sunday	23	38
Third Sunday	21	39
Fourth Sunday	30	59
Fifth Sunday	31	37



BIRTHDAYS

to Celebrate in February

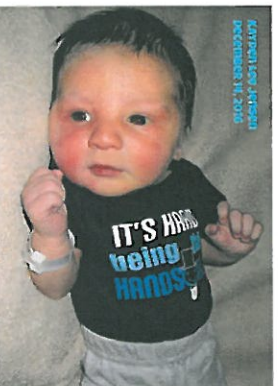
- 2-Tom Turk, Oliver Planer, Aiden Planer
- 3-Askel Joy
- 6-Carver Christenson-Vasquez
- 7-Todd Planer
- 14-Coridan McGinley
- 17-Nile McCoy
- 19-Emma Fresh, Jamie Sawin
- 21-Amber Christenson
- 23-Bonnie McGinley
- 27-Bev Edge, Larry Brody, Kristina McNew, Les Morgan

Congratulations to

James & Jenny Jansen

James and Jenny Jensen welcomed Kayden Lee into the world on Thursday, December 14th, 2016 at 9:07pm. He's a big boy coming in at 8lbs. 11oz. and 21 3/4 inches long! Mom, Dad, and baby are all doing well.

Congratulations to James and Jenny on the birth of their first child! And, welcome, Kayden! Your church family looks forward to meeting you soon!



Take note....

Incident Weather Policy

As we are all aware, Iowa weather is always unpredictable. In the event of inclement weather, please check television stations KCCI and WHO or radio station KCOB to learn of any cancellations of worship services or other church events.

Deadline for Open Door Articles

The deadline for submitting articles for the March Open Door newsletter is **Friday, February 17th**.

Save the Date: Leadership Retreat

After morning worship on **Sunday, March 5th, 11:45am-1:15pm**, all committee members and church officers are encouraged to gather in the **Dining Room** for a leadership retreat. Participants are encouraged to grab a snack and connect with the rest of the congregation during a brief refreshment time and then to gather in the Dining Room. During our time together, we will get to know a bit more about one another and our communication styles and work together in committees and as a larger group to develop our church calendar for the year ahead. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Rev. Petersen with any questions.

Church Council

Regular Meeting Date Changed

At the January meeting of the Church Council, the decision was made to move our regular monthly meeting to the **last Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm**. The Council will begin to meet at this new time in February with our meeting taking place on **Wednesday, February 22nd**. Any agenda items that need to be discussed by the Council should be passed on to Craig Armstrong, Assistant Moderator, who will be leading the meeting in Jane Ann Cotton's stead.

My Internship Experience

Halfway! That's how far I am into the internship experience. The time has flown by and has been so meaningful. I thought now would be a good time to share how it's been going and what I'm learning.

This internship, this church, and this pastor were recommended by my discernment advisor as a great place to learn and grow. I could have completed my internship in any setting – it did not have to be in a church. I chose this church, and this church chose me! I wanted to learn about church leadership, worship design and planning, and preaching. The question I am trying to answer is: “Am I going to be a parish pastor or lead a non-profit organization?”

I could not feel more welcomed or more supported by Rev. Petersen and the entire congregation! I have been attending church committee meetings, including: Worship & Music, Facilities & Finance, and Church Council. This has given me great insight into how the church functions and how the church relies so heavily on its members to survive – and thrive!

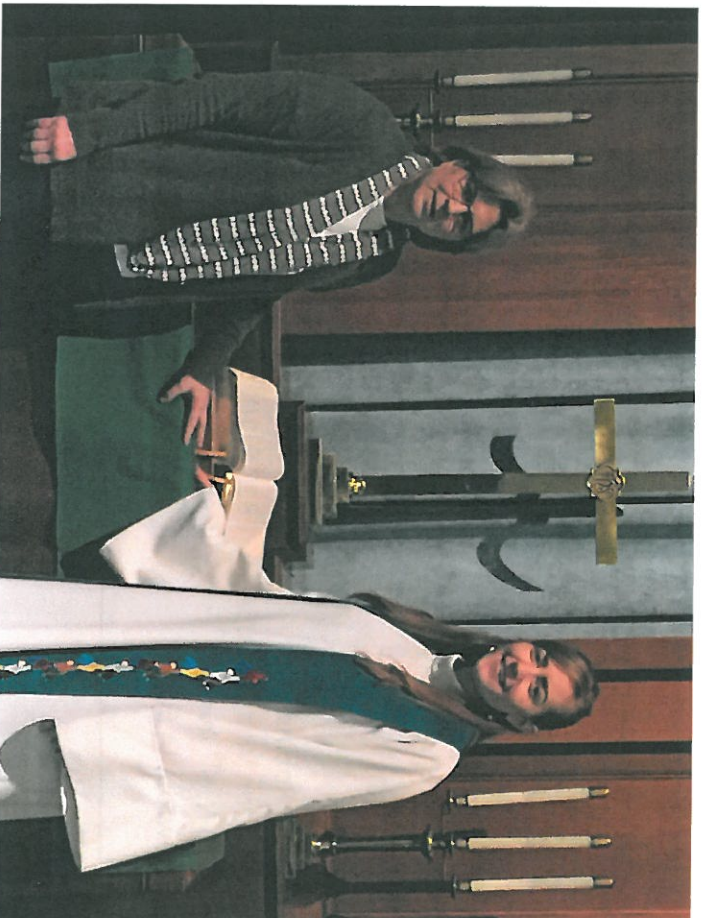
You have probably all noticed that I've been participating in leading different parts of worship and preaching. Each time I do something I get more comfortable. What you don't notice is that I also write the liturgy and prepare the bulletin for the Sundays I am preaching. This has helped me learn about the behind-the-scenes processes that take place during the week to prepare for Sunday.

In addition to being supervised by Rev. Petersen, I also have a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) consisting of April Faidley, Bev Thomas and Jamie Sawin. I meet monthly with the committee whose responsibility is to review my goals, provide feedback on how I'm doing and offer suggestions as to how I am growing as a pastor. I also invite everyone to speak directly with me or to the committee members if you have input or feedback that would be helpful for my growth.

This internship has had a greater impact on my future career path than I ever imaged. The experience has me leaning more toward becoming a parish pastor and not a career of social change in a non-profit organization. I have so thoroughly enjoyed being here and getting to know each of you personally.

My job is church consulting. Most churches I'm consulting with are very unhealthy, embroiled in deep and systematic conflict. There is a way to a healthier future. Being at Congregational UCC has shown me a healthier side of church. It's refreshing and it's necessary for the future. I've seen how this church responds to visitors on a Sunday morning. They are greeted and greeted and welcomed and made to feel at home. Believe me – this does not happen at every church!

Thank you everyone for welcoming me and being open to my learning and growing experience and being on the journey with me. This time is going so fast, and I'm really having a great time. ~ *Carla Cain*



Worship Schedule for February

Date	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Christian Calendar Date	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany	Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany	Transfiguration Sunday
Special Events	Communion	Blood Pressure Monitoring		
Special Offerings	Food Pantry Donations		JCARL Collection	
Greeters	Lin Chapé	Craig Armstrong	Les Morgan	Sherry Bachman, Carolyn Hobbs
Ushers	Lin Chapé, Stormy Storms	Les Morgan, Duane Hobbs	Catfish Cottrell, Alex Schoettmer	Alicia Mitchell and Summer Margritz
Lay Readers	Jenni Pryke	Jamie Sawin	Craig Armstrong	Stormy Storms
Scripture	Matthew 5:13-20	Matthew 5:21-37	Matthew 5:38-48	Matthew 17:1-9
Worship Color	White	Green	Green	White

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

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 st St. N. Newton, IA 50208	Betty Hotchkin Park Centre #66 500 1 st St. N. Newton, IA 50208	Scott Kingery Careage of Newton 2130 W. 18 th St. S. Newton, IA 50208	Steven McGinley 1003 E. 15 th St. S. Newton, IA 50208
Jim Lukefahr Newton Village #14 110 N. 5 th Ave. W. Newton, IA 50208	Carol Robinson Newton Village #206A 110 N. 5 th Ave. W. Newton, IA 50208	Jean Townsend 1310 S. 10 th Ave. E. Newton, IA 50208	Pat Hybl Newton Village #114 110 N. 5 th Ave. W. Newton, IA 50208

Sundays
10:00am Worship
11:15am Fellowship Time

FEBRUARY 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02 5:00pm Bible Study	03	04
05 Communion Food Pantry Donations 11:45am Service & Outreach Mtg.	06	07 5:00p Worship & Music	08 3:30pm Pastoral Relations Committee 6:00pm Facilities & Finance	09 5:00pm Bible Study	10	11
12 Blood Pressure Checks	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 9:30am Morning Circle	16 5:00pm Bible Study	17 Deadline for Open Door Articles	18
19 JCARL Collection	20 PRESIDENTS DAY 	21 7:00pm Carla's CAC Training	22 6:00pm Church Council	23 5:00pm Bible Study	24	25
26	27 5:15pm Strategic Planning Team Small Group	28 6:00pm Racial Justice Group	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@mediacommb.net
Organist	Judy Brody	792-8129	ljbrody@windstream.net
Choir Director	Bev Thomas	792-6465	thomashb@iowatelecom.net
Custodian	Jim Christenson	641-792-3773 (Office) 641-781-0596 (Cell)	uccnewton@mediacommb.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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