

The Open Door

June/July 2019



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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Fuller Scholarship Recipients: Spring 2019 Awards

Eve Fuller fulfilled the wishes of her husband, Max, and her own by leaving the bulk of their estate to our church to establish scholarships for children of members who were working toward a four-year degree. Our congregation recently updated the standards for these scholarships while seeking to stay true to the Fullers' intent in establishing the scholarship fund.

The purpose of these scholarships is to provide post-secondary education scholarships (for both full-time and part-time enrollment), and scholarships are awarded by priority based on the student's intent to complete a post-secondary degree according to the following (listed in priority order): Baccalaureate/Bachelor's Degree; Associate Degrees; Certificate program, Diploma program, Trades program; and Advanced Degrees. Additionally, in order to be eligible to receive a Fuller Scholarship, the applicant, and/or a parent or grandparent of the applicant must be a member of the Congregational United Church of Christ, in Newton, Iowa (at the time of the application).

Since the inception of awarding these scholarships in 1996, a total of \$180,500 has been awarded. The next scholarship application deadline is December 1st.

The 10 scholarship recipients for the 2019-2020 school year are as follows:

Cutter Bence is the son of Shawn and Sheila Bence and grandson of Les and Teresa Morgan. He graduated from Newton Senior High School in May 2019. Cutter plans to attend DMACC Ankeny to earn his AAS in Animation and Rich Media. He expects to graduate in May 2021 and then would like to work for a production company. He also wants to start a family and support them throughout his life.

Alexis Borgestad is the daughter of Cameron and Jill McGinley and granddaughter of Bonnie and the late Steven McGinley. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in December 2016 with her Bachelor of Arts in Biology Honors Research, Chemistry minor, and Global Health Certificate. She is currently enrolled in the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and anticipates graduating with her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in May 2021. Alexis's goal is to become a practicing dentist, and she might want to become a specialty dentist. After being immersed more fully in the dental world, she sees how saving teeth, or saving our teeth as we get older can really have a large impact on our quality of life and has

begun to have a heavy focus on preventative measures as well as making saving key teeth a priority. There are numerous amazing programs she looks forward to being a part of when she has her DDS that include school intervention programs as well as nursing home prevention days. She is also interested in tooth saving measures such as root canals. Alexis has found that quality of life in regards to our teeth has a larger impact that one would expect, and she wants to work to change the narrative and the understanding of what a patient's options are when it comes to saving teeth and replacing them.

Brooke Caves is the daughter of Angela and Michael Caves and granddaughter David and Dorothy Raymond. She graduated from Oskaloosa High School in 2016 and is currently attending Central College working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with an anticipated graduation date of May 2020. She is also getting endorsements in reading and special education. Brooke's goal is to teach for a few years in a general education classroom and then work her way into a special education classroom. Her interest in teaching is spurred by a desire to foster a love for learning in kids and provide a welcoming environment to grow and be unique.

Macy Caves is the daughter of Kenny and Lora Caves and the granddaughter of David & Dorothy Raymond. She graduated from Newton High School in 2016. Macy is currently a junior at Grand View University and is enrolled in the nursing program. She expects to graduate with her RN/BSN in April 2020. She also has a psychology minor. Macy's goal is to work in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). She has a strong interest in working with children and is confident that is her vocation in life.

Reece Caves is the son of Kenny and Lora Caves and grandson of David & Dorothy Raymond. He graduated from Newton Senior High School in May 2019. Reece plans on going to DMACC for their nursing program, which will take about two years to complete. Once he graduates, he plans to begin working somewhere while also completing his BSN online.

Joy Faidley-Leitner is the daughter of April Faidley & Larry Leitner. She graduated from Ankeny High School in May 2019. She will attend Iowa State University to study mathematics. After college, Joy plans to enter the field of education. It is her belief that many of the students who dislike math feel that way because they never had a full understanding of the basic concepts of math. She wants to prevent this by helping students who struggle with basic math principles.

Reid McGinley is the son of Cameron and Jill McGinley and grandson of Bonnie and the late Steven McGinley. He graduated from Pella High School in May 2019. Reid will be attending Iowa State University in the fall of 2019 where he will major in Biology to prepare for a career in the medial field such as Chiropractic or Optometry. Following graduation from Iowa State, he plans to further his education at a Chiropractic or Optometry program. His goal is to have his own practice and provide outreach to his community. Reid hopes to have a family and raise his kids to be hard-working and respectful people. He plans to be involved in his children's activities through coaching youth sports. Another goal of his is to be well-vested in his community through volunteer work and through his church.

Ridge McGinley is the son of Cameron and Jill McGinley and grandson of Bonnie and the late Steven McGinley. He graduated from Pella Community High School in May 2017. He is currently attending Chapman University where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance. He is also pursuing a minor in advertising and anticipates graduating in May 2021. This summer, he plans to work at O'Brien Center for the Arts in San Francisco where he will be choreographing and teaching dance. He will also be working as a finance consultant at Technicolor Consultants in Petaluma, California. In the future, Ridge plans to apply for the Netherlands Dance Theater summer intensive and eventually work for the company in Europe as a professional dancer. He is also hoping to move to New York City after college and work as a professional dancer on Broadway.

Abigail Raymond is the daughter of Natalie Maaz and Royce Raymond and the granddaughter of David and Dorothy Raymond. She graduated from Madison Area Technical College with Associate Degree in May 2019. Abigail plans to continue her education at the University of Wisconsin—Madison to earn her bachelor's degree. She has applied to the early childhood education program and hopes to become an early childhood teacher.

Zachary Raymond is the son of Natalie Maaz and Royce Raymond and grandson of David and Dorothy Raymond. He graduated from Baraboo High School in 2016. He is currently enrolled at the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point, and his goal is to graduate with a health promotion wellness degree in May 2020. After college, he plans to pursue a job in the health field as either a health coach or possibly a wellness coordinator. He is currently still figuring out what direction he will take with this major.

HYMN SING

Worship

Hymn Sing Sunday

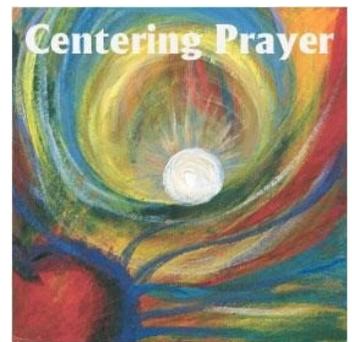
We will have a **Hymn Sing Sunday** on **June 16th** while Rev. Petersen is away at the Iowa Conference Annual Meeting. Please share a favorite hymn or two you would like to sing that day by writing it on the Parlor marker board, putting a slip in the offering plate during Sunday morning worship, or connecting with Rev. Petersen directly by Sunday, June 9th.

Welcome, Rev. Teresa Clark!

Rev. Teresa Clark will preach and lead us in worship on **Sunday, June 23rd** while Rev. Petersen is on vacation. Please plan to attend worship that Sunday offer Rev. Clark a warm Congregation UCC welcome and listen for the good word she has to share with us.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer has been offered weekly during Eastertide (April 21st—June 8th). 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**, with the final gathering of the season on June 6th. Please contact April Faidley with any questions.



Education

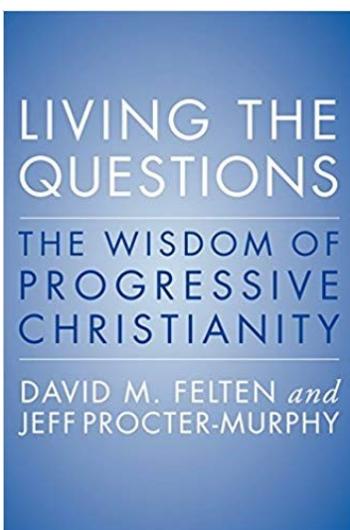
“Living the Questions” Study

You are invited to join us in the Parish House on **Thursdays, 5:00pm-6:00pm, through June 13th** as we continue our study using the book “Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity” by David M. Felton and Jeff Procter-Murphy (pastors with more than 40 years combined experience in local church ministry). “Living the Questions explores matters many churches are afraid to address including the humanity of Jesus and homosexuality and examines in a new light traditional faith topics such as the Bible, atonement, salvation, the rapture, and more.” (from back cover)

Participants should read the designated section of the book (approximately 20 pages) prior to our Thursday meeting and be prepared to discuss any thoughts, questions, and curiosities spurred by the weekly reading. The reading schedule for this month is as follows: June 6th—Chapters 17 and 18 (Incarnation and Prayer), and June 13th (final meeting)—Chapters 19–21 (Compassion, Creative Transformation, and Embracing Mystery).

Participation in the earlier study of this book is not necessary. If you have not yet participated in our Thursday evening study, this is a great time to check it out! Please contact Rev. Petersen with any questions.

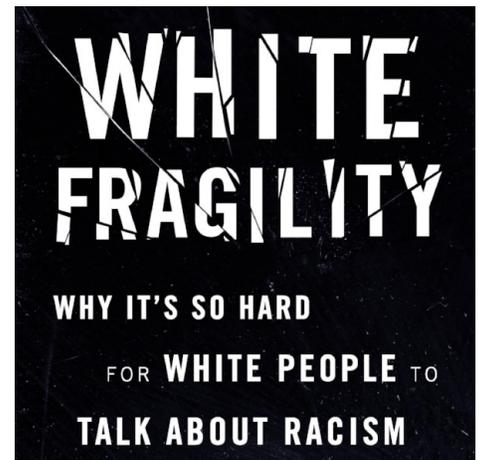
Following the conclusion of this study, our Thursday evening Bible study will take a break for the summer and reconvene for a new study in September.



Education cont.

Racial Harmony & Justice Book Club

Those interested in promoting racial harmony and justice in our community are encouraged to gather for the Racial Harmony and Justice Book Club at **6:00pm-7:00pm** on the first Monday of each month at **The Cellar Peanut Pub** (403 W 4th St. N, Newton). Over the course of five meetings (March-July), participants are reading and discussing “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism” by Robin DiAngelo. For , participants should read and come prepared to discuss Chapters 7-9 for the **June 3rd** gathering and Chapters 10-12 for the **July 1st** gathering. Please contact Rev. Petersen with any questions.



Pub Theology

Pub Theology meets on the fourth Monday of each month from **6:00pm-7:00pm** at **The Cellar Peanut Pub**. The group will meet on **Monday, June 24th** and **Monday, July 22nd**. We are offering this ministry in cooperation with First Presbyterian Church. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own beverages and encouraged to drink responsibly. No purchase is required. Contact Rev. Petersen with any questions. Hope to see you there!

What Is Pub Theology? (from pubtheology.com)

People have been gathering in pubs and public spaces for ages, talking about life, philosophy, faith, and deep questions of meaning. Increasingly, people all over are rediscovering the pub as a safe, open space where they can explore and express their own doubts and questions, learn from others, and engage people of varying religious traditions. In our increasingly fractured society, these spaces are not only welcome, but needed.

The format is simple: beer, conversation, and God. Come bring your questions, your curiosity, and pull up a chair. Be ready to engage with people of varying religious traditions, philosophical perspectives, and life experiences. You’ll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way, and hey—there’s likely to be a good craft beer you haven’t tried yet!



Morning Circle

The next meeting of *Morning Circle* will be **Wednesday, June 26th at 9:30am**. Martha Ellsworth and April Faidley will serve as hosts, and Judy Brody will offer devotions. The group has concluded its study of “Radical Hope: Letters of Love and Dissent in Dangerous Times” edited by Carolina De Robertis. During the June gathering, we will be view and discuss a thought-provoking TED Talk and select our next book for study.

There will be **no meeting of Morning Circle in July**.

All are welcome to join us as we come together for fellowship, devotions, and study seeking to follow more closely in the way of Jesus.



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. Complete minutes of each Council meeting are available in the church office. Below please find highlights from the May 8th Council meeting.

- **Treasurer's report:** Our current checking account balance is \$7,804.65. We spent \$1,837.91 more than we took in for this month.
- **Maintenance report:** Our newly formed building and grounds committee is keeping a running list of project-ed tasks that will need volunteers for help. These tasks were reviewed.
- **Fuller Scholarships:** 10 scholarships were awarded for a total of \$19,500. Notification letters have been sent.
- **Matters of note:** The new projector and banner have arrived. We are still waiting for our ONA certificate.
- **Active Shooter Training:** Several members of Council visited with Wayne Winchell and walked through our building. It is recommended that Council do awareness training. Lieutenant Winchell is doing an assessment of our building in terms of vulnerability and will share his report for consideration by the Council.
- **PI Partnership:** All went well with the second-grade tours. It was decided to do it again next year. We clarified that it is a PI Project, not a UCC project. We still need changes in the proposed Letter of Agreement for possible regular building use, especially the time frame. We need to consider compensation for the building use and need clarifications on snow removal and other issues. PI will be contacted for refinement of the agreement to make it more specific.
- **Personnel Matters:** According to our bylaws, Council is our "chief administrative body." The Moderator is in effect the CEO. Staff job descriptions, salary, hiring/firing must be carefully followed. Council must take formal action on policies. Council will act on all job descriptions during next month's meeting.
- **Facing Our Financial Reality:**
 - ◇ Reviewing and updating our church profile (which is supposed to be a living document) will provide greater clarity on where we are going as a congregation. It is recommended we do such a review every three years. Council will receive a link for further study on this.
 - ◇ Sharing resources with another congregation—where are we? How do we get to the point where income and expenditures match? How long do we wait? The possibility of sharing resources (at minimum, sharing a pastor) will be discussed with the congregation during the Congregational Conversation on June 9. The small group to prepare for this conversation is April, Lin, Norm, and Jane Ann.
- **Outreach:** We will further investigate local events in which we might participate. Regarding inviting Pete Buttigieg, Rev. Petersen got a response from one of his Iowa organizers. There was opposition to the church sponsoring his possible visit to Newton because it might give the appearance that our congregation is endorsing him. Rev. Petersen will inform the organizer. We will reach out to other members to plan a back to school event.
- **Other:** Upcoming dates were reviewed. The Capitol City Pride Parade (June 9); we will not participate as a congregation due to Newton Fest and reunion weekend in Newton. Jamie noted very positive comments regarding our "all gender restroom" signs on Facebook from Robert Ramsey.

Jamie Sawin, Secretary

Service and Outreach

Prayers and Concerns

Please hold in prayer

◆ Hilary Montalvo

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



“Doggone Good Treats” Project

The Progress Industries (PI) and CUCC baking activity is starting back up after an extended break. The church kitchen will once again serve as the center for the making and baking of dog treats on the second and fourth Mondays at 1:30pm (see calendar for dates). 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!

Please contact Stormy if you’d like to help!

End of Summer Celebration

We are planning another end of the summer/beginning of the school year event for late August (similar to last year’s 100th birthday party for our building) and we need YOU to make it happen. Please contact Rev. Petersen if you are interested in helping with the planning.



Emergency Pastoral Care

Rev. David Raymond (641-521-1506) will be offering emergency pastoral care while Rev. Petersen is on vacation **June 17th-23rd**. Thank you, Rev. Raymond, for serving our congregation in this important way.

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, host fellowship time, mow the church lawn 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.

CUE Special Offering

The CUE Regional Seminary Support Program brings together over 2,000 United Church of Christ churches in mid-America, Local Church Ministries, and Chicago, United, and Eden Theological Seminaries, our three United Church of Christ seminaries in this region. We will receive our CUE special offering during worship on **Sunday, June 30th** to support these three historical UCC seminaries and the quality education they offer to prepare leaders in the church for ministry and mission.

Chicago • United • Eden

CUE SEMINARIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Attendance

<u>May Attendance</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	34	35
Second Sunday	31	33
Third Sunday	30	27
Fourth Sunday	27	26



Birthdays to Celebrate in June

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

Birthdays to Celebrate in July

2-Mady McKim, Marti Barker, Judy Brassfield	11-Talbot Mastio
3-Sherry Bachman	14-Katy Fresh, Mason Pryke, Lindsay Wilson
6-Lauren Fresh, 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- Barb & Steve Holdsworth	18-Jan & Tom Turk
5-Cindy Pollard & Gayla Snook	22-Bill & Karen Shump
13-Donna & Nile McCoy	30-Kenny & Lora Caves

Anniversaries to Celebrate in July

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

Rainbow Comma Pins

Show our congregation's welcome and affirmation of "persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure" (from our ONA Covenant) by wearing a rainbow comma pin. Pins are available for \$3.00 each and can be purchased by seeing Rev. Petersen or stopping in the office.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on **Wednesdays, June 12th and July 10th at 6:00pm in the Parish House**. Please contact Jane Ann Cotton, 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

Join in our next Congregational Conversation after an abbreviated worship service on **Sunday, June 9th** as we continue to discuss our congregation's current financial situation. Representatives of Church Council will present a suggestion from Council regarding the way ahead as we seek to continue faithfully engaging in the ministry to which God calls us. Please join the conversation and share your thoughts, questions, and ideas.

Ordination of Carla Cain

A Service of Ordination into Christian Ministry for Carla Cain will be held on **Sunday, June 9th at 5:00pm at Plymouth UCC** (4126 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines). Following the service, the celebration will continue at the home of Jo and Brice (4004 Grand Ave. #304, Des Moines). Food and drink will be provided. Families and kids are welcome!

If you are unable to attend but would like to offer your well wishes to Carla, please contact Rev. Petersen for her email and/or mailing address.

Sundays

10:00am Worship

11:15am Refreshments

June



Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2 Communion Food Pantry Donations	3 6:00pm Racial Justice Book Club	4	5 5:15pm Centering Prayer	6 5:00pm Bible Study	7	8
9 Graduate Recognition 10:45am Congregational Conversation (Finances) Pentecost	10 1:30pm PI Baking	11 10:00am PI Cleaning	12 6:00pm Church Council	13 5:00pm Bible Study	14 Iowa Conference Annual Meeting	15
16 JCARL Collection Father's Day IA Conf. Annual Mtg.	17	18	19	20	21	22 Rev. Petersen on vacation ... contact Rev. David Raymond for emergency pastoral care
23 Rev. Teresa Clark preaching Rev. Petersen on vacation	24 1:30pm PI Baking 6:00pm Pub Theology	25 10:00am PI Cleaning	26 9:30am Morning Circle	27	28	29
30 CUE Seminary Offering						

Sundays

10:00am Worship

11:15am Refreshments

July



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:00pm Racial Justice Book Club			Independence Day  Office Closed		
7 Communion Food Pantry Donations	8 1:30pm PI Baking	9 10:00am PI Cleaning	10 6:00pm Church Council	11	12	13
14	15 5:00pm Central Assoc. Advisory Council	16	17	18	19	20
21 JCARL Collection	22 1:30pm PI Baking 6:00pm Pub Theology	23 10:00am PI Cleaning	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Worship Schedule for June

Date	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
Christian Calendar Date	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Pentecost Sunday	Trinity Sunday	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Third Sunday after Pentecost
Special Events	Communion	Graduate Recognition	Hymn Sing	Rev. Teresa Clark preaching	
Special Offerings	Food Pantry Donations		JCARL Collection		CUE Seminary Offering
Scriptures	John 17:20-26	John 14:8-17	Psalm 96	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 4:14-21
Worship Color	White	Red	Green	Green	Green

Worship Schedule for July

Date	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Christian Calendar Date	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Special Events	Communion			
Special Offerings	Food Pantry Donations		JCARL Collection	
Scriptures	TBD	Psalm 15	Isaiah 33:15-16	Micah 6:8
Worship Color	White	Green	Green	Green

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

Red represents fire—the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

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

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
Pastor Emeritus	David Raymond		

Office hours: 2:00pm to 4:00pm Monday and Tuesday and 2:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday and Thursday



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

Newton Congregational UCC: www.uccnewton.org