

St Luke UMC

501 E 19th Street N
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-5736

March 15, 2024



THE BI-WEEKLY
Flame
CATCH THE FIRE!

College
student
SPOTLIGHT
March

Care Packages for our St Luke College Students

Our St Luke family includes several college students who are working hard (hopefully) on their studies and we would like to support and encourage them! There is an area outside the sanctuary that displays a poster of all of our students and a Student Spotlight table that will highlight two students each month. There are ideas for goodies to bring for a care package and bins underneath to place items. There is also a poster to sign. All items are due on the last Sunday of the month and will be sent to the students that week.

Abby Jennings

Junior at Simpson College,
Majoring in Biology

She loves to crochet, listen to music & watch tv. She enjoys going to the science center, the arboretum or just being in nature. You can find her listening to Boygenius, Phoebe Bridgers, Julien Baker, Lucy Dacus, Noah Kahan & Hozier.

Her superpower: Taking Naps

SIMPSON
COLLEGE

Class
of
2025



Class
of
2027

Aniston Chambers

Freshman at University of Northern Iowa,
Majoring in Psychology/Political Science

She enjoys shopping, hanging out with friends, going on hikes, and loves going to the beach, the mountains and to concerts. She also enjoys listening to Zach Bryan.

Her favorite verse: Joshua 1:9



Calling VBS Volunteers!

We want you! To help us spread the word of God to local youth during Vacation Bible School which is June 24-28. We need volunteers in the areas of: classroom teachers, crafts, snacks, recreation, music, and drama. If you are able to help, please contact Ann Leonard at annericleonard@gmail.com or call/text her at 641-521-2463.

Easter Lilies Welcome

If you would like to share an Easter lily to decorate the altar for Easter in honor or memory of someone, please contact the church office with your name and theirs by March 27. If you order the lilies to be delivered, have the florist call ahead before delivering to be sure someone is available at the church to receive them. You can also bring your lily on Sunday morning, just let the office know so we can be sure and honor your loved one.



Discover Hope Supper Club

St. Luke has committed to providing the evening meal for Discover Hope the first Tuesday of every other month. Our next meal will be on April 2. We will be having spaghetti and meatballs, tomato cucumber and apple salad, corn and fruit bread. If you would like to sign-up to provide food, monetary donations or to help serve the meal there will be a sign-up sheet on the servant's counter. All donations need to be put in the church kitchen by Sunday, March 31. Any questions please contact Joyce Stonehocker or Jan Lewis.



Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, March 28 from 9 am - 2 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans. If you would like more information about Days for Girls you can visit their website at www.daysforgirls.org.



Maundy Thursday Service

Join us Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 pm for a Maundy Thursday Worship Service. This will be a time of worship, prayer and reflection.



2024 Easter Offering

The NOW committee has chosen two very worthy causes for our 2024 Easter Offering. Our offering for Lent/Easter this year will be divided evenly between the two.

Recipient # 1: Flannel Fund for diapers. Did you hear we have surpassed our original goal of 300 cloth diapers? When we delivered 771 diapers to Midwest Mission in February, we have now donated over 10,000 cloth diapers. Karen will be telling us more about this ministry in a separate article. For our diaper project to continue, we need to be able to purchase flannel when it is needed. This year 1/2 of the Easter offering will be set aside for the purchase of flannel. All of these tiny diapers that have been and will continue to be made, are a blessing to mothers around the world.



Recipient #2: UMCOR National Disaster Response. When disasters strike within the United States and its territories, this fund allows UMCOR to respond quickly. Following a hurricane, a tornado, a wildfire and possibly even a blizzard, UMCOR responds, with food, supplies, assistance both financial and in-kind to support local relief work. This year 1/2 of our Easter offering will go toward the UMCOR National Disaster response fund.



2020 General Conference To Be Held in 2024

The 2020 General Conference will be held from April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The 2024 Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 10-13, 2024 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Originally scheduled for 2020, it's been postponed three times due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In March 2023, the Judicial Council ruled that annual conferences were "permitted to hold elections to fill vacancies in the General Conference delegation due to death, resignations, or otherwise, up to the maximum number of allocated delegates, provided vacancies cannot be filled with reserve delegates."

Legislation submitted for consideration in 2020 still stands, but there was an opportunity to submit new proposals as well.

One might think that a new meeting year and a new location and new proposals would lead to a new name for General Conference, but this is not so. The name remains "2020 General Conference."

In the United Methodist Book of Discipline, ¶ 14, it's stated that General Conference is to meet every four years, so a 2020 assembly must occur...even if it is greatly postponed.

What is General Conference?

The United Methodist Church has no pope.

But it does have a General Conference — the only body that can set official policy and speak for the international denomination.

General Conference brings together lay and clergy delegates from four continents whose decisions will affect how millions of United Methodists do church for years to come.

Think of the two-week gathering as a combination of a United Nations General Assembly, a U.S. congressional session and a time of rousing Christian worship.

The coming General Conference, now scheduled for April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina, comes at a particularly momentous time.

General Conference typically gathers every four years. But because of the COVID pandemic, the assembly could not meet in 2020. That means the last regular session was in May 2016 — nearly eight years ago.

In the interim, the denomination has seen a quarter of its U.S. churches depart under a disaffiliation policy that began in 2019 and expired at the end of 2023.

What comes next for the international denomination will be largely up to General Conference itself.

SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS FOR DH!



For every \$100,000.00 in receipts from Hy-Vee, they will donate \$1,000 to Discover Hope!



Mission Coalition is Collecting Hy-Vee Receipts for Discover Hope

Do you save your Hy-Vee receipts? We hope so because Newton Hy-Vee wants to give back to the community through DH!

Bring your Newton Hy-Vee receipts dated January 17, 2024, through January 17, 2025, and if they make it to \$100,000.00, Hy-Vee will donate \$1000 to Discover Hope 517!

This includes catering, floral deliveries, prescription purchases, filling up at the fuel pump - anything!

You can drop off receipts at St Luke by putting them in the Hy-Vee receipt container outside the office or you can also bring receipts directly to Discover Hope.

So start saving those receipts STARTING TODAY!

Volunteers Needed For Summer Weekly Plant Watering

We are looking for weekly volunteers to come out and water the plants around the church grounds this summer. If you are interested please sign up at the servant's counter as soon as possible so we can get the summer schedules made. Contact Lori Leix with any questions.



Mowers Wanted

Do you like to mow? St. Luke has an opportunity for you to help keep our lawn looking good. St Luke even has 2 riding mowers available to use. Sign up at the servant's counter if you are interested in mowing this summer so we can start working on the summer schedule. If you have questions, please contact Joel Mills.



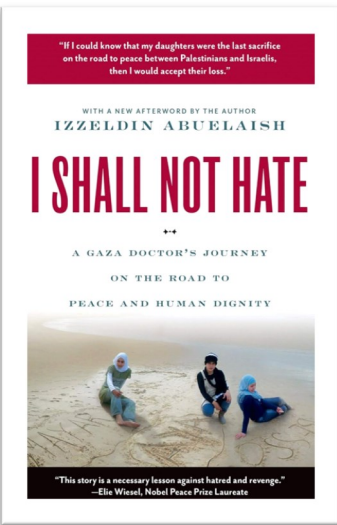


Camp Season Is Coming Soon

It's time to start planning and signing up for camp at one of the beautiful Iowa United Methodist Camps. Catalogs are available at the church or you can go online to check out what's available at www.iaumc.org/camps. Get ready for your adventure of a lifetime.

New St Luke Member

We would like to give a warm welcome to our newest member – Doug DeJong, who was received into membership on Sunday, March 3. Welcome to the St Luke family Doug! We are so glad you are here.



Monday Night Zoom Study Group New Book Starting April 8

We will be starting a new book for our Monday Night Zoom Study Group beginning April 8 at 6:30 pm. We will be reading the book "I Shall Not Hate" by Izzeldin Abuelaish. Books are \$15. If you are interested in joining this study please sign up at the servant's counter or contact Pastor Chad.

Grocery Sacks Needed

We are in need of plastic grocery sack donations. They will be used to make plarn (plastic yarn) to weave sleeping mats for the homeless. If you have any extra plastic grocery sacks you would like to donate please bring them to Joyce Stonehocker or put them in the donation box at the church.



Our Feeble Prayers, Our Father's Response

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond's semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

"You don't have to do this," Jim said. But Derek insisted. "Well, then, we're going to finish this together," said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad's assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: "What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."



Pressed

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for "olive press." During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

"All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances," the authors write. "We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
March 17	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Peg Kimberley
Greeters (2)	Nancy Ryan
Reader	Emily McConkey
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Pat Patty
March 24	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters (2)	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	Payton & Brenna Figland
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
March 31	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	Carolyn Cook
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	Lori Leix
April 7	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Peg Kimberley
Greeters (2)	Roy & Pat Patty
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	Camryn Lemons
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Joel Mills
Camera	Karin Mills
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Amy Murphy

Worship Assistants

For 2024 we are going to continue with passing sign up sheets around for 3 months at a time. This worked very well last year in getting more volunteer positions filled. We have had a wonderful response of volunteers for our first 3 months of 2024 and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. Most positions are filled now through June but there are still some spots open. If you would like to volunteer or see what positions are available you can email the church office at: worship@stlukenewton.com, use the sign-up sheets on the servant's counter or you can add your name to our online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:



<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help on Sunday mornings. Thank you St Luke Family!

Online Worship

If your schedule keeps you from attending worship, join our live-streamed worship services or watch past services by visiting our St Luke United Methodist Church YouTube channel. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office and we will be happy to help you.



Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings
chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com
 Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867
Adm. Assistant: Jennifer Etter
 Church Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 am -12 pm
worship@stlukenewton.com.
 Phone: 641-792-5736
Newsletter Editor: Corinne Kleppe
corinne.kleppe@grinnellmutual.com
 Phone: 641-831-2639
Article Submission by the 13th of month.
Website: www.stlukenewton.com
Website Manager: Stephen Pageler
Facebook: [St Luke Newton](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeNewton)
Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com

Worship Assistants

Please find a sub or trade if you cannot do it as scheduled. Then contact the church office so we can print correct names.





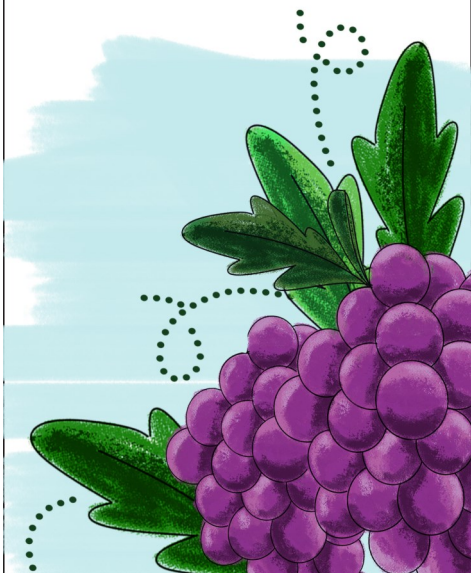
Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

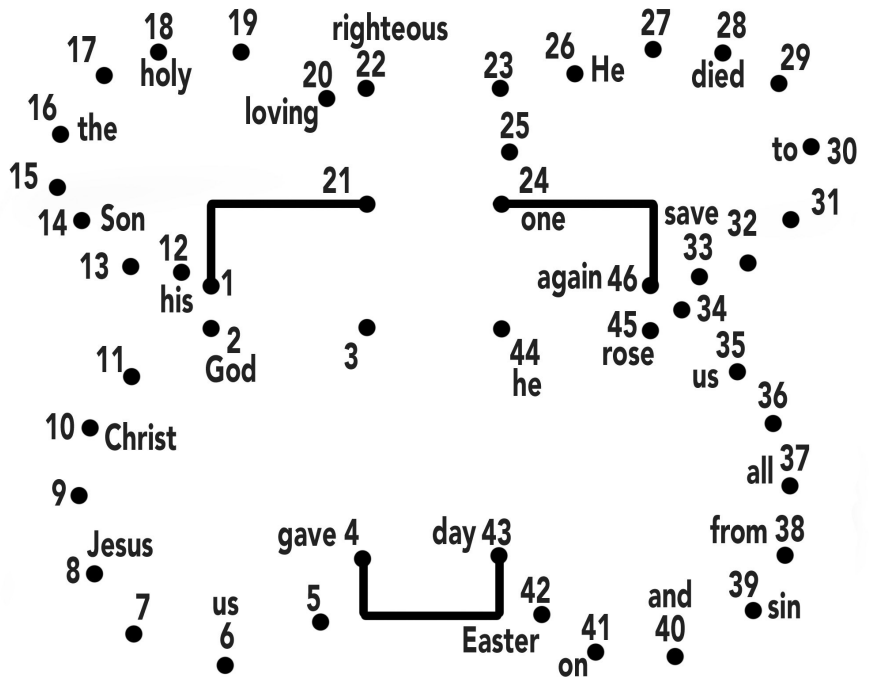
What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.



2	4	6	8	10	12	14
16	18	20	22	24		
26	28	30	33	35	37	38
40	41	42	43	44	45	46

Answer: God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son, the holy, loving, righteous one. He died to save us all from sin, and on Easter day he rose again.