

St Luke UMC

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

March 2019

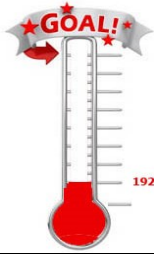


THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

2019 Apportionment

\$24,351



Financial Update

The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the churchwide budget to conferences and local churches.

For United Methodists this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition.

Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.

These offerings were received in the month of February:

Total of \$9469 which included:

- \$753 - Building Fund
- \$70 - Apportionments
- \$19 - Sunday School Supplies
- \$59 - Larry & Jane Kies
- \$169 - Heart of the House Offering
- \$92 - Disabilities Awareness Offering
- \$78 - Heifer International
- (Moolah Tube quarters)
- \$50 - Disaster Relief



March Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Macaroni and cheese, tuna and hamburger helper



Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday which is March 6th is St Luke United Methodist Church's annual pancake supper from 4:45-6:15 pm. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverages. The free will offering will be a part of our Easter offering which will go to Justice For Our Neighbors.

Ash Wednesday, March 6 Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday Worship March 6 @ 6:30 pm

Following the Pancake Supper there will be a Worship service with ashes.



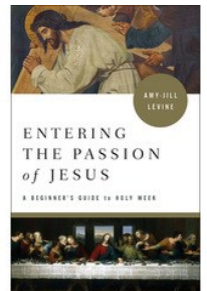
Lenten Study beginning in March

This year's Lenten study will be *Entering The Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. It explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story.

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

There will be 2 groups meeting for the Lenten study. One group will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am at the church. The other group will meet on Mondays at 1:30 pm at Katie Jones' apartment. Be sure to find a group to join starting the week after Ash Wednesday and meeting until Easter. Sign-up sheet is on the Servant's Counter.



The MMDC crew for February 2019





Where do we go from here?

At the recent General Conference, representatives from around the world gathered to make a decision about how the United Methodist Church would move forward around the issue of sexual ethics. The decision that was made was to continue the current practice of prohibiting marriage ceremonies of same-sex couples in our churches and the prohibition of homosexuals from being ordained as clergy. In addition, there were some measures passed that would strengthen the consequences for pastors who do either of these things.

Some of you may think this is a good result. Other may think it is not. Regardless of your view on this, we are now living in the aftermath of a divisive conference and the resulting pain that people will experience. Because the news of this had been picked up by national news media, even those who aren't involved in United Methodist churches are affected by this. You may have even had conversations with friends, coworkers, and family that wonder what is going on. In a recent conversation with pastors, it was expressed that there were no winners in this on either side. This is where we are.

But where do we go from here? We really don't know. There are still a lot of questions about what the final result will be. The decision has been referred to our highest court, the Judicial Council, to see if it is constitutional according to the Constitution of the United Methodist Church. This will happen in April, so we must wait until at least then to get a better view of the landscape. At this point, there is still a question as to whether any of it will stand if even one part is deemed unconstitutional.

Here's what I know. There is a place for you at St. Luke. If you agree with the General Conference decision, there is a place for you. If you are outraged by the decision, there is a place for you. If you would rather we don't talk about it, there is a place for you. And there is a place for those whom you care about. It is my belief, and the position of the UMC, that all persons are of sacred worth. All are welcome at St. Luke. All are worthy of God's love and ours. And that is enough.

There is still work to do. We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are called to share God's love with a world that is hurting. There is a lot of work to do. At the very least, we know that. And that is enough.

Join me in the continued mission that God has given us. And I am open to conversation, about this and anything else. Together, we will find our way.

Pastor Chad



MMDC Mission Trip Update

A group of 12 went to Midwest Mission Distribution Center the during last week of February. Some of their work centered on Cleaning Kits which are distributed during floods and other natural disasters. The list of contents is taped on the outside of the bucket. The bucket is filled assembly line style, a lid is pounded on and it is placed on a pallet. The pallet of 36 is shrink wrapped and stored on the shelf. When needed these leave the warehouse by the semi load. We pray they are never needed but know full well that when this snow all melts they will indeed be needed.



Others in the group worked on school desks. This is a process to behold with the end result of school desks made from used gym bleacher wood. These desks are designed for two students and they are shipped all over the world, when they are requested. Sometimes the shipping and delivery is done by the U.S. military. Pieces are cut and built in the downstairs desk shop, but finishing happens upstairs. The desks are built in two sizes for different ages of boys and girls. May God bless every student who benefits from one of these desks.

There are photos taken during the trip scattered throughout the Newsletter. Consider joining a group to MMDC in the future. You'll be glad you did.

Lenten Offering March 10 – April 14

This year, our Lenten offering will be an adventure. We will be providing you with a calendar which will help you to collect or set aside funds for a very worthy project: Iowa Justice For our Neighbors.

IOWA JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (JFON) is a non-profit organization, welcoming low-income immigrants of all faiths into our churches and communities, without regard to race, gender or religion by providing expert, free immigration legal services, education and advocacy to low-income immigrants and refugees. IJFON provides free, high quality immigration legal services, education and advocacy. Established by the United Methodist Committee on Relief in 1999, Iowa JFON helps people from all over the world. Clinics are held in Cedar Rapids, Columbus Junction, Des Moines, Ottumwa, Storm Lake, Decorah, and Marshalltown. JFON is recognized as the premier nonprofit in Iowa that provides immigration legal services to unaccompanied children. For more information on Iowa Justice for our Neighbors see their website: www.iowajfon.org



NOW Committee



United Methodist Women

March 20

1:15 pm

At St Luke UMC

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8

Program: Happy Birthday, UMW! Women Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith

By Betty Rhone

Hostess: Betty Rhone & Ella Hendershot

March 23 - UMW 150th Anniversary



Sunday School Mission offering

The 2nd through 5th Sundays of the month through April, our Sunday school offering will go toward meeting our covenant with Larry and Jane Kies. Larry and Jane are missionaries with Africa University in Zimbabwe. Larry, an Iowa native who grew up in Jesup, works as a technical Advisor to the Africa University farm in Mutare. Jane teaches Intensive English to students from non-English countries at Africa University.



The first Sunday of each month the Sunday school offering will go toward our Sunday school administration costs, including Sunday school materials.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW – Missions Chair



News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

This month's book is *Almost Everything* by Anne Lamott. It is subtitled Notes on Hope and I think it is just what we need as this winter hopefully winds down. This book is both profound and funny. Lamott calls for each of us to rediscover the nuggets of hope and wisdom buried within us that can make life sweeter than we ever imagined. Divided into short chapters that explore life's essential truths, the author pinpoints these moments of insight as it shines an encouraging light forward. Even when life is at its most bleak, when we are as she puts it, "doomed, stunned, exhausted, and over caffeinated," the seeds of rejuvenation are at hand. You can find out more, just check it out! This book and many more are in our little library in the corner by Chad's office.



SILENT AUCTION

SILENT AUCTION "HOUSE KEEPING"



Items non-sold at the conclusion of silent auctions will be later removed by auction personnel. If you choose to keep your donated item/s, please take them **after 9:30 a.m. on the designated day a silent auction concludes**. If you are unable to attend church that day, and want to keep your item/s, please arrange for a friend to do so for you.

Our February silent auction netted \$114 towards the physical improvement of St. Luke. THANK YOU for your contributions, in both donating and purchasing items, to the cause of St. Luke building renovations!

MMDC February 2019





My Story

Proverbs 3:5 ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

I had two experiences recently with poor visibility while driving. The first experience was driving on the interstate during an evening snowstorm. I80 is a straight shot and in good weather there are various visual cues to tell you where you are on the interstate. During a snowstorm... in the dark...those visual cues disappear. The effect was to cause tension and stress as the miles felt longer than normal. To finally see the Grinnell Exit sign was an immense relief.

The second experience was thick fog on a Sunday morning on Highway 6. The fog reduced visibility to less than a quarter mile. The difference, was twofold, one it was daylight and two, I drive Hwy 6 on a regular basis. As I drove that morning I was able to recognize the curves and hills as I drove, so even though I couldn't see very far into the distance, I always knew where I was on the highway. My tension and stress factors were much lower during that drive.

Faith is a road we must each travel. When we start our faith journey, we at times may feel like we are in a snowstorm. The way appears clouded and



muddled. We experience the tension and stress of the unknown. However, with time and with regular practice of prayer and worship, we learn to see the visual cues in the midst of the fog. We learn to see God's presence within the storm and we learn to trust that our path will eventually clear.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

God Bless your journey.

Corinne Kleppe - Editor

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter." —Rachel Carson



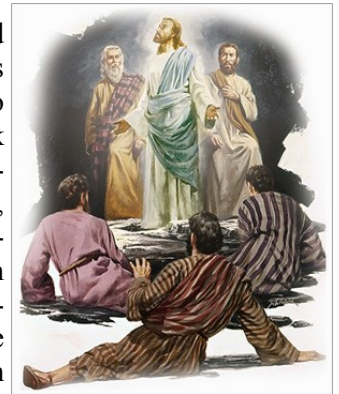
 	BIBLE STUDY Sunday School Class meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room
--	---

Living in Glory
Celebrating the many ways God's glory is revealed in our lives:
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

In Luke 9 Jesus is calling His disciples to see and feel the divine love of Him and the love to which *they* have been called, themselves. It is likely Jesus feels they have a lot to learn, and time is limited.

One day Jesus went away to pray, away from most of the disciples, climbing to a place of solitude. Along with Him He took Peter, James, and John. As Jesus began to pray, His companions' eyes grew heavy and the three fell asleep.

Upon awakening they were startled to see Jesus with His appearance as never before. Jesus' face seemed to glow radiantly and His garments took on a blinding whiteness. He was in conversation with two other figures who, the disciples somehow knew, were Moses and Elijah. Peter, James, and John overheard their conversation referencing Jesus' "departure," and how He would accomplish this departure from the capital city of Jerusalem.



Peter spoke, asking if it would be proper to construct three structures to honor Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. At this time a cloud then descended, enveloping all, with a voice: *This is My Son! This is the One I have chosen! Listen to Him!*

Then the voice was silent; the cloud disappeared, as did Moses and Elijah. Peter, James, and John did not speak for a long time, there with Jesus, who now stood with them, alone.

The Seasons of the Spirit **Bible Study** Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 to read about and discuss issues related to each week's prescribed lectionary readings. Please feel **welcome** to come join in the learning - every Sunday morning - after the 8 o'clock service, or before the 10:30 service!

Below are the lectionary scriptures the Sunday school class participants will be learning about each week in March. Consider taking the time to read these scriptures at home!

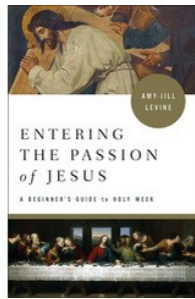
◇ Lectionary Readings for March 2019 ◇

- March 3: Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)** | Living in Glory
To celebrate the many ways God's glory is revealed in our lives.
- March 10: Deuteronomy 26:1-11** | A Place of Justice & Grace
To affirm and practice giving that is grounded in gratitude.
- March 17: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18** | Journey Towards Trust
To affirm trust in God's promises in times of hope and in times of fear.
- March 24: Isaiah 55:1-9** | Fed by the Glory
To respond to the invitation of God's generous and empowering grace.
- March 31: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32** | A Traitor for Grace
To explore forgiveness, grace, and reconciliation in the parable of the prodigal.

Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class will be doing the Lenten Study, *Entering The Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine starting on Sunday, March 10. (See page 1 for description.)

If you are looking for a class with variety and topical studies, this would be a good class for you. There is always room for more to join the conversation.



To God you shall return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can’t untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don’t have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin’s power over us.



A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we’re always safe in God’s love.

VBS Needs You

VBS will be July 15-19 and we need volunteers in the areas of teaching, recreation, music, and snacks. Anyone interested can let Ann Leonard know at church, by emailing annericleonard@gmail.com, or by calling 641-521-2463.



Want a printed copy of the Newsletter?

Printed copies of the Newsletter are available at the church. They can be found on the table by the church office.



Days For Girls

The Newton Days For Girls team now has an evening session.

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, March 28 from 9 am-2 pm and 6-9 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.



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.



MMDC February 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3 8/10:30 Worship - Communion 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.</p>   <p>SHARE order Deadline</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5 7 pm PEO - F Hall</p> 	<p>6</p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p>4:45-6:15 pm Pancake Supper</p> <p>6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service * No Choir Practices</p>	<p>7</p> <p>No Trustees meeting</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>MEALS ON WHEELS</p>
<p>10 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study</p>  	<p>11</p> <p>1:30 pm Lenten Study @ Katie Jones' Apartment</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 pm Care Core Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice 7 pm Page Turners Book Club</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7-8 am SHARE Pick-up @ 1st UMC 9 am PEO - F Hall</p> 
<p>17 St Patrick's Day 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study 6 pm ICIW @ Mitchellville</p>  	<p>18</p> <p>1:30 pm Lenten Study @ Katie Jones' Apartment</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 pm N.O.W. Meeting</p>	<p>20 1st Day of Spring</p>  <p>1:15 pm UMWomen @ St Luke</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7pm Quilt Guild - F Hall</p> <p>7 pm NAMI - Choir Room</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> 
<p>24 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>1:30 pm Lenten Study @ Katie Jones' Apartment</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 pm SPRC Meeting</p> <p>7 pm Mission Coalition</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>9 am - 2 pm 6 - 9 pm Day For Girls @ 1st Presbyterian</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> 
<p>31 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. Lenten Study</p>  <p>April SHARE order Deadline</p> 						

Read Calendar closely for events not appearing elsewhere in Newsletter. Thank you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March 3	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Carolyn Cook/Amy Onstot
Greeters	Chuck Springer	Jeff/Amy Murphy
Reader	Peg Ehler	Rose Evans
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Deb Stoulil	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Pam Andrews	Brooke Chambers
Care Core	Barb Swihart	Amy Murphy
Communion	Lisa Pageler Counters	Brad Patty/Barb Kaldenberg
March 10	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Dennis/Pam Smith
Greeters	Bill/Linda Hotger	Joe/Stefanie Squire
Readers	Dave Miller	Jeff Carter
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ava Smith
Nursery	Parents take turns	Mary Nelson
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Wendy Jennings
Fellowship	Rose Hartschen	Michelle O'Brien
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston
Counters		Russ Leix/Pat Patty
March 17	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Pageler Family	Mike/Kleo O'Brien
Greeters	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Readers	Mary Onstot	Corinne Kleppe
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty
Keyboard	Jan Lewis	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Peg Ehler	Jacob Murphy
Fellowship	Tamara Lloyd	Mikey Carter
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Rose Evans/Mike Kaldenberg
March 24	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Chuck Springer/ Ben Leonard	Lori Leix/ Mary Nelson
Greeters	Leonard Family	Mike Wood/ Brooke Chambers
Readers	Mike Kaldenberg	Russ Leix
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Aniston Chambers
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Brad Patty	Carolyn Cook
Fellowship	Peg Ehler	Amy Murphy
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Jenna McIntyre
Counters		Doug McIntyre/Deb Stoulil

Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings
 chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com
 Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867
Adm. Assistant: Shirley Guillaume
 Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 1:45-5:45pm
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](#)

St Luke News

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
 Your loving support means the world to Midwest Mission and the countless people who will be touched by your generosity. You are a shining light for Christ and a beacon of HOPE!

In His Service,
 Chantel Corrie
 Executive Director



March 31	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	John/Mary Onstot	Jeff Carter/ Lori Leix
Greeters	Pageler Family	Mary Nelson
Readers	Rose Hartschen	Katie Jones
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Corinne Kleppe	Corinne Kleppe
Projection	Deb Stoulil	Jeff Carter
Fellowship	Pam Stiles	Pat Patty
Care Core	Tamara Lloyd	Jenni Patty
Counters		Jenna McIntyre/ Jan Lewis

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.



A Special Blessing for those with March Birthdays

- March 2 Martha Stewart
- March 3 Roy Patty, Rhondi Machin, Chom Thongvanh
- March 4 Abby Jennings, Shirley Guillaume
- March 6 Ethan Pageler
- March 7 Brad Patty
- March 8 Aniston Chambers,
Allison Thongvanh
- March 15 Dale Fifer
- March 16 Jenni Patty, Dwight Huggins
- March 20 Shelley Vasquez
- March 22 Bryce Rhone
- March 24 Peg Ehler
- March 25 John Onstot
- March 27 Hannah Marston
- March 29 Alan Andrews



If your birthday is missing or incorrect, contact the office.

Weather Cancellation Policy

If school is cancelled/dismissed early due to weather, then St Luke activities are cancelled that day/evening as well. Sunday Worship is rarely cancelled. Check our Facebook page or listen to the radio for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.



“Never look down on anybody unless you’re helping him up.”

—Jesse Jackson

Newsletter

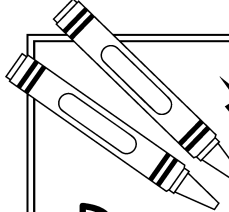


If you know someone that would like to receive the monthly Newsletter via email, please send their name and email address to the church office to be placed on the email list, at: Worship@StLukeNewton.com.

SHARE Food Program

Buying discounted groceries through SHARE is an easy way to stretch your food budget. You can check out and order online for the program at www.SHAREIOWA.com, or call First UMC. “SHARE boxes” can be ordered by Sunday, March 3 and picked up at First UMC on Saturday, March 16, between 7:00-8:00 am.





PUZZLE

Decode The days

At this time of year, God’s creation “springs” to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day’s total and write it on the correct blank below.

💡	🌱	☀️	🐦	🍎	🐟	✋
★	🐋	🐣	🐟	🦀	🌕	🌸
🌿	🐝	🕊️	🌙	🐛	🐔	🌳
🐜	🍏	🐛	🌿	🐮	👶	🐑
🌧️	🐘	👶	🕯️	🍷	👉	✨
👁️	🐔	👶	🐰	🐱	😊	👶
🌿	🐌	👶	🐛	☀️	🐮	🏔️

Day 1 (light) ____ **Day 2** (waters) ____ **Day 3** (land and plants) ____ **Day 4** (heavenly bodies) ____
Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ **Day 6** (land animals and people) ____ **Day 7** (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

... While on hold, Press #1
for Old Time Gospel music.
Press #2 for Gregorian Chant.
Press #3 for Christian Rock.
Press #4 for...



Dave Carpenter...