

St Luke UMC

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

May 2019



THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

2019 Apportionment

\$24,351



\$823

Financial Update

APPORTIONMENTS ARE MISSIONS.

For United Methodists the apportionment method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition. The **Min-**

isterial Education Fund is our way of helping men and women to answer the divine call to pastoral ministry. Our United Methodist seminaries lead the effort to proclaim God's word in a world desperately in need of that message. See more at www.umc.org/how-we-serve/apportioned-funds.

These offerings were received the last Sunday in March and all of April:

Total of \$14,119 which included:

- \$1343 - Building Fund
- \$ 437 - Apportionments
- \$ 87 - Sunday School Supplies
- \$ 15 - Larry & Jane Kies
- \$ 592 - JFON
- \$ 120 - Iowa Disaster Relief
- \$ 50 - MMDC
- \$ 465 - Diakonos offering

Thank You!

You're Invited!

Graduation Parties

The parents of Jacob Murphy and Nathan Jennings invite you to come celebrate their son's graduation.

Jacob's party will be held on Sunday, May 26 from 5-8 pm at St Luke UMC.

Nathan's party will be held on Friday, May 31 from 5-8 pm at St Luke UMC also.

Congratulations to the 2019 St Luke graduates!

Newton Sr High

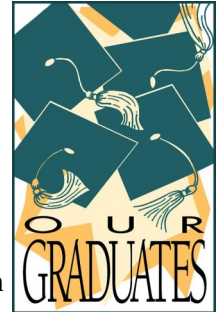
Nathan Jennings

Jacob Murphy

Dune Carter

We are gathering names for any graduates (high school or college) of our St Luke family. Are we missing anybody? Please call or email the office and give us the name of your graduate, to be sure they're included. We would also like a picture to put on display. Deadline for receiving your graduate's information/picture will be Tuesday, May 21.

We plan to celebrate their accomplishments with a reception on May 26 between services starting at 9 am.



Trash Bags & Flood Response Funds May 5, 2019

You have heard or read about our trash bag rolling adventures at Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC). Each cleaning bucket and each tornado kit created requires 24 trash bags. Let's send a "Flood" of trash bags to MMDC. The guidelines for each kit is 33-45 gallon trash bags. On Sunday, May 5th we will collect boxes and rolls of trash bags. Remember 33-45 gallon bags. As we have seen on every trip Chatham, they are always making cleaning buckets, which means they always need trash bags.



If you would prefer to give money for flood recovery, we will be collecting that as well. Donations to UMCOR can be made to US Disaster Response, Advance # 901670 or UMCOR. If you want to help flood recovery in Iowa, you can donate to Iowa Disaster Ministries Special Advance # 223. All donations go directly to churches in Iowa that need disaster relief support. You can write your check to St Luke and add a note to your memo line for which fund you prefer to give to.

N.O.W. Missions

Golden Cross Sunday Offering May 26

Golden Cross Offerings are used to celebrate health and welfare ministries and the roll in spiritual well-being within the annual conference. 100% of the offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference to fund grants to local churches and community groups.

GOLDEN CROSS
OFFERING



Last week, a ripple was sent around the globe. While the General Conference made some big decisions back in February, the Judicial Council review of those decisions show us the new landscape of the United Methodist Church.

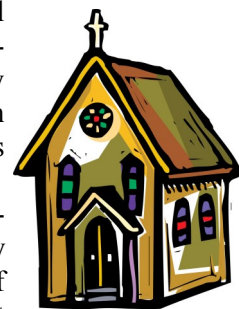
Some will say nothing has changed. Others will say that everything has changed. Both are right.



In February, the General Conference voted to approve the Traditional Plan. This plan kept the prohibitions against same-sex weddings being conducted in United Methodist churches or by United Methodist pastors. It also put forth some penalties for those who engage in this anyway. These included a mandatory one-year suspension without pay for a first offense and a rescinding of credentials for a second.

It also seemed to reaffirm that those wanting to be clergy could not be a “self-avowed practicing homosexual.” But, by mistake or by design, the word “practicing” was left out of the legislation. Before the legislation passed, those clergy who were gay but celibate could still serve the church. Now, it seems that even identifying as gay will bar those called by God.

In addition to these changes, there were a few additional safeguards included in the Traditional Plan. These included a certification by the bishop of each Annual Conference that the Board of Ordained Ministry, which is responsible for examining potential clergy and credentialing them, is only made up of people who promise in writing to uphold the Discipline of the United Methodist Church in its entirety. Bishops who don’t abide by this, or who don’t follow through with complaints brought against clergy may be sanctioned by the College of Bishops.



The Judicial reviewed 11 petitions for their constitutionality. 7 of them were deemed unconstitutional. The four that remained are: 1) the mandatory sentence of a one-year suspension for clergy who perform same-sex marriages, provided that they are found guilty at a church trial. 2) Boards of Ordained Ministry shall not recommend clergy they know to be gay for ordination. Bishops shall not Commission or Ordain those they know to be gay. 3) If a clergy person, or potential clergy person, publicly declares themselves to gay, that is proof that they are violating the Discipline. This declaration may be in the form of a marriage, a civil union, a domestic partnership, a social media post, or any other public declaration. 4) Bishops are still accountable to the other bishops in their Jurisdiction, called the Jurisdictional College of Bishops.

In addition to this, a petition was passed at the General Conference that made a provision for churches to leave the denomination with their property and liabilities. Currently, all church property is held in trust by the local church but is the property of the United Methodist Church. This means that if three conditions are met, individual congregations may choose to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church and affiliate with another denomination or become an independent entity. Those three conditions are 1) a two-thirds majority vote by all the members present at a called Church Conference to disaffiliate, 2) meeting the conditions set by the Annual Conference for disaffiliation (which at General Conference was that the church has paid in full the last 12 months of apportionments, plus the next 12 months of apportionments, plus any pension obligations that are determined), and 3) a simple majority vote by the Annual Conference for disaffiliation.

There have been several responses to this decision. In a pastoral letter by our resident bishop, Bishop Laurie Haller, she states, *The decisions of the 2019 General Conference have been perceived by many as appropriate. Others, however, see the decisions as excessively punitive, sending a clear message to the world that The United Methodist Church does not welcome all and is perpetuating injustice. This is especially concerning because many young adults today in the United States, especially, have grown up in a culture where diversity is mandated in schools and the workplace and intolerance against the LGBTQIA+ community is not accepted. They will not attend a church that excludes others from full participation.*

At the same time, The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. The 2016 Book of Discipline says (¶4.

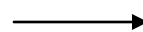
Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church), “All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.”



My heart aches for our beloved denomination right now because I dream of a fully inclusive church. I dream of a deeply Wesleyan and evangelical church that is welcoming of all, is focused on mission and outreach, and offers a place at the table for everyone.

This last weekend, at First United Methodist church of Omaha, Nebraska, the Confirmation Class decided not to be confirmed into membership. In a letter they wrote to the congregation, they stated that they were “disappointed about

Continued on page 3



the direction the United Methodist denomination is heading” and will wait for the response of the congregation before being confirmed. What a display of courage.

These changes go into effect on January 1, 2020. In May 2020, General Conference will meet again. I am sure that these issues will come up in some form at that General Conference. The special GC was meant to decide this issue so we could move past it, but with a vote of 438 to 384, and some questions around voter fraud, the decision cannot be called definitive.

Still, what the world has heard is that regardless of the nuances placed on the decisions, the United Methodist Church is anti-gay. This has hurt us. It has hurt those who are gay far more. Several statements have been made since this decision that say that all people are God’s children and all are welcome in United Methodist Churches, but that rings hollow. You are welcome, but only in certain areas. You may not get married here. You may not be a pastor here.

My heart is crying. My heart is broken. My heart is struggling with this.

And yet, there is still work to be done. The Church still has a mission to fulfill. So, for the time being, that’s what we need to remember. That’s where we need to put our focus.

There is still pain in the world that Jesus wants to heal. There is still hunger in the world that Jesus wants to feed. There is still hopelessness in the world that Jesus wants to overcome. There is still bondage that Jesus wants to free. We are the ones that need to do this.



So, we will still meet next week. And the week after that. We will still worship a God that is bigger than legislation. We will still welcome all of God’s children. All of them. And we will still love everyone that we come into contact with. That is our calling. That is essential to our identity as Christians.

As for the future...God is still writing that. We will encounter that together. And we will talk about that on the journey.

Thank you for your commitment to Christ and to St. Luke UMC.

Chad



Children’s Sunday School

- Sunday, May 19: Party
- Sunday, May 26: No Children’s Sunday School
- Sunday, June 2: One-Room Sunday School begins

Clothing Needed

Karin Mills has a mission that is dear to her heart and it might call to you also. She works at East High School in Des Moines which is a full-service school. This means that in addition to providing an education to its students, the school also provides clothing, food and health resources for the students. Currently they are in dire need of summer clothing for their students. They would appreciate any clean and appropriate donations for young men and women. The needed items include: **clothing, shoes and accessories.**



Donations can be brought to the church and left in the large box at the Missions Table.

The Memorial Committee Needs You!



The Memorial Committee is in need of 2 or 3 new members. This committee has a low commitment with a few meetings throughout the year as needed.

Perhaps you are wondering what the Memorial Committee does and why do we need it?

The Memorial Committee makes important decisions on how to use Memorial gifts that are left as a legacy in someone’s memory or honor to continue the life of the church.

If you’re interested in being a part of the Memorial Committee, please contact Pastor Chad.

Help Fill the Truck At Annual Conference

Midwest Mission Distribution Center will have a truck at Iowa Annual Conference June 7-11 in the Vet’s Auditorium parking.

Special needs for 2019 are these Layette Kit items:

- Gowns 0-6 months
- Cloth Diapers
- Diaper Pins

Midwest Mission needs kits of all types and items to put into kits including:

- Clean-up kits
- Health kits
- Layette kits
- Sewing kits
- School kits



Specific Midwest Mission items for refurbishing:

- Treadle Sewing Machines
- They are **NOT** taking bicycles this year.

St Luke Produce Table

Bring produce or take produce in exchange for a free-will donation in the Red Bucket for St Andrew Produce Project.





United Methodist Women

May 15

5:30 pm

Potluck At St Luke UMC

“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.”

James 2:26

Program: Sisterhood for Human Flourishing

By Katie Jones

Hostess: Esther Fifer

Sunday School Mission offering

The 2nd through 5th Sundays of the month through August, 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

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.



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.



News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

Easter has come and gone, but we live with the story of Easter every day. Our library has two versions of a wonderful tale which weaves together the Christmas story and the Easter story with lessons for all ages. These books are written for ages 4 and up but pay close attention to the “and up” as this tale can speak to anyone.



The Tale Of Three Trees retold by Angela Elwell Hunt and The Legend Of Three Trees adapted by Catherine McCafferty tells of three little trees and the dreams they each have for their lives. One tree dreams of becoming a treasure box and it is eventually used to build a manger. Another tree dreams of becoming a strong sailing ship and ultimately is used to build a small fishing boat which carries the disciples on a stormy night. The third tree dreams of being the tallest tree in the forest, pointing toward heaven as a signpost for God. That tree is used to make a cross. Did the dreams go unanswered? Well, they weren't answered exactly in the way the little trees planned, but God is able to see the strengths and talents of all and use each in the best way in His kingdom when we are willing to be used. Reinforce the lessons in this tale for yourself, your family or any children in your life.

You can find either book in the children's section of our library. Check them out today!

MMDC Mission Trips

The next trips scheduled for Midwest Mission Distribution Center are January 19-22, 2020 and February 23-26, 2020. Due to some changes at MMDC we have a tighter commitment schedule than in the past. I am asking that you make plans to go with us by the fall. I will need your commitment to go with the January team by November 10 and the February team by December 15. Please think ahead and make plans to go with us. We have reservations for a team of 10 in January and a team of 16 in February. There is work for everyone and there is lots of great fellowship. We would love to have you join us! See Karen Clark or any who have gone before if you have questions.



One-Room Sunday School

The One-Room Sunday School for children 3-years of age through 6th grade has begun. To give our school year teachers a break, volunteers are asked to sign-up to teach for a Sunday or two during the summer.

There is a sign-up sheet on the Servants Counter for volunteers to choose the Sunday they would like to teach. If you have questions about the program, please talk to Tamara Lloyd.





My Story

I went to the art fair in Valley Junction several different times when I lived in Clive. There was one particular artist whose work I absolutely loved. So I saved money and finally, I had enough put aside to purchase a trio of prints. The paintings are done in shades of blue, grey and white. Each painting is of winter tree. They are all beautiful in their simplicity. To this day, when I look at the paintings, I feel the beauty of that winter scene. At times it is almost as if I can feel the cold.

The creativity of artists, songwriters, poets and storytellers is a wonderful gift to share. I am always amazed when people have the ability to make us feel like we are a part of the art, story, song... They touch us with their creative expressions and make us feel.

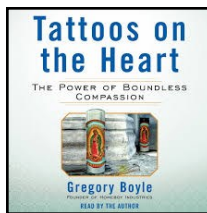


What if we all approached our faith in the same manner? To live out our faith so that others can feel our faith in our expressions. To touch the lives of others, simply by being God's creation and living into that creation, that is the goal. To never be afraid to express our faith in ways that others will begin to feel the love of Christ and perhaps want to know more, that is my prayer for myself and for you.

Corinne Kleppe - Editor

Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class is reading and discussing *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle which was recommended by Pastor Lee Schott when she visited St Luke last fall. Boyle runs Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in Los Angeles. The book was written about his experiences with the program, giving a look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally through universal kinship and redemption.



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.



Have you signed up to teach a Sunday or 2 of Children's Summer Sunday School yet?

 	BIBLE STUDY Sunday School Class meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room
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Spirit of Solidarity
Being open to God's call to create a community where all are welcomed
Acts 11: 1-18

After Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and rising to heaven, Peter was "on the road" traveling - - this time in Joppa. While on the roof of Simon, a tanner, Peter had a vision. The vision ultimately instructed Peter that being a "follower of Jesus" was not limited to those of the Jewish faith. At about the same time a Roman Centurion, Cornelius of Caesarea, **also** had a vision. Cornelius was a God-fearing person who gave to the poor and practiced "constant prayer to God." The vision of Cornelius eventually led him to meeting with Peter, who traveled to Caesarea. Both men shared with each other the stories of their vision. It was through the experiences of Peter and Cornelius that a "bridge" was built between Jews and Gentiles; the message of Jesus was for **all** people of all time.

Peter's experience on the rooftop could serve as a difficult reminder that sometimes we need to have our views changed. How can the United Methodist Church welcome *all*, become more *inclusive*, and resist impulses for maintaining control of "the club?" According to Acts, the Spirit is at work in our world blessing **all** who will receive the life-giving spirit of the resurrection.



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 May. Consider taking the time to read these scriptures at home!




◇ Lectionary Readings for May 2019 ◇


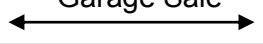


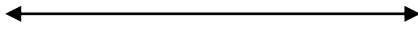






•**May 5: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)** | Turning Point of Transformation
To explore encounters of transformation in the story of Saul & Ananias.

•**May 12: Acts 9: 36-43** | Identity of Resistance
To be inspired by role models whose discipleship is compassionate in word and deed.

••**May 19: Acts 11: 1-18** | Spirit of Solidarity
To be open to God's call to create a community where all are welcomed.

•**May 26: Acts 16: 9-15** | The Power of Listening
To be inspired by Lydia's ministry to practice Spirit-led listening that welcomes and empowers.

  	May Salvation Army Food Pantry Request Personal care items Soap, shampoo, tooth care
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 MAY			1 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	2 NO Trustees meeting	3 Fellowship Hall Reserved PEO Chapter HS Garage Sale 	4
5 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 	6	7	8 7 pm Page Turners Book Club	9	10	11 5-8 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
12 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	13  Newsletter Articles Due	14	15 16 17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Fellowship Hall Reserved for TTT Garage Sale  </div>		18	
19 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Children's Sunday School Party 6 pm ICIW @ Mitchellville 	20	21 6:30 pm NOW meeting	22	23  9 am - 2 pm 6 - 9 pm Day For Girls @ 1st Presbyterian	24	25 Fellowship Hall Reserved
26 8/10:30 Worship Gold Cross Offering 9 Fellowship/ Graduation Reception F Hall Reserved 5-8 pm Jacob Murphy Graduation Open House  	27  MEMORIAL +DAY+	28 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting	29	30	31 F Hall Reserved 5-8 pm Nathan Jennings Graduation Open House 	

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 5	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Dennis/Pam Smith
Greeters	Bill/Linda Hotger	Joe/Stefanie Squire
Reader	Bruce Maach	Dave Miller
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ava Smith
Nursery	Parents take turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Deb Stoulil	Jacob Murphy
Fellowship	Rose Hartschen	Pat Patty
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Amy Murphy
Communion	Lisa Pageler	Counters Brad Patty/Jan Lewis
May 12	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Mike Wood/ Brooke Chambers
Greeters	Chuck Springer	Karen Clark
Readers	Jan Lewis	Rose Evans
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Aniston Chambers
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Praise Team	Praise Team
Projection	Brad Patty	Carolyn Cook
Fellowship	Peg Ehler	Katie Jones
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston
Counters		Deb Stoulil/Pat Patty
May 19	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Jean Schnell/Ben Leonard	Doug/Jenna McIntyre
Greeters	Joyce Stonehocker	Mary Nelson
Readers	Brad Patty	Jeff Carter
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Peg Ehler	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Pam Stiles	Mikey Carter
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Mike Kaldenberg/ Doug McIntyre
May 26	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Mike/Barb Kaldenberg	Mike/Kleo O'Brien
Greeters	Dick/Pam Stiles	Amy Onstot
Readers	Rose Hartschen	Leslie Maach
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Deb Stoulil	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Jean Schnell	Karen Clark
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Jenna McIntyre
Counters		Russ Leix/Rose Evans

Where to Find Us

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Article Submission by the 13th of month.
Website: www.stlukenewton.com
Website Manager: Stephen Pageler
Facebook: [St Luke Newton](#)

St Luke News

Thank you to those who helped to deliver Meals On Wheels to the people of Newton in the month of March. They appreciate all you do for them.

Joyce Stonehocker

Wesley Woods Request

Friends! Would you consider partnering with Wesley Woods in a creative way this spring? They would like to decorate the chapel with paper cranes to compliment their bible study theme, Peace Works. They are asking for your help to create these paper cranes.

They're stringing some into garland and mobiles, and leaving some as singles. It's up to you, what you'd like to do! Choose your own colors and size, write prayers or well wishes on them... be creative! If you've never made a paper crane and need technical assistance, they'd be happy to help,



however our friends Google and Pinterest may be a better resource. They're asking that you send your cranes to Wesley Woods by June 1. If you have more than you'd like to mail, please call them (515-961-4523) to arrange a pick up.

Mailing address: Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center, 10896 Nixon Street, Indianola, Iowa 50125



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 May Birthdays

- May 2 - Gloria Simpson
Krista Guillaume
- May 6 - Scott Kaldenberg
- May 16 - Blake Squire
Tony Ehler
- May 19 - Joel Mills
- May 20 - Vieng Thongvanh
Dune Carter
- May 21 - Terry Swihart
Joe Stonner
- May 22 - Chuck Springer
- May 23 - Gaylon Pherigo
- May 25 - Dick Stiles
Taylor Arrowood



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

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.

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, May 23 from 9 am-2 pm and 6-9 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.



Iowa Annual Conference June 7: Lay & Clergy Sessions June 8-11

A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;

she provides _____ for her _____

Her _____ rise _____ and

_____ her blessed.

PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call