

St Luke UMC

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

June 15, 2020



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!



Outdoor Worship Service Sunday, June 21 at 9:30 am

It was wonderful to see so many of our church family members at our first outdoor service. What a beautiful day we had to gather together. We are planning our next outdoor service for Sunday, June 21 at 9:30 am.

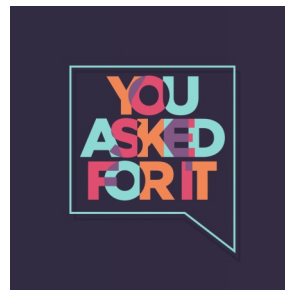
Your safety continues to be our number one priority. We will ask that you bring your own lawn chair and spread out to keep six feet of distance between your family and others. We also ask that everyone please wear a mask until everyone is seated. Those who are considered high risk may want to continue wearing a mask during the service as well. Please be safe during this time and continue to properly social distance yourself from others.

Please note in case of rain we will plan on moving this service to the following weekend as we are not opening up the building at this time. For those who are unable to attend we will be posting the service online hopefully by 1 pm. We hope to see you there!



New Sermon Series

We will be starting a new series in June called You Asked For It. In this series, Pastor Chad will be tackling all your questions: fun ones, serious ones, and the ones you've always wanted to ask.



This has the potential to be fun and to provide something different during this strange time.

Please help us to get this going by submitting your ideas and questions by email. During this series he may also ask you to be his host in a talk show style conversation. That means that you'll be able to ask the questions, from the silly to the serious, and he will attempt to answer them. Please send us all your questions and let us know if you would be willing to join Pastor Chad for one of these fun sessions.

Love — The Best Prayer

He prayeth best who loveth best
All things, both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge



Where to Find Us

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The world has changed in the last few weeks. The worldwide protests have pointed out to us that we may not be as open to all people as we once thought. Many of us



may wonder how we can change, or how we can be open to the views of people of color.

Because we want to be inclusive of all of God's people, it is important that we listen to those who have a different lived experience than we do.

I invite you to listen.

An opportunity for listening, hosted by Bishop Laurie, with several United Methodists in Iowa is happening Monday evening via Facebook Live. The information is included below.

Pastor Chad



Bishop Laurie invites you to watch on Facebook Live "A Conversation on Race"

Bishop Laurie will host a conversation with members of our United Methodist family in the Iowa Connection. Speakers include: Rev. LaTonya Calderon, Abraham Funchess, Grace Kiboko, Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula, and Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson who will each share in this time of listening and learning.

This conversation is the first in a series of events intended to help all of us to see, listen and learn from our Black brothers and sisters in Christ. This will be a conversation intended to elevate and hear from voices that continue to be silenced.

We hope that by attending this event you will gain a new understanding of the injustices experienced by the Black community and gain further understanding on how to create a more equitable world.

We pray this conversation begins a new process of learning, justice, and healing.

Details

This will be a conversation that will broadcast on the Iowa UM Church Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IowaUMChurch/live> beginning at 6 p.m. on June 15, 2020. Soon after the completion, a recording of the discussion will be made available.

Panelists

Rev. LaTonya Calderon



Rev. LaTonya Calderon was born in Kansas City, Missouri, but was primarily raised in Indianola, Iowa.

She is a graduate of Saint Paul School of Theology. She was ordained in the Missionary Baptist Church and later recognized and received as a full elder in the United Methodist Church.

She is currently appointed to Stuart – Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church in Stuart, Iowa and serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry, Personnel Review Availability Committee, Southwest District Operational Team, and as a General Conference Delegate.

She is married to David Calderon and they have three children LaQueysha, Jasmine, and David and one grandson Riley.

Rev. Abraham L. Funchess, Jr.



Rev. Abraham L. Funchess, Jr. is the oldest son of Abraham and Bernice Funchess of St. Matthews, South Carolina.

Recipient of many awards and recognitions, Funchess is most proud of receiving the W.E.B DuBois Award for Social Activism from Hampton University in Virginia and the Bishop James S. Thomas Leadership

Award from former Bishop Julius C. Trimble of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Funchess is currently pastor of Jubilee UMC (www.jubileeumc.com) and executive director at Waterloo Commission on Human Rights.

He is married to Veronica McGee with one son Solomon Diara at Iowa State, Rev. Funchess is author of a children's book entitled Rise! and is the founder of MLK New Jerusalem LLC.



Grace Kiboko



Grace Kiboko is a recently graduated senior from Linn Mar High School in Marion, Iowa. She was born in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, but spent her childhood in Laurel, Norwalk, and Marion as a pastor's kid.

She grew up in a predominantly white environment all her life which sparks an interesting perspective on racial issues in America. Being raised by two immigrant parents from the Democratic Republic of Congo, she recognized the social barrier between the African American community and the Black American community. Not only did she recognize this barrier, but she also recognized the lack of black American history being taught in schools.

In her words, "It is essential to each American, regardless of race or ethnicity, to learn and digest the impact that the Black community has on the history of the United States of America."

With that in mind, she strives to create a more inclusive and intuitive educational environment for the future generation. She plans on attending Texas Christian University majoring in youth advocacy and educational studies in hopes to achieve a PhD in education.

Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula



Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula is an Ordained Elder in the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo and currently serving the community of the United Methodist Church of Le Mars in Le Mars, Iowa, and the French Ministry of Sioux City.

He is married to Berth Kayembe Lundula, and they have four children: John (13), Nancy (11), Benjamin (8), and Lucie (6).

Lundula graduated from Africa University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (2005). From Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary he graduated with a Master of Divinity (2008) and a Doctor of Ministry (2013). He serves as the Commission on Religion and Race Northwest District Representative.

Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson



Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson is an Ordained Elder in the Iowa Conference and the pastor to Burns (a historically Black congregation) and St. John's (an historically White congregation) United Methodist Churches in Des Moines, Iowa. She is a community activist in the areas of social justice, hunger, affordable housing, public education, and the arts and culture. In September, Jackie will speak at the Central District UMW's Day Apart on their upcoming book study: "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools" by Monique W. Morris. The presentation will include time for breakout discussion among participants.



Mission Highlight

Normally during the summer months, we share produce with one another and the donated funds are directed to the Society of St Andrew (SoSA) – Potato and Produce project. This group salvages tractor - trailer loads of potatoes and other produce that are rejected by commercial markets due to slight imperfections in size, shape, sugar content or surface blemishes. Keeping this produce from ending up at local landfills, the Society of St Andrew instead redirects them to food banks, soup kitchens, food pantries, low housing area and other hunger agencies. As of May 2020, they have distributed 2,284,641 pounds of redirected produce. You can help by donating to SoSA on your check to St Luke – put SoSA on your memo line.

If you would rather keep your assistance local – please consider helping the Salvation Army Food Pantry in Jasper County. Normally we would be delivering canned and boxed foods that have been collected in our food pantry shopping cart. During this time, you can still help by putting your donation, along with your gift to the General fund of St Luke, on your check to St Luke with "Salvation Army Food Pantry" on the memo line.

NOW Missions

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

New Hosta Flowerbeds

The trustees have been hard at work updating and planting new hosta flowerbeds around the outside of the church. A big thank you to everyone that donated hostas for this project. Here are some pictures of the new hostas and the other beautiful flowers around the church. Make sure to check them out this summer if you didn't get a chance during our first outdoor service.

