

St Luke UMC

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

March 15, 2023



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

**MAUNDY
THURSDAY
SERVICE**
APRIL 6 | 6:30 PM

Join us Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 pm for a Maundy Thursday Worship Service. Hope to see you there!

**EASTER
SUNDAY**
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
Sunday, April 9th at 9:30 AM
Live Streaming Available

UMCOR Sunday Offering Sunday, March 19th

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

**UMCOR
SUNDAY**

Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering cover the costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. UMCOR has no source of revenue for administration except from UMCOR Sunday.

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

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 write your name and theirs in an email or note and send it to the church office or Pastor Chad. 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.



"God doesn't just give us grace;
he gives us Jesus, the Lord of grace."

—Joni Eareckson Tada

St Luke UMC
VBS 2023

Save the date!

JUNE 26-30

COKEBURY'S
HERO
HOTLINE

Called Together
to Serve God!

Calling VBS Volunteers!

We want you! To help us spread the word of God to local youth during Vacation Bible School which is June 26-30. 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.

We need your help with decorations this year. If you could please save and bring to the church any brown packing paper that may come in your shipping boxes we would really appreciate it. Thank you!

Jasper County
TAKE AWAY HUNGER

Jasper County Take Away Hunger

The next packaging event for Jasper County Take Away Hunger will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We would like to organize a team of 12 volunteers to package meals at the event. They ask for a donation of \$35 per person to help cover the cost of the food packaged. If you are interested in volunteering or making a monetary donation to help cover the cost for our volunteers, please sign up at the servant's counter or contact Peg Ehler at 641-417-9979 no later than March 19.

Coffee & Chat

MercyOne Newton Medical Center is now sponsoring a grief support group using materials from Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D., of the Center for Loss and Life Transition. The group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 9:30 AM—11 AM in the MercyOne in-service room. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by calling 515/643-6150.



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 4. We will be serving frito pie, broccoli salad and fruit cups for our April meal. 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, April 2. Any questions please contact Joyce Stonehocker or Jan Lewis.



HAPPY
Birthday!

Pastor Chad
March 24

Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, March 23 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.



Adventure of a Lifetime

IOWA UNITED METHODIST Camp & Retreat Centers
www.iaumc.org/camps

IAUMC ACCREDITED

LAKE OKOBOJI WESLEY WOODS
2023 IOWA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS

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.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March 19	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Dennis & Pam Smith
Greeters (2)	Marianne Spaur
Reader	Jeff Carter
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Ethan Pageler
Camera	
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Marianne Spaur

March 26	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Joel & Karin Mills
Greeters (2)	Joyce Stonehocker
Reader	Dennis Smith
Acolyte	Nathan Figland
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Lori Leix

April 2	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	Brad & Jenni Patty
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	

April 9	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	Rachel Pageler
Keyboard	
Projection	
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	

Worship Assistants

For 2023 we are excited to try something new with our worship assistant sign up. We would like to see more of our volunteer positions filled so we have decided to try passing around sign up sheets for 3 months at a time. We had a wonderful response with our January-March volunteers and we are hoping for the same with April-June. We have the next sign up sheets ready to go so please sign up this Sunday. You can also 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 or check for open positions online:



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

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. 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
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 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.





Save the Date!

April 15, 2023 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Urbandale
 More information to come.

How Jesus Says Your Name

It’s been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is “safe” coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus’ tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: “Oh, Mary, there, there.” Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just “Woman ...” — and then a gardener: “Woman ...”

Except then — “Mary” — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. “Mary.” Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn’t the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus’ mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



**Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai
 Installed as Iowa UM Conference's
 New Episcopal Leader**



February 19, 2023, Des Moines, Iowa — "This is the church Wesley envisioned when he said, *'Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike.'* Wesley said we may not be of the same opinion, but can't we be of the same heart? Can't we have hearts centered in love?" asked Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai during her installation service at Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation on Sunday, February 19, 2023. She preached from Matthew 16: 13-18 asking the hundreds gathered to reflect on their identity as United Methodists in her sermon titled "Remembering Who We Are."

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai was elected to the episcopacy by the North Central Jurisdiction in November 2022. She began as the resident bishop of the Iowa Area in January 2023. She is the first Black woman to serve as Iowa's Episcopal leader.

Before her election to Iowa, Bishop Bigham-Tsai was the Chief Connectional Ministries Officer for the Connectional Table, the visioning body of the United Methodist Church, and the steward of resources to carry out that vision worldwide. Before her time at the Connectional Table, she served local congregations in East Lansing and Kalamazoo, MI, bringing a pastor's heart and strategic vision to her appointments. She also served as a conference district superintendent.



The United Methodist Cheer

Unifiers in Christ Jesus
Navigators of His Love
Incubators of the Faith
Tilters of God's Mission Field
Eshorters of the Good News
Drum Majors for Justice

Manifestors of God's Mercy
Edifiers of the Body of Christ
Tollers of the Kin'dom of God
Holders of a Broken World
Overcomers of Despair
Deliverers of Hope
Imitators of Christ Jesus in the Fullness of His Joy
Seekers after His Righteousness
Testifiers to God's Grace Revealed to us in our Lord Jesus Christ



Thank you for gifts in 2022 to the Africa University Scholarship Fund

Hi from Old Mutare, Zimbabwe!

My niece, Missy, an accountant in Cedar Rapids, is always busy this time of year as the income tax filing deadline approaches. Here on the Africa University campus we have also been very busy with classes since January, and my two agriculture classes have kept my days full. I had hoped to send you a thank-you much earlier.

Your 2022 gift/s of \$728 to the Advance Special for Africa University Scholarships was very much appreciated. With the Covid pandemic still having affects, plus the war in Ukraine, Africa has not been spared the economic disruptions also experienced in the rest of the world.

Your gifts have helped some of our students remain in school when they might have had to drop out, and have allowed others to begin their programs instead of sitting at home because their families cannot afford to send them to school.

Thank you for helping as we are Investing in Africa's Future!!! May this Lenten season be a time of blessings and reflection for you.

Blessings,

Larry Kies
Africa University



PS - Jane and I have fond memories of our time with you last year.



Annual Conference 2023

The 2023 Iowa Annual Conference will be held June 2-4, 2023 at the RecPlex in West Des Moines and offered as a hybrid experience for those choosing to join remotely. The Call to Order and Episcopal Address will be at 1:00 pm on Friday, June 2. Clergy Session will be earlier that morning at a time and location to be determined and Laity Session will be at 7:00 p.m that evening at the RecPlex.

A special called annual conference for the focused work of disaffiliation is scheduled on November 18, 2023.

For more information visit the AC2023 Information Site: <https://www.iaumc.org/ac2023>.

Thank you from La Fundicion de Cristo/Christ's Foundry

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

- Isaiah 61:4

Dear St Luke UMC friends,

This verse from Isaiah has resonated with me throughout 2022. The concept of rebuilding has taken on new meaning as Christ's Foundry has experienced roof damage due to straight-line winds, followed by a tornado 4 months later. Then came the challenges of COVID, flooding due to a burst pipe, and a second flood due to a burst pipe at Christmas this year. For the last few years, it seems like we have been all about the work of rebuilding.

And it's not just the physical building that has needed repair. In 2022, Christ's Foundry has been dedicated to the work of repairing and renewing the lives of immigrant neighbors and our community. With the launch of Vida en Plenitud (Life in Abundance), we have been seeking to join in God's work or repairing and restoring so that all people may live into the abundant life Jesus desires, regardless of economic conditions, immigration status, or neighborhood in which they live. We are seeing the fruit of this work: healthier people, healthier marriages, healthier families, healthier communities, and more people experiencing a more abundant life in Christ!

It strikes me that the verse is written in the plural - "they" will rebuild and restore, "they" will renew the ruined cities. Indeed, this work of rebuilding and renewing has been a team effort! Thank you so much for your generous Christmas offering to Christ's Foundry United Methodist Mission! With your partnership and support, we have not only rebuilt our church building but more importantly, God is renewing and restoring our families and our community.

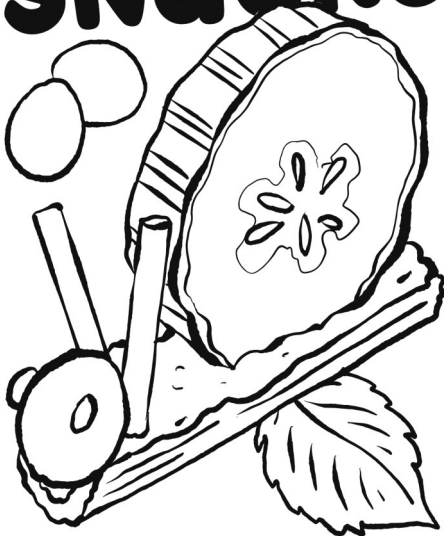
Thank you so much for all your support! It means so much to me personally and is a blessing for the mission.

Showers of Blessings,

Rev. Amy D. Spaur
Lead pastor/missionary



SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!

Puzzle!

Slow down and uncover this message and Bible verse, using the code below.

A	1	B	F	2	G	K	3	L	O	4	R	U	5	V
D	E	H	I	M	N	S	T	W	X	Y	Z			

W



Answer: We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)