

St Luke UMC

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

June 15, 2023



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!



United Methodists in the News



In the last few weeks, there have been many articles popping up in the news. The articles are usually headlined with something like *Church Splits Over Homosexuality*. Then you might read an article about the waves of churches that are leaving the denomination over the issue of full inclusion in the full life of the United Methodist Church. While some of the churches that are leaving will tell you that everyone is welcome there, they are only welcome to a point. The argument has been primarily over whether LGBTQia+ folks can be married in the church, whether our pastors can officiate at those weddings, and whether those folks can become pastors in the church.

While this has been happening for decades, and especially over the last couple of years, there was a deadline set for churches and pastors to leave the denomination under the current set of rules. That deadline is December 31, 2023. Since this is Annual Conference season, and it takes a vote of the Annual Conference for churches to leave, now is the time when the wave of churches are going. On May 23, Iowa held a special session of Annual Conference for the specific purposes of having this vote. On that evening, 83 churches were approved to leave on June 30, 2023.

That seems like a lot of churches, right? It is, and it isn't. Iowa has 750 United Methodist congregations. So, 83 is about 11 percent. That is a much smaller number than many anticipated. In some conferences in the United States, that percentage was much higher. And even though some conferences are giving another opportunity before year's end to leave, including Iowa in November, we anticipate much smaller numbers in that later exit date.

So, what does that mean for us? Well, it means that we can all pursue the mission of the Church, which is to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world, in the ways that we deem faithful. That is true for those staying and those leaving.

It means that we can stop fighting about this and spend our energy on ministry together.

It means that we can be able to say to people, "you will be welcome at a United Methodist church if you are LGBTQia+" without a disclaimer.

There is still work to do. Our rules of governance, which we call *The Discipline* still contains words that exclude. Those words will need to be removed, which can only be done by General Conference action. General Conference is the worldwide gathering that takes place every four years. The next one is being held in April 2024.

The bottom line for us, though, is that we are now ready to move forward. At this year's Iowa Annual Conference, there was a spirit of hope that I haven't felt in quite the same way. I believe a new day has dawned and we can be the church that God is calling us to be. We are not splitting. We are becoming whole again.

Pastor Chad

St Luke UMC
Vacation Bible School
June 26 - 30
9:00 am - 11:30 am

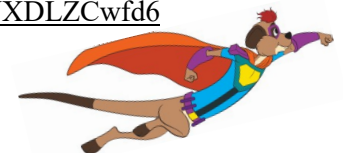
Vacation Bible School 2023

Ready for some fun with the ultimate hero team? *Hero Hotline* VBS invites children of all ages to answer the call to serve God together. Join the Professor and Super Meer as young Heroes learn to strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up as we are taught in Romans 14:19. Through stories in both the Old and New Testaments, this VBS opens kids' eyes to the countless ways God provides for Bible Heroes through teams of supporting Bible Heroes who help make the mission possible through following Jesus, Helping Others, Working Together, Listening to God, and Showing Grace. The goal of this VBS is to help children learn to work together and share their gifts as they answer God's call on their lives as they strive to bring peace and build each other up in this world.



Join us June 26 - 30 from 9:00 am - 11:30 am for a fun filled week of *Hero Hotline* VBS! Registration forms can be found in the center of this newsletter, on the church information table or online. Check our St Luke Newton Facebook page for details or you can use the following link to register online.

<https://forms.gle/XjYuKyCWXDLZCwfd6>



Discover Hope Thank You

We would like to thank everyone that donated to our June meal for Discover Hope, as well as everyone that helped to prepare and serve the meal. We served cones on hot dog buns, sweet corn, chips, fresh fruit salad and cookies. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our St Luke family. Pictured below are some of our wonderful volunteers that helped to serve our June meal.

Joyce Stonehocker and Jan Lewis



Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, June 22 from 9 am-2 pm at the First 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.



God Remembers

It is not difficult for me to remember that the little ones need breakfast in the morning, dinner at midday and something before they go to bed at night. Indeed I could not forget it. And I find it impossible to suppose that our heavenly Father is less tender or mindful than I. ... I do not believe that our heavenly Father will ever forget his children. I am a very poor father, but it is not my habit to forget my children. God is a very, very good Father. It is not his habit to forget his children.

—J. Hudson Taylor

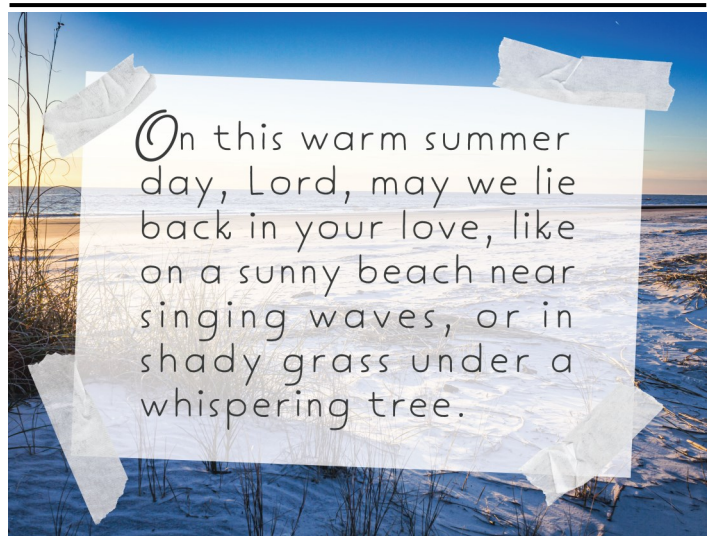
Have Household Goods or Furniture to Donate?

Contact Lori Leix



2023 Summer Camp Registration Is Now Open!

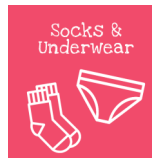
It's time to start signing up for camp at one of the beautiful Iowa United Methodist Camps. Catalogs are available at the church or you can go online to check out what's available at www.iaumc.org/camps. Register today for an adventure of a lifetime!



On this warm summer day, Lord, may we lie back in your love, like on a sunny beach near singing waves, or in shady grass under a whispering tree.

Collection of Socks and Underwear For The Salvation Army

The United Methodist Women now United Women in Faith have been collecting socks and underwear for distribution through the Salvation Army for many years. We are changing the collection period to June and July so we can get our contributions to the Salvation Army prior to their distribution to families in August. A collection box is located in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



"The [person] who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."

—Confucius

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
June 18	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Amy Murphy
Greeters (2)	Margaret Gullett & Joyce Stonehocker
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Amy Murphy

June 25	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Kaldenbergs
Greeters (2)	Amy Ryan
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg

July 2	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters (2)	Leslie & Bruce Maach
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg

July 9	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Carolyn Cook
Greeters (2)	Amy Onstot
Reader	Rose Evans
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Amy Onstot

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 have had another wonderful response with our July-September volunteers and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. Most positions are filled now through September but there are still a few 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. 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
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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.



Vacation Bible School Registration Form



3 Years through 6th Grade completed
Monday-Friday, June 26 - 30, 2023
9:00—11:30 am

St Luke United Methodist Church
501 E. 19th St. N., Newton, IA 50208
(641) 792-5736 - worship@stlukenewton.com

No registration fee,
but **donations** for
curriculum & supplies
are gratefully accepted.

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____ Sex: _____ Last Grade Completed: _____

Allergies/Other needed information: _____ (Or will attend Kindergarten in Fall 2023 _____)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Primary phone: (____) _____ Secondary phone: (____) _____

Home church: _____ City: _____

Emergency Contact Name #1: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Name #2: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

I do NOT want my child's photo, individually or in a group, posted on the church Facebook page or any other online sites.

Parents & others are invited to watch the opening skit at 9:00-9:10 am each morning in sanctuary.

Mission Offering
Received daily for Mission Projects.



Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.

-Proverbs 22:6-

