

THE UNITER

MARCH 2018

Maquoketa
United Church of Christ
God is still speaking



Let It Shine

“Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light.”

-Mark 4:21-211

I can't tell you what my sister's friend, Jess, looked like before she transitioned. What colors and clothes she preferred, or how she wore her hair then. Honestly, I can't remember. Even now, after Jess has transitioned from a male identity to a female identity, I don't notice her outward appearance as much as I notice her *being*. She shines from the inside out, like a person who is truly comfortable in her skin.

Lucky for us—we get to bask in that light! Jess Bierling will be with us in worship on Sunday, March 18th to share some of her personal story, and a few of the joys and challenges of being a transgender woman.

It's always been clear to me that our Open and Affirming identity isn't a one-and-done kind of thing. Once we voted to become an Open and Affirming congregation (see maqucc.org), we didn't miraculously reach capacity on the welcome we offer in Jesus' name. Quite the contrary! We continue to grow because there are always new things to learn and new ways—and people—to welcome. Transgender people are appearing on more TV screens, magazine covers, and newspapers. For many non-trans people, their increased visibility has brought new vocabulary and new ideas about gender, identity, and sexuality into conversation and awareness. The Open and Affirming committee has invited Jess to help us have that conversation, and to practice the welcome promised on our rainbow flag flying outside.

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In preparation for Jess's visit, you might want to check out the fine Des Moines Register article (link noted below) about her and other transgender Iowans coming out in the workplace. You might read Transgender 101 on page 3 of the newsletter.) And finally, I encourage you to bring a spirit of openness to worship that morning. The chances are good you will learn something new, or perhaps you'll remember an old truth—that what is most particular about our human experience can be the most universal.

No person's light is meant to be hidden under a bushel. Jesus' core conviction, no matter who he encountered, was always the same. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

See you in worship!

The Light of Lent to you,

Pastor Stephanie

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/life/2016/10/13/trans-at-office-workplace-transition-trans-iowa/91723230/>

Our Quartoseptcentennial Celebration

William Salter and the other ten members of the Iowa Band arrived in eastern Iowa in the late fall of 1843. He was 22, the youngest member. He became the first pastor of our congregational church.

Stay tuned. How do you want to celebrate?

Leave a note for Mary Hayward or Marilyn Deegan in the office.

A logo for a 175th anniversary celebration. The number '175' is rendered in a large, bold, yellow serif font. The word 'Celebrating' is written in a smaller, elegant, yellow cursive script across the middle of the '7'. Below the '5', the word 'YEARS' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

Transgender 101

In preparation for Jess Bierling's presence with us on Sunday, March 18th, here are some helpful transgender FAQ's from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) website:

What does transgender mean?

Transgender is a term used to describe people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. **Gender identity** is a person's personal, internal sense of being a man or a woman (or boy or girl). For some people, their gender identity does not fit neatly into those two choices.

Trying to change a person's gender identity is no more successful than trying to change a person's sexual orientation -- it doesn't work. So most transgender people seek to bring their bodies into alignment with their gender identity. This is called transition.

What happens during the transition process?

As part of the transition process, many transgender people are prescribed hormones by their doctors to change their bodies. Some undergo surgeries as well. But not all transgender people can or will take those steps, and it's important to know that being transgender is not dependent upon medical procedures.

How do I use the word transgender?

Transgender is an adjective and should never be used as a noun. For example, rather than saying "Max is a transgender," say "Max is a transgender person" or "Max is a transgender man." And transgender never needs an "-ed" at the end.

How is sexual orientation different from gender identity?

Sexual orientation describes a person's enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to another person (for example: straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual), while gender identity describes a person's internal, personal sense of being a man or a woman, or someone outside of the gender binary.

Simply put: sexual orientation is about who you are attracted to and fall in love with; gender identity is about who you are.

How can I be an ally to transgender people?

Listen carefully. Make no assumptions about gender identity. Ask what pronouns they prefer. Support all gender bathrooms. Come to worship on March 18!

To learn more go to: www.glaad.org.



It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God’s world: there is hunger, sickness, and injustice in so many communities. It is easy to feel there is nothing we can do to help.

But there is hope!

Better yet: we are that hope!

As the Apostle Paul writes, “by the power at work within us,” God is able to “accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20). “We are the agents of transformation that God uses to transfigure this world” (Archbishop Desmond Tutu).

Wishing and dreaming of a better world means nothing if we don’t realize that God gives us community to practice love and compassion. We cannot only care for ourselves, but we must also care about those around us, both near and far.

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing become part of a loving legacy in ways we can’t foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don’t know and blesses in ways we can’t expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine.

This special offering will be received on March 11, 2018.

The Worship Committee had a conversation at our last meeting about Easter Lilies. We made the decision to purchase 2 or 3 lilies to decorate the sanctuary rather than taking multiple orders from members.



Thoughts? If so, please talk to Bonnie Schwenker.



Looking Ahead to Holy Week...

Maundy Thursday Worship—7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Ecumenical Worship—Noon at First Lutheran Church

Easter Saturday—Join us for pizza and the movie “Jesus Christ Superstar,”
beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil—9:00 p.m. Saturday to 9:00 a.m. Sunday in the chapel

Easter Sunday Worship—10:00 a.m. with Coffee Fellowship following.



Silent Lenten Retreat
Saturday, March 10
9 AM - 2 PM

Go straight to the heart of Lent with silence, prayer, poetry, and art. Warm soup and chair massages will also be available. Sign up on the bulletin board next to Pastor Stephanie's office. All are welcome!

March 2018

Maquoketa United Church of Christ

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu**

Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held at First Lutheran Church during the month of March

18:00
1:00 p
6:00 p

<p>4 8:45 a Adult Bible Study 9:00 a Sunday School 10:00 a Worship 11:45 a Qigong</p>	<p>5 6:00 p Karate Club</p>	<p>6 7:30 p Yoga</p>	<p>7 7:30 a Centering Prayer 9:30 a Spiritual Outreach 11:00 a Worship Committee 5:15 p Meal Deal (potluck) 6:15 p Centering Prayer 7:00 p Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>8 8:00 5:30 6:00</p>
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<p>11 8:45 a Bible Study 9:00 a Sunday School 10:00 a Worship 11:45 a Qigong</p>	<p>12 6:00 p Karate Club</p>	<p>13 9:00 a Ministerial Association 7:30 p Yoga</p>	<p>14 7:30 a Centering Prayer 9:30 a Women's Fellowship 5:15 p Meal Deal 6:15 p Centering Prayer 7:00 p Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>15 8:00 6:00</p>
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<p>18 8:45 a Bible Study 9:00 a Sunday School 10:00 a Worship 11:45 a Qigong</p>	<p>19 6:00 p Karate Club 7:00 p Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>20 7:30 p Yoga</p>	<p>21 7:30 a Centering Prayer 5:15 p Meal Deal 6:15 p Centering Prayer 7:00 p Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>22 8:00 6:00</p>
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<p>25 8:45 a Bible Study 9:00 a Sunday School 10:00 a Worship 11:45 a Qigong</p>	<p>26 6:00 p Karate Club</p>	<p>27 7:30 p Yoga</p>	<p>28 7:30 a Centering Prayer 5:15 p Meal Deal 6:15 p Centering Prayer 7:00 p Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>29 Maun Wors</p>
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Service Committee

Carol Breuch & Ann Miller

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	Fri	Sat
0 a Morning Prayer o Prayer Shawl Ministry o Karate Club	2	3
0 a Morning Prayer p Council Meeting p Karate Club	9	10 Lenten Retreat 9:00-2:00
a Morning Prayer o Karate Club	16	17
a Morning Prayer o Karate Club	23	24
dy Thursday hip 7:00 p.m	30 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Ecumenical Worship at First Lutheran Church	31 6:00 Pizza and movie "Jesus Christ, Superstar" Easter Vigil begins 9:00 p.m

206 E Platt Street | PO Box 1177
Maquoketa, IA 52060
Phone: (563) 652-4296
Email: info@maqucc.org



March 4—Lent

WC Bill Schwenker
GR Bel Tubbs &
Joyce Den Herder
WL David Manning

March 11—Lent

WC Barry Francois
GR Elaine Tubbs & Jenny Nabb
WL Karen McClintock

March 18—Lent

WC Steve Tubbs
GR Brian & Jenny Nabb
WL Bonnie Schwenker

March 25—Palm Sunday

WC Tom Breuch
GR Kathy Geronzin &
Jennie Stewart
WL Chris Tubbs

March 29—Maundy Thursday

WC John Dague
GR Tom Breuch
WL Caroline Bybee



Brooke Dundee	March 8
Amanda Yarolim	March 11
Jean Claeys	March 13
Megan Oswalt	March 13
Gabe Yappen	March 18
Anya Dague Bellinger	March 19
Allison Bock	March 26
Terry Dean	March 27
Coco Carter	March 28
Alyssa Pettyjohn	March 30
Sarah Sandberg	March 30

Dates to Remember:

- March 1 - Prayer Shawl Ministry
- March 7 - Spiritual Outreach meeting
- March 7—Worship Comm. meeting
- March 10 - Lenten Retreat
- March 19 - Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meal Deal Dates:

- March 7 (potluck)
- March 14
- March 21
- March 28

Need a ride?

If you need help in getting to worship, or other church events

Please call David Manning 563-652-3089.

Council Minutes

The council minutes will be posted on the bulletin board outside Pastor Stephanie's office after they have been approved by the council.



The table from this spot in the basement hall is now used in the sanctuary. If you have a piece of furniture that would look nice here (table, hall tree, but no shelves, please,) contact the church office.

Thank you.

Geni Carr



Duncan Do-Over

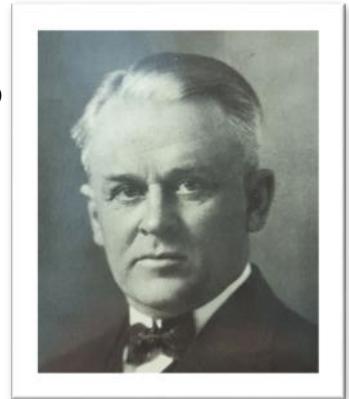
A small group met in February to begin planning how to freshen up the Duncan room (upstairs fellowship hall) with new paint and window treatments. Many people are very excited about this! The expenses will mostly be covered by Treasure Sale profits. (Of course, any donations gladly accepted!)

Submitted by Geni Carr



Who Was Robert Millikan?

Robert Millikan was the first American-born scientist to win the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1923. He was one of America's best-known scientists in the early 1900's. He was born in 1868, and this year is the 150th anniversary of his birth.



His father, Silas Millikan, was called to be the pastor of Maquoketa's Congregational Church in 1875, when Robert Millikan was seven years old, and served the church until 1888. During the years that Rev. Millikan was pastor of our church, the present brick building was built.

The Millikan family, including six children, lived in a parsonage on a one-acre plot near where the First Baptist Church is now located. The parsonage was financed by W.C. Boardman, who also donated the stained glass windows in our Sanctuary. With a pastor's salary of only \$1,300.00 per year, the Millikan family was able to raise homegrown vegetables and milk from two cows. The children were all expected to develop a strong work ethic by earning money for their own clothes, for the family, for the church and to save. Yet he said, "I enjoyed a storybook Midwestern American boyhood, fishing, farming, fiddling, and learning next to nothing about science." And, his love of learning was shown on a 1886 report card from Maquoketa High School with the comments that he "gained an excellent standing for good deportment, faithful application to duty and exceptionally high grade of scholarship." He did not miss one day of high school and a \$1,000.00 payment toward his college expenses was awarded to him by W.C. Boardman.

After a year of working to earn money for college, Millikan entered Oberlin College, earning both a Bachelors and Masters degrees. It was at Oberlin that

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he developed his interest in physics and was able to teach and tutor other students.

With advanced study and research at Columbia University in New York City, laboratories at the University of Chicago and even Germany, Millikan worked with many influential scientists, including Albert Einstein, at a time when great scientific discoveries were being made. He was instrumental in the development of and leadership at California Institute of Technology (Caltech), where the library there is named the Millikan Library. He was a prolific author of scientific papers and textbooks. Other research was important in national defense work in World War I, the identification and naming of “cosmic rays” and development of the field of quantum physics. His research and development of the Oil Drop Experiment led to the award of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1923. He died at his home in California on December 19th, 1953. Millikan was clearly one of the leading scientists of his time.

Robert Millikan credited much of his success to life lessons learned at an early age in a family of strong religious beliefs and work ethic while growing up in a small town in Iowa. The National Honor Society at the Maquoketa High School is rightfully known as the Robert Andrews Millikan Chapter. The Jackson County Historical Society is planning several events celebrating his contributions to the field of science during the 150th anniversary year of his birth.

Submitted by Carol Breuch



Photo of Millikan and Einstein at Caltech, 1931
(Photo from APS Physics)

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