

THE UNITER

JUNE 2018

Maquoketa
United Church of Christ
God is still speaking



Holy Incoherence

I haven't asked them, but I would guess that none of our regular worship leaders cherishes the task of reading scripture on Pentecost Sunday. The Old Testament has its fair share of tongue-twisting proper nouns, but Acts 2 eats tongue-twisting proper nouns for breakfast. In quick succession, your worship leader is asked to annunciate: "Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia"—and the list goes on from there. Just writing this list—just writing!—makes me break out into a cold sweat.

While you celebrated Pentecost Sunday by giving Zack McClintock 33 birthday hugs, I attended the Drake University graduation of another child of this church, Tess Nissen. I was already in town, having just returned from a learning trip to Austin, Texas. And as it happens, I felt like I got a big dose of Pentecost, anyway.

After an hour of fanfare and speeches, the time came for each student to walk across the stage and accept their diploma. While they did, a Drake professor, dressed in full academic regalia, did his absolute best (which was considerable) to correctly pronounce each graduate's name. It was an amazing feat for two reasons. The first is that he kept up the pace, considering the hundreds of

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

students who packed the Knapp Center. The second is that names unfamiliar to white Midwesterners beautifully rolled off his tongue. Or at least, so it seemed, to this white Midwesterner.

We don't know anything about the Medes, the Elamites, never mind the citizens of Pamphylia. Those peoples and nations don't exist anymore, at least not in their first century incarnations, but I always appreciate when folks do their best (and maybe a little research) to pronounce those ancient names. There are no Medes around to be offended. There are no Cappadocians to object. There's just the Holy Spirit, showing up in people whose names we must learn to pronounce, showing up in places we are invited to find on a map. That's what Pentecost means. That God isn't just here, with us. God is already over there, too. With them. And God seems to think it's about time we got together.

It's a good season to reflect: How is God calling you out of your comfort zone? How is God calling our community, our nation, our world out of its comfort zones to live together, albeit in some holy incoherence, as Pentecost people?

Yours in reflection and prayer,

Pastor Stephanie

OFFICE *hours*

Beginning June 4, the secretary's office hours will be Monday from 9 a.m. until noon, and Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. We hope that this will make answering mail and phone messages more timely. There will be times that those hours might be altered slightly and will be posted beforehand when possible. Feel free to call ahead to check hours before coming in if you need to see the secretary.



To our church family:

The cards, calls, visits, and kind thoughts following my knee surgery were much appreciated. Recovery is going well, not least, due to your support.

Thank you to you all.

Jennie Stewart

Our Sacred Space

Our Sacred Space is the “umbrella” under which Pilgrim Heights Camp is operated. Many young people in our church family have benefitted from their experiences at Pilgrim Heights. Monetary gifts are always welcomed and needed. If you'd like, you may send a donation to:

3005 E Avenue, Montour, IA 50173.





Lift Project Funding Goal Exceeded!

Total funds needed:

Architect fees	\$ 5,100.00	
Contractor fees	<u>89,490.00</u>	
Total:		<u>94,590.00</u>

Less funds paid or pledged:

Memorial fund	53,947.76	
Donations	33,493.26	
Transferred from Jericho	6,404.98	
Pledged, unpaid	1,400.00	
Interest earned 4/30	<u>1.36</u>	
Total Platform Lift Fund:		<u>95,247.36</u>

Goal exceeded by: 657.36

(Figures as of 5/22/18)

Thank you to all of you generous people who have enabled the lift project to proceed!

Buildings and Grounds

Recently, a new sticker was put on the main floor bathroom door. It no longer says "Women," it now says "Restroom" with a gender neutral logo.

Some bushes have been cleared from the front of the church, making it look more appealing and to open it up visually in preparation for a new sign to eventually be installed.

Building and Grounds will arrange some work days for thorough cleaning after the lift project is complete. There will be several days and times to accommodate schedules.

Please remember on these nice days to shut all windows and turn off all lights when exiting the building.

Both Women's Fellowship and Memorial Committee have donated money to each pay for one new window blind for the Duncan Do-Over project. Treasure Sale funds will pay for the other three windows. Thank you!

The room will be painted and new blinds installed after the lift project is completed, hopefully in July.

Geni Carr

Dan Anderson

Bill McClintock



June 2018

Maquoketa United Church of Christ

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu

3
10:00 a Worship
11:45 a Qigong

4

6:00 p Karate Club

5

7:30 p Yoga

6 7:30 a Centering Prayer
6:15 p Centering Prayer
8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous

7 8:00 a
6:00 p

10
10:00 a Worship
11:30 a New member
class
11:45 a Qigong

11

6:00 p Karate Club

12

1:00 p Spiritual Outreach
7:30 p Yoga

13 7:30 a Centering Prayer
9:30 a Women's Fellowship
6:15 p Centering Prayer
8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous

14 8:00 a
6:00 p
7:00 p

17
10:00 a Worship
11:45 a Qigong

18

6:00 p Karate Club

19

7:30 p Yoga

20 7:30 a Centering Prayer
6:15 p Centering Prayer
8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous

21
8:00 a
6:00 p

24
10:00 a Worship
11:30 a New member
class
11:45 a Qigong

25

6:00 p Karate Club

26

7:30 p Yoga

27 7:30 a Centering Prayer
6:15 p Centering Prayer
8:00 p Alcoholics Anonymous

28
8:00 a
6:00 p

Service Committee

Jane Bentrott & Marilyn Deegan

ist

	Fri	Sat
	1	2
		7:00 p Narcotics Anonymous
a Morning Prayer Karate Club	8	9
		7:00 p Narcotics Anonymous
00 a Morning Prayer Karate Club Council Meeting	15	16
		7:00 p Narcotics Anonymous
Morning Prayer Karate Club	22	23
		7:00 p Narcotics Anonymous
Morning Prayer Karate Club	29	30

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



June 3

WC Jim Dean
 GR Roberta & David Rosheim
 WL Bonnie Schwenker

June 10

WC Sam Sandberg
 GR Clark family
 WL Chris Tubbs

June 17

WC David Manning
 GR Sarah Hobbs &
 Marilyn Deegan
 WL Caroline Bybee

June 24

WC Geni Carr
 GR Dan Anderson &
 Lin Redling
 WL Marilyn Deegan



Nancy Mayberry	June 1
Carolyn Condon	June 10
Kathy Thede	June 14
Brian Hayward	June 17
Coral Bock	June 25
Benjammin McClintock	June 25
Bonnie Schwenker	June 25
Jerald Bybee	June 27
Casey Bock	June 28
Jonna Jensen	June 29

Dates to Remember:

6/4-6/9 Stephanie out of office
 6/10 New member class
 6/24 New member class

Need a ride?

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

Please call David Manning at
 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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL / DAY CAMP



If your child would like to attend Vacation Bible School at First Lutheran Church or day camp at Camp Shalom, our Education Board will cover half of the cost of those camps. Day camp is June 11-15th from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with pick up and drop off at First Lutheran Church, and Vacation Bible School is June 11-15th from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Register soon, as spaces are filling fast. Forms are available in the UCC office, or at First Lutheran Church (563) 652-6777.

Meal Deal

The current season has come to an end. Thank you to all of the cooks, organizers, diners and especially our resident pie baker, Kathy Thede. Kathy provides us with a pie every week. We have enjoyed fellowship as well as being able to share a meal with our church friends and family.



Thank you to Caroline Bybee who donated flowers to brighten the east (alley) entrance.

Peace starts with a smile



Holy Blob of Blessing for Emily Oswald during graduation recognition.



Holy Blob of Blessing for Helen Stewart's birthday.



Children's Time

What does it mean to be a congregational (small c) church?

Congregational churches are Protestant Christian churches practicing congregationalist church governance, which means that each congregation independently runs its own affairs. Congregational is thus contrasted with hierarchical, or Episcopal (referring to bishops) .

By the 1500's political and cultural changes in Europe had created a climate in which the Roman Catholic church could no longer suppress the protests of men such as John Wycliffe, John Hus, Martin Luther, and John Calvin against alleged church abuses. These reformers were trying to return to the simplicity and sincerity they saw described in the New Testament Church.

Here is a quick and over-generalized summary of some of the changes made during the Reformation era. Note that the Roman Catholic church has changed its practice with regard to the use of Latin only in worship, and in the system of indulgences, or purchase of forgiveness.

Roman Catholic (or Anglican)

Centralized authority (bishops and the pope)

Worship service in Latin, known only to a few

The Bible was read only by the clergy

Celibate clergy (in theory, at least)

Confession to a priest precedes worship

Forgiveness of sins can be purchased (indulgences)

Congregational

Localized authority. The congregation is the basic unit, with power to decide on membership and ordination, as well as style of worship

Worship, including scriptures, is in the local language

The Bible is translated into the languages of the people, and lay people were encouraged to read it.

Married (male) clergy

Confession is incorporated into the service

God alone forgives sins

Karen Manning did this quick research to provide a framework for understanding how our style of being the church came to be the way it is.

Maquoketa United Church of Christ

PO Box 1177

Maquoketa, IA 52060

Phone: (563) 652-4296

Email: info@maquoc.org

