

The Uniter

WE ARE YOUR CHURCH



Growth and Possibilities



PAGE 2

PASTOR MAXX NOTES

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PAGE 3 & 4

MODERATOR’S LETTER

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PAGE 4

NEWS FROM THE SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

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ALL CHURCH EVENT, SEPTEMBER 13

We will be gathering together at Jones County Central Park in the large pavilion at 10:30 a.m. for live worship together, with lunch following- pack your own. Kayaking, canoeing, and fishing are just some of the afternoon’s choices of fun, safely distant but together. Please wear your PPE More info. Pg. 2

Pastor Maxx Notes

Worship Service is online. If you cannot view it in an E-mail, you will find it at the Church's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/maqucc>

Please like our Facebook page when you stop in to look!

If you do not receive an E-mail from the church weekly and would like to be added to the list, notify me at pastor@maqucc.org



HELLO ALL,

How I miss everyone. It is a treat to get to see some of you as you come into the church to help with filming services or other work within the offices for our community. I want to let you all know how much time and effort Mary, Sue, and David have put in dealing with our financial discrepancies. They have clocked many hours looking into the church's finances and policies. They have not only worked here but with the bank, the police, and our insurance agency. It has been extremely time consuming for all of them. We thank you God for the leadership in this church who are willing to go above and beyond. David's letter will give you more insight.

We have been working our way through a sermon series on forgiveness. It is a tenet of our religious tradition. Following Christ is more challenging some days than others.

Matthew 18:21-22 ²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.

As hard as it is to hear these words it is important that we pay attention to them. Forgiveness is not really for the person who sinned against you, it is for you. It is for your health. It is for your freedom to be out of the bitter grasp of anger and depression. One day you will awake and finally reach this stage if you work through it. You will feel the freedom of release.

Be well Blessed Ones, Love One Another,
Pastor Maxx

All Church Event

On September 12th and 13th Pastor Maxx will be camping at Jones County Central Park Campground. Located on the property is a large pavilion that the church has rented for the day on September 13th.

Pastor Maxx is hosting a Campfire at 6:30 pm on the evening of the 12th hotdogs and fixings with S'mores for dessert at pastor's campsite.

Activities on the 13th:
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Lunch (bring your own)

Afternoon fun on the water, walking the open areas of the campground, or fishing in the lake.

Bring your own food, beverages, and chairs.

Caravanning encouraged; carpooling should only be with family if possible.

MODERATOR'S LETTER

David Manning

August has been quite a month for your Council, with much of our attention devoted to the issue of apparent theft of a LARGE amount of money from our congregation's general fund and Local Emergency Mission fund. The Council's Executive Committee (Mary Hayward as Treasurer, Sue Sandberg as Clerk, and I) and Pastor Maxx convened the morning of August 6 after hearing about irregularities reported from our bank the day before. We worked together most of the day and much of the next to assess the situation and take actions to secure our bank accounts, office computers, and the building from unauthorized use. Our office manager was dismissed from our employment and forbidden to enter our property, and all building locks were changed. Former Treasurer Steve Tubbs, Tom Breuch, and local police were consulted for their perspectives. Chris Nissen, our insurance agent, told us we were well insured for such losses, and filed a claim on our behalf.

A special meeting of the full Council was called for 4 pm Tuesday, Aug 11, to consider the next level of response. Steve Tubbs attended as a guest, and our Associate Conference Minister Rev. Ellis Arnold was present electronically. Sue, Mary, and Steve provided lots of detail about what had been learned and done since the previous Wednesday. Rev. Arnold made several helpful suggestions. There was wide-ranging discussion about how we had left ourselves vulnerable to theft and what changes we should make for the future. We agreed to have our payroll functions done by H & R Block starting immediately, making it much easier for volunteers to carry on the other essential office functions. And Jane Bentrrott reminded us that our congregation has survived crises before, and urged us to move forward with faith, remembering "who we are and Whose we are."

The Council reconvened two days later for our regular monthly meeting and focused on finances, office functions, worship, and sanctuary refurbishment. They established a temporary finance committee to continue auditing our accounts, documenting our losses, reporting our condition to the congregation, and making suggestions for future systems for handling and keeping track of our funds. The committee consists of Brian Nabb, Steve Tubbs and Mary Hayward.

Our cash flow will likely be very tight until we receive insurance reimbursement and the return of our Birdies For Charity pledges Oct. 31, so we'll arrange short-term loans if necessary and encourage loyal members (you!) to pay intended contributions in advance.

We will not seek a new employee to manage the office at this time; already we have volunteers in training to staff our regular office hours and accomplish critical tasks, coordinated by Mary.

The worship committee has met and does not support returning to full-congregation services in our building given the current continued spread of the Covid-19 virus. We brainstormed again on worship options, but reaffirmed that for now we'd continue videotaping short services weekly and making them available online. But when we do come back to our sanctuary, it will be different! Using designated Memorial Committee funds from the Tom Tubbs estate, a contract has been signed with Church Interiors, Inc. for Phase 1 of the project. This will result in painted walls, including the wainscoting, removal of the wood panels to the east of the pulpit, and refinishing the remaining vertical wood up front.

I yearn for the day we will worship in our historic, renewed sanctuary together. Until that day, let us keep each other in our minds and hearts, and carry on being the church and being a congregation in all the ways we have available.



NEWS FROM THE SANCTUARY COMMITTEE



The sanctuary committee has been busy! This month we have received the finalized contract for Phase 1 which includes painting and repairing walls, decorative paint around windows, and a light refinish of wood in the sanctuary. We have sent the signed contract as well as the deposit to Church Interiors. The funds for Phase 1 are from the Tom Tubbs estate.

Soon we will meet with Joel Skinner to select the paint colors, carpet, and fabrics. Once those renderings are finished Joel will come to the church and will answer any questions we may have. You will be invited to join that conversation using Covid precautions.

Please contact us with questions! We are excited to be at this point of the project and we estimate a November start date! Thank you for your ongoing support!

Caroline Bybee
Carol Breuch

Jane Bentrrott
Barry Francois

Lin Redling

September 6 Worship

Dan Anderson will be our Guest preacher on suicide prevention

mark your calendars this will also be a Communion Sunday!

Spending Time With The Word . . .



Is Time Well Spent



DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Created by the StillSpeaking Writers' Group

Sign up for your free UCC Daily Devotional at:

https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional



Drive by and check out our new Flag!

SAVE THE DATE

UCC's first virtual General Synod to take place July 11-18, 2021



MEMORIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE!

The Memorial Board has decided to show our support for members of our church family who are pursuing higher education goals this fall.

Each of the following students has received a check for \$250.00 from the Board to be spent on any expense to help them start the school year:

Delaney Clark: Studying Environmental Science and Conservation at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville.

Sydney Clark: Studying Psychology at Ellsworth Community College.

Megan Oswalt: Studying Psychology at the University of Iowa.

Shelley LaMarr: Studying Elementary Education at St. Ambrose University.

Tess Nissen: Studying Food Studies with a Focus on Policy at New York University.

Our church family is proud of these students as they pursue their educational goals. We wish them well, and God Speed!



Mask Wearing is Biblical! An edited version of an article published in Sojonet in August, 2020.

Our world is dealing with a serious illness which is also very contagious: Covid-19. While little is yet known about effective treatment for those who fall ill, there is more available knowledge about how to prevent its spread.

[Research data](#) show masks significantly [reduce aerosolized saliva](#) that emits from a person while speaking, coughing, or sneezing – and keep those droplets from carrying the virus to someone else. Why, then, do certain people, including conservative Christians, object to masks or outright refuse to wear them?

John MacArthur, a California evangelical megachurch pastor, recently asserted that “faithfulness to Christ prohibits us from observing the restrictions they (meaning state health authorities) want to impose on our corporate worship services.”

Well. Surely “faithfulness to Christ” means following Christ’s principal teaching, the Golden Rule: “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them” (Matthew 7:12a ESV). We must behave toward others in the same way we want them to behave toward us. So, if we don’t want people to sneeze or cough on us, we must not sneeze or cough on them. If I don’t want someone to transmit disease to me, then I must do whatever I can to avoid transmitting disease to them. Asserting rights is all about me, but wearing a mask is all about my care and concern for the feelings and well-being of others.

Face coverings don’t protect the wearer as much as [they protect the people the wearer encounters](#). The apostle Paul summarizes the practical implications of a Christ-like ethic toward others: “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4 ESV).

Wearing a mask is a small cross to bear for all the good it does. After all, most of us will wrap a scarf around our faces in the winter to keep our own lips from becoming chapped. If we’ll do that to protect ourselves from something so minor, surely we can wrap something else around our faces to spare someone from severe suffering — or worse.

Wearing a mask is not only considerate and polite; wearing a mask is biblical.

Rev. Rob Schenck is author of *Costly Grace: An Evangelical Minister’s Rediscovery of Faith, Hope and Love* (HarperCollins) and president of The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute in Washington, D.C. You can read his blog series What’s Gone Wrong with Evangelicals? at revrobschenck.com.



[Rob Schenck](#)

Submitted by: Karen Manning

September Calendar

SUN 30	MON 31	TUE Sep 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
10am Online	6pm Maquoket	10am Sue S v	12am Eat Pla 7pm Choir rel 8pm AA	6pm Maquoket 6:30pm Cent		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am Worshi	6pm Maquoket	9am MMA - A 12pm White F	12am Eat Pla 8pm AA	5pm Council l 6pm Maquoket 6:30pm Cent		6pm Jones Ci
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:30am Joni	6pm Maquoket	2pm PPRC	12am Eat Pla 8pm AA	10:30am Spir 6pm Maquoket 6:30pm Cent		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am Online 1:30pm Easte	6pm Maquoket	11:30am Ea l	NEWSLETTER l 12am Eat Pla 8pm AA	6pm Maquoket 6:30pm Cent		
27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
10am Online 1:30pm Easte	6pm Maquoket		12am Eat Pla 8pm AA	6pm Maquoket 6:30pm Cent		


September Birthdays:

- Marilyn Dietz
September 5th
- Ronelle Clark
September 7th
- Kaitlyn Luett
September 9th
- Mel Tone
September 10th
- Jennie Stewart
September 12th
- Jim Mayberry
September 13th
- Delaney Clark
September 14th
- Jacob Nabb
September 15th
- Jacob Francois
September 16th
- Karen Garien
September 16th
- Anna Miller
September 19th
- Bel Tubbs
September 28th
- Roberta Roshiem
September 29th

pastor@maqucc.org

info@maqucc.org

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have been helping in the office during this time of transition.

<p>Maquoketa United Church of Christ PO Box 1177 Maquoketa, Iowa 52060 (563)-652-4296</p>	 <p>Just World for All</p>
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