



Maquoketa United Church of
Christ

The Uniter

July 2021



From the Pastor

Blessings, Church Family and Friends in the name of the Holy Spirit,

June jumped into summer quickly this year. As we continue to look at the works of the Holy Spirit, I have been extremely interested in the movement of the Spirit in today's church. The phrase Spirit-led has sparked my curiosity of how do we know when we are actually being led by the Spirit?

Pneumatology is the theological study of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is called the paraclete when it is considered as an advocate or counselor. (Greek=aid or alongside) These definitions are how I look to understand the Spirit and then how it acts in my life; or when it is not with me, and I ignore its counseling when I **need** to listen or **should** be listening.

There are a great many names for the Holy Spirit, believed to be the third person of the Trinity: Creator, Teacher, Comforter. Elohim, Spirit of Christ, Spirit of Truth, Holy Ghost, Helper, Sanctifier; in wider context the Spirit comforts, counsels, and guides. Often the Holy Spirit is considered feminine in the framework of our beliefs.

Believing and being a part of an Easter people, it is important to think about what we are doing and where we are going, if we are led and listening to the Spirit. The 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel,

fortitude, knowledge, piety, and honoring God. Some believe these are merely examples of the Spirit's work through a faithful life. The Holy Spirit helps us to communicate with God in different ways. We can communicate by what we are doing (our actions) or through prayer.

I believe the Spirit is within, at least mingling in our conscience or soul. We are made in God's image. Being both the image of God with the Spirit of God within causes me to think there is divine within everyone and everything. So, when I act or think about how to treat others or the environment, I try to remember. It helps me to control my anger and helps me when I am upset, but only when I am willing to listen. To stop and think before I say anything. Prayer helps me look deeper and make harder decisions. I believe this is the way we are to act as a Christian people. Sometimes it is easier to have what I call, "a knee jerk reaction" though these are **often** led by not recognizing the divine's whisper to us.

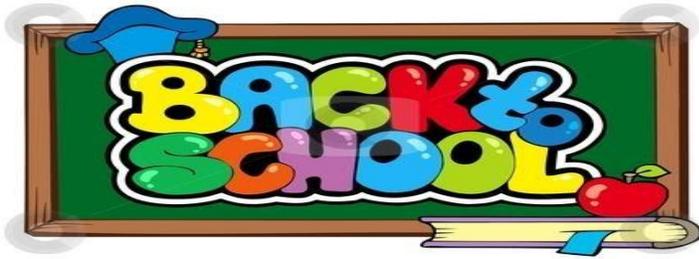
The Spirit of Creation was here at the beginning of time. The Spirit spoke at Jesus' Baptism. Jesus sent the Spirit upon the apostles to guide their work to spread the Word.

The role of the Holy Spirit relates to our worship, doctrine and grace filled living, uniting us to Christ our Lord. We witness and act accordingly in our evangelistic missions, as we glorify the Lord. John 14:26—"... the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom God will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." This is the amazing grace of God who loves us and continues to care for us, the disciples of today. May the grace of God awaken you to live lives of faithfulness today, tomorrow, and always. And don't forget, if you find yourself in need, I am only a phone call away. The God who loves you is with you always.

Share your light and pass it on.

Shalom!

Pastor Maxx



THE ECUMENICAL JACKSON CO. SCHOOL SUPPLIES PROJECT IS COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR!!!!

The **Maquoketa Ministerial Association** has decided to launch a new ecumenical ministry. It will replace the wonderful efforts of Ronelle Clark at the Operation New View over the last years to provide school supplies to the children of Jackson County. **Last year some 250 bags of supplies**, sorted to be appropriate for different school age children, were distributed to those requesting them. Ronelle, because the storage area she once used is no longer available, and because she now lacks the help she once had, can no longer handle this enormous effort. **St Mark's Episcopal Church** has agreed to take over the coordination of these efforts on behalf of all the churches of Maquoketa and Jackson County. St. Mark's will provide the administrative services and the needed space and volunteers; they are publicizing the effort and handling the fund raising. It will be called the "Ecumenical Jackson Co. School Supplies Project." We will be distributing school supplies at various hours during the week beginning August 9th.

NEEDED ITEMS:

1. **Ink pens** in Black, Blue, and Red
2. **CRAYOLA brand markers, crayons and colored pencils - cheaper brands do not last.**
3. **Binders, highlighters, EXPO dry erase markers, rounded children's scissors, glue sticks, and pink erasers**
4. **Pencil boxes** and pouches. Notebooks - red, blue, yellow, green. Composition notebooks, filler paper
5. **Contributions of money** to purchase needed items. Please make checks to Ecumenical Jackson County School Supply Project and return to the church office or to KMAQ or to the ASAC office.

July 7th Meeting

The July 7th Meeting is an opportunity for our congregation to share ideas about our governance. At the present time we are working under a combination of the age-old Constitution/Bylaws and the newer Covenant/Guidelines. The time has come to work towards a final commitment to one system. If you cannot attend the July 7th meeting, please send your comments to the church office.

Church Family Notes

Our member Carol “Cee” Davis joined the Choir of Saints on Wednesday Morning. A celebration of her life will be Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at Carson Celebration of Life Center. Visitation is from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. with her service at 1:30.

*Women’s Fellowship will be meeting in July and August. All are welcome to come and enjoy time together with Bible Study, fellowship and treats.

*Congratulations to Shelley LaMar, who graduated summa cum laude from St. Ambrose University on May 15, with a degree in elementary education.

From the Church Treasurer: It is always amazing how regularly our church bills appear, even in the summer months. As always, we appreciate all you do and everything you share, especially in the summer months. It is truly a Spirit moving among us when we can accept that our income will, most generally, match or exceed our outgo. Blessings to all of you,

Mary Hayward, Treasurer.



Please consider our ongoing Capital Fund which is just \$3,500.00 shy of being finished!

From the Sanctuary Committee --

By now we, the Maquoketa UCC Church Family, are getting used to worshipping in person -- AND in our beautiful new sanctuary! There still are a few touches left undone, although bit by bit we’re nearing completion of our very large project!

And, we are also **nearing the end of our Capital Campaign**, but are not there yet. It has been so gratifying to the Committee to have had the continuing financial support from our Church Family that has brought us close to paying for the entire project, and we hope that support will continue until the project is completed.

*Thank you to everyone who provided food or helped with the Community Drive-through Supper June 20. Geni and Dianne

From our Mission Partner, Lutheran Services of Iowa (the folks in the upstairs offices!) *A story from our files:*

Hali's New Life

Hali grew up in a home surrounded by addiction. Her own struggle with substance use and trauma continued for more than 20 years but when she learned she was pregnant with her son, Apollo, she knew she needed a change. After giving birth, Hali entered treatment and when she was ready to return home, LSI Early Childhood Services were there to provide support and walk alongside her. Her LSI worker, Gretchen, provided parenting education and resources, all while empowering Hali and making sure Apollo had a healthy home.

Gretchen helped Hali keep track of Apollo's growth to ensure he hit all his important developmental milestones. More than a year later, Hali is thriving. She is now in college and is also a sponsor to other women who are on the same path to recovery. At home, Hali is busy keeping up with Apollo as he is learning to walk, and she is excited to see him continue to grow.

"Gretchen has given me a lot of hope. She's always had my back," Hali says. "She's my go-to person for any resource and it's nice to have her in my corner."

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Happy, Happy Birthdays !!

Tom Breuch - 3
David Tone - 6
Geni Carr - 12
Dianne Barker - 13
Lin Redling - 17
Alana Barker - 21
Caroline Bybee - 24
Suzanne Douglas - 26
Brian Nabb - 27
Shirley Olson - 29
Susan Sandberg - 29
Eric Housley - 30
Donald Dietz - 31

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Over the years, Camp Courageous of Iowa has generously shared excess food items like cereal and granola bars with area food pantries, including our own Community Cupboard. Sometimes our church family has collected large size food items like peanut butter, ketchup, or institutional size canned fruit/vegetables that are then taken to Camp Courageous as a thank you. I will be going to Camp Courageous on July 7. If you would like to make a food gift for the camp you may leave it in the box under the pew outside of Pastor Maxx's office and I will be happy to deliver them. Thanks.

Chris Tubbs

July

Service Committee: Caroline Bybee

Chris Tubbs

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day Worship @ 10:00 a.m.	5 Independence Day Holiday	6 Maxx Off	7 7 p.m. All Church Governance work session	8 5 p.m. Council Meeting	9	10
11 Worship 10:00 a.m.	12 General Synod Week	13	14 Woman's Fellowship 9:30 a.m.	15	16	17
18 Worship 10:00 a.m. Evening Worship from General Synod	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship 10:00 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31