



## **The Uniter June 2021**

### **We are worshiping together!**

Greetings Church Family and Friends,

We have much to be excited about here in our Church. We have gathered together again in our beautiful sanctuary for the first time in fourteen months! We can rejoice in the glory of God as this season after Pentecost begins. This is the time to look at the Spirit at work in the Church. How appropriate it is for us during this time. The Spirit has moved us to begin again with safeties in place to guard one another's health. We wear masks and hum instead of singing with the cantor. While this feels a little different, it is still the unity of fellowship we have missed throughout the era of the Corona Virus. Our love bringing us back together to celebrate in worship again.

The traditional color for this season, sometimes referred to as Ordinary Time, is green, the color for nature's growth. Certainly, growth is appropriate in many ways for this church community. Last month we celebrated with education recognition and blessed our High School graduates in their ever-changing journeys as disciples, much in the way Jesus prayed for his. This month we will celebrate the Baptism of Reagan Faye E. Tone; she was born on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to member's Gina and Alex Tone. Yes, this is my first grandchild and I look forward to her Baptism into the Body of Christ this month. A new life in the community of our church as we grow by one. We will be having new

members transfer into the life and congregation of this church sometime later in the summer. We too are growing.

My question for everyone is how are we going to continue to grow? What areas are we willing to change in our lives, to nurture, in this post Pentecost season? We have a very beautiful sanctuary to worship in, who are we going to invite in to join us? How will we grow spiritually? How will we love our neighbor as Jesus loves us? I ask these questions as not only your pastor, but as a member of this community of beloved. What is our next step as we continue on a journey during an epidemic and rapid changing condition? Faith has grounded us this far, where will the Spirit take us next?

Our true communion with God starts at the heart and with agape love. When I think of you all, I think of a song title, Wade in the Water. How will we wade in the water together in Christian love? What will be our next adventure together? Will we plan a mission trip for next year? Will we worship in a park this summer? Will we invite our neighbors to church? The grocery clerks? The roofers next store? Will we read more scripture? Will we start a new outreach? Will we see a play together? Will we start a puppet ministry on Sunday afternoons? These questions race through my head as I wonder about the possibilities.

There will be challenges for all of us. Some are not ready to leave their homes again and feel safe around others. Others are impatient, they want to gather together quickly and return to our old ways. But the world is still shifting. People are confused on what to do safely next? The truth is only God knows. But we are a family, we are in this together. There will be a lot of change for some time, some will be rapid changes, some subtle and slow. But we are not alone. My prayers are for you all to remain safe and to find comfort as change is taking place. I am only a phone call away if you find yourself in need, and know, that the God who loves you is with you always. Share your light and pass it on.

Peace and Blessings to you All! Pastor Maxx

## News of our Church Family

**Lizzie Grace** graduated from Iowa State University May 8, 2021 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology. She graduated with Honors (Cum Laude). Her plan is to apply for Physical Therapy school next year. Thank you to everyone for your support!! Rick, Rev. Dianne and Lizzie Grace.

**Delaney Clark** graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, on May 14 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science.

Congratulations again to our High School graduates: **Allison Tubbs** and **Alana Barker**

**Thank You!**

Joyce DenHerder would like to thank everyone who has been helping her out and remembering her with cards and phone calls.

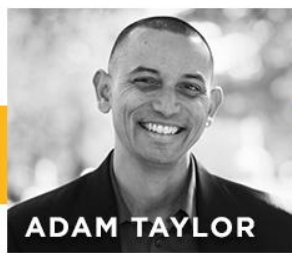


KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

READ MORE ►



VALARIE KAUR



ADAM TAYLOR

Pastor Maxx is a Zoom delegate to this General Synod.



Carolyn Condon 10

Katie LaMar 29

Jonna Jensen 29

Kathy Thede 14

Coral Bock 25

Benjamin McClintock 25

Bonnie Schwenker 25

Jerald Bybee 27

Casey Bock 28

### Treasure Sale Report

A second spring sale was held in mid-May, and about \$500 was raised.

No sale is planned before fall, but please keep bringing your donations.

Thank you to all who donate and help in any way.

The Committee:

Geni Carr, Dianne Barker, Marie Holst, Karen McClintock

### Sanctuary Capital Campaign

**Total to Date \$75,607.15**

**We are still in need of over \$5000.00.**

# Community Meal

Our church will be hosting the drive-by Community Meal, handed out at the Lutheran Church parking lot on Sunday evening, June 20. Yes, this is Father's Day!

The menu will be goulash, green beans, a roll, a fruit cup, and cookies/bars.

Meat has been donated. We are asking for the following donations:

- ✓ **Goulash for 12 people, any recipe. (We will get the meat to you.)**
- ✓ **a large can of green beans, we will only need two.**
- ✓ **A dozen rolls, your choice.**
- ✓ **Fruit or applesauce cups.**
- ✓ **Cookies or bars.**
- ✓ **Cash for supplies.**
- ✓ **Your time that day to pass out food.**

Please call the church office, 652-4296

Geni Carr, 652-2175, or

Dianne Barker, 652-2738

to sign up.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

## Iowa Conference UCC

I agree with our UCC Associate General Minister, the Rev. Traci Blackmon

### Traci Blackmon

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Friends.

As we ponder the validity of the CDC's most recent announcement while the US remains at a 35% immunization rate and new cases and deaths, although significantly decreased, continue. As we reflect upon the surge of mutations that has now brought India to a full stop. Might I suggest the voice of individualism will tell us to count it a victory if I am ok, while the voice of the Divine would ask: What about others?



History has proven we don't ever go far when we go alone. WE are not yet well. ❤️

From the Sanctuary Committee –

Our Sanctuary Project is progressing. And you, the Church Family, of the Maquoketa United Church of Christ, plus former members and friends near and far, have supported our project with apprehension and patience, curiosity and enthusiasm, support and contributions. That means that we are also progressing with our capital campaign – but are not quite there! If you are considering making a contribution, please do it now, and put us “over the top!”

The project has been an affirmation of the worth of retaining the beauty of a solidly built brick building dating from 1878 and bringing it into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It also has been an affirmation of the loyalty and dedication of a supportive Church Family which we, the Sanctuary Committee, sincerely appreciate. Together, we are creating a beautiful space worthy of worshiping and praising our God!



# June 2021

## Maquoketa United Church of Christ

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 1 P.M. Graduation Party Alena Barker
6 10 a.m. Worship	7	8	9 Women's Fellowship	10 5 p.m. Council	11	12 By-law Committee
13 10 a.m. Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19 Private Family Baptism
20 10 a.m. Worship Father's Day Community Dinner	21	22	23	24 9:30 a.m. Clover Ridge	25 Tri-state	26
27 10 a.m. Worship	28	29	30			