

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

March 2017

Tripoli, Iowa#

LENT

Lent is a time to take the time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events
get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

~ Ann Weems

How do you prepare for Lent? Do you think of it as a time of fasting and deprivation? A time of an additional weekly worship obligation? A time of opportunity to take up a new positive tradition/habit – praying, volunteering, reading the Bible, helping a family member, increasing your monetary giving to the church? Or is the journey through Lent simply another 40 days to mark off on the calendar (not counting Sundays) until Easter Sunday when hidden chocolates are found and ham is on the menu and the annual “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” is sung.

Whether you have walked countless Lenten seasons or this is a new tradition in your faith life, it is sometimes difficult to know how to respond “appropriately.” I think that’s because sometimes the Church (with a capital C) has placed too many expectations upon folks...incorporated too many traditions...set down too many rules...and at the same time can’t agree across the board what’s expected, traditional, and rule-worthy.

And that’s not the Jesus way.

This year, what if each of us allowed ourselves to fully lean into Lent and all it holds for Christ's followers? To breathe in the power of the faith story that abides within each one of us. To allow, as Ann Weems writes, the events to "get up and walk around in us." To "hover over the thoughts of our hearts." To feel the presence of Jesus with us. To touch his robe. To "feel the healing surge through us." To ponder. To wonder.

If each of us found the room to fully experience Lent, at the end of those 40 days (not counting Sundays) how differently might life feel? Sound? What about the church (with a small c)? What new outlook, hope, promise, focus might take up residence in our times together?

Lent is about faith. Lent is about trust. Lent is about believing. Believing that we are accompanied by the Divine One in the most challenging of times – "even when the way is through the darkest valley" – as well as on those days when "goodness and mercy" seem to follow us wherever we go. Lent is about believing that at the end of these weeks we will arrive with Mary Magdalene at the tomb of Jesus and discover the stone rolled away. We will stand alongside the out-of-breath Peter and the disciple Jesus loved as they hesitantly walk into the tomb to find nothing but the linen cloth that once draped the body of Jesus. And together we will proclaim once again that truth we cling to that never gets old, "Christ is risen!"

Lent is all about that and so much more.

Let the journey begin...

Lenten Services and Meals

All Meals will be served from 6-7 pm in Fellowship Hall

The Ash Wednesday service will be at 7 pm in the sanctuary

All other Wednesday services will be held at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall

Beginning March 8, our Wednesday night Lenten services will be based upon "Creed, What Christians Believe and Why...Exploring the Apostles Creed" by Adam Hamilton. Each service will include a short video followed by further learning and conversation. There is a book available but it is not a requirement. However, if you would like to purchase a copy (\$13.39) please contact the church office. We want all who want to read the book to be able so don't let \$\$ keep you from ordering. Talk to Pastor Marilyn.

Date	Meal	Worship
March 1	Meat Loaf	Ash Wednesday
March 8	Chili and Cheese Soup	God
March 15	Scalloped Potatoes and Ham	Jesus Christ
March 22	Lasagna	The Holy Spirit
March 29	Baked Potato Bar	The Church & the Communion of Saints
April 5	Beef Burgers	The Forgiveness of Sins & the Resurrection of the Body

#

#

Holy Week Services

Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday	Worship at 10 am in Sanctuary
Thursday, April 13, Maundy Thursday	Pork Loin meal, 6-7 pm, Worship at 7 pm in Sanctuary
Friday, April 14, Good Friday	Ecumenical worship at 7 pm in Sanctuary
Saturday, April 15, Easter Vigil	Worship at 7 pm in Sanctuary
Sunday, April 16, Easter Sunrise	Worship at 6:30 am in Sanctuary
Sunday, April 16, Easter breakfast	In Fellowship Hall following Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 16, Easter	Worship at 10 am in Sanctuary

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES*

Monday, February 6, 2017

#

Minutes of the meeting held January 2, 2017 will be reviewed and voted on during the March 2017 meeting

Council Learning opportunity/Special Guest

Jonna Jensen reviewed the conference documentation on pastoral sabbaticals with the council. Pastor's contract provides the opportunity to utilize a sabbatical for spiritual renewal and restoration after five years of service and in anticipation of future pastoral care of the congregation. She talked at length about the opportunity a sabbatical presents for both pastor as well as the congregation. Council members were able to ask a number of questions related to the sabbatical process, duration and finances.

Treasurer

Motion for a gift card for Steve Dahlstrom for his work to keep heat on in our buildings. MSC

\$30 for Tripoli Yearbook for business listing – approved to pay from advertising budget.

Moving to budget billing for electric and gas. Barb will make those arrangements for the coming months.

Concern was raised over the cost of light bulbs and delivery charges in January expenses. Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. MSC.

New Business

1. Election of officers
 - i. Council president – Motion to elect Holly Johnson as President. MSC.
 - ii. Council Vice President – Motion to elect Steve Hill as Vice President. MSC.
 - iii. Head Trustee – Dean Shinstine
 - iv. Head Elder – Marlene Snelling
2. Liaison assignments for committees
 - i. Cemetery will be Larry Struck
 - ii. Rich Milius for Property Committee
 - iii. Brian Bunce for FEC
3. Committee review
 - i. Don Bunce – Memorial and Endowment Committee (confirmed)
 - ii. Marlene talking with Marlys Biermann who is interested in serving the Memorial and Endowment Committee.
 - iii. FEC is in need of more help and teachers
4. Signing up for head usher duties
 - i. Head usher sheet was circulated – If members are unable to commit to the “busy months” a number of council members voiced their ability to help during some of those Sundays.

5. Review of responsibilities / council member covenant
 - i. Council members signed the covenant with the church pledging their attention and service to the needs of the congregation to the best of their abilities.

6. Review of contact information
 - i. Council members were asked for their updated contact information to be shared with each other.

Adjourn

MSC = Motion, Second and Carried

*These minutes have not yet been approved by Church Council

Waverly Health Center

Alzheimer's/Dementia Music Therapy and Caregivers Support Group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 12:20 to 1:30 am in the Tendrils.

Mar. 7 – Advocacy and Research

Parkinson's Caregiver and Support Group meets the second Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon in the Tendrils.

Mar. 11 – Tai Chi and group discussion

Stroke Support Group meets Tuesdays from 11 am to 12:30 pm. in the Tendrils.

Apr. 11 – Staying Active After Stroke

Darkness to Light - Stewards of Children

Stewards of Children is a prevention training program facilitated by Cedar Valley Friends of the Family that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, the types of situations in which child sexual abuse might occur, effective strategies for protecting children from sexual abuse, and that abuse victims can heal from their experiences. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 14th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at Trinity United Methodist Church at 1400 W. Bremer Avenue in Waverly. Pastor Marilyn is planning to attend. If you would like to ride with her, call the office.



Daylight Savings Time

12th.

Mark your calendar -- Daylight savings time begins March

Move your clocks one hour ahead.

The **FAITH UCC WOMEN OF FAITH** bring to the church the opportunity to support **HIS HANDS FOOD PANTRY** in Oran through donations.

Each month the items collected are blessed during our 3rd Sunday worship before delivery to the food pantry. For the month of March, His Hands Food Pantry has requested donations of

Condiments: Ketchup, mustard, honey, mayo

Thank you for your support of this important Mission Project of the church.

#

***From HIS HANDS
FOOD PANTRY IN
ORAN...***

Totals for January
Families served: 68
Individuals Served: 174
Total pounds
distributed: 4,908
#

NE IOWA FOOD BANK MOBILE FOOD PANTRY (MFP)

If you know of a family or single person struggling with food insecurity, please let them know of this opportunity to receive.

Volunteers are a vital part of making the MFP successful. We extend a HUGE thank you to the many volunteers of all ages who give of their time and talents for the MFP! If you can assist in unloading the truck, setting up the food tables, distributing the food items, helping clients carry items to their car, and/or loading remaining items onto the Oran His Hands Food Pantry truck, we invite you to stop by between 4-6 pm on March 23 and lend a hand!



Easter Lilies

We will be ordering Easter lilies to decorate the church for Easter Sunday. Order blanks will be included in the church bulletins or you can call the church office at 319.882.3585. Lilies are \$9.62. Orders will need to be received at the church office by Tuesday, March 28th.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for the thoughts, prayers, visits, food, flowers, memorials, etc. during the loss of our mother and grandmother, Frances Kirchhoff. We would especially like to thank Pastor Marilyn Sargent for the beautiful service and being there for our family. Thank you to the women of our Faith Church family for a wonderful luncheon and to those who helped in any way. Mom is smiling down to you all!

Blessings to all!
Mark & Pam (Kirchhoff) Condon and family
David & Ruth Kirchhoff and family

Sacred Space

Dear God, sail away with me, and let the winds wipe away my pain, my regrets and my worry. Let the ocean spray cleanse my consciousness. Let the sun melt away the residue of my past. Let the vastness of the open seas reveal the endless opportunities of my future.

Today I choose to make peace with the turbulent seas beneath me. Today I choose to lean into the direction of the storm. Today I trust in the brilliance and magnificence of The One that created the great vast sea. Right now, today, I choose to feel the water settling beneath me, and I am grateful for this.

Thank you God.

The storm has died down...

The storm is now gone...

And so it is, and it is so.

Amen

~ Marlin Collingwood

Scripture Readings for March

These readings are based upon the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) for Year A. The United Church of Christ participates in the Consultation on Common Texts, which has designed the RCL. For more information on the Lectionary, go to www.commontexts.org

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Hebrew Scripture	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Genesis 12:1-4a	Exodus 17:1-7	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm	Psalm 32	Psalm 121	Psalm 95	Psalm 23
Epistle	Romans 5:12-19	Romans 4:1-5,13-17	Romans 5:1-11	Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel	Matthew 4:1-11	John 3:1-17	John 4:5-42	John 9:1-41
--------	----------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

Let us pray...

If you would like to add a name to our monthly prayer list, please contact the church office at 319.882.3585 or email faithuccchurch@gmail.com. The names will typically remain on our prayer list for three months, however we recognize that there are situations and concerns that continue for a longer period of time. If you would like your prayer request to be extended, please notify the office at 319.882.3585 or Pat Warner at 319.882.3162.

We pray for healing and well-being for these beloved children of God...

- DiAnna Arthur (receiving treatment)
- Richard Buhr (receiving rehab at TNH&R)
- Jim Brandhorst (receiving treatments at Rochester)
- Scott Hyde (receiving treatment)
- Nadia (Ken & Juanita Mohlis' granddaughter)
- Kayden (Roger & Beth Goudschaal's cousin)
- Denise Timmerman (Leland & Wilma Timmerman's daughter-in-law)

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Kevin & Brenda Sievers, Glenyce Bolte, Les Biermann, and Vern & Karen Bolte as we mourn with them the death of Vernitta Sievers. We give thanks to God for her 98 years of life!

We pray for members and friends of the church actively serving in the Military...

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Brandon Burrows | Matthew Coulthard | Kaitlin Westendorf |
| Derek Ohlendorf | Adam Ohlendorf | Shane Buchholz |

We hold in prayer those in residence...

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Bartels</i>
(Waverly) | Lorraine Hastings | Betty Holm |
| <i>Hillcrest Home</i>
(Sumner) | Les Biermann | |
| <i>Mallard Point</i>
(Cedar Falls) | Mardell Kirchhoff | |
| <i>Tripoli Nursing & Rehab</i>
(Tripoli) | Betty Hills | Orlyn Milius Jean Bentley |
| <i>Whispering Willows</i>
(Fredericksburg) | Bernice Ambrose | |
| <i>Cobblestone Court</i>
(Sumner) | Garnetta Snyder | |

We also pray for all of God's children who are living in a world of chaos and anger and hunger and fear. We pray for those who call out to God and those who feel unworthy to lift their eyes to the One who loves them unconditionally. We pray for those who may be sitting at the desk next to us or living down the street or waking up in a community on the other side of the globe.

God of love and grace and promise, hear our prayers...

#

MARCH SCHEDULE

HEAD USHERS: Dean Shinstine &
Keith Stahlhut

Ushers:

5 Church Council
12 Don & Vernetta Bunce
19 Sandra Snyder
26 Mel & Verdeen Ohlendorf

Greeters:

5 Phyllis Schnurstein
12 Steve & Dawn Dahlstrom
19 Larry & Joan Struck
26 Mel & Verdeen Ohlendorf

Liturgists:

5 Lisa Chapin
12 Karen Milius
19 Michael Westendorf
26 Roger Goudschaal

Fellowship Time Servers:

5 Tracy Buchholz
12 Velda Lynch & Mary Ann
Meyer
19 Bob & Donna Sassman
26 Mary Chapin

Sunday School Treats

5 Karen Milius
12 Sara Marquis
19 Kathy Westendorf
26 Barb Sowers

In the coming months would you like
to volunteer for one of these tasks?

Contact the church office,

319.882.3585 or

faithuccchurch@gmail.com

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1	JoEllen Snelling
March 3	Glen Ladage
March 4	Todd Quigley Dan Lohmann
March 5	Corbin Liddle
March 7	Verona Biermann
March 10	Darlene Buchholz
March 13	Kaitlin Westendorf
March 15	Kenny Buhrow
March 16	Dolores Schmidt Steve Schmidt Joan Gloede
March 18	Kristian Heidemann
March 21	Zachery Buhrow
March 22	Glenyce Bolte Matthew Moeller Heidi Lane
March 30	Holly Johnson