

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

April 2017

Tripoli, Iowa

Every day is Easter

When Thomas touched the wounds
and set himself free
it was Easter day

When Peter's three "yes's" to Jesus
finished his three denials
it was Easter day

When Mary ready to embalm the dead
ran in fear from the empty tomb
it was Easter day

When the disciples looked from afar
at a breakfast of fish on the beach
it was Easter day

When Emmaus became synonymous with welcome
and the breaking of bread with strangers
it was Easter day

When Paul was blinded by the light
and recognized the voice niggling in his head
it was Easter day

When the hungry are fed at the table
the same table as the rich
it is Easter day

When weapons are beaten to ploughshares
and peace is a word to be shouted
it is Easter day

When the stranger is welcomed in community
and the lonely are restored to relationship
it is Easter day...

~ written by Roddy Hamilton
<http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

Holy Week customs



Palm crosses: From medieval times, people have believed that blessed palms formed into the shape of a cross would protect them from danger. The easiest way to make a cross from blessed palms is to cut two pieces of the palm, arrange in the shape of a cross, put a thumbtack in the middle, and attach the cross to a doorway or a bulletin board.

Housecleaning: In many cultures the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week are designated as days for vigorous housecleaning in preparation for Easter. This custom probably evolved from the Jewish custom of ritual cleaning before Passover.



Visiting churches: The custom of visiting several churches to say a prayer on Holy Thursday was a tradition that evolved from the practice of making pilgrimages to holy places.



Coloring eggs: Decorating eggs was a pagan symbol of rebirth at springtime for the Romans, Greeks, Egyptians, Persians and even the Chinese. Christians adopted the colored egg as a symbol of new life which comes with the Resurrection.



Sweet breads: In many cultures, Holy Week was traditionally a time for baking sweet breads, cakes and pastries that would be served on Easter Sunday.

New clothes: From the time of the early Christians, the newly baptized wore white garments made from new linen. In medieval times, it became a tradition for people to wear new clothes on Easter Sunday, symbolizing the "new life" that comes with the Resurrection. In some places it was believed that bad luck would come to those who could afford new Easter clothes but refused to buy them.



Easter lilies: The tradition of buying Easter lilies during Holy Week for use as decorations in homes and churches came into practice in the 1800s. The white flower is a symbol of purity and new life that heralds the resurrection of Jesus.

Blessing of Easter baskets: In many cultures, families bring food that will be eaten on Easter Sunday to church in a basket for a special blessing on Holy Saturday.

Holy Water blessings: Some families bring holy water containers to Mass on Easter so they can bring home some Easter water, which is blessed during the Easter Vigil, to bless their homes.



Source: Our Sunday Visitor

<https://www.osv.com/Article/TabId/493/ArtMID/13569/ArticleID/11466/Your-Guide-To-Holy-Week.aspx>

Holy Week Worship

On **Palm Sunday** (4/9) we remember Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem and the triumphant "Hosanna!" shouts of the people.

On **Maundy Thursday** (4/13), dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 pm. We will gather at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary to remember the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.

On **Good Friday** (4/14) we will host a community service at 7:00 pm.

On **Holy Saturday** (4/15) we will gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm for the **Easter Virgil** service where we will be the first to discover the empty tomb.

Easter Morning we hope you can join us as we rejoice in the risen Christ at our 6:30 am service and the 10:00 am service.

Please also join us for the annual **Easter Breakfast** following the 6:30 service.

Women of Faith

Women of Faith will meet on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:45 pm in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are encouraged to be part of this fun and exciting group of women. Come and see what we can accomplish as we serve God, our church, our community and missions around the world!

NE Association Spring Meeting

The NE Association of the United Church of Christ Iowa Conference will hold its Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 30, at the Congregational UCC in New Hampton. All members of the 36 congregations within the NE Association are invited to gather together for worship followed by the Association's business and planning meeting. Following the meeting, the Congregational UCC invites us to share in an evening meal prepared just for us! Registration begins at 2:30 pm, worship at 3. The business/planning meeting will commence at approximately 3:30. Questions or want to make a dinner reservation? Contact Congregational UCC at 319.409.6909 or nhiucc@iowatelecom.net. Dinner menu and cost will be forthcoming. We hope you will join us as we come together to celebrate who we are and whose we are in the life of the United Church of Christ! Need a ride? Contact Pastor Marilyn at 319.429.1442 or rev.msargent@gmail.com

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes*
March 6, 2017

Members In Attendance: Holly Johnson, President; Steve Hill, Vice-P; Melvin Ohlendorf, Rich Milius, Keith Stahlhut, Larry Struck, Dean Shinstine (Trustees); Brian Bunce, Marlene Snelling, Mary Ann Meyer, Lisa Chapin, Roger Goudschaal (Elders)

Members Absent: None

Non-voting members in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Barb Hill

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn

Meeting called to order at 6:35

Additions to Agenda: None

Motion to accept Minutes of February 6 council meeting. MSC.

Treasurer's Report:

We purchased a new laptop computer for church use for \$253.34.

Our Oyster/Chili Supper made a profit of \$ 918.00. Schemmel's reimbursed us for the one gallon of oysters that were bad and the rest of the oysters were donated by members.

Motion to accept February Treasurer Report. MSC

Trustee's Report:

Rich Milius will get an estimate on what it would cost to blacktop our parking lot on the NW side of the Ed. Building.

Marlene Snelling volunteered to check with Spencer Snelling about asphalt vs. concrete.

Elder's Report:

It was suggested to look at purchasing another "hand sanitizer" for the Educational Wing.

We will look to establish an Ad Hoc committee to fill our pulpit during Pastor Marilyn's Sabbatical. Some suggestions that were made: get an ordained minister for the 1st Sunday of each month to handle communion

Liaison's Report: No new information to report

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Marilyn will be attending a workshop for "*Friends of the Family*" Tuesday, March 14

Pastor Marilyn will be attending the UCC Pension Board meeting on March 23

Pastor Marilyn has met with a couple about a baptism

Our Facebook page has our "*upcoming events*"

(continued)

Old Business:

Planning session, Saturday, March 25 @ 8:3 am

Sunday March 12 and March 26 after worship: Ad Hoc Committee meeting

Ray Roder Memorial for \$2000 is designated for the projector/screen fund. A lengthy discussion on this fund followed.

New Business:

Building Rental – April 8, 2017 (Shinstine Easter). MSC

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn. MSC

Respectfully submitted, Roger Goudschaal, Secretary

MSC – Motion, second, carried.
*These minutes have not yet been approved by the church council.

REMINDER



With the passing of ordinance 6-2017, the Tripoli City Council is now prohibiting parking on both sides of South Main Street from 3rd Ave to 7th Ave. Obviously this will affect members and friends of Faith UCC who typically park in front of the church. While the “No Parking” signs have not yet been installed on South Main Street, the ordinance has been passed, it is official and it is time for us to comply. Chief Daniel Banks will be granting folks a time of “forgiveness” but he will put a reminder sign on the windshield an illegally parked car.

On Sunday’s, we have permission to park in the parking lot of the Library and the parking lot of American Savings Bank. Any other day, please note whether or not the library or bank are open prior to parking in those lots. As noted in the above Council minutes, your church leaders are pursuing options on how to best transform the back parking lot into a more usable option.

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

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 April, His Hands Food Pantry has requested donations of

Baking Products: Flour, sugar, PAM, cooking oil

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

Totals for February

Families served: 64

Individuals Served: 164

Total pounds

distributed: 4,131

**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 April 27 and lend a hand!

Thank You!

Thank you for my family, friends, and neighbors for the many prayers, visits, food, assistance, rides to therapy and all the help during my recovery from knee replacements. Also, thank you to Pastor Marilyn for her visit and prayer. I appreciate each and every one.

Marlys Biermann

We would like to thank our friends, neighbors, co-workers, church volunteers, and family for the many prayers, phone calls, food, and expressions of concern and support during this difficult time. We want to especially thank Pastor Marilyn for her visits, guidance, prayers, and heart-felt message at Jim's celebration of life.

Doretta Brandhorst

Vicki and Dave Konopa and family

Alan and Jo Brandhorst and family

Sacred Space

Prayer before reading scripture at home...
~ composed by Maren Tirabassi

Open this scripture for me
like a door to the day
and the lives of those dear to me,

like a window through which I see
something new in the world,

like a child's lunchbox or Halloween bag,
so I can taste the nurture of my Parent
and the sweet surprises
of neighbors and strangers,

like grandpa's diary letting me read
incredible stories of those
who have struggled with their faith,
like grandma's toolbox
where I find what fixes the broken.

Open this scripture to me
and remind me that your Word
is never...closed. Amen.

Scripture Readings for April

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

	April 2 5 th Sunday of Lent	April 9 Palm Sunday	April 16 Easter	April 23 2 nd Sunday of Easter	April 30 3 rd Sunday of Easter
Hebrew Scripture	Ezekiel 37:1-14		Acts 10:34-43	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm	Psalm 130	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Psalm 16	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Epistle	Romans 8:6-11		Colossians 3:1-4	1 Peter 1:3-9	1 Peter 1:17-23
Gospel	John 11:1-45	Matthew 21:1- 11	John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:13-35

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...

Richard Buhr (receiving rehab at TNR)
Scott Hyde (in hospital)
Denise Timmerman (Leland & Wilma Timmerman's daughter-in-law)
Milton Jones (Velda Lynch's brother-in-law)
Wanda Petersen (Karen Milius' sister)
Sue Sinnwell (Dolores Schmidt's daughter & Barb Hill's sister)

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Doretta, Vicki, and Alan as we mourn with them the death of their husband and father, Jim Brandhorst.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Gary and Sandi Snyder and family as we mourn with them the death of Gary's mom, Ida Mae Synder.

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

Brandon Burrows	Matthew Coulthard	Kaitlin Westendorf
Adam Ohlendorf	Shane Buchholz	Tyler Schultz

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...*

APRIL SCHEDULE

HEAD USHERS: Larry Struck &
Rich Milius

Ushers:

2 Church Council
9
16
23 Melvin & Verdeen Ohlendorf
30 Dean & Brenda Shinstine

Greeters:

2 Kenny & Darlys Buhrow
9 Bob & Donna Sassman
16 Mike & Kathy Westendorf
23 Kim & Lois Kehe
30 Kaye Osborn

Liturgists:

2 Confirmation students
9 Wilma Timmerman
16 Don Bunce
23 Roger Goudschaal
30 Larry Struck

Fellowship Time Servers:

2 Jerry & Marlene Snelling
9 Judy Buhr, Juanita Mohlis,
Joan Gloede
16 Church Council
23 Wilma Timmerman
& Karen Bolte
30 Tamara Rosol & Sue Schwarze

In the coming months would you like
to volunteer for one of these tasks?
Contact the church office, 319.882.358

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 4 Kaye Osborn
Tracy Buchholz
April 5 Brian Bunce
April 7 Kimberly Milius
April 9 Cattie Ott
April 11 Sophia Hyde
April 12 Dean Shinstine
Danny Dillon
April 13 Katelynn Piehl
April 14 Susan Cline
April 16 Phyllis Schnurstein
Dave Schwarze
Conner Quigley
April 18 Austin Foelske
April 19 Sandra Ryherd
April 20 Steve Dahlstrom
April 22 Lincoln Drewis
April 26 Melvin Ohlendorf
Carolyn Sparks
April 29 Leslie Biermann
Seth Damm

OOPS!

Our apologies for the omission of
Neysa Rinkenberger's birthday from
last month's newsletter. Neysa's
birthday was Friday, March 31. We