

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

May 2017

Tripoli, Iowa

Included in the book *An Improbable Gift of Blessing* written by Maren C. Tirabassi and Joan Jordan Grant is a “Time of Reconciliation” based upon John 20:19-31. The Call to Confession recognizes we “come to the Resurrection like Mary and Peter and Thomas – frantic and shameful and doubting.” The Words of Confession reflect upon how we tend to cast our own shadows not expecting to be changed by the presence of Jesus. That we focus upon discouragement and disappointment rather than sharing the good news of the risen Christ. Recognizing that we allow our doubts to overwhelm us rather than help us to grow. The Confession is followed by this Assurance of Grace – “Perhaps John asked Mary and Peter and Thomas, ‘Can I tell your stories?’ And they responded, ‘Yes, we who were broken are whole.’”

John: “Can I tell your stories?”

Mary and Peter and Thomas: “Yes, we who were broken are whole.”

Mary’s world had been ripped apart. Jesus was dead. She had seen it with her own eyes. Felt the hot tears streaming down her cheeks as she watched the final rise and fall of his chest. Gone was the One she believed in. Gone was the One who didn’t look upon her as a “less than” but rather as a fully loved child of God. Gone. Literally. The tomb was empty. His body was gone. Frantic.

Peter had boldly proclaimed to Jesus that he would NEVER deny him! And yet, he did. Imagine that moment in the courtyard after his final denial...the cock crows...and Peter realized the prediction of Jesus was accurate. As his bitter tears fell, Peter’s shame must have rocked him to the depth of his soul.

And then there’s Thomas. Dear, sweet, questioning Thomas. Upon hearing the story from the other apostles who proclaimed they had seen the risen Jesus, Thomas expressed his skepticism, “Well, I didn’t see him. I have major doubts about your story. Unless I put my finger in the nail holes in his hand and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”

But then scripture tells us how these three hurting souls found healing...

Broken-hearted Mary, sobbing as she stands outside the now-empty tomb finds herself face to face with a man she presumes to be the gardener. He speaks her name...her eyes are opened...the frantic racing of her heart subsides...she is made whole again.

Boat-fishing Peter, still broken from the internal shame of his denials, spots the risen Jesus on the shore and quickly runs to him...shares breakfast with him...and proclaims his love for him. Compassionate Jesus then stands face to face with Peter, looking intently into his eyes and entrusts him with the task of shepherding and feeding his sheep. Peter knew he was forgiven. Peter, formerly broken with shame, was once again made whole.

Cautious Thomas, not wanting to commit to the doubts filling his mind as he struggles to believe the proclamation words of his fellow apostles. Determined to touch the holes from the nails of Jesus' hands before believing that which seemed impossible. When he later finds himself face to face with Jesus, he receives no reprimand or chastising but rather an invitation to obtain whatever he needs to remove his doubts. Once filled with doubts, Thomas receives love like no other from the One who was able to make him whole once again.

Pastor Marilyn

Sacred Space

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed.

God is alive...

New birth is given.

Hope is alive...

A new age is dawning.

Joy is alive...

Redemption is here.

Love is alive...

Death cannot harm us.

We are alive...

New life is within us.

The church is alive...

God's spirit is within us.

God of life, we worship you.

God of creation, we praise you.

God of revelation, we learn from you.

God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.

~ posted on *Life in Liturgy*, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).<https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
April 3, 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, Roger Goudschaal (Elders); Non-voting: Pastor Marilyn Sargent; Barb Hill, Treasurer
Members Absent: Lisa Chapin

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn

Meeting called to order at 6:35

Additions to Agenda:

** Review of workshop on Saturday, 25, 2017 (Old Business)

** Funeral Policy (Pastor's Report)

Minutes of March 6. MSC.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report - MSC

Trustee's Report:

(Rich Milius) Rich updated the council on an estimate he got from Spencer Snelling regarding our parking lot behind the parsonage. 3" of asphalt will cost approximately \$ 15,000; when providing a crushed rock base and landscaping with a curb, the total approximate cost would be around \$ 45,000.

A concrete parking lot would have a cost of \$ 35,000 plus the additional expenses involved with a base, landscaping, and curb.

Rich suggested we start with what it would cost to provide a crushed rock base and he will check with Spencer Snelling before proceeding.

Pastor Marilyn suggested checking with UCC Cornerstone Fund to see about possible financing for this project.

Rich also caulked some of our older basement windows to try and prevent more wasps from entering the basement. He will also try and use some wasp spray to further eliminate the problem.

Elder's Report:

Levi Lenox and Seth Damm are the only possible graduating seniors that are members of our church. At this time, there is no plan to provide a breakfast on Graduation Sunday.

Marlene will provide the council with information regarding the Maundy Thursday meal that will be served.

Pastor Marilyn discussed her opinions regarding Baptisms of children whose parents are not members of Faith UCC.

Liaison's Report:

(Marlene Snelling) The "Event Committee" will be serving our Easter Sunrise Breakfast.

(Holly Johnson) The Memorial/Endowment Committee is currently in transition with new members coming on board. They are looking at our investments currently.

There are two openings each of the FEC Committee and the Property Committee. Judy Buhr has volunteered to serve on the Special Event Committee.

Pastor's Report:

We received a \$1700 memorial from the Jim Brandhorst family that has been designated for the Projector/Screen Fund. We now have a total of \$10,755 in that fund. Our next step will be to check on current costs of that project.

Dale Lynch funeral services will be held at the Becker-Milnes funeral home in Sumner on Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Raymond Buchholz' daughter-in-law will preside over his funeral services to be held in our church on Thursday, April 6, 2017 @11:30. Larry Struck has formed a team of people to help with that service.

Pastor Marilyn brought up the problem with people wishing to have a funeral at our church without the services of a Funeral Home. Two recent funerals have brought some of the problems with this to our attention. It is Pastor Marilyn's suggestion that we charge a fee for whatever services our church provides in these situations. Larry Struck proposed a minimum of \$500. Marlene Snelling added that if they wish to have a visitation service at our church that the amount should be more than \$500. Roger Goudschaal suggested that we visit with the people who have helped with these two services to get an idea as to the number of tasks our church has been asked to provide. We also obtained a "flyer" from Parrott-Wood Funeral Home as to some of the services provided by funeral homes.

Old Business:

Holly summarized the planning session held on Saturday, March 25 @ 8:30 am. Holly will set a date in the near future for the Ad Hoc Committee set up to help with Pastor Marilyn's Sabbatical Leave.

New Business: None

Adjourn: MSC.

Respectfully submitted, Roger Goudschaal, Secretary

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the church council

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 May, His Hands Food Pantry has requested donations of

Spices: Pepper, salt, pepper, cinnamon, herbs

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

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

Totals for March
Families served: 79
Individuals Served: 202
Total pounds distributed: 5,173

**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 May 25 and lend a hand!

Scripture Readings for May

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

	May 7 4 th Sunday of Easter	May 14 5 th Sunday of Easter	May 21 6 th Sunday of Easter	May 28 7 th Sunday of Easter
Acts of the Apostles	Acts 2:42-47	Acts 7:55-60	Acts 17:22-31	Acts 1:6-14
Psalm	Psalm 23	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Psalm 66:8-20	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
Epistle	1 Peter 2:19-25	1 Peter 2:2-10	1 Peter 3:13-22	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
Gospel	John 10:1-10	John 14:1-14	John 14:15-21	John 17:1-11

Women of Faith

Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, May 9 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!

Thank You!

The family of Forrest Bolte wishes to thank our Faith Church family for the many acts of kindness shown to us the past few months. Thanks to Pastor Marilyn for her trips to Vinton, her prayers and the great memorial service for Forrie. (He chose the hymns and music himself). Thanks to the Women of Faith delicious lunch, the people who donated food and helped prepare it. We appreciated all the prayers, memorials, cards and phone calls. God Bless. Glenyce Bolte

Thank you for the cards, memorials, thoughts and prayers given to me at the time of my sister Wanda's death. I appreciated all your support.

Karen Milius

Heartfelt thanks to our church family for the calls, visits, food, kind words, cards and gifts when death and relief from pain came to "Dean O". Pastor Marilyn, you have been an Angel of Comfort to us. God Bless!

Leland & Wilma Timmerman



Thank you to the Lynch Family for donating, in the memory of Dale, the large peace lily in the Chancel

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)
Sue Sinnwell (Dolores Schmidt's daughter & Barb Hill's sister)
Di Arthur (receiving treatment)
Velda Lynch (in hospital)
Karen Buchholz (recovering from surgery)

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Velda Lynch and her family as we mourn with them the death of Velda's husband, Dale Lynch.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Karen and Rich Milius and family as we mourn with them the death of Karen's sister, Wanda Peterson.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Joyce and Bob Kammeyer and family as we mourn with them the death of Joyce's sister, Donna Wiltse.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Doretta Brandhorst and her family as we mourn with them the death of Doretta's brother, Clarence Bitterman.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Wilma and Leland Timmerman and family as we mourn with them the death of Wilma's brother, Dean O'Connell.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Jeremy and Adella Nelson and family as we mourn with them the death of Jeremy's grandfather, Don Nelson.

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...*

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

Brandon Burrows
Adam Ohlendorf

Matthew Coulthard
Shane Buchholz

Kaitlin Westendorf
Tyler Schultz

MAY SCHEDULE

HEAD USHERS: Brian Bunce &
Roger Goudschaal

Ushers:

7 Church Council
14 Sandra Snyder
21 Kenneth & Darlys Buhrow
28 Ken & Juanita Mohlis

Greeters:

7 Jay & Jean Ranard
14 Jerry & Marlene Snelling
21 Larry & Joan Struck
28 Leland & Wilma Timmerman

Liturgists:

7 Holly Johnson
14 Karen Milius
21 Kristi Ladage
28 Don Bunce

Fellowship Time Servers:

7 Ed Board for Confirmation
14 Rich & Karen Milius
21 Barb Hill & Dolores Schmidt
28

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Joel Martin
May 2	Linda Anderson Jordan Blume
May 3	Bob Sassman Nadine Schnurstein Nicole McKenzie Brian Swift
May 4	Jeremy Nelson Larry Struck Justin Dahlstrom
May 8	Carol Hahn
May 9	Jason Olsen Ben Lane
May 11	Jackie Hansen Eldon Meier
May 12	Kim Bunce Dawn Dahlstrom Kathy Snelling Leanna Buchholz
May 14	Jamie Buchholz
May 15	Ruth Kirchhoff Reed Osborn Linda Schumacher
May 17	Don Bunce LaVonne Meiners
May 18	Verlyn Buls
May 19	Samantha Johnson Anthony Marquis
May 22	Kevin Buhrow Karen Hoppenworth Adam Moeller
May 23	Joyce Brewer
May 27	Shawn Buchholz
May 28	Tom Blume Doretta Brandhorst Monica Frazen
May 30	Edward Brandt Donna Funk Matthew Stahlhut