

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

June 2017

Tripoli, Iowa

The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be held June 30-July 4 in Baltimore, MD.

As described in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ (UCC), The General Synod is:

the gathering of a faith community representative of the wider church to listen for and discern the call of God to the United Church of Christ. The General Synod deliberates, discerns, and identifies the mission of the wider church of the United Church of Christ in God's world and receives and offers suggestions, invitations, challenges, and assistance in covenant with Local Churches, Conferences, and other settings as they engage in mission together.

As the representative body of the United Church of Christ, General Synod is composed of voting delegates from UCC Conferences. Additionally, associate delegates and ecumenical delegates, without vote are also a part of Synod. Each year delegates cast their vote on a number of resolutions. This year the resolutions that will come before the body include:

- Recognizing And Studying Gun Violence As A Public Health Emergency
- A More Just Economy: Living Wages and Job Creation
- Manual on Ministry, Re-Visioned
- Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches
- Affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Boycott of Wendy's

Within the polity of the UCC, all voting results of the General Synod speak **to** the Local Church, Association and Conference not **for** them. Each body of the denomination's structure remains autonomous and retains the right to respond as they deem appropriate to the vote of the wider body.

Of course, General Synod is an opportunity for the United Church of Christ to not only come together to conduct the business of the denomination but also to celebrate who we are and whose we are! Each day holds the opportunity for worship, conversation, and praise. Happy shouts of greetings can be heard rippling throughout the venue as folks are once again reunited with dear friends they perhaps haven't seen since the previous Synod two years prior.

Within the Synod venue is an area termed the "Marketplace." Filled with booths representing various UCC ministries, the UCC Resource Team "store" chockfull of the most current and past popular books published by the UCC's Pilgrim Press (North America's oldest surviving publishing operation), curriculums for all ages, a variety of stoles, shirts, jackets, plus a multitude of UCC logo items. Also in the Marketplace you will find a number of vendors with church-related products and

services, plus one of the largest SERRV areas I've ever seen. (If you're not familiar with SERRV, it is a nonprofit, fair trade organization dedicated to lifting disadvantaged artisans, farmers, and their families out of poverty.)

General Synod is an event I wish each member of the UCC could experience at least once in a lifetime (although once you've attended, you find it difficult to miss another!) Spending several days with more than 3,000 folks from the UCC is pretty amazing!

Pastor Marilyn

Sacred Space

Prayer for Pentecost

Holy Spirit, Creator,
in the beginning you moved over the waters.
From your breath all creation drew life.
Without you, life turns to dust.
Bring to mind where you have created life this week.
For this we give you praise. Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, Counselor,
by your inspiration, the prophets spoke and acted in faith.
You clothed them in power to be bearers of your Word.
In the quiet of this moment, counsel us
as to where we have lived out of our brokenness
and caused harm to You, to ourselves, to others, to the earth.
Holy Spirit, hear our prayers of quiet repentance.

Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, you created us children of God;
you make us the living temple of your presence;
you intercede within us with sighs too deep for words.
We receive your forgiveness.
Bring to mind ways to seek reconciliation
in relationships that are strained or broken.
Give us the strength and courage to follow through.
Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, Power, you came as fire to Jesus' disciples;
you gave them voice before the rulers of this world.
Bring to mind the name of one person
to whom you are sending us this week
that we may share the words and action that come from your fire
and witness to the reality of Jesus Christ. Come, Holy Spirit!

God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
and may the gifts of your Spirit equip us
to serve and worship you now and always. Amen.

~ written by Pastor Mary Anne Isaak

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2017

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

Members Absent: Keith Stahlhut

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn

Meeting called to order at 6:38

Additions to Agenda: None
Minutes of April 3. MSC.

Treasurer's Report:

(Barb Hill) Checking Account Balance \$ 6788.79 with paying all bills thus far. Balance of Operating Loan - \$ 4500.00

Motion to pay operating loan in full leaving a balance of \$1. MSC. We should “celebrate” this in worship on Sunday.

Motion approve Treasurer's Report. MSC.

Holly Johnson updated council on our investment information. Dane Johnston will meet with us on “all-committee” night to discuss our Endowment Funds. The accounts and their amounts need to be clarified with Dane. With our “general endowments”, we can spend the annual growth dollars.

Trustee's Report:

Rich Milius & Steve Hill - Regarding the Projector/Screen Fund. The “ballpark” cost of this project is around \$12,000. A “basic package will be forthcoming with additional options that we might have. A more “firm offer” will be coming in four weeks. Our fund has a current balance of \$ 11,685.00.

The discussion regarding the parking lot will be tabled at this point.

Rich informed the council that new thermostats have been installed in Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex that are more “user-friendly” and “non-programmable”. The thermostat in the Sanctuary remains the same.

Elder's Report:

Pastor Marilyn informed us that everything is set regarding Confirmation Sunday. We have 4 boys and 3 girls being confirmed.

The Elders will serve the confirmands and their families' breakfast before worship on Sunday, May 7.

At this point in time, Levi Lennox has declined the offer to be recognized in worship on graduation Sunday. Pastor Marilyn will contact the family of Seth Damm.

The membership list is still a “work in progress”.

The Event Committee is proposing a “parking lot fish fry” in June with the proceeds going to resurfacing a parking lot.

There will be a meeting on Monday, May 15 to further discuss the planning for Pastor Marilyn's Sabbatical Leave.

Liaison's Report:

Holly Johnson reported the Memorial/Endowment Fund has an “undesignated” amount of \$10,535.00

Florine Kirchhoff has requested that the plants in the front landscaping planter remain there.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Marilyn thought our Lenten services looking at Adam Hamilton's, “*The Creed*” went very well.

She expressed her thanks to Holly Johnson, Beth Goudschaal and JoEllen Snelling for filling in for her on Sunday, April 23 when she was sick.

She shared her joy and appreciation for this year's confirmation class. They have been “challenging, but FUN”.

Velda Lynch has been hospitalized with a collapsed lung, but no other new illness reports.

Old Business:

Holly summarized the plans for Pastor Marilyn's Sabbatical Leave regarding Sunday worship. August 13 will be communion Sunday. We will be meeting Monday, May 15 at 6:00 for further planning. Amanda Bunce will lead the August 20 worship service. We have a list of ideas to consider regarding other worship dates.

New Business: None

Adjourn: MSC.

Respectfully submitted, Roger Goudschaal, Secretary

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Church Council

MSC – Motion, Second, Carried

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

June: Hygiene Products such as shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes

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

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

Totals for April
Families served: 65
Individuals Served: 170
Total pounds distributed: 5,483

Scripture Readings for June

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

| | June 4 Pentecost Sunday | June 11 1 st Sunday after Pentecost | June 18 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost | June 25 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Acts of the Apostles | Acts 2:1-21 | | | |
| Hebrew Scriptures | | Genesis 1:1-2:4a | Genesis 18:1-15 | Genesis 21:8-21 |
| Psalm | Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b | Psalm 8 | Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 | Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 |
| Epistle | 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 | 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 | Romans 5:1-8 | Romans 6:1b-11 |
| Gospel | John 20:12-23 | Matthew 28:16-20 | Matthew 9:35-10:8 | Matthew 10:24-30 |

Women of Faith

Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, June 20 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!

TNR BIBLE STUDY

It has been a long-standing tradition for Faith United Church of Christ to offer a monthly Bible study to the residents of Tripoli Nursing and Rehab. Currently those studies are held at 10:30 am on the third Thursday of each month. We are looking for someone to assist in continuing this tradition. Or perhaps several folks could be set up on a rotation schedule. The Bible study lasts approximately 30 minutes and the topics can include conversation based upon a Bible passage or perhaps an article or story read and discussed. Devotions and commentary from the Upper Room or similar publications are also a possibility. Additionally it is nice to add a hymn or two either sung to the piano or a musical CD. Interested? Please contact the office at faithucc@gmail.com or Pastor Marilyn at rev.msargent@gmail.com. We will also be available for helping volunteers find resources. Continuing to reach out to the residents of the home is an important ministry of our congregation. Please prayerfully consider how you might help insure it continues.

Welcome!

At our Sunday May 7 worship we welcomed our newest members of Faith United Church of Christ – our seven 2016-2017 confirmands!

Alex Johnson
Maguire Johnson
Katlyn Marquis
Emma Martin
Autumn Piehl
Conner Piehl
Jayden Stahlhut

These are seven delightful and spirit-filled young adults who have many gifts to share with us! Alex, Maguire, Katlyn, Emma, Autumn, Conner, & Jayden, we are SO glad you are here!

Thanks too for the mentors who dedicated their time and talents to this class

Helen Milius
Dean Shinstine
Kristi Ladage
Susan Cline
Barb Sowers
Brian Bunce
Barb Hill



Greetings Campers! My name is Seth Engelman and I am the new Program Manager here at Pilgrim Heights. I am excited to begin my new adventure with you as we introduce a new structure for our ecumenical Christian-based summer residential camp program – Branching Out: Connecting through Christ! This seems to be the perfect theme for this summer of change, as the first part of the theme is about camp being a great time to branch out in our lives: to try new things, to discover things about ourselves and stretching us out as we grow. The second part of our theme focuses on the two jobs Jesus taught us that we have as branches: staying connected to the vine and bearing fruit. We want all ages to have plenty of opportunities to come and enjoy all that Pilgrim Heights has to offer! We now have organized our camping options around the following age groups:

Explorers: Completed grades K-2

Discoverers: Completed grades 3-5

Voyagers: Completed grades 6-8

Adventurers: Completed grades 9-12

Grandparents and Me (Plus!): Special adult(s) paired with children

Families

Adults

Never fear – all the Fun from themed camps of prior years will be part of our summer together! There will be time to be Adventurous Boys & Daring Girls, Fishers, Mad Scientists and Stargazers. We can explore M(usic)-A(rt)-D(rama), the Challenge Course & Elements and Outpost! Please read the descriptions for each age group and find the sessions that work for you! Many weeks we will welcome campers from several of our age groups.

We once again will be ending week-long camps on Friday evening and hope families will join us for a final campfire meal and celebration to wrap up camp. Come be a part of the vine that is Pilgrim Heights and help us bear new fruit as we expand our programming in new and exciting ways!

I look forward to meeting you all!

-Seth Engelman Program Manager Pilgrim Heights Camp & Retreat Center

To check out what's available this summer at Pilgrim Heights visit

www.pilgrimheights.org/camps-retreats/

Call Pilgrim Heights at 641.492.6165 or stop by the church office for a brochure.

Reminder – the church will pay one-half of a camper's fee.

Congratulations!



We celebrate our Tripoli High School graduates!

Seth Damm

Levi Lenox

We're very proud of you!

Best wishes to Jennifer Bunce and
Christian Sather as they celebrate
with family and friends their
never-ending love for each other on
Saturday, June 10th!



FUNDRAISING FOR PARKING LOT

Through June, the Women of Faith are holding a Rada Cutlery fundraiser with profits going toward the new parking lot. Rada sells a number of products – knives, cooking utensils, serving utensils, gift sets, stoneware, quick mixes, spices, cookbooks, and more! You are invited to stop by the Sunday morning table in the Narthex and browse through a catalog. Questions? Want a catalog to browse at home? Contact Jean Ranard or Marlene Snelling. Online ordering is also available so you can share this fundraiser with out-of-town friends and family. All items ordered online will be shipped directly to them. The website for online ordering is www.helpourfundraiser.com. Sign in with Internet Ordering #507129, password faithwomen (all lower case letters).

Not sure what to buy? The Women of Faith have put together a “Wish List” for the kitchen. Check out the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

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)
- Sue Sinnwell (Dolores Schmidt's daughter & Barb Hill's sister)
- Di Arthur (receiving treatment)
- Steve Hill (recovering from surgery)

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Verona Kirchoff (Mardell Kirchoff's sister-in-law)

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Doug Rosenthal (Mardell Kirchoff's brother-in-law)

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 Kirchoff | |
| <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 | Matthew Coulthard | Kaitlin Westendorf |
| Adam Ohlendorf | Shane Buchholz | Tyler Schultz |

JUNE SCHEDULE

HEAD USHERS: Mary Ann Meyer &
Rich Milius

Ushers:

4 Church Council
11 Dean & Brenda Shinstine
18 Larry & Joan Struck
25 Joyce Kammeyer

Greeters:

4 Phyllis Schnurstein
11 Mary Chapin
18 Pat Warner
25 Delores Meier

Liturgists:

4 Larry Struck
11 Susan Cline
18 Mike Westendorf
25 Wilma Timmerman

Fellowship Time Servers:

4 Mel & Verdeen Ohlendorf
11 Betty Roder
18 Bonnie Travers & Kathy
Westendorf
25 Mary Chapin

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1 Marilyn Lahmann
Helen Milius
June 3 Jean Bentley
June 8 Megan Newbrough
Karen Owens
June 9 Jodi Olsen
June 10 McKinna Benson
Jeannie Arends
Tamara Rosol
June 11 Karen Buchholz
Joan Drewis
June 12 Joan Struck
June 13 Richard Buhr
Austin Newbrough
June 14 Marilys Biermann
Justin Hoppenworth
David Kirchhoff
June 15 Sara Blessing
Pat Warner
June 16 Zachary Johnson
June 17 Walker Osborn
June 18 Angelia Buchholz
Lori Dahlstrom
June 19 Brenda Sievers
June 21 Marjorie Axon
Corey Rosol
June 23 Kennedy Drewis
Whitney Figanbaum
June 25 Jerry Snelling
June 26 Juanita Nuss
June 28 Grant Goudschaal
June 29 June Buhr
Janelle Holien