

# FAITH TALK

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Faith United Church of Christ

July 2017

Tripoli, Iowa

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Sabbatical.

A new adventure for Faith United Church of Christ! A new adventure for me!

Perhaps some might think “adventure” isn’t the most proper, deeply theological word for what we will journey through these next three months but I think it works. Merriam-Webster defines it as “an exciting or remarkable experience.” And I believe this sabbatical will be a wonderful experience for all of us.

The word sabbatical itself is biblically based. It is taken from the Hebrew word for Sabbath, which literally means, “rest.” A modern-day sabbatical is an extended leave of absence from the pastorate for the purpose of renewing the pastor physically, mentally, and spiritually.

So what happens when worship is completed on July 9<sup>th</sup> and we’ve enjoyed a great fish fry together and my sabbatical has officially begun?

As you will read in Holly’s article there are many plans in place for the next three months. Your council and the sabbatical planning team have been meeting and discussing and learning and developing the services. The list of Sunday plans looks quite interesting, fun, and spirit-filled! I know without a doubt that worship will offer a great deal during the coming months.

So Sundays are covered. But what about those unexpected life-challenges that occur in the life of a church and its members? Who will you call when you have a surgery suddenly scheduled? Or find yourself needing some guidance on a concern? Or want someone to sit and pray with you? Please know your church family will be there for whatever you need.

Barb Rich will continue to be here on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-3. If you have a need, please call her and she will have someone contact you. If your situation occurs outside of those hours, please contact:

#1 Holly Johnson (president) 319.730.7878

#2 Marlene Snelling (head elder) 319.231.8554

#3 Steve Hill (vice president) 319.830.6830

Area clergy will also be available for pastoral care. However, please begin by following the procedure above.

As for me, during my sabbatical I will be catching up on some reading. Doing some writing. Taking some classes. Doing some traveling. Enjoying some extended time with family. In others words – renewing physically, mentally, and spiritually.

It will be an adventure. For all of us. And we'll have so much to share when we come back together again!

I will be remembering you all in my prayers.

I welcome yours.

Shalom,

*Pastor Marilyn*

### **From Our Church President**

## **We can do it, we can do it, we can do it!**

Have you ever gone about doing regular everyday things without even thinking all of the engineering that makes something work? Every day we turn on the faucet, drive cars, and make phone calls – there are a LOT of systems involved in each of those tasks! The last six months of preparation in anticipation of Pastor Marilyn's sabbatical have enlightened me on just how complex of a system our Faith community is, too! Your church council and sabbatical work group have been working to ensure that our next three months runs as smoothly and as inclusively as possible. The schedule is finalized, the Sunday services are being planned, volunteers have stepped forward to help with numerous different responsibilities, and I'm pleased to report that everything is falling into just the right places.

I'm convinced that WE CAN DO IT! I'm not saying that we won't notice a difference. One of our key components is going to be missing for some time, but we are re-engineering our system until that missing component is back – we are going to make this work.

I am excited about the line up of members and guests who will share our Sunday services, and I hope that you will join us in celebrating this exciting opportunity. We wish Pastor Marilyn blessings and peace during her Sabbatical, and we look forward to seeing her with us again in October.

~ Holly Johnson

# Sacred Space

*Maren Tirabassi is a pastor in the United Church of Christ. She also leads workshops and retreats throughout the country. Fifteen years ago I had the privilege of being a student in a Worship class she lead for the Iowa Conference LEARN program. She touched me then in profound ways and continues to inspire me through her writings filled with compassion and truth and spirit and honesty. She wrote the following (based upon Romans 8) for a friend who asked her to write about Alzheimers. Whether your life has been directly touched by this thieving disease or you simply hold in prayer those who are, may Maren's words bring you comfort.*

Who will separate us from the love of Christ,  
and the love of one another?

Will memory loss,  
or confusion, or delirium, or swearing,  
or wandering, or shaking, or tears?

No, in all these things we are human  
and truly God loves us.

For we are convinced  
that neither incontinence  
nor forgetting how to get home,  
nor sundowning,  
nor sudden anger,

nor skills no longer present,  
treasured stories no longer told,  
concern with appearance or smell  
no longer of importance,

nor fear of things to come,  
nor impairment of sight,  
nor failure in mobility,  
nor needing help even to eat,

nor anything else in all vulnerability,  
is able to separate us  
in any true and real sense,  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus  
and, through that sustaining grace,  
the love of those who hold us dear.

~ by Maren Tirabassi from her blog  
[giftsinopenhands@wordpress.com](mailto:giftsinopenhands@wordpress.com)

Faith United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 5, 2017\*

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

Members Absent: Rich Milius, Marlene Snelling & Barb Hill

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn

Meeting called to order at 6:35

Additions to Agenda: Parking Lot Update & Sabbatical Leave Update during Old Business

Minutes of May 1<sup>st</sup> : MSC

Treasurer's Report:

Approve Treasurer Report. MSC

Trustee's Report: None from Trustees

Pastor Marilyn noted that we do not have air conditioning in the Sanctuary and asked about the timeline for repairs. Dean Shinstine, Rich Milius will speak with Kenny Buhrow as well as Tripoli Plumbing & Heating to fix the problem.

Elder's Report: None . . . . no Elders Meeting this evening.

Liaison's Report:

(Roger Goudschaal) New flag for the cemetery was donated by Kenny & Darlys Buhrow. The tree that was blown down by the last storm will be removed by church members after the ground is dry enough to move in the necessary equipment without damaging the land.

It was noted that either the Property Committee or the Cemetery Committee needs to evaluate the health of the trees at the cemetery to see if any need to be taken down.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor will leave for Synod on June 30 and will return on July 5<sup>th</sup>. She will depart on her Sabbatical after worship on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.

The next Blood Drive will be held June 21 from 3-6 pm.

Old Business:

Sabbatical Planning meeting on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

We will need an ordained minister for the November 5 worship service. . . . Communion Sunday.

New Business: Tripoli Days Float . . . . Theme, "Small Town Proud"

*(continued)*

Will see if any members of the congregation is interested in coordinating a Float for our church.

Pastor Marilyn would like to see some volunteers lead a Bible Study for the Nursing Home.

Adjourn: MSC

Respectfully submitted, Roger Goudschaal, Secretary

MSC = Motion, seconded, carried.

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

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Faith United Church of Christ  
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes  
June 25, 2017\*

A special congregational meeting was held after worship on Sunday, June 25, 2017, to discuss our options for paving the parking lot behind our church and parsonage and to the north of the Educational Wing. Given the State of Iowa's edict that when they resurface Highway 93 (Tripoli's Main Street), we will no longer be able to park next to the curbs of Main Street.

President Holly Johnson called the meeting to order and Trustee Rich Milius was asked to provide the congregation with information that he and the property committee gathered concerning this project. What follows is a summary of what Rich shared with us:

First and foremost, the Property Committee believes paving the parking lot with concrete is too expensive (quote from Spencer Snelling of \$50,000). They also believe that using a product called "SealCoat" is not durable enough and would not last very long. "SealCoat" is basically spraying with tar and covering it with gravel.

The committee has received two bids from Kluesner Construction of Hazelton, Iowa:

Option 1 . . . . . West end of parking lot . . . . 2948 sq. ft @ \$2.70 for a total cost of \$7,959.60. Plus rock of \$1,500, the total bid was for \$9,459.60.

Option 2 . . . . . East end of parking lot . . . . 5142 sq. ft @ \$2.70 for a total coast of \$13, 883.40. Plus rock of \$2,500 the total bid would be for \$16,383.40

Option 1 would begin at the edge of the Educational Wing and go out to the street. Option 2 of our proposed parking lot would begin at the edge of our current garbage dumpster and go north to the edge of Dave Ray's property. We would have two rows of parking . . . . one facing west and the other facing east. The \$2.70 sq ft price is discounted because of the work on Highway 3.

The committee believes an additional 500 square feet of pavement would be wise for us to consider at an additional \$1,500 for the east end.

No permits from the city or county would be needed for this project.

If it is decided that a "retaining wall" is needed, Spencer Snelling can handle that part of the project.

Financing options are obtaining the loan from the American Savings Bank on a 6 % loan or obtaining a loan from Cornerstone at 4 % for 5 years at that fixed rate.

Kenny and Darlys Buhrow had questions about the grass borders of the parking lot to make it easier for the people who do our lawn care. Rich said this would be taken into consideration.

Vern Bolte asked if this type of blacktop is heavy enough to withstand the garbage truck weight. Rich believes it is.

When a question was raised about how many cars we can park with Option 2, Rich explained that he believed our paved lot would hold 14-15.

Rich and the committee will also discuss with the city about arranging for parking “stripes” to outline the spaces.

Larry Struck informed us that if we do the project in conjunction with the work that is going to be done on Highway 3 this summer, we could save approximately \$2,000 on the per square foot quote (the quote presented to the congregation reflected the discount).

When asked about the “time frame” for this project, Rich advised us that we would be wise to time it in conjunction with the work that will be done on Highway 3 to take advantage of the discount. Hwy 3 is currently under construction.

Marlene Snelling asked if the bids that were quoted included the preparation that will be necessary for the paving. Rich said it does.

Jerry Snelling raised a question about water drainage when we get heavy rain and Rich believes that problem will be taken care of.

Melvin Ohlendorf asked if this project would impact the parsonage driveway and Rich said that it would not.

Kenny Buhrow made a motion to adopt Option 2 including the additional \$1,500 the committee suggested for the additional 500 square feet. Kenny also suggested making the walkway to the dumpster wider.

Larry Struck 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion. Further discussion brought up a suggestion by Tracy Buchholz that we go ahead and do BOTH options 1&2 to assure consistency in appearance and to take advantage of the square foot savings currently available. Tracy also commented that he believed we could also need the extra room at times.

After considerable discussion, Kenny Buhrow wanted to rescind his original motion to include both options, but Larry Struck did not rescind his 2<sup>nd</sup> believing we can only afford Option 2. Questions arose about our current financial situation where we've had to borrow money to pay operating expenses and the possibility of future capital improvements down the road. The congregation proceeded to vote on the original motion. With a show of hands, Holly counted 29 in favor of doing only Option 2 and 19 opposed. The motion carried to approve Option 2 for up to \$18,000 with consideration for providing blacktopped access to the dumpster.

After some discussion on the financing options, it was decided to go with Cornerstone for the financing at 4 % for a fixed rate of 5 years. Barb Hill made the motion and Brenda Sievers 2<sup>nd</sup> . . . the motion carried unanimously.

After Pastor Marilyn led us in a closing prayer, Marlene Snelling made the motion to adjourn and JoEllen Snelling the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Goudschaal,  
Secretary

\*These minutes have not yet been approved.

### **Women of Faith Fall Dinner Planning Meeting**

Women of Faith are having a planning meeting for the Fall Dinner on July 18 at 6:30 pm. The Fall Dinner will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is to finalize plans for the dinner and raffle. We invite anyone who would like to join us in the planning or have some suggestions for the dinner, please join us on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Giving of Time, Talents, and Treasures...**

At Faith UCC we are fortunate to have so many willing members and friends to give of their time and talents toward worship, outreach, teaching, and community building opportunities for the church. We know schedules become busy during the summer and volunteers are not as available – but we find ways to continue to be the church. However, one reality that has no wiggle room is our finances. Based upon the 2017 budget approved by the congregation, our weekly income needs to be just under \$2,560. Our recent weekly average has been just slightly more than \$1,500. Please continue to remember the church in your monthly budget planning so that we can continue the work we do year round – summer, fall, winter, and spring!

### **LifeServe Blood Drive**

Thank you to all who participated in the June 21 LifeServe Blood Drive at Faith UCC. Through the Whole Blood Donations and the Double Red Cell Donations, a total of 21 units were collected. Each unit donated can be divided into the three primary components — red blood cells, plasma, and platelets — saving up to three lives. The list of the 5 common lifesaving transfusions and how much blood they require are:

- Car Accidents (50 or more units of blood)
- Organ Transplants (up to 50 units)
- Trauma Patients (up to 50 units)
- Bone Marrow Transplants (45 units)
- Burn Victims (20 units)

The next blood drive at Faith will be August 22 between the hours of 3-6 pm. Please consider donating and making a difference in the lives of others!

## Logan Liddle

As many of you know, sweet Logan has been diagnosed with Stage 3 rhabdomyosarcome, a cancer of the muscles. The tumor is located in his stomach and its size has placed pressure on his kidney requiring him to have a tube inserted to allow for drainage. Additionally during testing it was discovered that Logan has two holes in his heart, both of which have been there since birth. One will need to be repaired at some point but thankfully not at this time.

Logan has begun chemotherapy and radiation in Iowa City on his 43-week planned treatment journey. Some weeks that will require an overnight stay. Others will require multiple nights. To learn more about Logan's journey, you can visit <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/loganliddle>.

As Justine & David, Paisley, Hayden, and Corbin, make this unexpected journey with Logan, they will be surrounded by the love family, friends, and all of us at Faith UCC. In addition to our fervent prayers and the sharing our time and talents when we can, we also can help them by sharing our treasures for the many expenses of this journey – groceries, gasoline, hotel stays, and all of those unforeseen costs the family is and will be facing. If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please mail a check made out to Faith UCC with the memo notation "Liddle Family" or drop it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning. We have shared this plan with the family and they are so touched by this outpouring of love and compassion from Faith UCC members and friends.

While the instinct for many is to offer food, because of Paisley's food allergies please do not prepare food and take it to the house. It is best that the food preparations are done by those familiar with the careful process.

Logan, Justine, David, Paisley, Hayden, and Corbin – we love you all and will be with you as you continue on this journey!



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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday worship before delivery to the food pantry.

For the month of July, His Hands Food Pantry has requested donations of

**Paper Products such as paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, sandwich bags, plastic wrap**

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

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

Totals for May

Families served: 66

Individuals Served: 211

Total pounds

distributed: 6,699



## Scripture Readings for July

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](http://www.commontexts.org)

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Hebrew Scriptures	Genesis 22:1-14	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,58-67	Genesis 25:19-34	Genesis 28:10-19a	Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm	Psalm 13	Psalm 45:10-17	Psalm 119:105-112	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Epistle	Romans 6:12-23	Romans 7:15-25a	Romans 8:1-11	Romans 8:12-25	Romans 8:26-39
Gospel	Matthew 10:40-42	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

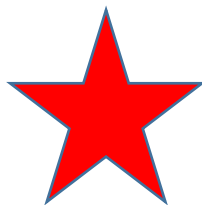
## TNR BIBLE STUDY

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](mailto:faithucc@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.



**The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**We wish you a safe and celebratory Fourth of July!**



Faith United Church of Christ  
**FISH FRY**



**Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Serving at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**Advance Ticket Sales only**

**(Last day to Purchase Tickets is July 5<sup>th</sup>)**

**Adults \$10.00**

**Children ages 5 to 12 \$5:00**

**Preschool and under free**

**Menu:**

Cod Fish

Homemade Potato Salad

Potato Chips

Homemade Cole Slaw

Fresh Fruit Salad

Homemade Rolls

Strawberries and Ice Cream

Beverages

**Invite your Friends and Relatives to join us!**

*(all by Reservations only)*

**All Proceeds will go towards the Parking Lot!**

## ***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](mailto: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...

Logan Liddle  
Scott Hyde  
Sue Sinnwell (Dolores Schmidt's daughter & Barb Hill's sister)  
Di Arthur (receiving treatment)  
Ada Blessing  
Roger Goudschaal  
Richard Buhr (receiving rehab at TNR)

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 &amp; 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	Ethan Henry
Adam Ohlendorf	Shane Buchholz	Tyler Schultz	

## JULY SCHEDULE

HEAD USHERS: Lisa Chapin &  
Melvin Ohlendorf

### Ushers:

2 Jerry & Marlene Snelling  
9 Church Council  
16 Bonnie Travers  
23 Dean & Brenda Shinstine  
30 Sandi Snyder

### Greeters:

2 Kaye Osborn  
9 Barb Sowers  
16 Tamara Rosol  
23 Sandi Snyder  
30 Verlyn & Phyllis Buls

### Liturgists:

2 Don Bunce  
9 Mike Westendorf  
16 Susan Cline  
23 Wilma Timmerman  
30 Larry Struck

### Fellowship Time Servers:

2 Verdeen Bunce  
9 Fish Fry  
16 Mary Chapin  
23  
30 Joan Struck & Marlene Snelling

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

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Conner Piehl
July 3	Katie Olsen
July 5	Rick Foelske Lloyd Martin Karen Milius
July 6	Barb Stahlhut
July 7	Kayla Milius
July 8	Juanita Mohlis Aleta Reeves Adam Reeves
July 10	Kevin Sievers
July 12	Ruth Quigley
July 13	Debra Johnson
July 15	Nathan Blume
July 17	Linda Heinemann Bailey Quigley Casey Rosol
July 18	Max Ambrose Mary Chapin
July 19	Michele Lahmann
July 20	Spencer Holm Susan Lohmann
July 21	Pastor Marilyn
July 22	Theresa Drewis
July 23	Phyllis Buls Everette Funk Clark Snelling
July 25	Nicolaus Moore
July 26	Barb Hill Isabel Marquis
July 27	Robin Sprague
July 28	Larry Brown Andrew Lee
July 30	Angella Burrows Lianne Franzen Hunter Holtz
July 31	Barry Boeckmann