

# FAITH TALK

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Faith United Church of Christ

January 2018

Tripoli, Iowa

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This month marks ten years since you – the members and friends of Faith United Church of Christ – and I officially began our journey together. Ten years. It sounds like a long time and yet for me, it has moved swiftly. I guess I notice it most when I look at the growing young ones born since my arrival and those early confirmation class members who are now young adults. As I look at photos through the years, my heart also holds the very special memories of those who have passed from this earthly life into their eternal home in God's heavenly realm.

I believe we've worked well together, you and I. Together we've tried new ideas (some worked, some not so much), we've reached out in new and compassionate ways through a variety of time/talents/treasures sharing. We've laughed. We've cried. We've felt the movement of the Spirit at work in us and through us. And sometimes we've been befuddled trying to fully grasp the message of our still-speaking God – but we continue to listen!

I believe it's been an exceptional ten years. I hope you do, too.

The question before us is – what do we do now? How do we build upon those ten years? How do we move forward keeping the traditions alive and continuing to find new, spirit-filled ways to discover God at work? How do we share those new discoveries with others?

During my sabbatical and yes, even during my cruising time, those questions rolled around in my thoughts. I have some new ideas...some new discoveries I look forward to sharing with you in the fresh year that stretches out before us.

What about you? What thoughts do you have about our next 525,600 minutes together? You know you have some. I hope you have some. For the more you think about our life together as children of God...the more hopes and dreams you have for our time together...the more time/talents/treasures you are willing to share inside and outside the church walls...the more invested you will be in the future of this congregation.

In the coming year I pray that together we remain faithful, loving, trusting, sharing, and hopeful. May we feel God's presence in all that we do. In all that we try. In all that we accomplish. And yes, even those times when we fall short of our goal.

May God live in us...with us...through us.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Marilyn

The **FAITH UCC WOMEN OF FAITH** brings to the church the opportunity to support **HIS HANDS FOOD PANTRY** in Oran through food 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 December, His Hands Food Pantry has requested donations of **Hygiene Products such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.**

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

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**NE IOWA FOOD BANK  
MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**

At the December Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) at Faith UCC, 23 households were served feeding 47 people. If you know of a family or single person struggling with food insecurity, please let them know of this opportunity to receive. The December MFP will be on **January 25**. Distribution is from 5 pm to 6 pm.

Volunteers are a vital part of making the MFP successful. We extend a HUGE thank you to the 10 volunteers who gave of their time and talents for the November 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 (and you can see below the important giving His Hands offers to our area), we invite you to stop by between 4-6 pm on January 25 and lend a hand!

**From His Hands Food Pantry in Oran...**

Totals for November  
Families served: 79  
Individuals served: 202  
Total pounds distributed: 6,101

\* \* \* \* \*

**Helping Hands Clothing Closet**

Total for November  
Families served: 194  
Volunteer hours: 48

## Sacred Space

Almighty and Eternal God  
In the midst of all that is dark and icy  
In the midst of a winter's day that grabs our senses  
with a cold beauty and yet fear of accident,  
we your people,  
brought together because of our love of Jesus Christ,  
come to proclaim light in the darkness  
life in the presence of death  
warmth in the midst of cold and  
love in the face of hate.

For it is out of darkness that you bring light  
out of chaos you bring order  
out of despair you continue to bring hope  
even to people like us.

Lord God  
no matter what has happened in the past  
no matter what the last 52 weeks have brought  
your love has reigned supreme.

Your love has reigned supreme  
while our response  
has wilted and faded  
like the leaves on an autumn tree.

Bring us back to the hope of a winter's day, Lord God.  
Bring us back to the brightness of a blue sky  
that reminds us of warmer days of summer.  
Bring us back to the evergreen trees that stand tall and proud  
in the frost signs of hope to come.  
Bring us back to the white not of snow and ice  
but to a purity of heart and mind,  
for your love unlike the snow and ice does not grow cold.

Lord God, forgive us for failing to appreciate all your gifts  
in the cycle of your created order.  
Even when we think all is dead you are providing signs of life.  
Even when we believe all is finished  
you are sowing seeds for a harvest still to come  
Forgive us for failing to see them.

As we stand on the threshold of a New Year  
so allow us to grasp the picture you have for us of all that lies ahead.  
It is a picture full of hope, full of purpose and full of love  
and forgive us for ever thinking that might suggest otherwise .  
All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

~ Rt Rev David Arnott

**Faith United Church of Christ**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 11, 2017**

Members in Attendance: President Holly Johnson, Rich Milius, Keith Stahlhut, Larry Struck, Dean Shinstine, Steve Hill, Melvin Ohlendorf (as Trustees); Mary Ann Meyer, Marlene Snelling (as Elders) Pastor Marilyn Sargent.  
Members Absent: Lisa Chapin, Brian Bunce, Roger Goudschaal

Opening Prayer: By Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Dumpster – Nominating Committee - Memorial – Budget

**Minutes of November 6, 2017:** MSC

**Treasurer's Report:** Barb Hill, Treasurer went over the Treasurer's report with the Council  
Our LOC at American Savings Bank is \$4,010.00. A gift of \$500.00 was contributed Sunday to the Parking Lot note leaving the Parking Lot Note balance of \$1,800.00. A Memorial gift of \$550.00 will be applied to the Parking Lot Note also. MSC.

The line item of Tithing/Mission (*these funds are accumulated from 10% Tithing from Lenten Meals*) Savings Account was discussed.

It was decided to gift the following Mission Projects:

Tripoli Nursing Home	\$200.00
Food Bank	\$200.00
Hospice	\$100.00
Friends of the Family	\$100.00
Mental Health	\$100.00
5 for 5 Giving	\$500.00 (each to receive \$100.00)

MSC.

**Trustee's Report:** Discussion of Christmas Gifts. MSC.

Discussion was held on the Budget for 2018

**Elder's Report:** Membership list was discussed will finalize at the January meeting.  
Christmas Worship Services were discussed.  
Hanging of the Greens, Potluck and Craft Project were well attended.  
Roger Goudschaal and Marlene Snelling will begin in January to get youth involved in our Worship Services.

**Liaison Report:** Holly Johnson reported on the Memorial Committee that Phyllis Schnurstein and Roger Goudschaal met at the all Committee night and discussed documentation on Memorials.  
Marlene Snelling reported on the Event Committee, that new Christmas tree decorations had been purchased through funds from the Event Committee Savings Account.

**Old Business:** Two people are interested in the Dumpster; Rich Milius said Nate Milius is wanting to purchase it. Marlene Snelling also had someone interested in purchasing it.

**New Business:**

Nominating Committee will be the persons whose terms are up: Holly Johnson, Steve Hill, Dean Shinstine and Brian Bunce. Melvin Ohlendorf brought up discussion of more bulletins printed for Worship Services when we have a larger number of people attending.

Need people to help with the Food Bank on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December. There will be no All Committee Night in December.

**Pastor’s Report:**

Pastor Marilyn gave a Big Gratitude to the Council for all they did and accomplished as a church during her sabbatical and vacation. She also made the comment that we have a good year ahead of us, that her time off will make a difference.

**Adjournment:**

MSC.

**Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.**

**Respectfully submitted by: Marlene Snelling**

Minutes have not been approved by Church Council  
MSC= Motion, seconded and carried.

Scripture Readings for January

These readings are based upon the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) for Year C. 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)

	<b>January 7</b>	<b>January 14</b>	<b>January 21</b>	<b>January 28</b>
<b>Hebrew Scripture</b>	Genesis 1:1-5	1 Samuel 3:1-20	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
<b>Psalms</b>	Psalm 29	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Psalm 62:5-12	Psalm 111
<b>Epistle</b>	Acts 19:1-7	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 1:4-11	John 1:43-51	Mark 1:14-20	Mark 1:21-28

## 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.

In times of crisis and concern, knowing that others are praying for you can be a healing comfort for the injured one as well as the family. Faith United Church of Christ has an active prayer chain that fervently prays in times of need. If you would like to be added to the list of folks who pray, please call Pat Warner, 319.882.3162. If you would like to have a prayer chain begun for you or someone you know needs prayers lifted for them, please call the church office, 319.882.3585 or Pat Warner.

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

Logan Liddle

Roger Goudschaal

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

Brandon Burrows

Matthew Coulthard

Ethan Henry

Shane Buchholz

Adam Ohlendorf

Kaitlin Westendorf

Tyler Schultz

We hold in prayer those in residence...

*Bartels*

Betty Holm

(Waverly)

*Hillcrest Home*

Betty Roder

(Sumner)

*Mallard Point*

Mardell Kirchhoff

(Cedar Falls)

*Cobblestone Court*

Garnetta Snyder

(Sumner)

*Whispering Willows*

Bernice Ambrose

(Fredericksburg)

*Tripoli Nursing & Rehab*

Betty Hills

Orlyn Milius

(Tripoli)

Richard Buhr

Jean Bentley

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...*

### **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION**

The Adult class meets at 9:00 in the Adult Ed Room, lower level of the Ed Wing, first classroom on the left.

This class is open to anyone who wishes to explore their faith with adult dialogue and conversation.

All are welcome!

**Classes will begin again on January 7, 2018**



Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. I love my job at Faith and have enjoying getting to know more members of the congregation n during the last year.

I am hoping everyone has a Happy New Year. Please stop in and say “hello” on Tuesday or Thursdays.

Barb Rich

### **Giving thanks with a grateful heart...**

On behalf of the members and friends of Faith United Church of Christ, I want to express thanks to all who helped to make the Advent and Christmas season a meaningful and joy-filled spiritual journey...

Thank you to the Faith Education Committee, teachers, and students who brought the story of the birth of Jesus to life with the delightful presentation of “The Fumbly Bumbly Angels”

Thank you to the Sunday Afternoon Carolers who brought the joy of music to the Tripoli Nursing Home, Cobblestone Court, and the homes of several Faith UCC members.

Thank you to the members of the Adult Choir their inspirational music throughout the season.

Thank you to all who decorated the church; prepared communion; offered greetings; ushered folks in and out of the services; and served coffee and goodies.

Thank you to Kenny and Darlys who picked up after us all!

Thank you to Barb Rich who made sure all was ready for each service and gathering.

Thank you to all who reached out to families and organizations in need.

Thank you to all who added to the joy of the season through their physical or their prayerful presence.

And I extend a personal thank you to all who helped make this such a special holiday season for me! Thank you to the congregation for the generous Christmas gift...thank you to the Women of Faith for the gift card...thank you to all who stopped by the office or phoned or mailed a card or offered a gift to extend to me a Christmas wish. I am so very grateful for you all!

*Pastor Marilyn*

## JANUARY SCHEDULE

HEAD USHERS: Roger Goudschaal &  
Steve Hill

### Ushers:

7 Church Council  
14  
21 Sandra Snyder  
28 Dean & Brenda Shinstine

### Greeters:

7 Dolores Schmidt  
14 Brian Bunce & Trevor Johnson  
21 Theresa Drewis & Tracey  
Buchholz  
28 Brad & Kim Bunce

### Liturgists:

7 Mike Westendorf  
14 Helen & Kimberly Milius  
21 JoEllen Snelling  
28 Karen Milius

### Fellowship Time Servers:

7 Mary Ann Meyer  
14 Jerry & Marlene Snelling  
21 Potluck/Annual Meeting  
28 Donna Sassman &  
Joan Struck

### School School Treats

7 Karen Milius  
14  
21  
28

In the coming months would you like  
to volunteer for one of these tasks?  
Contact the church office,  
319.882.3585.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAY

2 Adam Kirchhoff  
3 Marian Meyer  
5 Doug Weeber  
6 Phoebe Drape  
Kristin Sievers  
7 Alfred Gloede  
8 Brian Milius  
Velda Lynch  
10 Darlene Bahlman  
11 Maquire Johnson  
12 Judy Buhr  
13 Brad Buchholz  
Kim Kehe  
14 Ron Quigley  
15 Max Moeller  
16 Karen Bolte  
19 Mary Ann Meyer  
20 Katlyn Marquis  
21 Donna Sassman  
23 Larry Kammeyer  
Kathy Westendorf  
24 Shawn Marquis  
25 Paisley Liddle  
27 Brian Buchholz  
30 Shane Buchholz  
Marlys Ryan