

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

March 2018

Tripoli, Iowa

*Lent is a time to take time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God, to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk with you.*

~ Ann Weems

For those of us who live in a region with four distinct seasons, March is one of those months that can often feel endless. Although this March "comes in like a lamb" even without weather lore we know that there may be some "lion" days in the weeks ahead. We must move through those days to arrive at the fresh beauty of spring. For Christians, the Lenten journey we are upon may hold that same mental struggle of traversing through the darkness to arrive at the light-filled joy of Easter morning.

In recognizing that Lent is the time to let the power of our faith story to take hold of us, Ann Weems writes also of the fear with which some of us struggle in taking the time to thinking honestly about our faith story. For, as she points out, when we do the necessary self-reflecting we also encounter fears of facing our future knowing fully the truth about our past.

No matter how many years we have moved through the days of Lent, most of us still carry these emotions in varying degrees. During this Lenten journey we will encounter Christian truths that make us uneasy...deepen our awareness...bring cheers to our lips...and overwhelming sorrow to our hearts. Let us remain open to the change God seeks to initiate within us and allow ourselves to be fed and move into the deeper understanding we seek.

Lent can be a time of profound transformation. It's not all about penance and punishment. It's about recognizing who you are on Ash Wednesday and discovering a deeper understanding of whose you are on Easter morning. It's about the God-journey that will stir you up and bring change to your life. It's about being open to the movement of Lent. Movement that moves you closer to who God is calling you to be. Lent is a time of discovery...a time of deep breathing...a time of participating a bit more fully as a faith-filled child of God.

(continued)

Whether through personal devotions or small-group reflections or sanctuary-filled worship, my prayer is that you continue to be renewed by the truth and the promise that await you throughout this journey. May all that you hear and see and feel during these days of Lent bring new treasure and hope to your faith story.

Blessings for the journey,
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 3rd Sunday worship before delivery to the food pantry. For the month of March, His Hands Food Pantry has requested donations of **Condiments: Ketchup, mustard, mayo, pickles**. Thank you for your support of this important Mission Project of the church.

NE Iowa Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry at Faith United Church of Christ

At the February Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) at Faith UCC, 19 households were served feeding 40 people.

The March MFP will be on **March 22**. 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 17 volunteers who gave of their time and talents for the February MFP! If you can assist, we invite you to stop by between 4-6 pm on March 22 and help us **Make A Difference!**

His Hands Food Pantry in Oran

Totals for January 2018
Families served: 87
Individuals served: 232
Total pounds distributed: 6,561

Helping Hands Clothing Closet in Sumner

Totals for January
Families served: 114
Volunteer hours: 39



Tripoli Fine Arts Boosters presents “Sing, Sing, Sing”!

Come out and enjoy an evening of fun and laughter as a group of individuals get together to perform a variety of music and skits to entertain everyone! Mark your calendars and plan to attend this fun-filled night. All proceeds go back to the Tripoli Community School District music and art departments!

Place: Tripoli High School Gymnasium

Date & Time: Friday and Saturday, March 16 & 17 beginning at 7:00 PM

Ticket price: Adults \$6; Students \$5 in advance. At the door: Adults \$7; Students \$6. Tickets can be purchased from American Savings Bank, Tripoli; Farmers Savings Bank, Frederika; Jolyn’s Haircare and Tan, Tripoli; Tripoli Schools, and any cast member.

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2018

Members In Attendance: Steve Hill, Vice-Pres; Rich Milius, Melvin Ohlendorf, Keith Stahlhut, Larry Struck, Tracy Buchholz(Trustees); Brian Bunce, Marlene Snelling, Roger Goudschaal (Elders); Barb Hill, Treasurer,

Members Absent: Pastor Marilyn Sargent (Scott Hyde family), Lisa Chapin, Mary Ann Meyer

Opening Prayer: Roger Goudschaal

Meeting called to order at 5:03

Additions to Agenda: Old Business (Church Directory)

Election of 2018 Officers:

Nomination – Roger Goudschaal, Council President. MSC. Nomination. – Steve Hill, Vice President. MSC
Nomination. – Rich Milius, Head Trustee. MSC. Nomination – Marlene Snelling for Head Elder. MSC.
Brian Bunce agrees to be the recorder of minutes

Minutes of January 3, 2017. MSC.

Treasurer's Report: All bills were paid . . . did not have to borrow. MSC.

Trustee's Report: Rich Milius used a de-limer to clean dishwasher. Parsonage Furnace may need replacing. Trustees will take a look at it and make an evaluation. Will have it looked at by professionals. Boilers were looked at by Sumner service.

Elder's Report: Head Usher list passed around for sign-ups. Saturday meeting (2/3) by Roger, Marlene and Pastor Marilyn on Membership List Update. Lists compiled (Preliminary, Inactive, Transfers). Roger and Marlene are also working on a youth list to get more involvement in worship. Chili/Oyster Supper Sunday, February 11

Liaison's Report: Special Events Movie last Sunday. (25-26 people participated; met back at the church for discussion and soup)

Cemetery Committee will meet Wednesday, February 7

Pastor's Report: None

Old Business: Church Directory. Marlene suggested waiting till the fall. Last directory was completed in 2008.

New Business: Discussion regarding communion distribution – difficulty for ushers with a small attendance

- discussed combining cups with intinction
- decided to discuss this with Pastor Marilyn

Adjourn. MSC.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Goudschaal, Recorder

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

Scripture Readings for March

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

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Hebrew Scripture	Exodus 20:1-7	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Mark 11:1-11
Psalm	Psalm 19	Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22	Psalm 51:1-12	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Epistle	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrew 5:5-10	Isaiah 50:4-9A
Gospel	John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21	John 12:20-33	Mark 14:1-15:47



Pill Bottle Donations

On most any day if you walk into the 4th Avenue connector entrance you'll find a bag or two of empty pill bottles. Why? Because collecting these bottles from the community is one of the mission programs of Faith United Church of Christ.

Matthew 25: Ministries of Cincinnati, Ohio, accepts donations of empty plastic pill bottles for improving medical care in developing countries. The bottles provide a way for physicians to distribute medication in a safe and clean manner. To be dispersed, before shipping the bottles must

- Have an all plastic lid.
- Have all labels removed with no remaining glue or residue
- Be washed in very hot water and dish soap
- Be rinsed and dried thoroughly
- Have clean, dry lids placed on clean, dried bottles

While we have a volunteer who has been washing all bottles, if we could reduce the number of bottles she washes each month that would be grand. If you are able to wash them before dropping them off, please either put them in a large zip-lock bag, a plastic shopping bag, or a box with a note that indicates they have been washed.

If you would like to support this mission but do not use plastic pill bottles, monetary gifts to defray the cost of shipping the bottles are always welcome! Make your check out to Faith UCC, note "shipping" in the memo and drop off at the church or mail to PO Box 14, Tripoli, 50676.

As always, thank you for helping Faith UCC to continue to make a difference!

Faith United Church of Christ 2018 Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Lent

Meals served 5:45 to 6:45 pm in Fellowship Hall

Worship services begin at 7:00 pm

Date	Meal Hosted By	Entrée	Worship Location
March 7	Adult Education	Lasagna	Fellowship Hall
March 14	Women of Faith	Baked Potato Bar	Fellowship Hall
March 21	Faith Ed. Comm.	Beef Burgers	Fellowship Hall

Holy Week

Meal served from 5:45 to 6:45 in Fellowship Hall

Worship services begin at 7:00 pm

Date	Meal Hosted By	Entrée	Worship Location
March 29 (Maundy Thursday)	Church Council	Pork Loin	Sanctuary
March 30 (Good Friday)			Grace Lutheran
March 31 (Easter Vigil)			Sanctuary

Easter – April 1

Sunrise Service at 6:30 am followed by Easter Breakfast

Sunday School 9:00 am

Easter Worship at 10:00 in Sanctuary

Women of Faith

The March meeting of the Women of Faith will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at 7:00 pm. Please plan to join us for an evening of fun, faith and fellowship.

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.

Faith United Church of Christ also 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
Nolan Thompson (grandson of Barb & Steve Hill)
Beverly Shinstine (sister-in-law of Dean Shinstine)
Janice Vorthmann (friend of Mary Ann Meyer)

We join with the family of Florine Kirchhoff as we mourn her passing but celebrate her new eternal life in God's Heavenly Realm!

We join with the family of Milton Jones (Velda Lynch's brother in law) as we mourn his passing but celebrate his new eternal life in God's Heavenly Realm!

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...

<i>Bartels</i> (Waverly)	Betty Holm	
<i>The Terrace</i> (Sumner)	Betty Roder	
<i>Rosewood Estate</i> (Waterloo)	Mardell Kirchhoff	
<i>Cobblestone Court</i> (Sumner)	Garnetta Snyder	
<i>Whispering Willows</i> (Fredericksburg)	Bernice Ambrose	
<i>Tripoli Nursing & Rehab</i> (Tripoli)	Betty Hills	Orlyn Milius
	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...*

MARCH SCHEDULE

HEAD USHERS: Keith Stahlhut
& Tracy Buchholz

Ushers:

4 Church Council
11 Mel & Verdeen Ohlendorf
18 Joseph & Adella Nelson
25 Dean & Brenda Shinstine,
Joseph Lohmann, Lori Dahlstrom

Greeters:

4 Melvin & Verdeen Ohlendorf
11 Phyllis Schnurstein
18 Steve & Dawn Dahlstrom
25 Larry & Jean Struck

Liturgists:

4 Beth Goudschaal
11 Don Bunce
18 Adella Nelson
25 Holly Johnson

Fellowship Time Servers:

4 Karen Milius
11
18 Barb Hill & Dolores Schmidt
25 Ken & Juanita Mohlis, Judy Buhr

School Treats

4 Barb Sowers
11 Sandra Snyder
18 Marlene Snelling
25

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

MARCH BIRTHDAY

March 1	JoEllen Snelling
March 3	Glen Ladage
March 4	Todd Quigley
March 5	Corbin Liddle
March 7	Verona Biermann
March 10	Darlene Buchholz
March 12	Christopher Kehe Ben Osborn
March 13	Kaitlin Westendorf
March 15	Kenny Buhrow
March 16	Dolores Schmidt Steve Schmidt Joan Gloede
March 18	Kristian Heidemann
March 21	Zachery Buhrow
March 22	Glenyce Bolte Matthew Moeller Heidi Lane
March 30	Gary Moeller Holly Johnson
March 31	Bill Figanbaum Neysa Rinkenburger