

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

April 2018

Tripoli, Iowa

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^(a) lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead,^(b) and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

~ Matthew 28:1-10

During our Wednesday night Lenten gatherings we have been discussing the book "Easter Earthquake" written by Rev. James A. Harnish. He begins the book by sharing a quote from N.T. Wright who wrote that we sometimes,

Keep Lent, Holy Week and Good Friday so thoroughly that we have hardly any energy left for Easter. Easter should be the center. Take that away and there is, almost literally, nothing left.

As we have journeyed through Lent, we've spent time reflecting upon that truth. Focusing on the Good News of Easter morning.

And now as I write this, that Good News of Easter morning is only days away. That 40-day journey through Lent is nearly complete. As I have traveled this familiar journey I give thanks to God that my eyes have been opened to new views and understandings of the workings of the Spirit. Through our Wednesday night discussions. Through Sunday morning scripture and prayer and music. Through the joy of Lenten journey conversations with the young and the well-seasoned, I joyously recognize a transformation in my soul. I pray you have as well. If not, please don't allow yourself to surrender in defeat thinking that it won't happen. It will. It's all about God's time. Not yours. Not mine. But God's. The Holy has something to offer you. Do not be afraid. Be patient. Be open. Be willing. Your Easter transformation will come. Perhaps imperceptible to others, but you will know. And God will know. And Jesus will know. And the Holy Spirit will soar with joy!

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end!¹

¹"The Day of Resurrection"

Lyrics from the writings of John of Damascus, 8th century; Tune Henry T. Smart, 1836

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 April, His Hands Food Pantry has requested donations of **Baking Products: Flour, sugar, shortening, etc.** 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 March Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) at Faith UCC, 23 households were served feeding 57 people.

The April MFP will be on **April 26th**. 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 13 volunteers who gave of their time and talents for the March MFP! If you can assist, we invite you to stop by between 4-6 pm on April 26 and help us **Make A Difference!**

His Hands Food Pantry in Oran

Totals for February 2018
Families served: 57
Individuals served: 155
Total pounds distributed: 4,558

Helping Hands Clothing Closet in Sumner

Totals for February 2018
Families served: 82
Volunteer hours: 35

The Blood Drive was held on February 21st. 17 people donated and 20 pints were collected. Next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20th



Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2018

Members In Attendance: Steve Hill, Rich Milius, Melvin Ohlendorf, Keith Stahlhut, Larry Struck, Tracy Buchholz, Brian Bunce, Marlene Snelling, Roger Goudschaal, Mary Ann Meyer, Barb Hill

Members Absent: Lisa Chapin and Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Opening Prayer: Roger Goudschaal
Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Additions to Agenda: FEC Committee and Funeral Policy

Minutes of February 5, 2017. MSC

Treasurer's Report:

\$750 from Oyster/Chili Meal will go into General Fund to cover quarter taxes and upcoming bills. Discussion on projector is tabled until April Meeting. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report. MSC.

Trustee's Report: - No new business

Elder's Report:

Working on letter to be sent to inactive member list.

Review Head usher list for 2018.

Church Council to serve Maundy Thursday Meal. Marlene Snelling passed out the items to be donated.

Liaison's Report: No new business

Pastor's Report:

Read by Roger Goudschaal – Thank you to all members who have helped with past funerals. Both families have appreciated the support. Thank you to Roger Goudschaal and Marlene Snelling for calling the youth and asking them to help in ushering. Pastor will be contacting the sound company about her over the ear mic.

Old Business:

All Committee Night was discussed. Liaisons will help remind members about the meetings and we will continue these through 2018.

New Business:

Elder vacancy will be filled by Juanita Mohlis. MSC.

Reviewed and update liaisons on committee list.

FEC asked to have their significant others added to the member list. MSC.

Discussion on garbage pickup.

2018 goals:

Trustees to review church building to see what updates are needed.

Work on having the council more open and sharing information to members.

Funeral Policy is tabled until April.

Adjourn: MSC.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce, Recorder

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

Scripture Readings for April

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

	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Hebrew Scripture	Acts 10:34-43	Acts 4:32-35	Acts 3:12-19	Acts 4:5-12	Acts 8:26-40
Psalm	Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24	Psalm 133	Psalm 4	Psalm 23	Psalm 22:25-31
Epistle	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	1 John 1:1 – 2:2	1 John 3:1-7	1 John 3:16-24	1 John 4:7-21
Gospel	Mark 16:1-8	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:36b-48	John 10:11-18	John 15:1-8

Wanted

“Shipwrecked” sound interesting!!! This is our Bible School theme for this year. To get a head start on preparation for this we are seeking to find some props to make this an amazing journey for our Sunday School students.

If you have any of the following items we could use or have this would be so appreciative.

Old John Boat

Old Oars

Old seine (used to catch minnows)

Old Oars

Artificial Rubber or Palm Trees

Please Contact:

The Faith Education Committee

JoEllen or Scott, Theresa or Tracy, Helen or Brian

Thank you

Please Join Us!

Women of Faith continue to seek ways for us to gather in community beyond the Sunday morning worship. You are invited for coffee, juice and pastries on Saturday, April 7th from 8 am to noon. This is open to the wider community so please invite your friends to join you for conversation, cards or just some time to relax!



Women of Faith

The Women of Faith will be meeting on Wednesday, April 11 at 6:45 pm Please plan to join us for faith, fun and fellowship.

Tripoli Nursing Annual Pancake Breakfast

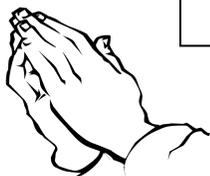
When: Sunday, April 8th
Time: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Where: Tripoli City Hall

Free Will Donation

Serving: pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, rinderwurst, juice, milk & coffee



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)
- Jim Peters
- Bill Kuker
- Clarion Winzenburg

We join with the family of Lisa Chapin and her family as they mourn the passing of her brother, John Heidemann, but celebrate his new eternal life in God's Heavenly Realm!

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

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|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Brandon Burrows | Matthew Coulthard | Ethan Henry |
| Shane Buchholz | Adam Ohlendorf | |
| Kaitlin Westendorf | Tyler Schultz | |

We hold in prayer those in residence...

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|---|-------------------|--------------|
| <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...*

APRIL SCHEDULE

HEAD USHERS: Lisa Chapin & Rich Milius

APRIL BIRTHDAY

April 1: April Birthdays

