

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

May 2018

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Logan Liddle
Eldon Meier
Janice Vorthmann
Jim Peters
Bill Kuker
Clarion Winzenburg
John Behn

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 our members at home...

Bernice Ambrose
Marjorie Axon
Jean Bentley
Richard Buhr
Betty Holm
Betty Hills
Mardell Kirchhoff
Orlyn Milius
Betty Roder
Garnetta Snyder

As you can see, with this newsletter we are changing things up a bit. What do you think so far?

The content is the same, we've just moved things around a bit. Please contact Barb or me in the office and let us know your thoughts. Both thumbs up and thumbs down. We want to create a newsletter that is useful to YOU! ~ Pastor M

While you have change on your mind, reflect upon that word with me for a bit would you? Change in a newsletter may not be the biggest challenge of your day but often change can feel unsettling. Worrisome. Even fearful. Sometimes change comes at us in ways in which we have no or very little voice. The end of a life. The end of a job. The end of a relationship.

Sometimes change happens when we're not paying enough attention. We lose touch with friends. Too much screen time keeps us from fully enjoying our kids. We forget how a simple phone call can make a meaningful difference in the life of an elderly relative.

And sometimes change happens when we just stop caring. When we presume that things or places or traditions will always be there. Until suddenly they are not.

Don Bunce recently brought me a copy of the 1968 Annual Congregation Report of Faith UCC. As I read through I found it quite enlightening. Some things have changed. Some not so much. While there is much I could share (and probably eventually will), it is words from the report of Rev. Keith Selberg that I lift up to you today:

A man had two sons. He asked both to work in his vineyard. One promised that he would, but did not. The other one refused to work at first, but later repented and obeyed his father. This second son is commended – not for his early disobedience – but for his subsequent repentance and obedience. (You can read this story in Matthew 21:28-32)

What counts with God is not lip service but action. We are challenged to examine ourselves to see if our service to God is more than lip service. Baptism, confirmation, and church membership imply a pledge of Christian service. Have we fulfilled the promises implied in our Christian profession?

Does Christ truly reign in our homes? Are we strengthening our congregation and the church-at-large by generous stewardship of our talents and means? Are we fulfilling our privileged and obligations of church membership? Are we serving in the various capacities of organization and witness? Are we zealous for the cause of missions? Are we bearing Christian witness at our place of work? God has called us to work in his vineyard – the world. Are we obeying that summons?

Amen, Pastor Keith. Amen.

Pastor Marilyn

OUTREACH

The **WOMEN OF FAITH** bring to the church the monthly opportunity to support **HIS HANDS FOOD PANTRY** in Oran through monthly donations of food and household items. For the month of May, the food pantry has requested donations of

Spices: Pepper, salt, cinnamon, parsley, thyme, etc.

Items may be placed in one of the baskets located throughout the building.

Distribution at His Hands Food Pantry is on Tuesday evenings and Friday mornings. During the month of March, His Hands served 79 families (198 persons); and distributed 6,140 pounds of goods; and did it all with the assistance of 47.5 volunteer hours. Would you like to volunteer? Contact Roger Burgart at 563.920.8522.

Mobile Food Pantry

On the 4th Thursday of each month, Faith UCC hosts the Tripoli area Mobile Food Pantry (MFP). Each month food insecure households are assisted by what they receive as they walk past the tables set up in our Ed Wing lobby.

The May MFP will be on **Thursday, May 24th**. Distribution is from 5 pm to 6 pm.

We extend a HUGE thank you to all of the Faith & Grace volunteers who each month give of their time and talents at the MFP. If you can assist, we invite you to stop by between 4-6 pm on May 24 and help us create more smiles!

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? Easy answer – 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

There is a box in the entryway where you can place your bags of washed bottle. If you are not able to wash the bottles you donate, please bag them up and place them in the “not washed” box in the connector.

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.

Best Choice “Save-A-Label”

Did you know that saving Best Choice labels can make money for the church? Best Choice products (available at Casey's in Tripoli; J & C Grocery in Sumner; Brother's Market in Denver; Fredericksburg Food Center; and other area markets) will donate three cents for every Best Choice UPC label redeemed (a minimum of 1,000 per calendar year required). So, if we collected 1,000 we would receive \$30. Two thousand labels – \$60. A win/win, right? We're starting a bit late for this year but who knows – we might gather 1,000 by the end of the year! We don't need to have the entire label, just the UPC symbol with Best Choice printed above it. Look throughout the building for places to drop off your Best Choice UPC labels.



COUNCIL MINUTES

April 2, 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, Juanita Molhis, Barb Hill, and Pastor Marilyn

Members Absent: Lisa Chapin

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm

Minutes of March 5, 2017: MSC.

Treasurer's Report:

Operating loan has increased and there was discussion on ways to help pay off the loan. MSC

Trustee's Report:

Cemetery Committee met with the Trustee's and voted to modify the Perpetual Care Fund.

Reviewed pricing for a 10 ft by 10 ft patio at the back door of the parsonage. Current estimates are \$300 for sand and patio block or \$500 for all cement.

Looking into option for updating sanctuary walls to remove crack and update.

Elder's Report:

Updated membership list has been completed.

Youth are being asked to help with worship service.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with Holy Week.

Senior Breakfast is May 20th.

Liaison's Report:

Memorial Committee is looking at ideas for what members can donate to. Memorial also asked to have \$3,000 used from Les Bock CD to cover pastor pension and health insurance. MSC.

FEC is working on Vacation Bible School.

Pastor's Report:

Will be ordering a parking sign for Bob Kerr as he parks in the back lot. Juanita Mohlis will be installed on Sunday April 8th. We had a discussion on the newsletter content if we have too much or too little. On April 21st at Pilgrim Heights they will be celebrating Earth Day. JC Grocery in Sumner sent a letter for us to save Best Choice labels. We can turn these labels in for \$0.03 each. Thank you to everyone who helped with Holy Week.

Old Business:

Garbage Pickup was discussed. We will be purchasing a replacement garbage can for curbside pick as one was damaged over winter. We will also purchase an additional garbage can to hold overflow garbage. This was we can set the overflow out at the next collection day.

Projector project has \$17,500 collected. We will also get an additional quote from DB Acoustics in Des Moines.

New Business: None

Adjourn: MSC

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce, Recorder

MSC = Motion, seconded and carried
Minutes not yet approved by Church Council

SACRED SPACE

The God who yearns and waits for us

We are strange conundrums of faithfulness and fickleness.
 We cleave to you in all the ways that we are able.
 We count on you and intend our lives to be lived for you,
 and then we find ourselves among your people
 who are always seeking elsewhere and otherwise.
 So we give thanks that you are the God
 who yearns and waits for us,
 and that our connection to you is always from your side,
 and that it is because of your goodness
 that neither life nor death
 nor angels nor principalities
 nor heights nor depths
 nor anything in creation
 can separate us from you.
 We give you thanks for your faithfulness,
 so much more durable than ours. Amen.

~Walter Brueggemann

Question. *In each newsletter we list the weekly scriptures for the coming months based upon the Revised Common Lectionary (SEE BELOW). Most weeks the worship liturgy, music, and sermon are based upon one or more of the RCL scriptures. Is this something you refer to each month or do you wait to learn the scriptures on Sunday morning? There is no right or wrong answer. Again, we strive to make this a newsletter that serves you. Please drop a note to faithuccchurch@gmail.com or offer Pastor Marilyn a “yes” or “not so much” the next time you see her. Thanks!*

Scripture Readings for May

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

	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
Hebrew Scripture				Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm	Psalm 98	Psalm 1	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Psalm 29
Epistle	1 John 5:1-6	1 John 5:9-13	Romans 8:22-27	Romans 8:12-17
Gospel	John 15:9-17	John 17:6-19	John 15:26-17	John 3:1-17
Acts of the Apostles	Acts 10:44-48	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Acts 2:1-21	

THINGS TO DO

Graceland Concert

On Tuesday, May 15, the sanctuary of Faith UCC will be filled with the sounds of the Graceland University Concert Choir! Under the direction of Sara (Goudschaal) Blessing, NM, this 32-member choir will close their multi-state tour here in Tripoli. This free and open-to-all concert begins at 7:30 pm.

In welcoming these students into our church, we have also agreed to welcome them into our homes. If you are able to house at least two students for the night of May 15 or would like more details, please contact Kathy Westendorf at 319.882.3569 or 319.415.3569.

An Invitation...

During the months of May, June, and July the Faith UCC Women of Faith will be hosting a First Saturday gathering in Fellowship Hall, 8 am to noon. (Don't let the hosting group fool you – this is NOT a women only thing!)

Want to gather with friends from church and the wider community for coffee, cookies, and conversation? Come on in! Want to play a rousing game (or two or three!) of cards with your neighbors? Come on in! Have a board game you'd like to play? Come on in! We have some or bring your own!

No agenda – just a time for togetherness in a world where we sometimes need to be reminded to slow down, take some time for ourselves and reconnect with others face-to-face! May 5, June 2, July 7. We hope you will join us!



Women of Faith

The Women of Faith will be meeting on Tuesday, May 8 at 6:45 pm. Please plan to join us for faith, fun and fellowship.

Vacation Bible School

Each year the Faith Education Committee (FEC) finds a new and exciting VBS format to help kids explore their faith. Through meaningful and fun-filled methods, the FEC stretches imaginations and deepens spirits!

This year "Shipwrecked" is the theme. Stop by the Ed Wing lobby and view the tree already decked out with hints on all that awaits those courageous enough to set sail on September 9!

In preparation, the FEC is in need of some props to make this an amazing journey for our Sunday School students.

If you have any of the following items to loan or donate, please contact an FEC member: JoEllen or Scott, Theresa or Tracy, Helen or Brian.

Items needed:

Old John Boat

Old Oars

Old seine (used to catch minnows)

Old Oars

Artificial Rubber or Palm Trees

MAY VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHERS: Brian Bunce &
Mary Ann Meyer

Ushers:

6 Church Council
13
20 Kailey & Kristian Heidemann
27 Dean & Brenda Shinstine

Greeters:

6 Larry & Joan Struck
13 Kaye Osborn
20 Jerry & Marlene Snelling
27 Vern & Karen Bolte

Liturgists:

6 Larry Struck
13 Lisa Chapin
20
27 Roger Goudschaal

Fellowship Time Servers:

6 Barb Hill & Dolores Schmidt
13 Sunday School
20 Jerry & Marlene Snelling
27 LaVera Buchholz

School School Treats

6 Traci Bahrentuse
13 Bonnie Travers
20 JoEllen Snelling
27

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Joel Martin
May 2 Linda Anderson
Jordan Blume
May 3 Bob Sassman
Nadine Schnurstein
May 4 Jeremy Nelson
Larry Struck
Justin Dahlstrom
May 8 Carol Hahn
May 11 Eldon Meier
May 12 Kim Bunce
Dawn Dahlstrom
Kathy Snelling
Leanne Buchholz
May 14 Jamie Buchholz
May 15 Ruth Kirchoff
Reed Osborn
Linda Schumacher
May 17 Don Bunce
Lavonne Meiners
May 18 Verlyn Buls
May 19 Samantha Johnson
Anthony Marquis
May 22 Kevin Buhrow
May 23 Joyce Brewer
May 27 Shawn Buchholz
May 28 Tom Blume
Doretta Brandhorst
Monica Franzen
May 30 Edward Brandt
Donna Funk

Faith UCC Council

President Roger Goudschaal
Vice-president Steve Hill
Recorder Brian Bunce

Elders

Marlene Snelling (Chair)
Brian Bunce
Lisa Chapin
Roger Goudschaal
Mary Ann Meyer
Juanita Mohlis

Trustees

Rich Milius (Chair)
Tracy Buchholz
Steve Hill
Melvin Ohlendorf
Keith Stahlhut
Larry Struck

Staff

Pastor Rev. Marilyn Sargent
Administrative Assistant Barb Rich
Financial Secretary Roger Goudschaal
Treasurer Barb Hill
Inside Custodians Kenny & Darlys Buhrow
Director of Music Elizabeth Goudschaal
Musicians June Buhr
Phoebe Drape
Dawn Holm
Mary Jo Rothe