

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

December 2018

Tripoli, Iowa

In this issue:

	<u>Page</u>
Outreach/Things to do	2
Council Minutes	3
Advent/Christmas	4
December Volunteers	7
& Birthdays	
Council & Staff	7

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

Roger Goudschaal
Mary Ann Meyer
Stacy Nuss
Nora Ann Beck
Janice Vorthmann
Andrew Warner

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

Shane Buchholz
Brandon Burrows
Matthew Coulthard
Kristian Heidemann
Ethan Henry
Kaitlin Westendorf

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Jean Bentley
Richard Buhr
Betty Holm
Betty Hills
Orlyn Milius
Betty Roder
Garnetta Snyder

We mourn with Kenny Leuenberger and Stacey Snyder at the passing of Kenny's father, Ron Leuenberger.

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

~ Mark Twain

A few months ago I read an article about the mobile app “Be My Eyes.” It’s a free app that connects blind and low-vision people with sighted volunteers for visual assistance through a live video call. Every day, sighted volunteers lend their eyes to solve tasks big and small to help others lead more independent lives. Maybe the caller needs help with checking expiration dates, distinguishing colors, reading instructions, or navigating new surroundings.

Currently there are more than 1.8 million “Be My Eyes” volunteers in more than 150 countries, speaking more than 180 languages. And I am proud to be one of them.

After learning about this giving opportunity, I immediately downloaded the app and eagerly awaited my first call. They tell you it might take some time. Unfortunately I wasn’t able to answer the first couple of calls I received. (Each request is sent to more than one phone to insure someone is able to respond.) I was disappointed but still enthusiastic for my first experience. And a few weeks ago it came!

As I waited for the connection, I admit to being a bit nervous. Would my assistance be enough? Accurate? Helpful?

When the call and camera connected, I was greeted by the friendly voice of a gentleman who was attempting to sort out some of his shirts by color. While they were hanging on his shower rod, I gave him the color information as he pointed to a shirt. The entire call took probably only five minutes but it was an amazing five minutes! We were two children of God giving and receiving just as God intended.

In this time of gift giving, there is no better gift to offer than kindness toward another. I encourage you to consider signing up for “Be My Eyes” in the app store on your phone. For additional information on “Be My Eyes” and to view some beautiful stories of how it has helped blind or low-vision folks, visit www.bemyeyes.com.

It will make a difference in the day of another. It will make a difference in you.

~ Pastor Marilyn ♥

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 December, the food pantry has requested donations of

Baking Products: Flour, sugar, PAM, cooking oil, etc

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

Women of Faith

The Women of Faith Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm. All women of the church are invited. We will have a short meeting and then refreshments and fun games. There will be a \$15 gift exchange. The offering will go to Tripoli Nursing Home Activity Fund. Hope you will be able to join us!

Area Volunteer Opportunities

Each year, the Joint Volunteers of the Arc hold their annual **Holiday Cookie Walk!** This year the event will be taking place on Saturday, December 8. The money they raise benefits adults with disabilities served by both North Star Community Services and Exceptional Persons, Inc. The funds help pay for outings, the annual Halloween dance, etc.

Homemade decorated cookies and Christmas candies are needed for this event! Gather a group of friends, family members, people from your church or Scout group, 4-H members, or simply bake some treats yourself for this awesome community fundraiser!

They need as many homemade decorated cookies and Christmas candies as they can get! Please drop baked goods off at the North Star building (3420 University Avenue) on Friday, December 7 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If you have some time to share on a Tuesday evening or Friday morning, call Roger Burgart at 563.920.8522 to volunteer with the distribution of food at **His Hands Food Pantry** in Oran.

Your help is always welcome at the **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** as we serve the area food insecure each month here at Faith UCC with donations from the NE Iowa Food Bank. During December, the Mobile Food Pantry will be on the **THIRD** Thursday, December 20th. Typically the Mobile Food Pantry is on the **FOURTH** Thursday of the month. The truck arrives and set –up begins at 4:00 pm and distribution is from 5 – 6 pm.

Council Minutes

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

Members In Attendance: Steve Hill, Rich Milius, Melvin Ohlendorf, Keith Stahlhut, Larry Struck, Tracy Buchholz, Mary Ann Meyer, Brian Bunce, Roger Goudschaal, Juanita Mohlis, Marlene Snelling, Lisa Chapin, Barb Hill, and Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm

Minutes of October 1, 2018:

Approval MSC

Minutes of Special Congregation Meeting October 14, 2018:

Approval MSC

Treasurer's Report:

Approval MSC

Sunday School we will need to pay bills from their budget and anything over budget will come from their savings.

Trustee's Report:

Mold will need to have humidifiers for summer. Will purchase those for spring.

Need to have some tuck point done by the exhaust in the furnace room.

Elder's Report:

Faith Education Committee is working on Children's Christmas program and is set for December 16th.

Photo directory being worked on. Updating names and membership.

Thank you to Roger Goudschaal and Amanda Bunce for filling in for worship while Pastor Marilyn was on vacation.

Hanging of the Greens will be December 2nd with a potluck and craft following worship.

Liaison's Report:

None

Pastor's Report:

Thank you to Roger Goudschaal and Amanda Bunce for filling in for worship.

Thank you to those who helped with All Saints Day.

We have added gluten free crackers during Communion for those unable to eat bread.

General Synod will be in Milwaukee June 21 - 25, 2019. With it being this close would be nice to have members attend.

Old Business:

Contract for projector was finalized and signed. Once they start it will be about 3 days to complete the installation. Screen will be located in the middle of the sanctuary.

New Business:

Reviewed report on giving and number of giving units.

Adjourn: Motion by Lisa Chapin, 2nd by Marlene Snelling. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce, Recorder

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

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

OPPORTUNITIES TO REFLECT UPON AND CELEBRATE THE SEASON



CHRISTMAS AROUND TRIPOLI – NOVEMBER 30 THRU DECEMBER 2

November 30 7:00 pm at the Welcome Center – refreshments and the tree lighting

December 1 10:00 am at City Hall – Ladies Christmas luncheon and style show

3:00 pm at City Hall – Snacks with Santa

December 2 3:00 pm at City Hall – Music of “White Christmas”

THE ANNUAL FAITH UCC GIVING TREE

In our annual church-wide giving opportunity, there will be tags on the Giving Tree in the Narthex. This season we are again adopting an area family as well as our Food Pantry clients. For the family gifts, please take a tag(s), purchase the item(s), and then bring back to church. Place the tag(s) on the tree in the sanctuary chancel and place the unwrapped item(s) under the tree. If you purchase kitchen or first-aid kits for our Food Pantry clients, please put them in a gift bag and place the bag(s) under the chancel tree. Please have all gifts and bags to the church no later than Wednesday December 19th! If you have questions please contact Beth Goudschaal at 319.415.3834. **Thank you for all you do!**

Advent and Christmas continued...

A NEW APPROACH TO THE ADVENT CALENDAR...

During these weeks leading up to Christmas, in many homes you will find an Advent calendar use as a popular way to count down the days until Christmas. The calendar typically has small numbered flaps for each day. When the flap is opened on each day of Advent, a small gift or a picture appropriate to the season is revealed. Recently an organization has been promoting what they are calling a "Reverse Advent Calendar." Rather than receiving, participants give an item for an area food bank. At Faith UCC we reach out every month to the food insecure in our area and so this new giving food opportunity seems quite appropriate for us!

If you want to participate in this giving opportunity there will be a donation site set up in Fellowship Hall for you to bring your items. After Christmas all donated food will be delivered to His Hands Food Pantry in Oran.

The suggested list for giving for each day of Advent is as follows:

- December 1 – box of cereal
- December 2 – peanut butter
- December 3 – stuffing mix
- December 4 – boxed potatoes
- December 5 – macaron and cheese
- December 6 – canned fruit
- December 7 – canned tomatoes
- December 8 – canned tuna
- December 9 – dessert mix
- December 10 – jar of applesauce
- December 11 – canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 – cranberry sauce
- December 13 – canned beans
- December 14 – box of crackers
- December 15 – package of rice
- December 16 – package of oatmeal
- December 17 – package pasta
- December 18 – spaghetti sauce
- December 19 – chicken noodle soup
- December 20 – tomato soup
- December 21 – can corn
- December 22 – can mixed vegetables
- December 23 – can carrots
- December 24 – can green beans



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, December 2 – On the first Sunday of Advent we will gather in the sanctuary for worship, communion, and our annual Hanging of the Greens! We hope you will join us as we explore the meaning behind many of our Christmas traditions including the colors of the season, the Christmas tree, and wreaths. Following worship we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a scrumptious potluck and then participate in an intergenerational craft project for each person to take home. It is a delightful way to begin this beautiful season!

Sunday, December 9 – On the second Sunday of Advent our worship will be gifted with the singing talents of “The Dames” (Elizabeth Goudschaal, Stacey Snyder, Jane Bernard, Faye Elliott, Shelley Mohling, Glenda Slack)

Sunday, December 16 – On the third Sunday of Advent we will be gifted by our children presenting “A Not-So-Silent Night.” Watching and hearing our youth tell the story of Jesus’ birth is such a wonderful tradition in this church!

Also on the 16th, all are invited to join the choir and pastor as we travel to area homes and care centers to share the beauty of Christmas Carols. Meet at the church at 1 pm to carpool.

Thursday, December 20 – At 7:00 pm we will gather in the sanctuary for our Blue Christmas service. This service is for those who find the Christmas season to be a challenging time due to the death of a loved one...a broken relationship...the loss of a job...or any of the many life situations that can separate us from the joyful festivities of the season. This service offers reflective time to tenderly feel all of our emotions while we honor the birth of God’s son.

Sunday, December 23 – On the fourth Sunday of Advent we will celebrate the musical talents of our Adult Choir as they share with us the story of Jesus’ birth through the lyrics and melodies of the Cantata.

Monday, December 24 – At 7:00 pm we will gather in the sanctuary for our traditional Christmas Eve service of Lessons, Carols, and Communion as we welcome God’s Son, the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel.

On Christmas Eve we will also gather for a service in the sanctuary at 10:30 pm.



DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHERS: Marlene Snelling & Steve Hill

Ushers:

2 Church Council
9
16 Dean & Brenda Shinstine
23
30

Greeters:

2 Brian Bunce & Trevor Johnson
9 Phyllis Schnurstein
16 Virgil Ducker
23 Tracy Buchholz & Theresa Drewis
30 Don & Vernetta Bunce

Liturgists:

2 Lisa Chapin
9 Don Bunce
16 Beth Goudschaal
23
30

Fellowship Time Servers:

2 Potluck
9 Jerry & Marlene Snelling
16 Sunday School
23 Adult Choir
30 Barb Hill

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Kristi Foelske
Sandra Ladage
7 Jerry Hyde
Bob Kammeyer
Travis Schwarze
10 Larry Piehl
11 Laurie Buhrow
16 Hayden Liddle
17 Brittany Quigley
Trevor Johnson
18 Kristi Bass
20 Verdeen Ohlendorf
21 Larry Smalley
24 Beth Goudschaal
Mary Moeller
27 Scott Chapin
28 LaVera Buchholz
29 Ken Mohlis

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
rev.msargent@gmail.com
Barb Rich
Administrative Assistant
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 Rathe