

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

April 2019

Tripoli, Iowa

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*Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them;
they don't know what they're doing."*

~ Luke 23:34a

Pilate had issued his verdict and Jesus had been handed over to the authorities who led him through the streets to the place called the Skull. They had nailed him to a cross and put him alongside two other convicted criminals. As he looked out upon those who had gathered, Jesus asked God to forgive the ones who were a part of the events of the day.

I believe that we who walk this earth today should find great comfort in this compassionate prayer offered by Jesus. Not only through his great sacrificial act on the cross, but through the hope of his words seeking forgiveness for all of God's children – including us. And Jesus knows, we need forgiveness.

As I have watched and listened to the increasing angry rhetoric and enraged actions of so many in this country, I am filled with overwhelming doubts and discomfort and sadness. I'm not sure where or when having disagreeing thoughts turned into such rage-driven dialogue. Too frequently the language has turned violent...the threats are very real...and the disrespect for another human being has vanished.

There are too many irate voices taunting just as the voices that rose up from those who stood beneath the cross and mocked Jesus. To where did our respect for one another vanish? When did it become acceptable to degrade a person simply because of a position that she or he takes that is different from ours? When did we stop taking the time to listen and discuss and find the points we have in common?

This country has been facing and continues to face challenging times. Our problems do not lie within the ideas and leadership of one person or one political party or one special-interest group – and neither do all of the solutions. Distressing situations take time to come to fruition and so do the resolutions. But if we are focused solely on finger-pointing and blaming, our circumstances will never recover. We will be merely angry people living an angry life in angry surroundings. A life so far removed from God's original love-filled plan for us.

Jesus said, "forgive them, for they know not what they do." We typically hear those words as ones offered on behalf of those gathered on that darkening day. But consider this – perhaps even then Jesus' words were to we who were to follow. Perhaps even Jesus knew that we who were to follow would not have progressed to a full understanding of how we are to live as children of God. Perhaps even then Jesus knew that we who were to follow would be acting in a manner that reflected our lack of a thorough understanding of our actions. Perhaps even then Jesus knew that our twenty-first century crumbling humanity would be in desperate need of the hope and peace and grace and forgiveness offered by the One who created us all.

Perhaps even then Jesus knew. And he prayed for us.

God forgive us and help us make things right.

Pastor Marilyn

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

Logan Liddle
Bob Kerr
Susie Lohmann
Blake Ladage
Nora Ann Beck (Marlys Biermann's gr. niece)
Adam Moeller (son of Kathy Westendorf and Gary Moeller)
TT Schmidt

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 Karen Milius and family on the death of her mother, Glennis Smith and her sister, Judy Garner.

We mourn with Darlys Buhrow on the death of her brother, Eugene Lampe.

We mourn with Annette Weeber on the death of her brother, Doug.

OUTREACH AND THINGS TO DO

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 April, the food pantry has requested donations of

Condiments: Baking Products: flour, sugar, PAM, spices, salt, pepper, etc,

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

Women of Faith
The Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, April 9 at 6:45 pm for the regular meeting. All women of the church are invited to join this group.

Quilters Needed! It has been a long-standing tradition that the Fall Dinner Raffle includes a hand-stitched quilt by the Faith UCC Quilters. Through the years the number of quilters has declined. Without new members, there will not be a quilt produced for this year's raffle. If you have ever quilted or if you have always wanted to learn how, now is your chance! Please contact Dolores Schmidt at 882.3246 with questions or to volunteer your time!



General Synod 32



The General Synod of the United Church of Christ is a bi-annual gathering of members and friends of the denomination. This summer Milwaukee will host the 32nd General Synod on June 21-25. During those five days, delegates from the 38 UCC Conferences will conduct the business of the denomination – studying, discussing, and voting on resolutions of witness, church structure, and function. In addition, attendees to 2019 General Synod can find a number of opportunities to interact through worship, local community service projects, a concert, speakers, a street festival, workshops, and more.

With Milwaukee about 4-1/2 hours away, this General Synod might be a good opportunity for interested Faith UCC folks to experience it in person. While you may not be able to attend all five days, spending the weekend with General Synod is a great option! I know that a couple of folks from Faith have expressed an interest in attending. How about you? Let's chat! Or for more information you can visit <https://www.synod2019.org/en/uccsynod2019/Home>

This year Synod is including an all-church read – *Evicted* written by Matthew Desmond. A New York Times bestseller and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the book looks at poverty and profit in the American city through the lives of eight Milwaukee families as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. On Saturday, June 22, Matthew Desmond will be the General Synod Keynote Speaker.

Even if General Synod isn't on your bucket list, I would invite others to read *Evicted* with me and join together for a guided discussion. Interested? Contact me at rev.msargent@gmail.com or call the office.

Council Minutes

Faith United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes March 4, 2019

Members In Attendance: Steve Hill, Keith Stahlhut, Trevor Johnson, Tracy Buchholz, Dean Shinstine, Brian Bunce, Roger Goudschaal, Marlene Snelling, Lisa Chapin, and Ashley Penrod. Also in attendance Don Bunce, Barb Hill, and Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Members Absent: Juanita Mohlis, Rich Milius

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent
Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm

Memorial Committee: Don Bunce came to the Council with concerns about our financial provider Johnston Financial. Money was deposited into the Memorial Money Market Account in December 2018. This money then remained in the money market account for one month before it was invested. If this money was invested sooner we would have gained around \$1,500. With this we are questioning why money was not invested more timely and do we need to have a meeting with them. Roger Goudschaal suggested the Memorial Committee to contact Johnston Financial to address the question as Memorial Committee manage the fund on behalf of the Council. If the committee wishes to have Council present at the meeting we will attend.

Minutes of February 4, 2019:

Motion – Steve Hill; 2nd Trevor Johnson. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Tracy Buchholz, 2nd Ashley Penrod. Motion Carried

Around \$5,000 was deposited after missing two weeks of worship due to weather.

Motion to donated \$75 to Wartburg College Choir from money saved to help offset food cost from Graceland University visit in 2018 which is sitting in saving, 2nd Steve Hill. Motion Carried.

Trustee's Report:

Painting of Sanctuary tabled until April meeting.

We will leave the thermostat at 68 degrees in the sanctuary.

Elder's Report:

Reminded of the upcoming Lent Services.

Head Usher list for 2019 was passed out.

Liaison's Report:

FEC is working on Vacation Bible School.

Memorial Committee Jean Ranard will renew for new term.

Pastor's Report:

Two new members have joined. A few more will join once weather improves and schedules work out.

Two visitors were in church and they were touched by the kindness from the Congregation.

Garage door was having issues and contacted Christy Door to service. Dishwasher handle is not functioning and also will be serviced.

Lent Services will be in the Sanctuary using the projector with a DVD. There is a book with the DVD and can be purchased for \$12.50.

Beth Goudschaal and Pastor will be going to the Tripoli Elementary to listen and help students with reading.

Bible study Thursday at Tripoli Nursing Home. Pastor has also joined the Board of Directors.

Pastor's report continued...

Good Samaritan Fund is at \$42. It is harder to use a check for people in need and the checks are predated from previous years. We will close the checking account and hold a little cash in the office. General Synod is coming up and we will have more information as we get closer.

Old Business:

Old carpet has been replaced and is looking nice. Looking into updating window coverings. Some furniture has been rearranged. Total cost was \$10,162.24. \$10,000 was donated by Susan Cline and the remaining \$162.24 and additional \$551.91 for new base board was covered by Women of Faith.

New Business:

Reviewed Committee List for 2019.

Motion by Lisa Chapin to approve April 13th Fellowship Hall rental, 2nd Trevor Johnson. Motion Carried
Church Cancellation will be decided by the Pastor and Church President. If church is canceled Council will be notified to help spread the word.

Letter to members which have donated \$0 will not be sent.

Adjourn:

Motion by Steve Hill, 2nd by Trevor Johnson. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Bunce, Recorder

These minutes have not yet been approved by Council.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Choir will be singing on April 14th.
The last day of Sunday School will be on May 12th.



If you have not seen the beautiful carpet in the Fellowship Hall – you must check it out! The new carpet gives our Fellowship Hall a warm and welcoming feeling. The project was finished in about a week and a job very well done. We would like to THANK Susan Cline, who donated the monetary funds for this project. This is a wonderful gift of love you have given Faith United Church of Christ. Susan, we are so grateful and appreciative of your kindness.

Our blessing to you,
Women of Faith and Faith United Church of Christ

Our thanks also to Kenny & Darlys Buhrow, Bob Sassman, Jerry & Marlene Snelling, JoEllen & Scott Behn, and Tracy & Cody Buchholz for all the work to get the basement ready for the installation and putting it all back together.

Faith United Church of Christ 2019 Lent and Holy Week Schedules

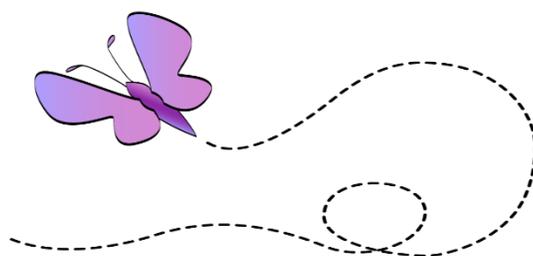
Lent

Meals served 6:00 to 6:45 pm in Fellowship Hall

Lenten study begins at 7:00 pm.

**NOTE: The final session of “Entering the Passion of Jesus” will be Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 pm.
There will be no meal served on that night.**

Date	Meal Hosted By	Entrée	Worship Location
April 3	Women of Faith	Baked Potato Bar	Sanctuary
April 10	Faith Education	Beef Burgers	Sanctuary



Holy Week Worship

On **Palm Sunday** (4/14) we remember Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem and the triumphant “Hosanna!” shouts of the people.

On **Maundy Thursday** (4/18), dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 pm. We will gather at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary to remember the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.

On **Good Friday** (4/19) we will host a community service at 7:00 pm.

On **Holy Saturday** (4/20) we will gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm for the **Easter Virgil** service where we will be the first to discover the empty tomb.

Easter Morning we will rejoice in the risen Christ at our 6:30 am service and the 10:00 am service.

Please also plan to join us for the annual **Easter Breakfast** following the 6:30 service.

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHERS: Brian Bunce & Trevor Johnson

Ushers:

7 Church Council
 14 Confirmation Students
 21 Confirmation Students
 28 Confirmation Students

Greeters:

7 Leland & Wilma Timmerman
 14 Bob & Donna Sassman
 21 Jerry & Marlene Snelling
 28 Tamara Rosol

Liturgists:

7 Karen Milius
 14 Don Bunce
 21 Lisa Chapin
 28 Beth Goudschaal

Fellowship Time Servers:

7 Mel & Verdeen Ohlendorf
 Larry & Joan Struck
 14 Trevor Johnson, Brian Bunce
 21 Easter Breakfast
 28 Mary Chapin

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr 4 Kaye Osborn
 Tracy Buchholz
 Apr 5 Brian Bunce
 Apr 7 Kimberly Milius
 Apr 9 Catie Ott
 Apr 11 Sophia Hyde
 Apr 12 Dean Shinstine
 Danny Dillon
 Apr 13 Katelynn Piehl
 Apr 14 Susan Cline
 Apr 16 Phyllis Schnurstein
 David Schwarze
 Conner Quigley
 Apr 18 Austin Foelske
 Apr 19 Sandra Ryherd
 Apr 20 Steve Dahlstrom
 Apr 22 Lincoln Drewis
 Apr 26 Melvin Ohlendorf

Faith UCC**Council**

President Roger Goudschaal
 Vice-president Steve Hill
 Recorder Brian Bunce

Elders

Marlene Snelling (Chair)
 Brian Bunce
 Lisa Chapin
 Roger Goudschaal
 Juanita Mohlis
 Dean Shinstine

Trustees

Rich Milius (Chair)
 Tracy Buchholz
 Steve Hill
 Trevor Johnson
 Keith Stahlhut
 Ashley Penrod

Staff

Pastor Rev. Marilyn Sargent
rev.msargent@gmail.com
 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 Rathe

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