

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

May 2019

Tripoli, Iowa

In this issue:	Page
Outreach/Things to do	2
Council Minutes	3-4
Congratulations	5
In Gratitude	6
May Volunteers & Birthdays	7
Council & Staff	7

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

Logan Liddle
Nora Ann Beck (Marlys Biermann's gr. niece)
Adam Moeller (son of Kathy Westendorf and Gary Moeller)

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

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

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Jean Bentley
Richard Buhr
Betty Holm
Betty Hills
Bob Kerr
Orlyn Milius
Betty Roder
Garnetta Snyder (Gar has returned to Cobblestone!)

*"Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"
He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods
that the Father has set by his own authority.
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth."*

~ Acts 1:6b-8

Jesus has risen from the grave and proved that death does not have the final word – God does. For 40 days he has walked among his followers, speaking to them about the kingdom of God. They have shared meals and enjoyed each other's company just like old times. But then Jesus delivers the above words and is taken up in a cloud.

Returning to Jerusalem and that upper room that has become so familiar to them, they gather – the eleven remaining disciples, Mary and her sons, and the other women who had stayed faithful in their dedication to Jesus. The men have elected a 12th disciple to replace the shamed and now deceased Judas.

What now?

It was a question those early Jesus followers asked themselves. It's a question we must ask as well. We have made our way through Lent...we have taken that perilous journey through Holy Week...and have been fittingly joyous in our "He Is Risen!" proclamations. What now?

As we move into May we have much to celebrate as a faith community. The first Sunday is Confirmation Sunday – it doesn't get much better at Holy Spirit experiencing than that joy-filled day! The second Sunday of May will feature our children and youth singing and celebrating the year they have spent together learning more about God's amazing grace! On the third Sunday of May, we will be graced by our wonderful adult choir as they offer their final performance until Fall. Following the final Sunday in May (with Roger Goudschaal preaching), we will begin our summer worship schedule.

What might we do to maintain the excitement of Lent and Easter and May? How can we continue to live as Easter People? Whether you are one who steps away from the church for the summer as you travel or if you are one who returns home from your warmer-weather winter getaway, your witnessing is desperately needed by a world darkened by the fear and anger and injustice and bias thrust upon God's children.

Through kindness...through empathy...through patience and grace and mercy offered to others, may you continue to live out the words of Jesus and spread his truth to others so desperately needing to experience God's extravagant love.

Pastor Marilyn

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 May, the food pantry has requested donations of

Women of Faith
The Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:45 pm for the regular meeting. All women of the church are invited to join this group.

Spices: Pepper, salt, cinnamon, etc

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

* * * * *

Would anyone like to join Pastor Marilyn in volunteering one or two days a week to serve breakfast and/or lunch at the Summer Food Program at the school? Breakfast is 8:15-8:45, lunch is 11:30-12:30. Dates will be the last week of May, all of June, and possibly 3 weeks in July. If we have several folks we can alternate if someone has a scheduled date they are not available. Interested? Call the church office (883.2585) or email Pastor Marilyn at rev.msargent@gmail.com if you can help in this outreach opportunity for our community.



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
April 1, 2019

Members In Attendance: Steve Hill, Keith Stahlhut, Trevor Johnson, Tracy Buchholz, Dean Shinstine, Brian Bunce, Roger Goudschaal, Juanita Mohlis, Marlene Snelling, Lisa Chapin, and Ashley Penrod

Also In Attendance: Barb Hill, and Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Members Absent: Rich Milius

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm

Minutes of March 4, 2019:

Motion – Steve Hill; 2nd Tracy Buchholz. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Marlene Snelling, 2nd Ashley Penrod. Motion Carried

Trustee's Report:

Kitchen door needs some attention and will talk with property committee.

Ashley Penrod will look into getting some sign prices for locations in the building.

Elder's Report:

Confirmation will be May 5th. The Elders will serve a breakfast for the class and their immediate family.

Maundy Thursday meal is April 18th. Council will provide meal.

Picture Directory is almost complete.

Liaison's Report:

FEC is working on Vacation Bible School.

Pastor's Report:

Tripoli Nursing Home and Rehab thanks us for the donation.

UCC Conference sent us our 5 for 5 donation award.

General Synod is June 21 – 25.

We will celebrate June Buhr for her gift of music to the church. We will also get a gift card to West Music.

Worship Committee met and worked on planning Holy Week.

Discussion on having Easter Ad in the paper for upcoming worships and this was approved to post an ad.

Old Business:

Marlene Snelling will mail out 2019 Committee list to all the members on the current list.

New Business:

Reminder when you are Head Usher to make sure wireless mic on the top right is also powered on. This is not tied into the surge protector.

Adjourn:

Motion by Marlene Snelling, 2nd by Dean Shinstine. Motion Carried
The meeting concluded with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce, Recorder

These minutes have not yet been approved by Council.

Sunday School News



Sunday School Choir will be singing on May 12th .
That will also be the last day of Sunday School for the children..

Congratulations

We congratulate Stacey Snyder upon her selection as one of this year’s Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellows in recognition of her commitment to geographic education. With 44 other highly respected educators from the United States and Canada, Stacey will embark on global expeditions on board the Lindblad Expedition ships to enhance her geographic knowledge with hands-on experiences she will bring back to her classroom, community, and professional networks.

In a separate celebration, Stacey was recently named one of the ten 2019 Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching within Blackhawk County. Stacey is the K-5th Expanded Learning Program teacher, Gifted Resource teacher at Orange Elementary in Waterloo.

Stacey, we are so proud of you and celebrate your many gifts to humanity and creation!

Thank you to all those who so graciously donated yarn. We appreciate it.
Drop-A-Stitch





We have just moved through what I felt was an especially meaningful Lenten Season and Holy Week. Whether you were able to spend it at Faith UCC or elsewhere, I hope the journey brought you to a deeper understanding of who you are and whose you are as a beloved child of God.

Many folks have come up to me after our worship services and Wednesday night studies and expressed their appreciation for the experience. While I am always grateful for the kind words, I will let you in on a little secret – as pastor of a congregation, you quickly learn that all of those pieces of worship and church life that seem to flow seamlessly (well, at least most of the time!) do not happen with you alone.

There is a risk in thanking folks but I am going to try. If I leave you out, please accept my apology and remind me the next time you see me...

Thank you to:

The Worship Committee – Lisa Chapin, Beth Goudschaal, Roger Goudschaal, Steve Hill, Marlene Snelling, & Larry Struck – who met with me and helped to plan out the journey.

The Altar Committee – Donna Sassman, Marlene Snelling, Joan Struck – who helped create a visual ambiance that flowed throughout our services.

The groups who prepared meals during Lent – Church Council, Adult Choir, Men of Faith, Adult Education Class, Women of Faith, Faith Education Committee. Yum! You made a lot of smiles and filled a lot of tummies!

Kenny and Darlys Buhrow who diligently worked to keep things looking great (and my microphone powered up!)

Our Children's Choir and Adult Choir who gifted us with music for the season.

June Buhr, Phoebe Drape, Dawn Holm, and Mary Jo Rathe whose musical talents moved our hearts through all of the emotions of the season.

Brian Bunce and Trevor Johnson who learned that age-old lesson – don't sign up to be head usher during Holy Week!

Barb Rich who worked tirelessly to produce yet another bulletin or special reading copy.

Steve Hill who responded to every call for "HELP!" patiently and cheerfully (yes, cheerfully). Steve also learned how to do some of the coolest things in the presentation program as well as keeping up with me on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Thank you to all our teachers and mentors who took this Lenten journey with our students of all ages and through knowledge shared strengthened their foundations of faith.

Whether you attended one service or each of the Sunday and Holy Week services...whether you attended a Sunday morning class or a Wednesday evening class...whether you watched a DVD of our service or prayed for us from afar, we feel blessed to have shared this journey with you. May we all move forward as resurrection people, eager to share the truth of God's love and grace and mercy known to us through Jesus the Christ who has risen! Alleluia!



Pastor Marilyn

MAY VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHERS: Roger Goudschaal & Dean Shinstine

Ushers:

5 Church Council
12 Dean & Brenda Shinstine
19
26 Mike & Kathy Westendorf

Greeters:

5 Bonnie Travers
12 Marlys Biermann
19 Phyllis Schnurstein
26 Larry & Joan Struck

Liturgists:

5
12 JoEllen Snelling-Behn
19 Larry Struck
26 Mike Westendorf

Fellowship Time Servers:

5 Marlys Biermann
12 FEC
19 Karen Milius
26 Sandy Martin & Delores Meier

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Joel Martin
May 2 Linda Anderson
May 3 Bob Sassman
Nadine Schnurstein
May 4 Jeremy Nelson
Larry Struck
Justin Dahlstrom
May 8 Carol Hahn
May 12 Kim Bunce
Dawn Dahlstrom
Kathy Snelling
Leanna Buchholz
May 14 Jamie Buchholz
May 15 Ruth Kirchhoff
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 Doretta Brandhorst
Monica Franzen
May 30 Edward Brandt
Donna Funk
Matthew Stahlhut

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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