

# FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

February 2020

Tripoli, Iowa

In this issue:	Page
Pastor's Message	1
Prayers	1
Outreach/Things to do	2
Council Minutes	4
February Volunteers & Birthdays	5
February Calendar	6

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

Logan Liddle  
Marty Smalley  
Lloyd Martin  
Dean Bunce (Don's brother)  
Robert Keller (friend of  
Pastor Marilyn)

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  
Austin Kingsbury  
Kaitlin Westendorf

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Jean Bentley  
Richard Buhr  
Orlyn Milius  
Betty Roder  
Gar Snyder

We continue to hold in prayer all of God's children 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, hear our prayers...*

*I remain confident of this:*

*I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*

*Wait for the LORD;*

*be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.*

- Psalm 27:13-14 (NIV)

For the January 29 UCC Stillspeaking Daily Devotional, Rev. John Edgerton used the above scripture verses for his writing. As he points, scriptures are assigned to the writers and deadlines set weeks before the finished devotional appears on the UCC Website. He was writing that 29<sup>th</sup> of January devotional on January 6 of this year – three days following the death of Quasem Soleimani, Iranian major general in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. A time when our country and truthfully much of the world held our collective breaths to see if there would be retaliation. While only a few weeks ago, to our current immediate-news-attention minds that incident and the retaliation that did follow seem so far removed.

Edgerton's devotional title, "What Kind of World Did You Wake Up In?" prompted me to think about the world in which I wake up in each day. And I wonder how my understanding of the day is similar or differs from your wake-up world. For some of us, the concern of war places fear on are early rising hearts. Or the illness or recent death of a loved one. Or food insecurity. Financial insecurity. No job. Miserable job. Underpaid job. Happy relationship or not so much. Good friends...good neighbors...or struggling hard to be pleasant and grace-filled.

I also wonder if any of us had an inkling weeks ago that we would wake up this morning feeling as we did.

The Psalmist writes, "I remain confident I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Edgerton points out how challenging it can feel to hold tight to that confidence when we feel the reality of the world closing in. And he writes,

But then I remember. The psalms were mostly written by people living through times of trouble. The prayers of confidence were authored by a people in turmoil, the prayers of joy penned by those in mourning, the songs of triumph by people beaten down by the world. The psalms were written by people who needed for them to true, who needed confidence, who needed goodness, who needed peace. In other words, they were written for people like you.

Our emotions, our fears, our anger, our concerns – they are not new. They are a part of living as one of God's children on earth. I have a sign in my house with a phrase that I find fills me each day with God's love to guide my journey through a world of joy and turmoil...

*I don't know what the future holds but I do know who holds the future.*

Blessings and grace and peace to you all of your days,

*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 February, the food pantry has requested donations of

***Paper Products: Paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, etc.***

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**His Hands Food Pantry – December**

Pounds Distributed:	11,924
Individuals Served	359
Families Served	123

**Faith UCC Mobile Food Pantry – January**

Households Served	38
Individuals in Households	112
Volunteers	19



**Helping Hands Clothing Closet**  
Helping Hands Clothing Closet has 1,932 client visits in 2019. Clients come from all over Bremer County and surrounding areas and actually all over northeast Iowa. Volunteers have 636 hours of their time to sort and display our donations and help clients. All donations are appreciated and we thank you. We also have work with the Red Cross to help those affected by fires and other disasters.

**Women of Faith** will meet on be held on Tuesday, February 11 at 6:45 pm. All women of the church are invited to join in the fun and fellowship.

**Blood Bank**

The Blood Bank will be held at Faith UCC Church on Friday, February 21, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.  
Note: It is schedule for a Friday afternoon instead of the usual Wednesday.

**Be A Census Taker**

There is a possible job opportunity to be a Census Taker for Bremer County. The salary range is \$21.00 to \$23.00 per hour with \$.58 per mile. To apply online: [2020Census.Gov/Jobs](https://2020Census.Gov/Jobs) or call 1-800-877-8339.

**Helping Hands Clothing Closet**

If you or anyone you know needs help with clothing needs; please stop at the Clothing Closet. The Clothing Closet is located 2028 Viking Avenue, Sumner and the hours are: Tuesday mornings, 9 to 11 am, Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 pm and the first Saturday of each month, 9 to 11 am. Thank you to everyone who has made clothing, bedding or monetary donations to Helping Hands Clothing Closet. Your support is greatly appreciated

## From the Tri-Conference UCC Ministries...

### **Call For Plastic Bags Support your Youth, Community, and Planet**

One of the projects at National Youth Event 2020 (NYE) is converting disposable plastic bags into sleeping mats for people who are homeless. Let's get plastic out of the landfill and put it to good use!

#### **How to get the bags to us:**

**Hand-to-hand:** If someone from the Conference Staff is coming to visit your church this Spring or you'll see them at an event, collect the bags ahead of time and send the bags back with them!

**Snail Mail:** Mail them to the South Dakota Office: 3500 S Phillips Ave, Ste 100 Sioux Falls, SD 57105

#### **What kind of bags do we need?**

Any size, color, and shape of plastic bag or even dry-cleaning wrap will do. Material needs to be fairly clean and unripped. Please DON'T buy new material just for the project, we already have enough plastic on the planet.

#### **Why This Work is Essential**

Single-use plastic bags are contributing to serious health and environmental issues right in our backyards and across the planet. Even when properly disposed of, bags easily escape from the garbage truck, landfill, boat, and average consumer's hands – and are then carried into lakes and waterways, and eventually into the ocean. Plastic bags make up the third largest type of litter from land-based sources found on U.S. coasts and do enormous damage to wildlife. This is just one of the many harmful effects of plastic bags and other single-use plastics.

Tackling these issues will require the culmination of many small actions to bring about large change. You can be a part of this environmental movement while improving the quality of life for people who are homeless by supporting this NYE project.

#### **Look for plastic bag donation boxes throughout Faith UCC.**

**This is a win-win-win for all – your household reduces its number of plastic bags, the National Youth Event is able to come together on a making-a-difference project, and those living on the streets will have a lightweight and semi-waterproof barrier between them and the cold, wet ground.**

#### **Interested in Attending NYE?**

NYE is celebrated as the largest denominational gathering for the United Church of Christ youth, with an expected attendance of 2,500. The 2020 event will be held July 22-25 at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. The event is open to youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school. There are also involvement opportunities for Youth Group Leaders (21 years of age or older) and Chaperones (young adult 19-20 or adult 21+). The registration fee for the event is \$375. This fee includes the event, housing, and on-campus meals. Check out <http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/> or contact Pastor Marilyn. There are some scholarship funds available for those wanting to attend.

Council Minutes

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2020

Members In Attendance: Keith Stahlhut, Trevor Johnson, Brian Bunce, Lisa Chapin, Marlene Snelling, Juanita Mohlis, Rich Milius, Roger Goudschaal, Tracy Buchholz and Ashley Penrod.. Also In Attendance: Pastor Marilyn Sargent and Barb Hill

Member(s) Absent: Steve Hill and Dean Shinstine

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm

Minutes of December 2, 2019 and December 22, 2019:

Motion to approve previous minutes by Marlene Snelling; Second by Tracy Buchholz. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Rich Milius, Second by Ashley Penrod. Motion Carried

Trustee's Report:

Quote to replace North East door on Ed building will be \$2,318. An additional \$2,250 for an automatic door opener. Furnace burners have been replaced.

Elder's Report:

Event Committee did a great job with decorating for Christmas and the craft was fun. Took about an hour to take all the decoration down after Christmas.

Liaison's Report: - None

Pastor's Report:

Reviewed thank you notes we have received and they will be posted. Committee reports are due into the office by Friday the 10th. Post cards have been sent out for the annual meeting. We will have a funeral this Saturday the 11th. We have received an offer to build the Endowment Fund. A member will match the first \$10,000 received by July 4th. More information will come on this opportunity.

Old Business:

Paint Committee will be meeting with Ryan Good from Second Nature Painting Wednesday 8th at 1 pm. This will be to finalize the details for color, time frame, and other items. This way it is ready for the Annual Meeting. Signs for the church are still in the works.

Discussion on what to do with lose offerings. Motion by Brian Bunce for the 1st Sunday of each month lose offering is placed into Good Samaritan Fund. Once it reaches \$500, funds go to mission work. Second by Lisa Chapin. Motion Carried,

New Business:

2020 Nominees: Daniel Groskurth for Elder. No name for Trustee at this time. Motion to approve 2020 budget by Keith Stahlhut; Second by Juanita Mohlis. Motion Carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Marlene Snelling, Second Tracy Buchholz. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce

Minutes have not been approved by Council

**FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS**

HEAD USHERS: Tracy Buchholz &amp; Keith Stahlhut

**Ushers:**

2 Church Council  
 9  
 16  
 23 Dean & Brenda Shinstine

**Greeters:**

2 Trevor Johnson & Brian Bunce  
 9 Doretta Brandhorst & Vicki Oleson  
 16 Nate & Lesley Milius  
 23 Don & Vernetta Bunce

**Liturgists:**

2 Ashley Penrod  
 9 Karen Milius  
 16 Helen Milius  
 23 JoEllen Behn

**Fellowship**

2 Soup Lunch  
 9  
 16  
 23 Marlys Bierman,  
 Kenny & Darlys Buhrow

**Sunday School Treats**

Vernetta Bunce  
 Kaitlin Westendorf  
 Theresa Drewis  
 Darlys Buhrow

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2 Tim Quigley  
 5 Theodore Oburra-Ladage  
 6 Marty Smalley  
 7 Cheryl Dahlstrom  
 9 Steve Hill  
 Marlene Snelling  
 10 Jay Ranard  
 11 Sandi Snyder  
 12 Carol Kammeyer  
 Asher Milius  
 14 Bailey Klein  
 15 Mason Penrod  
 16 Spencer Snelling  
 18 Kailey Heidemann  
 Jodi Heinemann  
 20 Darlys Buhrow  
 27 Kristi Ladage  
 Alexander Johnson  
 28 Joyce Kammeyer

**Faith UCC****Council**

President Roger Goudschaal  
 Vice-president Steve Hill  
 Recorder Brian Bunce

**Elders**

Brian Bunce  
 Lisa Chapin  
 Roger Goudschaal  
 Juanita Mohlis  
 Dean Shinstine

**Trustees**

Tracy Buchholz  
 Daniel Groskurth  
 Steve Hill  
 Trevor Johnson  
 Keith Stahlhut  
 Ashley Penrod

**Staff**

Pastor Rev. Marilyn Sargent  
[rev.msargent@gmail.com](mailto:rev.msargent@gmail.com)  
 Barb Rich  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Financial Secretary Roger Goudschaal  
 Treasurer Barb Hill  
 Inside Custodians Kaitlin & Tristin Westendorf  
 Director of Music Elizabeth Goudschaal  
 Musicians June Buhr  
 Phoebe Drape  
 Dawn Holm  
 Mary Jo Rathe

Faith United Church of Christ – 408 S Main Street – PO Box 14 – Tripoli, IA 50676

319.882.3585 – [faithuccchurch@gmail.com](mailto:faithuccchurch@gmail.com) – [www.faithucctripoli.org](http://www.faithucctripoli.org)

Like us on Facebook at Faith United Church of Christ, Tripoli