

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

March 2020

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Logan Liddle
Marty Smalley
Larry Smalley
Hayden Timmerman
Velda Lynch
Dan Gloede
Rhonda Prickett

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

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
Jo Ann Steward

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.

*Lent is a time to take the time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events
get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...*

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!
~ Ann Weems

The spirit-filled writing of Ann Weems always seems to offer me the grace and truth of God's love for me. The above is from one of my favorites for Lent.

"Lent is a time to take the time."

Reading these words again as we begin our journey to the cross is a good reminder of a recent sermon about God's directive to the Peter, James, and John as they gathered on that mountaintop with Jesus. "Listen to him," God instructs. "Listen!"

In the UCC we often refer to our Still-Speaking God. Daily devotionals are written within the understanding of that phrase. Some of us wear red commas to remind ourselves and others that when God places a comma rather than a period, we are to pay attention to what's next. But for many of us, the challenge isn't to believe that God isn't done talking to humankind. The challenge for most of us is the actual listening part.

How does God speak to you? Did you ever wonder if it was God's voice or it was your understanding of what you *think* God would say to you in a particulate situation? Is it God or is it you? How can you know?

While I cannot answer those questions for you, what I can do is promise you that when God really wants to get your attention, you'll know. But what about those other times? Those times when God simply wants to gently get you to slow down. Stop the busyness. Pay attention to the world around you. And live fully into who you are and whose you are – a beloved child of God.

Ann Weems offers some meaning "time" ideas during Lent. I invite you to add listening to that list. Set at least a few minutes each day to say to God, "Okay, God, you have my attention. I am listening for you!"

Blessed Lenten journey dear listening ones,

OUTREACH AND THINGS TO DO

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 March, the food pantry has requested donations of

Condiments: ketchup, mustard, pickles, etc.

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

* * * * *

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

His Hands Food Pantry – January

Pounds Distributed:	11,055,
Individuals Served	376
Families Served	121

Faith UCC Mobile Food Pantry – January

Households Served	38
Individuals in Households	112
Volunteers	19



Helping Hands Clothing Closet
Helping Hands Clothing Closet had 112 client visits in January and our volunteers gave more than 50 hours of their time. We have an ongoing need for children’s new or gently used winter coats, boots and warm clothing.

Women of Faith will meet on be held on Tuesday, March 3 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. We have 13 donors give blood. Thank you to all who donated.

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 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!

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 the plastic bag bin inside the Faith UCC south connector door.

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 6th 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
February 3, 2020

Members In Attendance: Keith Stahlhut, Trevor Johnson, Lisa Chapin, Juanita Mohlis, Roger Goudschaal, Tracy Buchholz, Ashley Penrod, Steve Hill, Daniel Groskurth , Vicki Oleson, and Dean Shinstine

Also In Attendance: Pastor Marilyn Sargent and Barb Hill

Member(s) Absent: Brian Bunce

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent
Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Roger Goudschaal.

Elder Nomination:
Motion to have Vicki Oleson fill open Elder position by Roger Goudschaal; Second Lisa Chapin. Motion Carried

Election of Council for 2020:
Recorder: Brian Bunce, Head Trustee: Trevor Johnson, Head Elder: Lisa Chapin, Vice President: Tracy Buchholz, President: Roger Goudschaal

Minutes of January 6, 2020:
Motion to approve previous minutes by Tracy Buchholz; Second by Juanita Mohlis. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:
Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Ashley Penrod, Second by Juanita Mohlis. Motion Carried

Trustee's Report:
Painting project will start February 17th and the February 23rd service will be in the basement.

Elder's Report:
Shrove Tuesday will be February 25th and Ash Wednesday will be February 26th.

Liaison's Report:
None

Pastor's Report:
Installation of Officers will be February 16th.

Old Business:
Motion to have a loan up to \$18,000 to cover paint, repairs, and door replacement by Tracy Buchholz;
Second Vicki Oleson Motion Carried

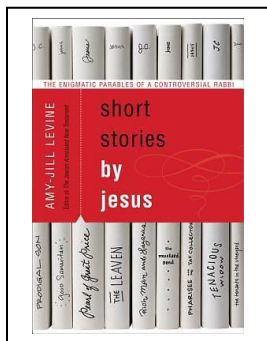
New Business:
No other new business.

Adjourn:
Motion by Trevor Johnson, Second Ashley Penrod. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted, Trevor Johnson

Minutes not approved by Council

Lent



Wednesday Night Lenten Spiritual Study

Beginning Wednesday, March 4 and continuing through Wednesday, April 8, you are invited to gather at 7 pm in the sanctuary with Pastor Marilyn to study “Short Stories by Jesus” by Amy-Jill Levine. We will study six of the parables of Jesus, reflecting upon how these parables were heard by the original Jewish audience and how we interpret them today. The study includes a weekly introduction to the parable, a short video, and group discussion. A book or eBook download is available, but not required. Books are \$11.99 and are available in the office. Contact Pastor Marilyn for the eBook link available for \$8.79. There are also scholarship funds available for anyone who is not able to purchase a book. See Pastor Marilyn for details.

Lenten Meals

All Wednesday night meals will be served from 6-6:45.

March 4	Choir	Chili and Cheese Soup
March 11	Men of Faith	Chicken Noodle Soup
March 18	Adult Ed Class	Lasagna
March 25	Women of Faith	Baked Potato Bar
April 1	Faith Ed Board	Beef Burgers

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday – (meal served from 6-6:45, worship at 7)

April 9 Council Pork Loin

Good Friday

April 10 – worship at 7 pm at Grace Lutheran Church

Easter

Easter

April 12

Sunrise Easter Service at 6:30 am, followed by Easter Breakfast

Easter Service at 10:00 am

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHERS: Tracy Buchholz & Keith Stahlhut

Liturgist:

1 Roger Goudschaal
 8 Beth Goudschaal
 15 Larry Struck
 22 Scott Behn
 29 Bonnie Travers

Greeters:

1 Melvin & Verdeen Ohlendorf
 8 Kenny & Darlys Buhrow
 15 Mike & Kathy Westendorf
 22 Marlys Biermann
 29 Pat Warner

Ushers:

1 Church Council
 8 Leland & Wilma Timmerman
 15
 22 Ken & Juanita Mohlis
 29

Fellowship

1 Mary Chapin
 8 Brunch
 15 Steve & Barb Hill
 22 Larry & Joan Struck
 29 Judy Buhr, Mary Ann Meyer

Sunday School Treats

Theresa Drewis
 Tamara Rosol
 Kathy Westendorf
 Sandy Martin

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 JoEllen Snelling-Behn
 3 Glen Ladage
 4 Todd Quigley
 5 Cordon Liddle
 7 Verona Biermann
 10 Darlene Buchholz
 12 Christopher Kehe
 13 Kaitlin Westendorf
 15 Kenny Buhrow
 16 Dolores Schmidt
 Steve Schmidt
 18 Kristian Heidemann
 21 Zachery Buhrow
 22 Glenyce Bolte
 Matthew Moeller
 30 Gary Moeller
 Holly Johnson
 31 Neysa Rinkenburger

Faith UCC**Council**

President Roger Goudschaal
 Vice-president Tracy Buchholz
 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

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 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

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