

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

April 2020

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Marty Smalley
Larry Smalley
Hayden Timmerman
Velda Lynch
Dan Gloede
Rhonda Prickett
Michelle Kirkvold

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
Verlyn & Phyllis Buls
Velda Lynch
Orlyn Milius
Betty Roder
Gar Snyder
Jo Ann Steward

We mourn with Justine & David, Paisley, Corbin, Hayden on the passing of Logan from this life. Even in our deep sorrow, we join them in celebrating with joy the earthly time we shared together with this beloved Child of God and his continuing life in God's heavenly realm!!

God, bear our prayers...

*"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."
- Matthew 6:34 (NRSV)*

Amen, Jesus. Amen.

In my March article, I shared a favorite poem from Ann Weems and her reminder that "Lent is the time to take the time..." Seems so long ago, doesn't it? So much has changed in our daily personal lives and in the life of the church. For many of us, taking time has a whole new meaning.

We now speak words like "shelter in place." Or "social distancing" when we find ourselves around others. I've joined my clergy sisters and brothers in attempting to learn how best to connect with our congregations through various social media and remote conferencing formats. Sometimes successful. Sometimes not so much.

Some of us wear gloves and masks to go shopping. For those of us older than 60 we may take advantage of those first hour shopping times reserved at grocery stores. We are unable to eat at our favorite restaurant, yet we want to support them so we order takeout and return to the safety of our homes to eat our meal.

While we are searching for toilet paper or sanitizer or any of those items that make us feel we are keeping ourselves clean and the germs at bay, there are thousands of healthcare workers, firefighters, EMTs, and other frontline workers who are fighting fervently to keep us from this virus that has spread to more than 200 countries

These are unparalleled times for us. Nothing looks the same. Nothing sounds the same. Nothing feels the same. Except...

Except God. God who proclaims, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5) is the same today as yesterday and will be the same tomorrow. Wrapping those Divine Arms around us and promising to be with us through all our days – including these very unsettling days that are turning into weeks and beyond.

You know this. I know you do. Yet you may get distracted by the news and the frightening numbers increasing every day and begin to wonder where God is in all of this. But be honest. If you search your heart you know God is there.

(continued)

God is everywhere. God is in the emergency rooms and the ICUs and sometimes even hallways where the sick seek healing. In nursing homes and group homes. God is there to strengthen not only the sick but also the weary doctor who hasn't seen her children in days. The technician who has processed endless test results and just wants to curl up in the arms of his beloved. The cleaning team whose exhausting jobs seems endless and yet return home trying to be fully present in the lives of their families. God is in the neighborhoods that are finding creative ways to connect without being together. God is with the late-night hosts and the news reporters now coming to us from their homes. God is certainly with the Faith UCC ladies fervently making masks to fill needs in the area. God. Is. There.

And God's presence was fully on display last Monday as the community of Tripoli came out of their homes for one very special purpose – to honor the life of Logan David Liddle. One who lived fully who he was as a beloved child of God. His family, his classmates, his community, those who watched from afar, and the more than 50 tractors who lined the streets all gathered together to form an outward, visible sign of the love and grace of God.

As we approach Holy Week, we know that we will not gather in the sanctuary for our traditional Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning services. There will be no Easter Breakfast between services. There will be no lilies filling the chancel area. But Easter is so much more than those traditions.

Easter is about the Son of God, our grace-filled gift from God. The love born in a stable, transfigured on a mount, crucified on a hill and resurrected in our hearts each time we lift up his name in praise and prayer. The church building may be empty on Easter morning, but so is the tomb!

When we gather together again – no matter when that is – we will not only praise God's name for the Holy Presence that will have brought us to the other side of this pandemic, we will also celebrate the Risen Christ. Together. As one.

Together.

So while Jesus was absolutely correct – today's trouble is enough for today, let us not forget that even in these times of trouble, we are not alone.

Easter Blessings dear ones,

~ *Pastor Marilyn*

Holy Week Services on Facebook Live

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 5, 10 am

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 9, 7 pm During the online worship we will share together in the Last Supper. Please bring to your viewing spot whatever elements you want to use for communion.

Good Friday – Friday, April 10, 7 pm

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 12, 10 am

I am extremely sad this schedule doesn't provide for those not able to be online. However, I am grateful for the technology that allows for many of us to be able to worship together in this new (temporary) online format.

<p>Food Distribution at Faith UCC Mobile Food Pantry and His Hand Food Pantry, Oran</p>
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On Thursday, March 26, Faith UCC hosted our first “literal” **Mobile Food Pantry**. It was a beautiful day to be outside (thank you, God!) The NE Iowa Food Pantry truck arrived with two boxes for each household – one with dry ingredients and one frozen. In addition, each household received a dozen eggs, a bag of oranges, and a multi-pack of Jello cups. Clients remained in their vehicles and when directed, drove in the west driveway of our back parking lot. Our volunteers loaded the food boxes and clients exited out the alley. We served 50 households including 11 new ones. Thank you to the volunteers who contacted clients to explain the process prior to the 26th; and/or walked vehicle to vehicle checking people in; making certain folks lined up correctly; or leaped into action when a new vehicle pulled up and then cheerily sent them on their way. A grateful thank you to Amy Bergmann, Lisa Chapin, Beth Goudschaal, Steve Hill, Dawn Holm, Mike Johnson, Kristi Ladage, Michelle, Brianna, and Natalie Lobeck, Helen Milius, and Kathy Westendorf. (yes, we remained aware of our social distances!) Also, a shout-out to Officer Colton who checked in on us to make certain all was well!

During these social distancing times, as long as the NE Iowa Food Pantry is able to drive their truck to our site, we will continue our future distributions in this manner. The next Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled for Thursday, April 23.

* * * * *

His Hands Food Pantry in Oran continues to serve residents of Denver, Fairbank, Frederika, Maynard, Oran, Randalia, Readlyn, Sumner, Tripoli, and Westgate. In order to follow CDC guidelines regarding people in close proximity, no client will currently be allowed to come in the Pantry to select items. Clients are to remain in their vehicle and a volunteer will come out to take information and volunteers will box up food based upon family size. The box will be placed on a table at the back door. When the volunteer has returned to the pantry, the client will then be able to step out of the care and remove the box from the table. If a client is unable to easily load the box, let a volunteer know and they will help. If you have questions or an immediate need, contact Pantry directors, Roger-563-920-8522, or Mary-563-920-3857.

Helping Hands Clothing Closet

Helping Hands Clothing Closet has issued this update:

“We appreciate all of the donations that we receive but we need to ask that you hold your clothing donations while we are closed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Helping Hands Clothing Closet will open by appointment for any immediate clothing needs. Thank you and Stay safe!”

Council Minutes

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2020

Members In Attendance: Keith Stahlhut, Lisa Chapin, Juanita Mohlis, Roger Goudschaal, Ashley Penrod, Steve Hill, Daniel Groskurth , Vicki Oleson, and Brian Bunce

Also In Attendance: Dave Kirchhoff, Pastor Marilyn Sargent and Barb Hill

Member(s) Absent: Dean Shinstine, Trevor Johnson, and Tracy Buchholz

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Roger Goudschaal.

Minutes of February 3, 2020:

Motion to approve previous minutes by Brian Bunce; Second by Lisa Chapin. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Keith Stahlhut, Second by Ashley Penrod. Motion Carried

Trustee's Report:

Painting project is completed and new door for education entry off north parking lot completed.

Elder's Report:

Council will serve Maundy Thursday meal April 9th.

No Easter Vigil Service this year.

No communion at the Easter Sunrise Service.

Easter breakfast served by Events Committee and will ask other to assist.

Love Auction Sunday with proceeds going towards paint project.

Liaison's Report:

Cemetery reviewed a plot layout issue.

Reviewed Committees and Liaison assignments.

Pastor's Report:

There is a book for this year's Lent study if you wish to get.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Dave Kirchhoff discusses with the Council regarding new tax laws. There will be more information coming out on this topic.

Adjourn:

Motion by Steve Hill, Second Keith Stahlhut. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce

Minutes not yet approved by Council



THANK YOU!

A Big thank you to **Tom Boeckmann**
for coming to Faith Church and doing your Auctioneering to help us with
a big fund raiser we held on Sunday March 8th.

The Auctioneering made this day very successful.
Also thank you to Tracy Buchholz and Cody for helping Tom with the Auction.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Auction.

A huge thank you to the people who purchased items at the Auction.

We profited \$5,935 from the Auction.

Thank you to the people who donated food to the Brunch,
thank you to the people who prepared the food,
thank you to the people who cleaned up after,
and thank you to the people who stayed and enjoyed Brunch with us.

We profited \$600 from the Brunch.

*(All the profit will go towards the Painting Project,
Repairing the walls before painting
and the new Door for the Connector)*

Thank you..... Thank you..... Thank you to everyone
who helped in anyway for this day to happen.

This was a HUGE BLESSED Day.

With sincere Appreciation to everyone.



'Preparation Committee'

***LOAN UPDATE: As of April 2, 2020,
our Painting Project loan amount is
\$5,822.51***

Things to know...

- There is a box on the altar in the connector where you can place your checks for the church or notes for Pastor Marilyn.
- Also on the altar are current “Word in Season” books.
- The Lenten Study will not be meeting again online until after Easter. I guess then we will call it an Easter Study!
- Be sure to check out our new website! Same address www.faithucctripoli.org with a whole new look. It is a work in progress but I am SO grateful for Steve Hill’s continued dedication on this project. Steve has also added to the website an online “giving” opportunity. On our home page you will find a giving button on the far right. That will take you to a page where you will see a green “Give Online” button. After you click on that you can select whether you want to use your debit/credit card or your checking account. Register your name, email, and account information (all information you is secure) and you’re ready to go!
- Roger has prepared the giving reports for the 2020 first quarter. If you would like yours mailed to you, please call/email the office: 319.882.3585 or faithuccchurch@gmail.com.
- Dolores Schmidt, Delores Meier, Sharon Funk, and Sandy Martin have been busily sewing face masks for area hospitals, care centers, and individuals. If you would like to receive a mask, please contact the church office via the contact info above.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4	Kaye Osborn Tracy Buchholz
5	Brian Bunce
7	Kimberly Milius
9	Catie Ott
12	Dean Shinstine Danny Dillon
13	Katelynn Piehl
14	Susan Cline
16	Phyllis Schnurstein
18	Austin Foelske
19	Saundra Ryherd
20	Steve Dahlstrom
26	Melvin Ohlendorf