

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

May 2020

Tripoli, Iowa

In this issue:	Page
Pastor's Message	1
Prayers	1
Council Minutes	2
THS Seniors	3
Outreach Updates	4
Things to Know, Sacred Space & May Birthdays	5

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

Marty Smalley  
Larry Smalley  
Hayden Timmerman  
Velda Lynch  
Dan Gloede  
Mick Vollrath

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  
Gar Snyder  
Jo Ann Steward

We join with the family of Betty Roder in mourning her passing. Even in our deep sorrow, we join together celebrating with joy the earthly time we shared together with this beloved Child of God and her continuing life in God's heavenly realm!!

*God, hear our prayers...*

## Psalm 23 – A Psalm of David

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

Psalm 23. That rock foundation of so many people of faith. The Psalm is fairly simple. No flowery language. No embellished promises. Just straightforward truth – the Lord is our shepherd. Our protector. Our comfort in the frightening times. Our strength in our weaknesses. God anoints us right in front of the very ones who cause us the most angst and worry. Filling our cup all the way to the brim and then God keeps right on pouring out endless love and mercy and grace.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

Import words for us in these times. And before. And after.

Believe it. Repeat it. Live it.

~ *Pastor Mariflyn*

### *Additional prayers...*

Please join me in praying for the millions diagnosed globally with COVID-19 and the nearly 300 thousand who have died. Pray for their families. Pray for hospital staff, firefighters, grocery workers, retail clerks, teachers, students, food workers, ambulance crews. Pray for the decision makers. Pray they will make wise, safe, and just decisions. Pray for those who have lost their job and are unsure how to move forward. Those who wait soaked in anxiety to learn the fate of their employment. Pray for those who must return to work before it can feel safe. Pray for your family, pray for your neighbor, pray for your friends, pray for your enemies. Pray. Pray. And then pray some more.

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

Members In Attendance via ZOOM: Trevor Johnson, Lisa Chapin, Roger Goudschaal, Tracy Buchholz, Steve Hill, Daniel Groskurth, Vicki Oleson, Brian Bunce, and Dean Shinstine

Also In Attendance via ZOOM: Pastor Marilyn Sargent and Barb Hill

Member(s) Absent: Keith Stahlhut, Juanita Mohlis, and Ashley Penrod

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

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

Minutes of March 2, 2020:

Motion to approve previous minutes by Lisa Chapin; Second by Tracy Buchholz. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Dean Shinstine, Second by Trevor Johnson. Motion Carried  
Will check with the copier/printing company to see if we could get a discount for not printing the past few weeks.

Trustee's Report:

No new business

Elder's Report:

Worship will be held online.  
Thank you to the ladies sewing masks.  
Will collect One Great Hour when we return.

Liaison's Report:

No new business

Pastor's Report:

Thank you to the church and community for showing all the love and support to Logan's family.  
Working with Steve Hill to use Media Shout for upcoming online services. March food pantry had great support and served 50 households.

Old Business:

Reviewed committees

New Business:

Setting up a meeting with American Savings Bank to apply for loan with the Cares Act. This will help to cover payroll and utilities for the church.

Adjourn:

Motion by Tracy Buchholz, Second Steve Hill Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Bunce

These minutes not yet approved by Council

# *Faith United Church of Christ Celebrates the 2020 Senior Class of Tripoli High School*

## **Faith United Church of Christ 2020 Seniors**

Lori Dahlstrom  
Lincoln Drewis  
Madeline Freiberg  
Joseph Lohmann  
Autumn Piehl

Blake Block  
Seth Boeckmann  
Mason Bradley  
Joseph Cappiello  
Dillion Comer  
Michael Davis  
George Doss  
Zachary Dreesman  
Stefanie Edeker  
Taylor Flaig  
Nickolas Finder  
Hunter Freese  
Kassidy Heidemann  
Dalton Heidemann  
Emma Heim  
Brandon Hennings  
Brianna Lobeck  
Olivia Miller  
Marshall Oberbroeckling  
Taylen Rettig  
Zoe Semelroth  
Mitchell Swanson  
Rachel Stumme  
Ellie Steere  
Ethan Steer  
Annaleah Wright

Distance does not weaken our pride in all you have done and all you will do. Although all you learned from kindergarten until now did not include lessons on moving through a pandemic, you did learn about courage and safety and justice. May you lean into those teachings as you move forward, making a difference in your lives and the lives of those you encounter upon your journey. The people of Faith United Church of Christ celebrate the gifts of each of you!

Food Distribution at  
Faith UCC Mobile Food Pantry  
and  
His Hand Food Pantry, Oran

Once again Faith UCC hosted our outdoor Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, April 26. It was again a beautiful day – and for that, God, we were grateful. As in March, the NE Iowa Food Pantry had packed up two boxes for each household. One with dry ingredients and one frozen. This month the clients also received fresh fruit, milk, eggs, a large bag of potatoes, and a package of Jello cups. Helen Milius opened and shut doors and trunks (and sanitized her gloved hands between each vehicle to prevent cross-contamination) Mike Johnson, Dawn Holm, Tom from NE Iowa Food Bank, and Michelle & Natalie Lobeck carried the food to the car. Beth Goudschaal checked them in, Steve Hill kept the line in order, and I chatted with folks prior to their entering the parking lot. Most of the clients were in good spirits. Weary but accepting of the situation. Our number of total households served was down a bit – perhaps due in part to the increase in SNAP benefits or perhaps their stimulus check had arrived. If you know someone who is food insecure or just needs a bit of assistance during this pandemic, please remind them that we will be here on Thursday, May 28, distributing between 5-6.

\* \* \* \* \*

**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!”

### 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” and “Upper Room” devotional booklets.
- Thank you to all who have continued to financially support the church by mailing a check or placing it in our “Church Mailbox” located in the connector.
- If you prefer online giving, visit our website [www.faihucctripoli.org](http://www.faihucctripoli.org). On the far right side you’ll find a “Giving” button. Click on that, follow the instructions, and your gift will be on its way to the church’s bank account!
- Also on the website home page you will find “Faith Chat” where many of the worship and daily messages are stored for approximately two weeks.

### *Sacred Space*

*One of my seminary professors recently wrote the following. It spoke to me. Maybe it will to you also...*

“Laughter can conceal a heavy heart, but when the laughter ends, the grief remains.” Proverbs 14:13. Many of us deal with grief and sorrow by pretending that everything is alright. We hide our feelings behind various masks. To the outside world, we are alright, even better than we were before. Yet, we cannot deceive ourselves for long. The memory of the lost person or ruptured relationship, lost job or missed opportunity remains deep in our hearts. When the music ends, we have to face the silence. Doctors tell us that accurate diagnosis depends on the patient being honest about all their symptoms. The same is true with our souls. A skilled spiritual director helps us to talk about our innermost pains and sorrows. As the symptoms of disquiet in our souls come more to the surface, the Great Physician heals the sorrow within. During this crisis, we need to honestly face the grief within. We have lost people—friends, relations, acquaintances—opportunities, freedoms, and securities. When the laughter ends and we are alone with our souls, we should face the very real grief within. The more honest we are in those hours, the more the Great Physician can apply the Balm of Gilead to our spiritual diseases.

~ Rev. Glenn Miller

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- |                    |                   |                       |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Joel Martin      | 12 Kim Bunce      | 19 Samantha Johnson   |
| 2 Linda Anderson   | Dawn Dahlstrom    | Anthony Marquis       |
| 3 Bob Sassman      | 14 Jamie Buchholz | 22 Kevin Buhrow       |
| Nadine Schnurstein | 15 Ruth Kirchhoff | 23 Joyce Brewer       |
| 4 Jeremy Nelson    | Reed Osborn       | 27 Shawn Buchholz     |
| Larry Struck       | Linda Schumacher  | 28 Doretta Brandhorst |
| Justin Dahlstrom   | 17 Don Bunce      | 30 Edward Brandt      |
| 8 Carol Hahn       | 18 Verlyn Buls    | Donna Funk            |

