

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

June 2020

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Dan Gloede
Kason Judisch
The Smith family

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
Larry & Marty Smalley
Gar Snyder
Jo Ann Steward

We mourn with Roger Goudschaal and his family on the passing of his cousin, Mick Vollrath. Mick and Donna frequently watched our live streaming worship and also deeply appreciated the prayer shawls we sent them. They considered themselves "special members" of Faith – and so did we!

***I heard the voice of Jesus say, "come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."***

Weary. Are you weary? I know I am. I am weary from worry. I am weary from attempting to make the best decisions for me, for you, for my family, and for the community based on science and medical experts. Even as I do, I know there are no 100% perfect answers. Then Jesus says, "Come. Rest. Lean upon me." Aaahhh...that's better...

***I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad,
And there I found a resting place, where Jesus made me glad!***

Do you ever have those days when it takes all the inner strength you have (which may not seem like much) to get up and begin your day? Days when you look around, listen to the news, check in on friends, and just feel engulfed in sadness and uncertainty. Next time that happens, call upon Jesus. Let his comfort move you into a place where you feel able to smile a bit. Let his love help to scoot away those gray, heavy clouds. Feel the warmth of the bright sun of God's grace and mercy. YES!!!

***I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this lost world's Light,
Look unto me; your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."***

Jesus. The Light of the world. The light that shines out of the darkest of nights and the darkness cannot consume it. Ever. Ever. Ever.

***I look to Jesus, and I found my guiding Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll go till traveling days are done.***

My friends, I know your emotions are all over the place during these months of distancing. Listening to the "experts" – whether they really are or not. (Remember Jim Bakker's early peddling of "Silver Solution"?) I encourage you to choose your expert (please choose wisely) and listen carefully to her or him. Only. Otherwise your mind gets so jumbled up. And when you feel jumbled up (because you know you will), look to Jesus. Your guiding Star. Your Sun. Travel in the light of his life. Give your struggles over to him.

Please know that if you find yourself with feelings of sadness...lacking hope...confused...weary...you are not alone. You have me. And friends. Your family of origin and your family of faith. Even if we don't see or touch or talk each week, we are in this together. And if that's not enough to bring comforting thoughts to mind, remember you have God...Jesus Christ...and the Holy Spirit surrounding you with more love and grace and mercy and compassion that you can possibly imagine.

Be safe. Be well. Feel blessed.

~ Pastor Marilyn

("I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" Tune: William H. Havergal, Lyrics Horatius Bonar)

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2020

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

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

Member(s) Absent: Trevor Johnson and Juanita Mohlis

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by President Roger Goudschaal.

Minutes of May 4, 2020:

Motion to approve previous minutes by Steve Hill; Second by Tracy Buchholz. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Lisa Chapin, Second by Daniel Groskurth. Motion Carried
We have used half of our Payroll Protection Program Loan.

Trustee's Report:

Checked cemetery over and all looks well there.

Elder's Report:

Graduates breakfast June 20th.

Liaison's Report:

No new business

Pastor's Report:

Air conditioners are on at 78 and ready for the summer. Dehumidifiers are up and running.

Thank you to those who helped with the Pentecost photos.

Discussion on improving the audio for Facebook Live worship services.

Old Business:

Discussion on returning service into building. At this time we will continue on-line service for the month of June.

New Business:

Blood Drive will be June 17th. They will use the entry in the education building. Giving will be by appointment only and they have full Covid Precaution in place for collecting. They will fully disinfect they area they are in when completed.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lisa Chapin, Second Dean Shinstine. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce

These minutes not yet approved by Council

Outreach Ministries

The **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** served 46 households (125 individuals) in May including 7 new households. This month we were joined by members of the Iowa National Guard who brought extra food on an additional vehicle. They also worked side-by-side with our Grace and Faith volunteers. The presence of the National Guard was a highlight for both volunteers and clients. In talking with the Guard members, they also expressed how much they enjoyed volunteering and the opportunity to meet people. Visit our website or Facebook page for photos. The NE Iowa Food Bank has announced that the June Mobile Pantry (Thursday, June 25) will again be from the parking lot.

His Hands Food Pantry in Oran continues to serve residents of Denver, Fairbank, Frederika, Maynard, Oran, Randalia, Readlyn, Sumner, Tripoli, and Westgate. In May, His Hands served 80 families (238 individuals) with a total of 9,699 pounds distributed. If you have questions or an immediate need, contact Pantry directors, Roger-563-920-8522, or Mary-563-920-3857.

Update from **Helping Hands Clothing Closet**: “[We] will remain closed for awhile longer. We hope to reopen soon but want to be sure that everyone is as safe as possible when we do open. If you have immediate clothing needs, please call and we will set up appointment with you. 319-279-3247.”

The next **LifeServe Blood Drive** will be held at Faith UCC on Wednesday, June 17, 2:30-5:30 pm in our Ed Wing lobby. *Appointments are required.* To reserve your spot, text LIFESERVE to 999-777; call 800.287.4903; or go to their website, lifeservebloodcenter.org. LifeServe has developed special procedures to insure the safety of participants. Bring your mask (they will have some if you don't), gloves if you want, and your ID.

Recently families with young children were mailed a packet of **faith-based activity sheets** – dot-to-dot, word scramble, coloring page, maze. These will be sent every two weeks during the summer. If you would like to be included in future mailings please let Pastor Marilyn know at rev.msargent@gmail.com or the church office, 319.882.3585.

Faith UCC Worship Services

As posted in the June 1 Faith UCC Council minutes, the decision was made by Council to continue worshipping online during June. This was not an easy decision for them to make but after much discussion that considered many different scenarios, the safety of our vulnerable population was first and foremost. As Governor Reynolds noted in her May 26 proclamation, “I continue to strongly encourage all vulnerable Iowans, including those with preexisting medical conditions and those older than 65...to continue to limit their activities outside of their home...and their participation in gathering of any size and any purpose.” We will return. But not yet.

As this newsletter is prepared, the country is mourning the ruthless murder of George Floyd under the knee of a brutal Minneapolis police officer. This killing has been condemned by people of all ethnicities, faith traditions, locations, and all the other labels that so often separate us. Voices have been raised in outrage and people have come together in solidarity to open the eyes of the nation and the world that this continued racism must end. Now. No more excuses. For those of us who live a white-privileged life, there can be no more turning away from the ugly truth that our black and brown siblings live within a very different reality. Now is the time for each one of us to listen, to learn, to change. Do not be distracted by the violence of some. Do not respond to the shouts of “Black Lives Matter” with “All Lives Matter.” Yes, they do. But now is the time focus upon changing the life trajectories for those who have endured racist acts for hundreds of years. Support them. Say their names. Listen to them. Love them. As followers of Jesus, we must do no less.

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.faithucctripoli.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

Prayer of Confession

God, we have chopped ourselves, our loved ones, and our world into pieces, accepting some parts and rejecting others. We have made ourselves the judges of which hopes, which people, which nations are acceptable, forgetting that you are the only judge. We have denied, repressed, ignored, or condemned all the pieces of your world that we don’t like. In our souls and on our earth we have left brokenness where you created wholeness. Merciful God, forgive us our sin. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Neither this world nor your life is so broken that God cannot restore it to wholeness. Trust and believe that, after separation, reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home. In the name of Christ Jesus, your sin is forgiven.

~ Janice Jean Springer

Birthday Thank You!

Larry Struck so appreciated all the Faith UCC folks who came by his home to honk and wish him a happy 80th birthday! He’d like to thank you all for helping to make turning 80 such a memorable day even during these days of social distancing!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Marilyn Lahmann | 15 Sara Blessing |
| Helen Milius | Pat Warner |
| 3 Jean Bentley | Zachary Johnson |
| 8 Megan Newbrough | 18 Angie Buchholz |
| 10 Tamara Rosol | Lori Dahlstrom |
| 11 Karen Buchholz | 19 Brenda Sievers |
| 12 Joan Struck | 21 Corey Rosol |
| 13 Richard Buhr | 23 Whitney Kremer |
| Austin Newbrough | 25 Jerry Snelling |
| 14 Marlys Biermann | 28 Grant Goudschaal |
| Justin Hoppenworth | 29 June Buhr |
| David Kirchoff | |

Happy
Birthday!