

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

August 2020

Tripoli, Iowa

In this issue:	Page
Pastor's Message	1-2
Prayers	1
Outreach Ministries	3
Council Minutes	4
Did You Know?	5
August Birthdays	5

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

Dan Gloede
Kason Judisch
Cam Richards
Daryl Weidemann

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

*When you're weary, feeling small
When tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all, all
I'm on your side, oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down.
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down.*

~ Paul Simon

When Paul Simon's lyrics about providing care to someone in need rose to #1 in 1970, I was in high school. Of course, in the midst of the teenage angst that wove in and out of my life and the lives of my friends, we all clung to those lyrics with deep understanding of what it felt like to move through rough times.

The song still has a strong effect on me when I hear it. Do you have songs that do that? Songs that literally stir something deep inside you from their very first note. Where do they take you? First love? Prom? Laughter with a best friend? Your wedding? The birth of your child? Remembering the passing of a loved one?

Memories are such a lovely gift from God. Yes, they can stir remembrances from difficult times but they can also fill our hearts with joy. Joy that even in troubling times can move us forward with hope and love. I still remember one of my first records was of hymns sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford. Even today when I hear one of those old songs sung in that rich voice, I think of my aunt who gifted me with that record. Sweet-memory tears glisten in my eyes when I hear the tune of a solo my dad used to sing. Or my mom. Or one they did as a duet. I remember the special song I heard the night before my daughter was born. I remember the song that was playing on the radio after I got into my car following my best friend's death. Memories. Sweet memories.

Does any of that sound like your life script? Or maybe you're not a person who finds memories through music. If not, what brings you back to a moment in time? Maybe a distinctive aroma? A sound? The view of a familiar hillside? Seeing a car like the one you drove in high school? Do you still own a shirt from years gone by because every time you run across it in your closet, the memories come rushing back? Do television shows from your childhood take you back in time?

Once we reach an age that brings us the ability to remember, our lives become filled with memories that span all of life's emotions. Some of them we will never forget and, let's be honest, some of them will slowly fade away from our awareness. They are still a part of shaping us,

(continued)

but we often don't even remember that they do. Within our tucked away memories is the reason we like crunchy vs smooth peanut butter. Or why country music makes our toes tap but opera puts us to sleep. Or why we prefer sleeping on the left side of the bed.

During these past months of living within the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are creating new memories. Some you might just as soon forget. But I hope that in time as you reflect back upon the new realities you've been living through, you might discover that within the life-changes that have taken place...the new routines that are now a part of your days...the new phrases that have entered your personal lexicon – self-quarantine, social distancing, flattening the curve, PPE, contact tracing, Zoom meetings, online worship – are memory creating moments that are shaping how you move forward.

I also hope within those new experiences that have been and continue to be challenging, you have added some new realities that have and will continue to bring a smile to your face. People have commented to me about how much they are treasuring the additional time they are now able to spend with their spouse. Mornings have developed into a routine of quiet togetherness with time to share in-depth conversations on topics that before this pandemic grabbed hold of their lives, they didn't typically have the time or take the time to discuss. Families with children have had time to explore more of the outdoors, discover new hobbies, read books, play games, color/paint/draw, and yes, even hold school. There has been time to learn more about one another. For some, mealtime has transformed into an everybody-around-the-table experience like something from days gone by in the Cleaver household. Conversations with loved ones and friends we no longer drive to visit across the state or the country now take place on screen. While the hugs are missing, the smiles can still bring great happiness. New memories added to old. Memories that hopefully will continue to be cherished. Even when this coronavirus is pushed back and no longer considered a pandemic, perhaps the good things that have occurred during these times will not merely be filed away as a distant memory but will become a part of our everyday lives. I hope so. We are better for them.

Of course, for many of us one of the most challenging aspects of this pandemic after the inability to readily see family and friends is the loss of in-person worship. All around the country, clergy of many faith traditions are feeling the struggles and at the same time are finding new ways to do and be church. As difficult as that can feel, it too brings exciting opportunities. Our weekly online Sunday morning worship and weekday videos allow us to reach many more people in Tripoli and beyond. The average number of total viewership of our Sunday morning worship is much more than the average number of in-sanctuary attendees from a few months ago. While I never envisioned myself as an online pastor, I think continuing this new worship opportunity is important for us in our covenant to share the Gospel with others.

New normals. New opportunities. New memories. What more might we be discover?

Now admittedly, it may seem this article has taken quite a winding journey from where it began in quoting the lyrics from "Bridge Over Troubled Water." And yet, has it? Because in those lyrics and in the memories of our lives is the reminder that, in fact, no matter how rough times may get, we are not and have never been alone. All of those memories we have made have not been formed in a void. Others were with us and – most importantly – the Holy One was with us.

As I have grown older and wiser, the lyrics to that 1970s Simon & Garfunkel hit have, as Kathy Westendorf commented on my recent FB sharing of the song, taken on new meaning. In it I now hear more the voice of Jesus saying to me, "I've got this. I am with you. I have always been with you. Even though your hair is turning silver and your steps are slowing down, I am by your side. Like a bridge over troubled water, I am with you always. Always."

Beautiful memories.

May we continue to cherish the old and make new memories together.

~ *Pastor Marilyn*

In July, the **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** served 41 households (105 individuals) Once again, members of the Iowa National Guard arrived in two trucks filled with a wide variety of pre-boxed items. This was our final Mobile Pantry with the help of the Iowa National Guard and the final pre-boxed food delivery from the NE Iowa Food Bank. We thank them both for their generosity during these past few months. Beginning with the August Mobile Pantry on ***Thursday, August 27***, the NE Iowa Food Pantry will once again deliver the food in the manner it was prior to the COVID-19 changes. However, the distribution will not take place in the Ed Wing. Clients will continue to line up on the street and enter the back parking lot to receive the food. Volunteers will bring out totes of food from which one masked client from each vehicle/household will select their choices. Emptied totes will be sanitized and refilled as necessary. If you have any totes you no longer need or would like to donate funds to purchase additional totes, please drop off either in the connector.

His Hands Food Pantry in Oran continues to serve residents of Denver, Fairbank, Frederika, Maynard, Oran, Randalia, Readlyn, Sumner, Tripoli, and Westgate. Tuesday nights, 5-8 pm. Friday mornings, 9-noon. If you have questions or an immediate need, contact Pantry directors, Roger at 563.920.8522, or Mary at 563.920.3857.

In July, **Helping Hands Clothing Closet** welcomed 128 clients and volunteers generously gave 40 hours of their time. Open on Tuesdays 9 to 11 am; Wednesdays 6:30 to 7:30 pm, and the first Saturday of the month 9 to 11 am, Helping Hands continues to follow all the CDC guidelines for the safety of volunteers and clients. Coordinator Carolyn Mohlis writes, "Stop by if you or someone you know needs help with clothing and shoes as they get the kids ready for school this fall. We have a good supply of clothing on hand in all sizes. Thank you for all the wonderful donations, thank you to our volunteers for helping our clients, sorting and hanging the clothes and for weeding our flowers in front of the building. Stay safe and healthy.

Prayer Chain

The Faith UCC prayer chain is a group made up of members of our beloved congregation. They are a dedicated and vital part of our church, leaning upon their deep faith in God and prayer. If you have a prayer need, contact Pastor Marilyn at the church office at 319.882.3585 or email. rev.msargent@gmail.com. Prayer Chain coordinator Pat Warner will be notified and the prayer chain begins.

The power of prayer is real as many of you have undoubtedly experienced. If you would like to add your voice to the prayer chain, please contact Pastor Marilyn.

Blood Drive

Faith United Church of Christ will host a **Community Blood Drive** on Wednesday, August 19, 2:30-5:30 pm in the Educational Wing lobby. Appointments are **required** to give blood. There are three ways to schedule your appointment:

- Call LifeServe at 800.387.4903
- Text LIFESERVE to 999-777
- Visit www.lifeservebloodcenter.org

Bring a valid form of identification such as a donor ID card or driver's license. All donors will be required to wear a mask for the duration of their appointment. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. *Walk-in donations are not accepted at this time.*

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

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

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

Member(s) Absent: Juanita Mohlis

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm by President Roger Goudschaal.

Minutes of June 1, 2020:

Motion to approve previous minutes by Tracy Buchholz; Second by Dean Shinstine. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Brian Bunce, Second by Ashley Penrod. Motion Carried

Trustee's Report:

No new business

Elder's Report:

Graduation breakfast went well. We served 4 of our seniors.

Liaison's Report:

No new business

Pastor's Report:

Checking in with members by phone and notes. Will be on vacation later this week. The service has been prerecorded and will be shared Sunday morning.

Old Business:

Discussion on how the soft opening went on June 28th. Continue discussion on when we could reopen church. Contact Grace Church on update for when they are looking at reopening.

New Business:

Discussion on how we can better communicate information about church happenings. Due to Covid we are limited on how we can communicate to the members about upcoming events and financial reports. A letter will be sent to members to address this concern and update on financial reports. If you are not able to receive the newsletter by email, you may contact the church office to have a newsletter mailed to you.

Adjourn:

Motion by Steve Hill, Second Trevor Johnson. Motion Carried.

The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Council.

Did you 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.
- your financial support is still very much needed. Monetary giving in July decreased some from previous months, but we are still not needing to borrow money to pay our expenses. PRAISE GOD!!!
- if you prefer online giving, visit our website 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 is a link to the most recent worship/message video. Older videos are under the tab "Faith Chat."
- If you would like the monthly newsletter delivered directly to your inbox, send your email address to Pastor Marilyn, rev.msargent@gmail.com. If you know someone who is unable to receive by email and is not currently receiving by mail, please contact Pastor Marilyn to have a copy mailed to them.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Jean Ranard	16	Chad Buchholz
3	Shawntelle Moore	21	Leland Timmerman
	Ashley Penrod	22	Alyssa Foelske
	Marshall Dillon	29	Justine Liddle
8	Carol Brandt	30	Betty Holm
9	Tyler Reeves		
10	Hannah Buchholz		
	Scott Behn		
11	Tad Chapin		
12	Jacob Martin		
14	Mick Axon		

**Happy
Birthday!**

***We have pieces of the jigsaw
puzzle.***

***Only God has the picture on the
box.***

~ Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin