

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

July 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
Cam Richards
Angie Ohlendorf
Trey Warner

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

ATTENTION

Please respond to the in-person worship question on page 3.

I take refuge in you, LORD.
Please never let me be put to shame.
Rescue me by your righteousness!
Listen closely to me!
Deliver me quickly;
be a rock that protects me;
be a strong fortress that saves me!
You are definitely my rock and my fortress.
Guide me and lead me for the sake of your good name!
Get me out of this net that's been set for me
because you are my protective fortress.
I entrust my spirit into your hands;
you, LORD, God of faithfulness—
you have saved me.
All you who are faithful, love the LORD!
be strong and let your heart take courage.

~ from Psalm 31 (Common English Bible)

These are certainly times when we call upon God for refuge. The current rising numbers of COVID-19 cases gives us pause. Especially for those who thought it was more in their rearview mirror than lurking before them. These are not the times for us to discount all that we have done thus far to keep the virus away from us. These are the times to focus harder upon protecting ourselves and others.

As I've talked with many of you during these weeks, the recurring theme is, "this is hard." It IS hard! The isolation, the fear, the uncertainty of where it's okay to go and where it is not okay; the frustration when you see large gatherings of shoulder-to-shoulder non-masked groups of people; the longing for the normal we lived just a few months ago – it is hard. You know that. I know that. And most importantly, God knows.

As the Psalmist writes, God is definitely our rock and our fortress. The one who rescues us...guides us...leads us...loves us...saves us. So, beloved children of God, follow the words of this Psalm. Put yourself into God's hands. Love God. Trust God. Be strong. Let your heart take courage. God has always been with us...is with us now...and will be with us always.

Be safe, my friends. Be well. Wear your mask.

And may you feel the blessings of our still-speaking, benevolent, strong, grace-offering, ever-loving God.

~ *Pastor Marilyn*

In June, the **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** served 30 households (74 individuals) Once again, members of the Iowa National Guard arrived in two truck filled with a wide variety of items. If you have been keeping track, you notice that our numbers have declined. This has been occurring in other area food pantries and mobile food pantries and no one is quite certain why. If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, I encourage you to come and receive at the July Mobile Pantry. It will again be pre-boxed and placed into your vehicle. The date in July is Thursday, July 23, 5-6 pm.

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 91 families (262 individuals) with a total of 12,659 pounds distributed. If you have questions or an immediate need, contact Pantry directors, Roger at 563.920.8522, or Mary at 563.920.3857.

Update from **Helping Hands Clothing Closet**: “Helping Hands Clothing Closet is open our regular hours again: Tuesdays, 9 to 11 am, Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm and the first Saturday of the month 9 to 11 am. We are following all CDC guidelines of wearing masks, social distancing, limiting number of clients in the closet at one time and using hand sanitizer. We are accepting donations of new or gently used clothing. We will be closed Saturday, July 4th.”

Faith UCC Worship Services

On Sunday, June 28, five Faith UCC Church Council members were in the sanctuary during the FB Live Stream worship. Watching “live” allowed them to better understand the process and visually see the spacing required. Their experiences will be shared at the council meeting on Monday, July 6, as the church leadership continues to make plans regarding the re-opening of the church.

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.

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.
- also on the altar are current “Word in Season” and “Upper Room” devotional booklets.
- your financial support is still very much needed. 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.faihcctripoli.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 the worship and video messages are posted for approximately two weeks.
- the monthly newsletter can be delivered directly to your inbox. Send your email address to Pastor Marilyn, rev.msargent@gmail.com. Or if you typically pick up a copy in church and would like it mailed to you, let her know.

COVID-19 in Iowa

If you have driven past the east side of the church building, you may have noticed the sign has been changed to reflect the number of Iowa deaths due to COVID-19. On Saturday, June 27, Helen, Brian, Kayla, & Kimberly Milius along with Steve Hill and Pastor Marilyn began installing small white flags along the front of the building – one flag for each Iowa death. Between the heat/humidity/and very friendly gnats, the project has stalled for a bit. If you find yourself with some extra minutes and the courage to ignore the annoyances, you are invited to assist in placing the flags. Contact Pastor Marilyn for further information.

In-Person Worship question...

Your church leadership wants to know:

What will be your deciding factor to return to in-person worship in the sanctuary?

- A – I’m ready now.
- B – When the number of COVID-19 cases in Bremer County begin to steadily decline.
- C – When in-person worship does not require masks and does include singing, greeting, and communion.
- D – When a vaccine is available.

Please call (319.882.3585) or email faihcchurch@gmail.com the church with your response and any additional comments. Your voice is **valuable** in these decisions. Please respond by July 15.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Conner Piehl	19	Michele Lahmann
5	Rick Foelske Karen Milius	20	Spencer Holm Susie Lohmann
7	Kayla Milius	21	Pastor Marilyn
8	Juanita Mohlis Adam Reeves Aleta Reeves	22	Theresa Drewis
10	Kevin Sievers	23	Phyllis Buls Everette Funk Clark Snelling
12	Ruth Quigley	25	Nic Moore
17	Linda Heinemann Casey Rosol	26	Barb Hill Isabel Marquis
18	Max Ambrose Mary Chapin		

**Happy
Birthday!**

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

Whether in person or via an absentee ballot, make sure your voice is heard by voting on Tuesday, November 3. To request an absentee ballot, click on the link below. In Bremer County, mail your absentee ballot request to:

Shelley Wolfe
415 East Bremer,
Waverly, IA 50677

Voting instructions will be included with the absentee ballot mailed to you by the Auditor's office.

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/absenteemail.html>