

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

October 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  
Daryl Weidemann  
Richard Buhr

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

*The Lord is near.*

*Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.*

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*~ Philippians 4:5b-7*

Dear Paul,

Thanks for these encouraging words but I have a bit of a problem with the phrase "do not worry about anything." That's no easy task in the midst of this isolating pandemic that has ended the lives of more than 1 million people worldwide! That's almost equivalent to eliminating modern-day Cyprus! You remember Cyprus. After that tiff you had with Barnabas, he took Mark with him to Cyprus while you went through Syria and Cilicia with Silas. But I digress.

I guess since you're writing from prison, you know something about worry. And since you're writing, "don't worry" in your situation, perhaps I should heed your words centuries later. I guess if you can find the ability to let go and let God, I can too. But Paul, this is SO hard! I miss seeing people. I miss talking with people face-to-face. I miss hugs. Oh my, do I miss hugs!

Paul, like you I have a flock that I care for. I worry for them, just as you worried for the people in your churches. I know that they – like me – are feeling lost. Disconnected. Disappointed. They miss seeing people. They miss the Sunday morning face-to-face coffee time conversations. And they miss hugs too! I want to inspire them like you did your many congregations. I frequently use your words. I think they help. I hope they help.

Paul, I admire your ability to write such riveting and informative and sometimes a bit reprimanding letters. Letters delivered by a messenger days or weeks after you dictated them. How did you stay on top of it all? You had no phones...no Zoom technology...no email...no texting. All you had were those faithful servants who transported your epistles to the intended congregations. It must have worked because here I am nearly 2000 years later still reading your words and still sharing your messages to the Church.

*(continued)*

I would like to thank you, Paul, for your commitment to God's children. Thank you for your words of inspiration and truth. We may wrestle with some of them (as likely did some of the people in your congregations) but we know you delivered them with a good heart. They do help us. And heaven knows we need all the help we can get.

Your continued dedication to spreading the Gospel of Jesus motivates me to do more myself. I hope in the great mystery of our faith that you somehow know about the countless lives you have helped to change. You have made a difference in my life and the lives of so many. You've helped us to think. You've helped us to grow.

As your letter to the Philippians continued, you offered these words. Words that have pulled me out of many a time of concern and sadness and yes, worry. Do you remember these? I sure do.

*Finally, beloved, whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is pleasing,  
whatever is commendable,  
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.  
Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me,  
and the God of peace will be with you.*

"Don't worry." I hear you, Paul. And I'll keep trying not to. I will hold in my mind the honorable, the just, the pure, the pleasing, and the commendable things. I will keep praising God. And I will always give thanks for you and your ministry.

In Christian love,  
*Pastor Marilyn*

We received the following from Tripoli Nursing and Rehab:

Tripoli Nursing Home and Rehab is offering a one-bedroom apartment for rent on a nightly basis to our residents' loved ones who are visiting and need a place to stay. When it is not in use, we will be offering it to the people of Tripoli to rent. If you have guests from out of state or an illness in the family or if you want to run away for the kids but can't go far, this may be for you. The apartment is offered at \$75.00 per night on a first come first serve basis.

Please call Krystyna at 319-230-9486 with questions, to reserve the apartment, or to schedule a tour.

At the September 24 **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** we served 38 households (87 individuals). For the final time, the food was pre-boxed. Thanks to Steve, Dan, and John who loaded the boxes into the vehicles. Beginning next month, we will still distribute from the parking lot. Clients will need to bring their own tubs/totes/bags. Volunteers will bring a tote of food items out to the parking lot. Masked clients will load the food into their own containers before exiting the parking lot. Volunteers will assist in the loading if needed. Questions? Call the church office at 319.882.3585.

**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. Despite being closed for several distributions due to COVID-19 diagnoses, in September His Hands served 40 households (114 individuals) and 4,622 pounds of food. If you have questions or an immediate need, contact Pantry directors, Roger at 563.920.8522, or Mary at 563.920.3857.

We received the following from the **Helping Hands Clothing Closet** located at 2028 Viking Avenue in Sumner.

September has been a busy month at Helping Hands Clothing Closet with 238 client visits. Thank you to all who have made monetary donations that will help with our ongoing utility expenses and purchasing underwear and socks for our clients. Also thank you for the donations of new school clothes and gently used clothing. As always a huge thank you to volunteers who gave more than 50 hours of their time in September during our regular open hours and to switch over to winter clothing. If you would like to volunteer at the Clothing Closet; please let us know by calling 319.279.3247 or by email, [carolyn.mohlis@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.mohlis@gmail.com) Anyone in need of clothing assistance is welcome to come to Helping Hands Clothing Closet. We do not have income guidelines or restrictions to the area we serve.

The plans for the annual **Holiday Shoppe** in Waverly are underway. Pastor Marilyn is a part of the planning group. Due to the ongoing pandemic, Holiday Shoppe will not look the same but the group is still committed to providing gifts for Bremer County families who will benefit from some assistance. Additionally, this year hygiene kits will be distributed to the families. Faith UCC will be invited to join other area churches, organizations, and citizens in making donations, particularly for the hygiene kits. After the committee has determined what products should be included, churches will be assigned one of those products. Watch this space for updates on what Faith UCC can do to assist in this longstanding Bremer County tradition. If you know of a Tripoli family who could benefit from this program, please send a confidential email to Pastor Marilyn at [rev.msargent@gmail.com](mailto:rev.msargent@gmail.com).

During the last meeting of the **Tripoli Nursing and Rehab** board, Pastor Marilyn asked the administrator Kevin if there was anything the church could be doing to make a difference in the lives of the residents. While food and visits are not allowed, Kevin mentioned how much the residents enjoy getting mail. Pastor Marilyn now has a first-name list of the residents. If you would like to “adopt” a resident to send cards and/or letters to, please contact Pastor Marilyn by email [rev.msargent@gmail.com](mailto:rev.msargent@gmail.com) or phone 319.882.3585. Thank you for making a difference!

\* \* \* \* \*

Faith United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 2020

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

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

Member(s) Absent: Ashley Penrod and Juanita Mohlis

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by President Roger Goudschaal.

Minutes of August 3, 2020:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Trevor Johnson, Second by Dean Shinstine. Motion Carried

Trustee's Report:

New railing has been installed on the back of the church heading to education building from parsonage.

Elder's Report:

Combining 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for 2020-2021 Confirmation with 6 students.

Liaison's Report:

No new business

Pastor's Report:

Discussion on COVID and how other clergy are handling the issues with church.

Old Business:

Discussion on how in person services are going.

New Business:

Discussion on trying some more Zoom Meetings for bible study and other ways to stay connected with members.

Adjourn:

Motion by Steve Hill, Second Lisa Chapin. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Bunce

*These minutes have not been yet been approved by Council.*

**Did you know...**

- Your continued financial support is SO appreciated. The expenses do continue! To date we have not yet borrowed money to pay our expenses. PRAISE GOD!!!
- If you prefer online giving, visit our website [www.faithucctripoli.org](http://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!
- Go to the Faith UCC website home page for a link to the most recent worship/message video. Older videos are under the tab titled "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](mailto: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.

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Gary Snyder      | 20 Rhonda Thompson   |
| 4 Miranda Quigley  | Kiley Morey          |
| 9 Nathan Milius    | 21 Branigan Bunce    |
| 11 Todd Holm       | Betty Schwartz       |
| Duane Ryherd       | 22 JoAnn Steward     |
| Trevor Stahlhut    | Carolyn Stanbrough   |
| Cameron Ladage     | 29 David Lohmann     |
| 12 Barb Sowers     | 31 Ellen Kalkbrenner |
| 14 Sharon Funk     |                      |
| 17 Brianna Quigley |                      |
| 18 Hunter Johnson  |                      |
| 19 Tim Drewis      |                      |
| Roger Goudschaal   |                      |
| Patric Benson      |                      |

**Happy  
Birthday!**

*In the ever-changing  
circumstances of life,  
there is a faithful,  
never-changing  
God in control.*