

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

November 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

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

God, come back!  
Smile your blessing smile:  
*That* will be our salvation.  
~ Psalm 80:3 (*The Message*)

These words from Psalm 80 are a part of the reading for Sunday, November 29. The first Sunday of Advent. That first "official" day of preparation for the arrival of God's son Jesus...the promised Messiah...Immanuel, God with us.

Even as we read Psalm 80, we know that God has not left us. Yet as we navigate the familiar yet unfamiliar times ahead, many of us feel a bit anxious and apprehensive. The question on the minds of so many Christians around the world is what the Advent/Christmas season will look like, sound like, feel like in these pandemic times.

The Elders and I are excited to share some of our plans with you. While we cannot do all of those things we hold as tradition, we are formulating services that will allow those in sanctuary and those online to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate the waiting for and the arrival of the joy of our Savior's birth.

Prior to the First Sunday of Advent, the sanctuary will be reset with decorations of the season. Many of the Advent and Christmas services will include special pre-recorded music of the season from independent vocalists including some from our very own members. Recognizing that burning Christmas Eve candles held in front of masked faces is not safe, battery-operated taper candles will be distributed evening. The Blue Christmas service will be online as well as in sanctuary.

We are also pleased to offer each church household the opportunity to request an "Advent Candle Kit" consisting of four battery-operated tealight candles and readings for each week. While the sanctuary Advent candles will continue to be lit on Sunday mornings, we hope your individual or family household will select a recurring time each week to participate in your own at-home Advent Candle lighting.

To add to your Advent journey experience, Faith UCC is also purchasing copies of the 2020 Advent-Christmastide Devotional "Draw Near," a publication of the United Church of Christ. This booklet features writers from the Still-Speaking Daily Devotionals.

If your household would like an Advent Candle Kit and/or a copy of Draw Near, call the church office at 319.882.3585 or send an email to [faithuccchurch@gmail.com](mailto:faithuccchurch@gmail.com) with your request(s).

Blessings,  
*Pastor Marilyn*

### Upcoming In-person Worship

There will be no live worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 15 and November 22. A pre-taped worship will be posted at 9:55 am to the Facebook page of *Faith United Church of Christ, Tripoli*, on the respective Sundays.

### Faith UCC Financial Update

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Offerings	\$7,189.20	\$117,907.97
Expenses	<u>12,148.52</u>	<u>117,095.02</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-4,959.32</b>	<b>812.95</b>

Sanctuary Paint Project loan balance 10/30/20 \$3,622.63

### Prayer Shawls

Although our faithful creators of the Prayer Shawl ministry have not met during these pandemic months, the church does have shawls available for distribution. Please contact the church office for further information. 319.882.3585.

### Poinsettia Plants

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia plant for the chancel, please contact the church office – 319.882.3585 or [faithuccchurch@gmail.com](mailto:faithuccchurch@gmail.com) by December 1. Additionally, you may use the “Office Mailbox” located in the connector. The standard potted plants will be \$10 each. If you are purchasing a plant in memory or honor of someone, or for a special occasion please note that with your order.

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 October 22 **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** we served 28 households (66 individuals). Thanks to Beth for checking in the clients and to Steve, Helen, and John who loaded the boxes into the vehicles. It was a cold, rainy night but our great volunteers didn't let that slow them down! After the rush that always occurs at the beginning, there were some times for warm respite inside the connector – although they didn't usually last too long! 😊 The next Mobile Pantry will be Thursday, November 19. **NOTE: this is moved up a week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.** In November 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.

In October, **His Hands Food Pantry** in Oran served 80 households (251 individuals) and distributed 11,107 pounds of product. His Hands serves 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.

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

Helping Hands Clothing Closet had 179 client visits during October and our volunteers gave 40 hours of documented time plus many more hours. Thank you to the quilting ladies at St. John, Buck Creek, for the donation of quilts. We really appreciate this donation to keep our clients warm this winter. Plus thank you to everyone who made donations this month of new or gently used clothing especially winter clothing and boots. The clothing closet is open each Tuesday morning and the first Saturday of each month 9 to 11 am and every Wednesday evening 6:30 to 7:30 pm. We will be closed Wednesday, November 25th, the night before Thanksgiving.

This year **Holiday Shoppe** will be distributing hygiene kits will be distributed to participating families. Faith UCC is collecting packages of tampons and sanitary pads as our contribution for this worthy cause. Purchased items may be placed in the gray tub located in the connector by Saturday, November 14. If purchasing is not a preferred option for you, you may also send money to the church – PO Box 14, Tripoli, IA 50676 to the attention of Pastor Marilyn and she will purchased the items for you. Our goal is 75 packages. We can do this!!! Additionally, 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 a recent 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!

*From Beth Goudschaal:*

Faith UCC is going to collect **First Aid Kits and Kitchen Kits** once again for the mobile food pantry clients. These will be distributed at the December pantry. We have been doing this for several years and I really appreciate all the past donations. The First Aid Kit consists of band-aids, soap, washcloth, and bacitracin. The Kitchen Kit consists of dish soap, a sponge, scrubber, and dish towel. We ask that you put these things in a gift bag and have them to the church no later than December 14<sup>th</sup>. In these times of staying in and staying safe, please know that if you are unable to purchase and bring in these items, you can send a monetary donation to the church. Please note on your check “Pantry Kits.” If you have questions you may call Beth at 319.415.3834. I sincerely thank you for your help!

Faith United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2020

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

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

Member(s) Absent: Ashley Penrod, Tracy Buchholz, Dean Shinstine and Juanita Mohlis

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

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

Minutes of September 7, 2020:

Motion to approve previous minutes by Lisa Chapin; Second by Keith Stahlhut. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Brian Bunce, Second by Vicki Oleson. Motion Carried

Trustee's Report:

Working on boiler to address inspection concerns. Lawn has been treated for weeds.

Elder's Report:

Holding off with conformation until Jan and letter will be sent out.

Liaison's Report:

Cemetery has a tree to be removed and waiting on Bruce Pavelec to remove.

Pastor's Report:

New information on dental from UCC that could possibly save addition cost on the benefit.

Motion Steve Hill to approve lower dental coverage at lower cost once current dentist is verified in the network.

Second Lisa Chapin. Motion Carried

Wedding this coming weekend. Bible Study is meeting virtually on Fridays. Vivki Oleson worked with Dave Kirchhoff on grain donation letter. Discussion on seeing who else is willing to help with usher duties.

Old Business:

Gift of Grain project discussion.

New Business:

Motion by Steve Hill to accept the resignation of Daniel Groskurth, second by Vicki Oleson. Motion Carried

Discussion on replacement is to hold off on a replace at this time due to covid.

Motion by Vicki Oleson to add in loan update, monthly offerings, and monthly expenses into news letter. Second by Brian Bunce. Motion Carried

Adjourn:

Motion by Lisa Chapin, Second Steve Hill. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Bunce

***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.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Erica Newbrough  
Amy Price
- 8 Vernetta Bunce  
Lonny Moore  
Jayden Stahlhut
- 9 Joe Lohmann
- 11 Stacey Snyder
- 12 Jerry Lahmann
- 13 Keith Stahlhut
- 19 Karla Hyde  
Lisa Timmerman
- 21 Wilma Timmerman
- 22 Brenda Shinstine
- 24 Sandy Martin
- 28 Mike Johnson

**Happy  
Birthday!**

Thank you, Faith United Church of Christ, for honoring me with a card and gift during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your kindness in these times of distancing especially brightened up my days!

*Pastor Marilyn*

