

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

December 2020

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Kason Judisch
Cam Richards
Gerald & Mary Lou Bock

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

We pray for the doctors, nurses, cooks, cleaners, bookkeepers, and all who work tirelessly to keep the hospitals and care centers safe and available. We pray for the EMS personnel; the firefighters. The Health Department staff and Emergency Management staff who continue to inform us and try to keep us safe.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers...

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
Seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things
Look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
Long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy
Seek the joy of your presence

We are your people,
walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

When Fr. Henri J.M. Nouwen wrote the above litany in the late 20th Century no one could have envisioned the power of his words when read in the year 2020. Even if we are not following the traditions of years past, many of us are busying preparing our living spaces with decorations...doing more online shopping than we've ever done before...all while anxious over our everyday concerns now elevated with worries about this pandemic that interrupted our lives during Lent and still lingers with us as we try to settle in to Advent and Christmas. We deeply feel the final two stanzas

We whose hearts are heavy
Seek the joy of your presence

We are your people,
walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Even as I write this, I cannot tell you how worship in December will be structured. But I can assure you that nothing will separate us from the truth of the season. We are walking upon a new and unfamiliar path that sometimes seems to grow so dark and so bleak. But never, ever alone. Let us give thanks to God for the Holy Presence that will always guide us to a safer, brighter path. The path upon when we loudly proclaim into the darkness, "Come, Lord Jesus! Come!"

Pastor Marilyn

“Joy in the Journey”

Suggested scripture readings for each of the first 24 days of December.

December 1 ~ John 1:1-5

December 2 ~ Isaiah 9:2-7

December 3 ~ Isaiah 11:1-10

December 4 ~ Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 5 ~ Luke 1:5-10

December 6 ~ Luke 1:11-17

December 7 ~ Luke 1:18-25

December 8 ~ Luke 1:26-38

December 9 ~ Matthew 1:18-21

December 10 ~ Matthew 1:22-26

December 11 ~ Luke 1:39-45

December 12 ~ Luke 1:46-56

December 13 ~ Luke 2:1-5

December 14 ~ Luke 2:6-7

December 15 ~ Luke 2:8-12

December 16 ~ Luke 2:13-14

December 17 ~ Luke 2:15-18

December 18 ~ Luke 2:19-20

December 19 ~ Micah 5:2-5

December 20 ~ Matthew 2:1-2

December 21 ~ Matthew 2:3-6

December 22 ~ Matthew 2:7-8

December 23 ~ Matthew 2:9-12

December 24 ~ John 1:1-14

Thank you to Lisa Chapin for finding and sharing
this “Joy in the Journey” list of scriptures.

At the October 22 **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** we served 26 households (60 individuals). The next Mobile Pantry will be Thursday, December 17. **NOTE: this is moved up a week.** In December we will still distribute from the parking lot. At this time, we are not certain if food will arrive pre-boxed or loose. If loose, 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 November, **His Hands Food Pantry** in Oran served 87 households (250 individuals) and distributed 11,947 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. **NOTE: His Hands will be closed on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1.** 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:

Happy Thanksgiving! This year has been a challenge for everyone and for Helping Hands Clothing Closet but we have much to be thankful for. First of all; our volunteers. They give so much of their time and energy to keep the clothing closet running smoothly. We are thankful for monetary donations which cover our utility costs, some upgrades to our building like the new doors and we are able to purchase some needed items for our clients like winter coats and boots. Thank you to all who have donated new or gently used clothing, bedding and towels. In November we had 147 client visits. We are thankful that we are able to be open and continue to follow all CDC guidelines. Please stop in if you need help meeting your clothing or bedding needs.

From Beth Goudschaal:

Faith UCC is once again collecting **First Aid Kits and Kitchen Kits** for distribution to our mobile food pantry clients.. 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 (antibiotic ointment). 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 14th. 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!



Following conversations with officials of Bremer County Emergency Management and Bremer County Health Department it has been determined that the blood drive at Faith UCC can take place as scheduled on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2:30-5:30 pm. The LifeServe staff is well-trained in handling multiple situations -- including holding a blood drive during a pandemic. The blood drive will take place in the lobby of the Educational Wing of the church. **Reservations are required.** To reserve your spot or to receive answers to any safety concerns you may have, Text LIFESERVE to 999-777; call 800-287-4903; or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org.

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2020

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

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

Member(s) Absent: Ashley Penrod and Tracy Buchholz

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

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

Minutes of October 5, 2020:

Motion to approve previous minutes by Juanita Mohlis; Second by Lisa Chapin. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Steve Hill, Second by Lisa Chapin. Motion Carried

Motion to pay Steve Hill an additional \$50 a worship service to help compensate for technology services, second Dean Shinstine.

Trustee's Report:

Review property committee list.

Top projects to look into is to repair the flat roof on the Education Building. The roofing is peeling back on the south side. Need to look at old records to see who installed the roof and if there is any warranty remaining.

Lower part of the church needs to have tuckpointing completed. Need to purchase two humidity gages for the sanctuary to monitor moisture level. The ceiling tiles with low to high moisture are starting to come loose.

Fall Clean up next weekend starting at 8 am. Medium priority will be to start looking at foundation repairs to the Education Building to prevent or stop the cracking of the walls in the restrooms.

Low priority will power washing church in the spring of 2021 to remove algae and moss growth from the brick. Grave windows will need to be looked at in the next 1 - 2 years. Basement windows on parsonage need calking.

Elder's Report:

Good service for All Saints Day.

Liaison's Report:

No new business

Pastor's Report:

Discussion on looking at creating a few Zoom meetings to help others connect with each other. This will be for all members with or without a computer. The Zoom meetings allow for members to call a phone number and they will be able to chat with others on the call.

For Advent looking at getting tea lights and fabric for each advent color. Each kit will have scripture readings for each light.

(continued)

Pastor's Report continued...

Discussion on how the Christmas season will look like this year with COVID.

November 15 and 22 there will not be in person service and will be online only.

Old Business:

Discussion on ushers for Sunday worship.

Discussion on outcome of the grain letter. There have been two donations received from the letter.

New Business:

Discussion for all council members to review the by-laws to refresh themselves on their role on council.

Discussion on plans for Annual Meeting and logistics. Work on sending a letter or post card about options for the meeting in December.

Adjourn:

Motion by Steve Hill, Second Vicki Oleson. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce

Faith United Church of Christ
Special Council Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2020

Members In Attendance via ZOOM: Roger Goudschaal, Steve Hill, Keith Stahlhut, Vicki Oleson, Brian Bunce, Juanita Mohlis, and Trevor Bunce

Also In Attendance via ZOOM: Pastor Marilyn Sargent, Barb Hill, Brenda Shinstine

Member(s) Absent: Ashley Penrod, Dean Shinstine, Lisa Chapin, and Tracy Buchholz

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Roger Goudschaal.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Discussion on current COVID numbers and in person church service.

Motion by Trevor Bunce to suspend in person service until December 7th, Second Steve Hill. Motion Carried

Adjourn:

Motion by Brian Bunce, Second Vicki Oleson. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce

*Thank
You*

Heartfelt thanks to my church family for
the cards and calls for my birthday.
God Bless You! ~ Wilma Timmerman

ADDRESS UPDATE

I recently received a call from Rev. Keith Selberg. For those of you who have not met Pastor Keith, he faithfully served as the minister of Faith United Church of Christ from 1967-1977. He returned in 2007 to serve as Faith's interim pastor prior to my arrival in 2008. Keith and Pat made many friends during their time in Tripoli and they continue to enjoy the annual exchange of Christmas cards with many of you. They recently moved into a condominium in Waukon. Their new address is 410 – 4th St SE, Waukon, IA 52172

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Kristi Foelske
Sandra Ladage
- 7 Jerry Hyde
Bob Kammeyer
- 10 Larry Piehl
- 11 Laurie Buhrow
- 12 Barb Rich
Ryan Osborn
- 16 Hayden Liddle
- 17 Brittany Quigley
Trevor Johnson
- 18 Kristi Bass
- 20 Verdeen Ohlendorf
- 21 Larry Smalley
- 24 Beth Goudschaal
Mary Moeller
- 26 Jessica Raymond
- 27 Scott Chapin

**Happy
Birthday!**

Faith UCC 2020 Financial Update

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$7,628.20	\$116,268.73 (includes \$11,500 from Federal Paycheck Protection Program)
Expenses	\$7,826.07	\$111,739.09 (these expenses reflect staff reductions due to COVID-19 that are not sustainable)
Painting Loan Balance	\$3,374.53	
	YTD total paid toward loan balance is \$14,414	
	The next payment of \$395 is due 1/21/21.	
	Currently there is \$5.25 in loan funds to apply to this payment	