

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

February 2021

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Richard Buhr
Carol & Larry Kammeyer
Vince Funk

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
Marty Smalley
Gar Snyder

We hold in prayer Juanita and Ken Mohlis and their family as they mourn the passing of their unborn great grandchild, Kallum Edward Mohlis.

We mourn with Melissa Warner and family the passing of David Ray, coach/mentor/friend of countless Tripoli students, athletes, and neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers...

*Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
~Psalm 51:1-2*

Each year, Psalm 51 is included in the Ash Wednesday lectionary of the church. Rev. Brian Erickson offers these thoughts on this Psalm,

Of all the penitential psalms, this is the one that most passionately witnesses to the pain of sin and the hunger for salvation. This psalm is not for reading; it is meant to be wailed. It outlines the paradox of the Lenten journey: our liberation will come through our suffering, not in spite of it.

“Our liberation will come through our suffering, not in spite of it.” To which you might reply, “Well then, Pastor, given all of my suffering this past year I guess I must be pretty liberated by now!”

It doesn't go unnoticed in this pastor's mind that on Ash Wednesday 2020, many of us gathered in the sanctuary of Faith UCC to hear the words of Psalm 51. We lifted up to God our prayers asking forgiveness for our unfaithfulness, pride, hypocrisies, and impatience. We recognized our exploitation of other people. The envy we felt toward others. Our prejudice and contempt toward others. Our lack of concern for God's creation and those who will come after us. We asked God for restoration. And grace. And mercy. And we knew that God forgave us our sins.

After receiving ashes on our forehead or hand, we returned home to once again begin our six-week journey through Lent.

But three weeks later we closed the Faith UCC sanctuary doors. And life as we knew it had vanished without warning.

It's been a long year, I know. As we once again approach Ash Wednesday (February 17), it has not yet been fully determined what moving through the six weeks of Lent 2021 will look like. But what we DO know is that our liberating, grace-offering, mercy-promising God will be with each of us as we navigate our way.

As Erickson writes, “This psalm asks for more than forgiveness. It is an all-out plea for re-creation.”

Re-creation. Maybe that be our word for this Lenten journey. Re-creation.

Say it often. Believe it always. Re-creation. It is offered to each of us. Now and always.

Be well. Be safe. And yes, please continue to wear your masks.

Blessings for the journey,
Pastor Marilyn

The February **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** will be held on February 25, 2021. Distribution will be from the parking lot between 5-6 pm. Questions? Call the church office at 319.882.3585.

In December, **His Hands Food Pantry** in Oran served 85 households (243 individuals) and distributed 10,228 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 126 client visits during January and our volunteers gave 35 hours of their time. We have all heard the phrase “It takes a Village.” At the clothing closet it takes a whole community to keep it running. Our fabulous volunteers come from all over the surrounding area. We receive donations of new and gently used clothing, shoes and bedding from the entire community and we have had monetary donations from many of the area churches and other groups to help with our ongoing expenses. This month we received a huge donation of coats from the Leo Club and Lions Club in Denver. So, thank you to the entire Helping Hands Clothing Closet community. Your donations and help are greatly appreciated.

LifeServe Blood Center

The next LifeServe Blood Drive will be held at Faith UCC on Friday, February 19th, 2:30-5:30 pm. The dates for 2021 are: February 19, June 16, August 18 and December 15. 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.

Book Study Opportunities at Faith

All members and friends of the church are invited to participate in one or both of the book studies of Faith UCC. The groups meet via ZOOM which, as participants will tell you, may seem overwhelming at first but is easy to navigate quickly. If you have a computer/tablet/smartphone that connects you to the internet you can be “zoom-ing” in a couple of minutes – with or without turning on your camera. If you do not have internet access, the zoom gathering is only a phone call away. All landlines and flip phones can be used to participate with full listening and speaking options. We have very patient local guides who will be more than happy to help you with a “test run” to better understand how to open up this opportunity for you to connect with others.

TUESDAY – The Tuesday morning group meets in the morning from 8:15 to 9:15. We are currently reading The Wisdom Jesus by Cynthia Bourgeault. The book and the discussion are not so structured that a newcomer would not be able to fully participate. Amazon offers the book at:

https://www.amazon.com/Wisdom-Jesus-Transforming-Mind-Perspective/dp/1590305809/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+wisdom+jesus&qid=1611864067&sr=8-1

WEDNESDAY – A new group is beginning Wednesday, February 3 at 7 pm. We will be reading The Wisdom Way of Knowing also written by Cynthia Bourgeault. We have a few copies of this book still available. Contact the office if you would like one held for you. The Amazon link is

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0020HRU72/ref=db_a_def_rwt_hsch_vapi_tkin_p1_i5

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2021

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

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 6:38 pm by President Roger Goudschaal.

Minutes of December 7, 2020:

Motion to approve previous minutes by Tracy Buchholz; Second by Ashley Penrod. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Ashley Penrod, Second by Steve Hill. Motion Carried
Ed Buchholz account started 2020 with \$40,000 and ended at \$43,893.75

Trustee's Report:

Motion to approve 2021 Budget by Steve Hill, Second by Tracy Buchholz. Motion Carried

Elder's Report:

No new business

Liaison's Report:

No new business

Pastor's Report:

Thank you to those who helped with the Christmas services. We had a good response from those who attended online. Barb Rich has been calling members and checking in with those who do not have internet. We had first aid kits and kitchen kits for our food pantry kits. We had 50 bags that were made and the left overs were given to Friends of the Family. Confirmation will be starting here soon and finalizing logistics.

Old Business:

Motion by Steve hill to pay off paint loan. Second by Tracy Buchholz. Motion Carried.
Discussion to continue online service for January.

New Business:

Discussion on annual meeting to be held off until later this year due to Covid. There was discussion on doing an online meeting and at this time we fell that would not be best. A letter will be sent out and a ballot will be included for those to vote on the 2021 budget.

Adjourn:

Motion by Dean Shinstine, Second Steve Hill. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted, Brian Bunce

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Tim Quigley
 5 Theodore Oburra-Ladage
 6 Marty Smalley
 7 Cheryl Dahlstrom
 9 Steve Hill
 Marlene Snelling
 10 Jay Ranard
 Traci Bahrenfuse
 11 Sandi Snyder
 12 Carol Kammeyer
 Asher Milius
 14 Bailey Klein
 15 Mason Penrod
 16 Spencer Snelling
 18 Kailey Heidemann
 Jodi Heinemann
 20 Darlys Buhrow
 24 Kristi Ladage
 Alexander Johnson
 28 Joyce Kammeyer

Happy
Birthday!

Faith UCC 2021 Financial Update

	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$12,940.25	\$12,940.25
Expenses	\$9,476.32	\$9,476.32
Painting Loan Balance	\$0	Loan paid in full 1-12-2021