

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

March 2021

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Carol & Larry Kammeyer
Donna Kuethe

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
Verlyn & Phyllis Buls
Velda Lynch
Orlyn Milius
Marty Smalley
Gar Snyder

We hold in prayer June Buhr and family as they mourn the passing of their husband and father, Richard Buhr.

We hold in prayer Donna Funk and mourn with her on the passing of her husband, Vince.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers...

*Anniversary: the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event.
~Merriam-Webster*

Anniversaries. We all have them. Sometimes they make us smile. Sometimes they make us cry. Sometimes they make us lower our eyes and shake our heads.

Sometimes they are events shared within a family. A wedding. A death. A new baby. A new home.

Sometimes they are events shared with a larger body of people. Sometimes it takes just the mention of a date on the calendar that brings back the memories. December 7, 1941. June 6, 1944. November 22, 1963. September 11, 2001.

March 15, 2020. That's an anniversary for many of us. That is the date of the last mask-free, singing, sit-whenever-you-want worship we held at Faith United Church of Christ. Following worship many of us gathered in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the 90th birthday of Dolores.

Two days later, Pastor Dennis from Grace Lutheran and I mailed a letter to our congregations detailing how both churches were going to respond to the new virus named COVID-19. Announcing that all worship, church activities, and meetings were cancelled, the letter also stated, "We have no idea how long this may be needed." Little did we know, eh?

Here at Faith, the Council and I scrambled to answer questions that we really didn't know how to answer. How do we worship? How do we stay connected to one another? Surely, this isn't going to last too long. We'll be back in sanctuary by Easter, won't we? After all, that's a month away! (ahhh, we were so young and hopeful)

Then tragedy descended upon the Liddle Family, Faith UCC, and the entire community. How could we honor Logan, beloved child of God, without the ability to gather together? How could we provide comfort to his grieving family when we couldn't wrap them up in big hugs? God, please take this pandemic away!

And now here we are. Twelve months later. Anniversaries abounding of those last times and sad times. Missing faces we haven't seen in months and even if we have, it is likely they have been hidden behind a mask. Other deaths have occurred in our church family and we have not been able to mourn together.

Sad times, yes. But, my friends, as we move deeper into Lent – a Lent that truthfully many of us feel like we never left from last year – we have the opportunity to lift up our laments on those days we feel are so overwhelmingly heavy and sad. While we grieve our physical and emotional losses, may we also hear once again the promises of God through the scriptures of Lent. Listen for God's voice today through the promises made to Noah and Abram. The Mt. Sinai words delivered to Moses. God's covenant promises spoken through the prophet Jeremiah... "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

"I will be their God, and they will be my people."

(continued)

Now obviously we don't know the exact date God delivered those words so we cannot pause annually on a specific day to say "thank you." But, we can celebrate their truth in every day of every year as we give thanks to the One who keeps all promises.

Even as we celebrate that vaccines are becoming available to more and more people...even as we begin to carefully venture out (still wearing your masks, I hope)...even as some are cautiously returning to Sunday morning in-person worship (still no singing or sitting with others)...we now know that this is not going to be a quick journey back for any of us. When that Faith/Grace letter said, "We have no idea how long this may be needed" we know that we STILL have no idea. And that can be frustrating and tiresome and downright depressing.

Yet as these difficult and sad March anniversaries loom before us...as we mourn the COVID-19 deaths of 54 in Bremer County; 5,400+ in Iowa; more than half a million in the United States; and 2.5 million worldwide...as we look down that long Lenten journey and wonder if we're strong enough to walk it once again...as we feel we are beginning to reach the end of our "everything is going to be fine" rope...may we collectively and individually continue to hear the promises of our God..."I am their God and they are my people."

I am their God and they are my people.

I am their God and they are my people.

Blessings,

Pastor Marilyn

Lent 2021

(Please note: Information is based upon current Faith UCC guidelines)

- February 28 – Worship at 10 am in-sanctuary and online. Available Sunday evening on the website: www.faihucctripoli.org (Until further notice: masks and social-distancing required; no singing by in-person congregation)
- March 2 – Wednesday meditation at noon on FB live. Available Wednesday evening on the website
- March 7 – Worship and communion at 10 am in-sanctuary and FB live. Available Sunday evening on the website
- March 10 – Wednesday meditation at noon on FB live. Available Wednesday evening on the website
- March 14 – Worship at 10 am in-sanctuary and FB live. Available Sunday evening on the website
- March 17 – Wednesday meditation at noon on FB live. Available Wednesday evening on the website
- March 21 – Worship at 10 am in-sanctuary and online Available Sunday evening on the website
- March 24 – Wednesday meditation at noon on FB live. Available Wednesday evening on the website
- March 28 – Palm Sunday worship at 10 am in-sanctuary and online Available Sunday evening on the website
- March 31 – Wednesday meditation at noon on FB live. Available Wednesday evening on the website
- April 1 – Maundy Thursday worship at 7 pm in-sanctuary and FB live. Available Friday morning on the website
- April 2 – Good Friday worship at 7 pm in-sanctuary and FB live. Available Saturday morning on the website
- April 4 – Easter worship at 10 am in-sanctuary and FB live. Available Sunday evening on the website.

At the January 28 **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** five volunteers served 27 households (71 individuals). The March **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** will be held on March 25, 2021. Distribution will be from the parking lot between 5-6 pm. Questions? Call the church office at 319.882.3585.

In January, **His Hands Food Pantry** in Oran served 57 households (166 individuals) and distributed 7,987 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 Drive was held on February 19 at Faith UCC. LifeServe reported 15 donors resulted in saving 36 lives. This included 2 convalescent plasma donors (plasma from patients who have already recovered from COVID-19. Giving this convalescent plasma to hospitalized people currently fighting COVID-19 may help them recover). Thank you all!!

The next blood drive will be held on June 16. Reservations are required. To reserve your spot or to receive answers to any safety concerns you may have, Text LIFESERVE to 999-777; or call 800-287-4903; or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org

THANK YOU!



Congratulations! You've achieved more today than some will do in a lifetime.

Blood Drive Date: **February 19, 2021**

Blood Drive Name: **Tripoli Community**

Total Donors/LIVES SAVED: 15 / 36 Lives

2 Convalescent Plasma Donors

Be proud of your accomplishment - we are! We look forward to working with you again soon! Share your achievement with your family and friends! Post your life-saving results on social media and be sure to tag LifeServe Blood Center!



@LifeServeBldCtr

Contact us if you have questions. 800.287.4903 | 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 “Short Stories by Jesus (The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi)” written by Amy-Jill Levine. If the title sounds familiar, this is the book offered during last year’s Lent. With the ceasing of in-person gathering due to COVID-19, we were unable to complete the study. NOTE: This study is on the actual book, not the study guide that accompanied last year’s video – lot’s more good info to absorb! We are beginning the book on March 2, but of course you are welcome to join anytime! You can find the book on the Barnes & Noble website, Amazon, and other booksellers. Contact Roger Goudschaal (rgoudschaal@hotmail.com) for further information on the class.

WEDNESDAY – This is a new group that meets at 7 pm each Wednesday evening. We have decided the book we originally selected might not be the one we want to read right now, but at our next gathering (March 3) we will be discussing what we might want to read next. We would love to have your input!

Easter Lilies

We will be decorating our altar with Easter Lilies again this year. The cost of the lilies will be \$10.00 each. Please call the church office to order your lily. Also, please let us know if you would like the lily to be “In Honor” or “In Memory” of someone. Please let the office know by March 23.



COVID-19 Vaccinations

If you have not yet received your vaccinations and would like to have some assistance in finding a location and date, Barb and Steve Hill have volunteered their help. They have been quite successful in helping others get their shots! You can reach Barb and Steve at 319.882.3783. Thanks, Barb & Steve, for livin’ the Gospel of Jesus!



Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2021

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

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

Member(s) Absent: Juanita Mohlis, Dean Shinstine, and Trevor Bunce

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

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

Minutes of January 4, 2021:

Motion to approve previous minutes by Steve Hill; Second by Ashley Penrod. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Tracy Buchholz, Second by Keith Stahlhut. Motion Carried
2021 budget is approved by congregation.

Trustee's Report:

Educational Building roof repair is on hold due to temperatures and repair company with COVID.

Elder's Report:

Meet about Sunday School to work on virtual class. Looking at doing a craft with each lesson for the children to do at home.

Liaison's Report:

No new business

Pastor's Report:

We have 3 students for confirmation this year. We have one student that will hold off from this year. Mentors have been selected and will get contacted. Confirmation will begin February 10th.

Ash Wednesday is Feb 17th with a service. Have a drive through placing of the ash with a q-tip to not contaminate others.

Old Business:

Motion to return to in person service Feb 7th with COVID guidelines by Lisa Chapin, Second Ashley Penrod. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Discussion on filling council openings.

Adjourn:

Motion by Steve Hill, Second Tracy Buchholz. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 JoEllen Snelling-Behn
- 3 Glen Ladage
- 4 Todd Quigley
- 5 Corbin Liddle
- 7 Verona Biermann
- 10 Darlene Buchholz
- 13 Kaitlin Westendorf
- 15 Kenny Buhrow
- 16 Dolores Schmidt
Steve Schmidt
- 18 Kristian Heidemann
- 21 Zachery Buhrow
- 22 Glenyce Bolte
Matthew Moeller
- 30 Holly Johnson
- 31 Neysa Rinkenburger

Happy
Birthday!

Faith UCC 2021 Financial Update

	<i>As of</i> <u>February 25</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$5,561.20	\$18,926.45
Expenses	\$9,586.53	\$19,062.85