

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

May 2021

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Carol & Larry Kammeyer
Dean (Mary Ann Meyer's son-in-law)
Cam (Brenda & Kevin Sievers' son-in-law)
Dolores Schmidt
Gar Snyder

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 Scott & JoEllen Behn as they mourn the passing of Scott's dad, John.

We hold in prayer Conrad & Kara Marsh and family as they mourn the passing of Conrad's dad, Craig.

In that day

*"I will restore David's fallen shelter—
I will repair its broken walls
and restore its ruins—
and will rebuild it as it used to be.*

Amos 9:11 (New International Version)

God's promise to the ancient Jews was intended to demonstrate the depth of God's love for them. Following the judgment of the proceeding chapters, the book of Amos concludes with two short oracles of promise that include the above verse.

It only takes a quick look back upon the past months to feel as if we too have been living within a broken, fallen shelter. For some of us that shelter is metaphorical. Our lives have been uprooted...our emotions tossed about...our very essence shaken to the core.

Some of you know that my daughter and her family live in the Cedar Rapids area. As do several friends of mine. And nearly nine months later they, along with all those families who endured the severe derecho that swept through the Midwest that hot August day, are still looking to repair broken walls and roofs, remove brutally damaged trees, attempting to settle with insurance, and finding themselves bilked by contractors who seemed to be authentic but turned out not to be trustworthy. Some are still living in hastily rented apartments or in motel rooms or bunking down with generous family and friends. Drive around any of these areas and you will find enormous open areas where stately trees once stood tall side by side, now twisted together like a mass of wire hangers randomly tossed into a pile. Or perhaps the trees have been cut down and only the stumps stand side by side like soldiers preparing to march in formation.

And yet whether you are among those who have been shut inside and are now beginning to emerge into the bright sunlight...are a homeowner finally able to see some progress of repairs...or a combination of both, now is a good time to lean into God's proclamation through the prophet promising to "repair the holes in the roof, replace the broken windows, fix it up like new. David's people will be strong again." (The Message)

Yet even in our eagerness to return to what once was...seeking the rebuilding of our lives and homes churches and businesses to "as in the days of old" (New Revised Standard Version), let us pause and recognize that all the rebuilding will take time. Sometimes longer than we desire but let us look upon that as part of the cost of patience. And may we also remember that while God promised to rebuild the lives of those Amos-listening people of Israel to how things used to be, God sometimes works in a completely new way, letting the old die and doing a work of new creation as proclaimed through the prophet Isaiah, "I'm going to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Don't you see it?" (Isaiah 19a, The Living Bible)

(continued)

Our normal is always being re-defined and through these past months many of us have discovered a new way to experience all those standards we once gripped to so tightly. We have weathered the pandemic and the meteorological storm. Yes, sadly, we have lost others along the way which makes it even more important for us to honor them and stay strong, stay focused, stay safe, and know that tomorrow holds new hope, new opportunities, new ways to be people of faith, new ways to do church, and yes, even new ways to appreciate not only what we once had but to look forward to faith-filled experiences and opportunities we did not expect. How can we remain certain? Because, as always, God is with us. Always. Always, always, always.

Always.

~ *Pastor Marilyn*

Outreach Ministries

The May **Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry** will be held on May 27, 2021. Distribution will be from the parking lot between 5-6 pm. Bring your own tubs/sacks/baskets. Questions? Call the church office at 319.882.3585.

In March, **His Hands Food Pantry** in Oran served 57 households (152 individuals) and distributed 7,166 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:

During April, Helping Hands Clothing Closet assisted 91 people with their clothing needs and our volunteers gave 49 hours of their time. We have received many wonderful donations this past month and we are well stocked with clothing and bedding. Please stop by if we could help you or let anyone needing assistance about us. Thank you for the donations and to our volunteers.

LifeServe Blood Drive

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

Thanks to Phoebe Drape for sharing this writing she came across...

Cell Phones & Bibles

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bibles like we treat our cell phones?
 What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
 What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
 What if we flipped through it several times a day?
 What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
 What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
 What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
 What if we used it as we traveled?
 What if we used it in case of emergency?
 What if we upgraded it to get the latest version?
 This is something to make to you go.....hmmmm.... Where is my Bible?
 Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't ever have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill!

Confirmation

On Sunday, May 2, Faith UCC will affirm the baptism and welcome into full membership at Faith United Church of Christ the following confirmands:

Cody Buchholz

Son of Tracy Buchholz and Amy Jo Eick

Mentor: Steve Hill

Isabel Marquis

Daughter of Shawn and Sara Marquis

Mentor: Ruth Kirchhoff

Kayla Milius

Daughter of Brian and Helen Milius

Mentor: Traci Babrenfuse



Congratulations to our Seniors!

Alexander Johnson

Son of Adam and Amber Johnson

Maguire Johnson

Son of Mike and Holly Johnson

Katlyn Marquis

Daughter of Shawn and Sara Marquis

Emma Martin

Daughter of Jeff and Ann Martin

Conner Piehl

Son of Larry Piehl and Jodi Heinemann

Jayden Stahlhut

Son of Chad Stahlhut and Penny Stahlhut

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2021

Members In Attendance via Zoom: Tracy Buchholz, Lisa Chapin, Roger Goudschaal, Steve Hill, Vicki Oleson, Keith Stahlhut.

Also In Attendance via Zoom: Pastor Marilyn, Eli Bahrenfuse, Beth Goudschaal, and Barb Hill.

Member(s) Absent: Brian Bunce, Trevor Bunce, Ashley Penrod, and Dean Shinstine.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Roger Goudschaal. Roger welcomed Eli and Beth to the meeting and asked for a vote to approve them as new council members. Eli and Beth were both unanimously approved.

Minutes of the March 1, 2021:

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting by Beth Goudschaal, seconded by Steve Hill, motion carried.

Trustee Report:

Discussion about KARR tuckpointing. Tracy Buchholz contacted Kevin Holm to see if the repairs to the Education Wing could be done by Rudy Pavelec Construction. Kevin Holm and Rudy Pavelec thought the repairs are more than they can do but felt the price quoted was not out of line. Discussion on when the repairs would be started and if there would be any extra added charges. Tracy Buchholz will contact Tyler Ollendieck to see if they will do the lawn mowing for the same amount as last year.

Elder Report:

Nothing to report.

Liaison Report:

Roger Goudschaal reported the Cemetery Funds are doing good.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Marilyn thanked Beth Goudschaal for her help in lining up music on Sundays. Confirmation is going well. Weekly packets along with letters about the weekly scripture and activities are being sent to the Sunday School age children. An individual clipboard with pages and colors have been put together for each child attending worship. The Marsh Family joined. General Synod is July 11-18, this will be virtual. Discussion on how to make General Synod viewable in sanctuary. Funeral was held for Betty Holm. There will be a graveside service for Larry Smalley. Discussion on meeting in person for council meetings. Table until the May meeting after more council members have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Tracy Buchholz likes the idea of a hybrid meeting.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Tracy Buchholz and Roger Goudschaal have been in conversation with church members concerning joining council. Brian Bunce and Trevor Bunce have resigned from church council. There was discussion on new sound and video equipment. With updating the equipment this would allow pastor to be in the pulpit with a camera in the balcony. More discussion will follow at the May council meeting.

Adjourn:

Motion by Keith Stahlhut to adjourn, seconded by Steve Hill. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted: Lisa Chapin

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Joel Martin
- 2 Linda Anderson
- 3 Bob Sassman
Nadine Schnurstein
- 4 Jeremy Nelson
Larry Struck
Justin Dahlstrom
- 7 Karsen Liddle
- 8 Carol Hahn
- 12 Kim Bunce
Dawn Dahlstrom
Kathy Snelling
Leanne Buchholz
- 14 Jamie Buchholz
- 15 Ruth Kirchhoff
Reed Osborn
Linda Schumacher
- 17 Don Bunce
- 18 Verlyn Buls
- 19 Samantha Johnson
Anthony Marquis
- 22 Kevin Buhrow
- 27 Shawn Buchholz
- 28 Doretta Brandhorst
Monica Franzen
- 30 Edward Brandt
Donna Funk

Happy
Birthday!

Faith UCC 2021 Financial Update

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$8,837.20	\$28,188.65
Expenses	13,684.45	32,747.30

PPP Loan* (3/10/21)	\$13,136.25
March Salaries/utilities	<u>-2,985.07</u>
Balance	\$10,151.18

	<u>April</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$11,290.70	\$39,479.35
Expenses	3,327.37	41,574.67

PPP Loan*	\$10,151.18
April Salaries/utilities	<u>-6,261.83</u>
Balance	\$3,889.35

*Paycheck Protection Program