

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

January 2022

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Carol & Larry Kammeyer
Nadine Schnurstein
Cam (Brenda & Kevin Sievers'
son-in-law)
Dean (Mary Ann Myers'
son-in-law)
Jane Petersen
Julie Bradley
McKinna Benson
Todd Meyer
Leah

We pray for members and friends of the church serving in the military.

Brandon Burrows
Matthew Coulthard
Keenan Gienau
Kristian Heidemann
Austin Kingsbury
Chazten Wells
Kaitlin Westendorf

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Jean Bentley
Darlene Bahlmann
Verlyn & Phyllis Buls
Virgil Ducker
Velda Lynch
Orlyn Milius
Marty Smalley

New Year's Blessings!

As we begin this new journey into the yet unexplored 2022, many of us arrive with a whisper (or even a shout) of anxiety. If they have taught us nothing else, the past two years have taught us to expect the unexpected. My prayer for each person reading this is the knowledge that no matter what occurs...no matter how happy or how sad you are today or tomorrow or six months from now God is with you. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Always and forever. No surprises there. THAT is the truth is which you can believe.

This is a prayer
for anyone who is not ready
for the New Year yet.
Who is not ready
to move on yet.
Who doesn't have energy for
"New Year New You".
Who is still in the grief of it all,
who isn't ready to be grateful
for it right now,
or to turn all hard times into "growth".

This is a prayer
for anyone who sees the
numerous
"New Year, New You" ads,
and knows that they are
about capitalism
and diet culture
but still feels that pull
to be better, thinner, shinier.

This is a prayer
for anyone who
isn't starting 2022
"fresh"
as a shiny new person,
full of goals and aspirations.

This is a prayer
that knows there is Grace.
This is a prayer
that believes in Compassion.
This is a prayer
that trusts that we belong,
as we are,
exactly as we are,
to the One who is Love.
Amen.

~ Jemma Allen, a priest in the Anglican Church in
Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

Outreach Ministries

In November, **His Hands Food Pantry** in Oran served 79 households (231 individuals) and distributed 7,036 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: November was busy month for Helping Hands Clothing Closet with 241 client visits. As always, we can use donations of blankets, bedding, new underwear and socks, winter coats and boots. We are still in need of new or gently used winter clothing and boots for children. Thank you for all donations and thank you to our terrific volunteers.

Need help with your heating bill or your water bill? Contact the Karen Henry of the **Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation** at 563.387.4924 or email. Look for additional information on the north bulletin board in the narthex.



Each year I am overwhelmed by the kind gestures, beautiful notes, and generosity of the members and friends of Faith United Church of Christ. I am so blessed to have each of you in my life and humbled that you allow me to be a part of yours. The Advent/Christmas seasons are very special and there are so many folks who add their special touches to make the weeks memorable for all. First, I thank Barb Rich who continued to move through all of the preparations and changes and last-minute requests with a smile – I could not have done it without you! Steve & Barb, thank you for your continued dedication to bringing our worship to the sanctuary screen and also to those unable to attend in person. To the leaders, teachers, and students, you gifted the congregation with the ability to pause and soak in the true meaning of Christmas with music, readings, and worship volunteers who were eager to greet, usher, and gather up the offerings. Conrad & Roger, thank you for your quick study that allowed that Children's Sunday to be shared with all. Once again our musicians were outstanding in sharing so many cherished pieces for our listening ears. Whether you were one who decorated the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, or Ed Wing; erected our outside manger scene; lit Advent candles; read scripture; prepared goodies; welcomed long-time members and new visitors; worshipped on Sunday mornings or the Blue Christmas or Christmas Eve services, thank you for being a part of this celebration of the arrival of God's Son into our world. May the light shine among us all year long!

In gratitude and love,
Pastor Marilyn

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift and to everyone who stopped in to wish me a Merry Christmas. As I was reflecting on the past year, I can't thank members of Faith enough for the kindness you have showed to me during the death of my sister and my injury. My heart is grateful for each of you.

Barb Rich

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2021

Members in Attendance: Roger Goudschaal, Lisa Chapin, Beth Goudschaal, Kara Marsh, Vicki Oleson, Keith Stahlhut, Eli Bahrenfuse, Steve Hill, Conrad Marsh, and Jerry Lahmann.

Council Members Absent: Ashley Penrod, and Dean Shinstine.

Also Present: Pastor Marilyn and Barb Hill.

Present via Zoom: Brenda Shinstine.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Marilyn.

The meeting was called to order by Roger Goudschaal.

Additions to the Agenda: November 21, 2021 council meeting minutes.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Beth Goudschaal to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021 regular meeting, seconded by Vicki Oleson, motion carried. Motion by Steve Hill to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2021 council meeting, seconded by Kara Marsh, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Keith Stahlhut to approve the November report as stated, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

Trustee Report: The Trustees will meet after church on Sunday, December 12 to discuss the 2022 budget. The boiler has been inspected. There was discussion about the water softener using a lot of salt. Beth Goudschaal made a motion to back pay Steve Hill for running the live stream equipment per the November 2, 2020 council minutes, seconded by Kara Marsh, motion carried. Per the November 2, 2020 council minutes, whomever is running the live stream equipment will be paid \$50 per time.

Elder Report: Head ushers for the month of December are Jerry Lahmann and Dean Shinstine. The Sunday school will be doing the worship service on Sunday December 19. They will also be hosting Fellowship time.

Liaison Report: There was discussion about removing shrubs around the church before the tuckpointing will take place. A thank you will be sent to Kenny Hennings for his help trimming the tress at Faith Cemetery.

Pastor's Report: Marilyn thanked Roger Goudschaal for filling in the pulpit while she was away. Marilyn is reading a chapter a day from the Gospel of Luke. There will be a Blue Christmas service on December 21 at 7 pm. There will be a Candle Light service on December 27 at 7 pm, communion will be served.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 16, 2022 during the worship service. Outgoing council members are Roger Goudschaal, Steve Hill, Ashley Penrod and Dean Shinstine.

Motion to adjourn by Conrad Marsh, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Chapin

<u>JANUARY BIRTHDAYS</u>	
3	Marian Meyer
6	Phoebe Drape
7	Alfred Gloede
8	Brian Milius
	Velda Lynch
10	Darlene Bahlmann
11	Maguire Johnson
13	Judy Buhr
14	Ron Quigley
15	Max Moeller
16	Karen Bolte
19	Mary Ann Meyer
20	Katlyn Marquis
21	Donna Sassman
23	Kathy Westendorf
24	Shawn Marquis
	Delaney Marsh
25	Paisley Liddle
27	Brian Buchholz
30	Shane Buchholz
	Marlys Ryan

Happy Birthday!

Faith UCC 2021 Financial Update Through 12/31

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date*</u>
Income	\$ 11,154.90	\$122,263.34
Expenses	<u>16,826.93</u>	<u>153,934.35</u>
Variance	\$-5,672.03	\$-31,671.01

*The income reported does not include the Payback Protection Program funds (\$13,136.25) received from the Small Business Administration nor the Edward Jones investment funds monies used to repair the bell tower (\$13,060.00). Additionally there were other transfers in from the Memorial Fund that do not show as income on this summary.

Giving Statements

Year-end giving statements will be available to pick up beginning Sunday, January 16. Picking it up in the narthex (if on a Sunday) or in the office during the week will allow us to save the cost of postage.