

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

March 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 Boris (Mary Ann Myers' son-in-law)

Jane Petersen

Julie Bradley

McKinna Benson

Walter Blessing (Terry's brother)

Marilyn Lahmann

LaVera Buchholz

Glenyce Bolte

Carolyn Stanbrough

Adam Moeller

Cindy Gitch

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

We hold in prayer Daniel & Amy Price as they mourn the passing of their aunt, Julie Bradley.

Lent is a time to take the time
To let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
A time to let the events
Get up and walk around in us,
A time to intensify
Our living unto Christ,
A time to hover over
The thoughts of our hearts,
A time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
Or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
A time to touch his robe
And feel the healing surge through us,
A time to ponder and a time to wonder...
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!
~ Ann Weems

As a long-time admirer of the word weavings of Ann Weems, the above poem from her book, *Kneeling in Jerusalem* is one of my favorites.

“Lent is a time to take the time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us.”

I love that verse. I don't know about you but sometimes I become so busy and focused upon the day-to-day tasks that I don't pause long enough to let my faith fully settle into the day. Oh sure, I'm always aware of my faith. And I talk with God several time throughout each day. But how often do I truly slow down and let the power of my faith story really take hold of me? Probably not enough some days.

So that's going to be my focus for Lent this year. I'm going to intentionally place my faith at the nucleus of all I do and remain aware and in so doing, take the time to let the power of my faith take hold of me. I'm not yet certain how that's going to look. I don't have a Jesus hem to touch. I don't have a beach to walk along and feel his truth words wash over me. But I do long to feel the healing surge of Jesus.

How about you? Have you given any thought to how you will move through this season? Will you take on a new spiritual discipline? Abstain from a favorite food or drink? What will you do to slow down and let your faith story take hold of you?

(continued)

While it's only 40 days (not counting Sundays) wanting to do and actually doing something for 40 days isn't always easy. As Rev. Dr. Derek Weber writes,

Being honest with ourselves is a difficult exercise; that's part of why we need forty days to do it. It takes diligence and discipline and a whole lot of grace to see ourselves as we truly are. In fact, it might be argued that we are incapable of doing this Lenten thing on our own. It is simply beyond our capabilities and certainly beyond our inclinations. The only hope we have is to be gathered up in Jesus.

So my friends, whatever decision you make for your Lenten journey, I wish you sufficient courage and fearless confidence. Allow yourself to be gathered up in Jesus and bask in the power of your faith story. May you arrive on Easter morning with a deeper understanding of who you are and whose you are.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Marilyn

Addendum

As we prepare to produce this newsletter, an estimated 137 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed and 316 wounded since Russia invaded the country. Social media has been flooded with comments and memes and photos and prayers as the world weeps. From another of my favorite poets (and UCC clergy), I offer this prayer for you to lift up to our God who is also weeping...

Prayer for Ukraine under invasion
 God of plowshares, pruning hooks,
 and peace-making,
 translate such old archaic words
 into hope today in Ukraine
 that your promise to shatter
 bows and swords, spears and shields,
 may mean now
 an end of missile strikes
 and long-range artillery,
 the silencing of Kyiv's air-raid sirens.
 We pray for those who flee the capital
 and those who shelter in place
 and in fear in Kharkiv to the east.
 We pray for troops already exhausted
 from their long watching.
 We pray for NATO land and air forces,
 knowing that means people,
 and we pray for Germany and Poland
 as they open borders to fleeing refugees.
 God, we have studied war for so long,
 let it be no more, no more.
 Teach us a new peacemaking,
 guiding the leaders of nations,
 and holding gently in your heart
 the many who live and die
 because of their decisions,
 for we pray in the name of Jesus
 who wept for our great need
 of the things that make for peace.
 amen

~ Maren Tirabassi

Faith United Church of Christ 2202 Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday (March 2)

Ashes for the Journey

For those not able to attend the evening Ash Wednesday service, Pastor Marilyn will offer “Ashes for the Journey” in the church back parking lot from 7 am to 9 am the morning of the 2nd. Please share this information with any you feel might welcome this opportunity.

Worship

Our worship service will begin at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

Wednesday Night Lenten Study

Beginning March 9, at 6:30 each Wednesday evening during Lent we will be reading and discussing Amy-Jill Levine’s book, *Witness at the Cross*. In this 6-week study Levine shows how the people at the cross – The Bystanders and Scoffers; The Other Victims; The Soldiers; The Beloved Disciple; The Women; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus – each have a distinct role to play in the Gospels. For each, Jesus has a particular meaning and message, and from each we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today. Each week we will watch a short video, followed by discussion. While you do not need to read the book to participate, if you would like a copy they are available from the church office for \$14.

Please note: There will be no Wednesday evening meals served prior to worship or study



If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily for Easter morning worship, please contact the church office 319.882.3585 or faithuccchurch@gmail.com. Order forms will also be available in the sanctuary. If you would like your plant to be in honor/memory of someone, please include that information with your order. The cost of a lily in a 6” pot is \$9.63. Orders need to be received by Tuesday, March 29.

Adult Choir/Bell Choir Update

In the past six months attempts have been made to once again form an adult choir to sing during worship as well as a bell choir to play during worship. Following emails, Sunday morning announcements, newsletter articles, and regular mail, there has been very little interest expressed in either. Beth Goudschaal is now hoping to locate singers willing to perform a solo or join with others (duet, trio, etc.) during Lent and Holy Week services. Questions? Contact Beth at bgoudschaal@gmail.com or 319.415.3834.

Church Council

The Council is looking for a member to serve as a Trustee. The Council meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. Trustees typically meet at 6 pm prior to the Council meeting. Interested? Questions? Contact one of the current trustees, Jerry Lahmann, Keith Stahlhut, or Brenda Shinstine, or call the church office 319.882.3585.

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2022

Members in Attendance: Lisa Chapin, Beth Goudschaal, Kathy Westendorf, Bonnie Travers, Vicki Oleson, Kara Marsh, Conrad Marsh, Eli Bahrenfuse, Keith Stahlhut, Jerry Lahmann.

Also in Attendance via Zoom: Brenda Shinstine.

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn and Barb Hill.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

Reorganization of the 2022 Church Council:

Motion by Lisa Chapin to nominate Eli Bahrenfuse as church President. After some discussion, Eli declined the nomination. Motion by Beth Goudschaal to nominate Conrad Marsh as church President. After discussion, Conrad accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded by Jerry Lahmann, the motion carried.

Motion by Lisa Chapin to nominate Eli Bahrenfuse as Vice-President. After some discussion, Eli accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded by Beth Goudschaal, the motion carried.

Motion by Kara Marsh to nominate Lisa Chapin as Head Elder, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

Motion by Lisa Chapin to nominate Jerry Lahmann as Head Trustee, seconded by Eli Bahrenfuse, motion carried.

At this time, the meeting was led by President Conrad Marsh.

Approval of the January minutes: Motion by Beth Goudschaal to approve the minutes as stated, seconded by Kara Marsh, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Lisa Chapin to approve the report as stated, seconded by Kathy Westendorf, motion carried.

Trustee Report: There was discussion on adding a yellow strip of tape to the bottom step going into the lower level of the Ed Wing. This would help distinguish the bottom step from the floor. Eli is going to purchase some non-skid tape to place on the steps as well as replace the lightbulb with a brighter one. The valve in the other boiler needs to be replaced due to a leak. There is acid buildup that should be cleaned yearly.

Elder Report: Head Usher sheet was passed out. Head Usher duties were reviewed. A committee consisting of Lisa Chapin, Beth Goudschaal, Vicki Oleson, Conrad Marsh and Pastor Marilyn will review the by-laws. After some discussion, it was decided by the council to not have meals during Lent this year. There was discussion about having the Sunday School children help with ushering.

Liaison Report: Jerry Lahmann talked briefly about the cemetery.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported that a new computer is needed for the secretary, there is money budgeted for this expense. There will be a Lenten Study again this year. This Sunday, February 13, will be the Blessing of the new council and officers of Faith Church.

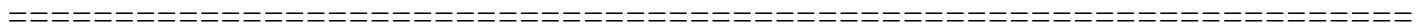
Old Business: Pastor Marilyn and Steve Hill have made some adjustments to the microphone by the sanctuary piano.

New Business: Nothing

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Beth Goudschaal, seconded by Vicki Oleson, motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

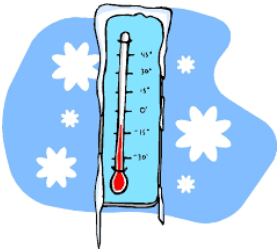
Respectfully submitted:
Lisa Chapin



Here's a nugget of wisdom from our Faith UCC President:

The price of being kind to someone is priceless, but the feeling of someone being kind to you is also priceless!

~ Conrad Marsh



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

Reminder: Daylight Savings Time begins March 13th. Time to move your clocks one hour ahead!



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
- 17 Conrad Marsh
- 18 Kristian Heidemann
- 21 Zach Buhrow
- 22 Glenyce Bolte
Matthew Moeller
- 20 Gary Moeller
Holly Johnson
- 31 Neysa Rinkenberger

**Happy
Birthday!**

Faith United Church of Christ – General Fund 2022

	<i>January</i>	<i>February (thru 2/25)</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
Income	\$7,083.45	\$16,362.76	\$23,446.21
Expenses	\$12,180.01 ⁽¹⁾	\$11,065.80	\$23,245.81

⁽¹⁾ January expenses included decline in Edward Jones portfolio and remittance of 5 for 5 funds to the UCC. The corresponding income for the 5 for 5 was received in previous months.

Faith United Church of Christ – Cemetery Operations Fund 2022

Through January 31:

Portfolio Value	\$72,449.45
Checking Account Balance	589.48
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,140.61</u>
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$74,179.54