

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

April 2022

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Nadine Schnurstein
Bonnie Travers
Dean Boris (Mary Ann Myers' son-in-law)
McKinna Benson
Walter Harris (Terry's brother)
Carolyn Stanbrough
Adam Moeller

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...

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

We hold in prayer Barb & John Rich as they mourn the passing of John's dad, Jack Rich.

We continue to hold in prayer the people of Ukraine and all those who are helping them by providing shelter, food, transportation, and updated information.

If you are a member of Facebook and post even occasionally, you know that periodically you are reminded of a "memory." These are posts you shared on the same date a year ago, two years ago, five years ago, etc. Reviewing those are sometimes quite interesting. Recently my memory notifications are filled with videos recorded as the effect of the pandemic really began to take shape two years ago. There was my first Facebook Live worship service. It was just me and my phone and tablet – it's a wonder anyone ever watched one again! While I have not viewed all of those weekly or daily videos, it only takes a few to bring back the emotions, angst and uncertainties of those times. Some days were sad. Some fun. Some a simple check-in.

For many of us, those pandemic days that piled onto days of national chaos that piled onto days of worldwide chaos have simply felt like too much. Weather-related disasters and deliberate violence and now an all-out war upon innocent people, it just becomes overwhelming doesn't it?

My friends, Easter is coming. Easter. That beautiful reminder that we are not abandoned by God. That beautiful reminder that this is not the end of our story. That beautiful reminder that no matter what happens, we are never separated from the love of God. Never. Ever. Neither are those who hunger and thirst. Nor those who endure hardship or persecution. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

On Easter morning we will once again discover the stone rolled back...we will once again celebrate the empty tomb...we will once again proclaim that through his resurrection Jesus has looked death right in the eye and defeated it for all of us.

Yes, the pandemic and war and chaos and uncertainty and anger and sadness and all of those emotions and realities that God's children are experiencing today will still exist on Easter Sunday and the days beyond. My prayer is that Easter Sunday may provide you with the truth you need to move forward through all of the coming days with hope. The strength you need to step into tomorrow with faith. And the audacity to look chaos and evil and uncertainty right in the eye and defeat it by proclaiming God's love and grace and mercy for all.

Easter blessings to you,

Pastor Marilyn

**Holy Week and Easter
at Faith United Church of Christ**

Holy Week

Palm Sunday	9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am worship*	Special music by the Variety Show Singers
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Holy Wednesday	6:30 pm Lenten study*	
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Maundy Thursday	6:00-6:45 pm Soup meal in Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Worship*	
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Good Friday	7:00 pm Worship*	
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Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service	6:30 am Worship* followed by a light breakfast in Fellowship Hall	
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Sunday School	9:00 am	
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Easter Service	10:00 am Worship*	Special music by the Faith UCC Children's Choir
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*Live-streamed on Faith UCC YouTube channel

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
~Romans 12:12*

Each Faith Talk newsletter and Sunday morning Faith Chat includes a list of people we invite you to include in your prayers. Additionally, each Sunday morning worship we name people and situations in our personal lives, our community, our nation, and the world for whom we pray. In our sanctuary you will also see Prayer Shawls over the backs of pews. These shawls were created by our very own Thursday afternoon Drop-A-Stitch group. The prayer shawls not only can provide warmth on chilly mornings and cuddly comfort during worship, but they are also placed there for you to take and gift to anyone you know who would feel the blessing of receiving a shawl. In the Narthex, we also have a prayer board where prayer cards can be posted for all to read and include in their prayers.

At Faith UCC, we also have a prayer chain comprised of members who have committed some of their personal prayer time to praying for others. If you know of a situation where additional prayers are needed, please contact the church office, Pastor Marilyn, or Pat Warner and the Faith UCC confidential prayer chain will be activated.

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

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

Also in Attendance via Zoom: Beth Goudschaal and Brenda Shinstine.

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn and Barb Hill.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

The meeting was called to order by Conrad Marsh.

Approval of the February minutes: Motion by Keith Stahlhut to approve the minutes as stated, seconded by Jerry Lahmann, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Barb Hill noted that the electric bill and the gas bill have gone up \$100 the last two months. Motion by Kathy Westendorf to approve the report as stated, seconded by Kara Marsh, motion carried.

Trustee Report: The toilet in the women's bathroom in Fellowship Hall seems to be running longer than necessary. Conrad did a few minor adjustments, possibly a slow fill. The new valve that was installed on the boiler is now leaking. Someone will contact Ryan Smith. Still checking into the stain that is on the south side of the narthex ceiling. The new light at the bottom the steps going into the lower level of the Ed Wing is much brighter. There will be more strips added to the lower-level steps.

Elder Report: There will be five offering plates to pass, with one plate going to the balcony. Reminder to spring ahead for Sunday, March 13. There was discussion on when there is a liturgist, should the liturgist stay in the chair that is by the choir loft or should the liturgist return to the pew when they are done reading.

Liaison Report: None

Pastor's Report: The Ash Wednesday service went well. Ashes were mailed to those who requested them and to all members living in a care facility or unable to travel to worship. Large print Daily Devotionals have been mailed out to those same members. The Lenten Book Study on Wednesday nights will begin at 6:30 with a video. Live-streaming will begin at 6:45. Conrad Marsh will run the live stream equipment on Wednesday, March 16 with Brian and Trevor Bunce running the live stream on Sunday, May 1. New candles have been ordered to the candelabras. A new Christ candle is in place. The Waverly newspaper has contacted Pastor Marilyn to see what Faith Church is doing for Ukraine. Pastor Marilyn talked about giving through the United Church of Christ, the Children's Time and what the children would pray for, the World Central Kitchen and she also talked about the pysanky egg she received from a friend who visited Ukraine several years ago.

Old Business: None

New Business: Communion will be taken to the balcony. There was much discussion on whether to use the glass cups, plastic cups or the disposable communion cups. It was felt that the time for the single one-time disposable cup and bread has passed. Also, due to environmental reasons, it was felt that it would be good to use the glass communion cups leaving the disposable cups to be used at Christmas time.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Kara Marsh, seconded by Lisa Chapin, motion carried.

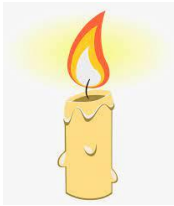
The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Lisa Chapin

A nugget of wisdom from our Faith UCC President:

Anytime you give you get something in return, but if you often take you can never get enough in return!!

~ Conrad Marsh



If anyone is willing to work on a project to transform used candles into new candles, please contact Pastor Marilyn.

On Sunday, April 3, 9 am-noon, the Tripoli Fire Department will be hosting a breakfast to kick off their 125th year.

Come to the station to dine in or get a to-go order.

Pancakes, eggs, sausage, rinderwurst, pastries, milk, juice, and coffee.

Free-will donation.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3	Vicki Oleson
4	Kaye Osborn Tracy Buchholz
5	Brian Bunce
7	Kimberly Milius
9	Catie Ott
12	Dean Shinstine Dan Dillon
13	Katelynn Piehl
14	Susan Cline
16	Phyllis Schnurstein
18	Austin Foelske
19	Saundra Ryherd
20	Steve Dahlstrom
22	Lincoln Drewis
26	Melvin Ohlendorf

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

5	Kenny & Darlys Buhrow
10	Scott & Lisa Chapin

Faith United Church of Christ Finances**General Fund 2022**

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$8,584.82	\$30,674.50
Expenses	\$14,439.60	\$38,008.49

Cemetery Operations Fund 2022February

Portfolio Value	\$72,420.04
Checking Account Balance	589.48
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,140.65</u>
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$74,150.17

Faith UCC Council

President	Conrad Marsh
Vice President	Eli Bahrenfuse
Recorder	Lisa Chapin

Elders

Lisa Chapin (Chair)
Beth Goudschaal
Kara Marsh
Vicki Oleson
Bonnie Travers
Kathy Westendorf

Trustees

Jerry Lahmann (Chair)
Eli Bahrenfuse
Conrad Marsh
Brenda Shinstine
Keith Stahlhut

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Marilyn Sargent
Administrative Assistant	Barb Rich
Financial Secretary	Roger Goudschaal
Treasurer	Barb Hill
Custodian	TJ Flaig
Director of Music	Beth Goudschaal
Musicians	June Buhr Phoebe Drape Dawn Holm Tracy Neuendorf

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