

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

May 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
Helen Milius

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

*...for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.*

~ Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Everyone has a favorite season and for me that is Spring in Iowa. The new freshness that fills the air...the rain (although sometimes too much!) that washes away the winter leftovers. As noted in the above scripture, the flowers and plants that pop up after their underground hibernation...the return of the many birds who grace us in the mornings with their glorious songs. Now after checking with our area nature expert Kip Ladage aka Cliff Clavin, I have learned that while we don't have turtledoves in Iowa, their relatives the Mourning Doves, Pigeons, and Eurasian Collared Doves can be heard in our land. All those magnificent signs to affirm for us that Spring – that superb God gift after the winter is past – has arrived.

As the first Spring in a couple of years when we haven't had the heaviness of the COVID-19 pandemic weighing us down, it is a perfect time to celebrate who we are and whose we are. On a recent Sunday morning, our Church Council President presented (and represented) some of that new energy of the season with the following words,

As a Council, we believe that now would be a great opportunity to try to grow Faith United Church of Christ. To strengthen the Church not only for the present but also for the future, near and distant. We would like to create a Developmental Committee. The Council feels this is a good time, with COVID-19 hopefully dwindling downward, to define our strengths and our weaknesses as a Church. Then build on our strengths and find ways to improve where we may be lacking as a Congregation. As we talked [at the last Council meeting], we decided this committee should include participants of all ages, to give different perspectives and opportunities to foster growth in Faith United Church of Christ. If you like what you hear and would like to receive more information or would like to be part of this Committee, please feel free to talk to me.

Following Conrad's announcement, some of you have volunteered to be a part of this group and others have expressed their support of this initiative. I hope you find that news as exciting as I do! This is an amazing congregation filled with some pretty amazing members and friends!

Celebrate Spring...celebrate life...celebrate the church...celebrate each other...celebrate YOU, beloved one! And always lift up your praise and gratitude to God!

Blessings,

Pastor Marilyn

*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.



We would like to thank the members of Faith UCC for the thoughts, prayers and donation to SNAP upon the death of our dear father, Jack Rich. Jack's passing will leave an emptiness in our hearts and your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. Thank you.

John and Barb Rich & family

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2022

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

Also in Attendance via Zoom: Beth Goudschaal

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 Brenda Shinstine to approve the minutes as stated, seconded by Kara Marsh, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Barb Hill noted that the first quarter expenses were paid. Motion by Vicki Oleson to approve the report as stated, seconded by Bonnie Travers, motion carried.

Trustee Report: Looking into getting bids to removal and clean up of three ash trees. There is money in the Improvement Fund to help pay for this expense.

Elder Report: The Sunday School children will help with the service on Sunday, April 17. There was discussion on reinstating inactive committees, long-range planning, and All-Committee night. Bonnie Travers expressed having some interest in doing something with young adults within the congregation as well as the community. She felt this should be a paid position considering the amount of time spent in planning and preparing.

Liaison Report: None

Pastor's Report: The ladies who knit at Faith Church are knitting lap size prayer shawls like the Ukraine flag. These will be dedicated when completed. On Palm Sunday some of the choir from the variety show will be at Faith to sing the gospel "Praise His Holy Name!". There will be a 6:30 am Sunrise Service on Easter with a light breakfast following the service. There will be a 10 am service on Easter with the Sunday School serving Fellowship time. Discussion on looking at the connector area in terms of updating signage and making sure the area is welcoming. The live-stream will now be on the Faith UCC Facebook page as well as the Faith UCC YouTube. Pastor also shared with the Council a letter from the officers of the UCC regarding a giving opportunity within the denomination, "Securing the Future." After identifying clergy indebtedness as a critical problem for the whole church to address, the UCC Pensions Boards (with initial assistance from the Lilly Endowment) The Pension Boards and the National Setting of the United Church of Christ have launched a capital campaign to raise \$3 million over the next two years to expand a program to help financially struggling ministers reduce their debts and plan for a secure retirement. They are encouraging congregations to consider their support with a gift pledge made annually for the next three years. Further discussion and scheduling will be considered at a future Council meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business: TJ Flaig will be with DECA later in the month. Need some council members to make sure the trash is taken care of.

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Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Keith Stahlhut, seconded by Kathy Westendorf, motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Lisa Chapin

A nugget of wisdom from Conrad Marsh,
our Faith UCC President:

Don't Judge a Book by its Cover

People will surprise you when you know them outside where
you know them from. When you try to get to know someone
in a different part of life it may be like a whole new book.
But really to them it is just a different chapter!



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

Faith United Church of Christ
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Pastor Marilyn: rev.msargent@gmail.com

Website: www.faihucctripoli.org

Facebook: Faith United Church of Christ, Tripoli

YouTube: Faith United Church of Christ, Tripoli

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
 9 Virgil Ducker
 12 Kim Bunce
 Dawn Dahlstrom
 Kathy Snelling
 Leanne Buchholz
 14 Jamie Buchholz
 15 Ruth Kirchhoff
 Reed Osborn
 Linda Schumacher
 16 Emrie Bahrenfuse
 17 Don Bunce
 18 Verlyn Buls
 19 Samantha Johnson
 Anthony Marquis
 22 Kevin Buhrow
 27 Shawn Buchholz
 Everett Bahrenfuse
 28 Doretta Brandhorst
 Monica Franzen
 30 Edward Brandt
 Donna Funk

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

17 Brian & Helen Milius
 17 Glen & Sandy Ladage
 31 Daniel & Amy Price

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

	<i>April</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
Income	\$9,624.27	\$40,573.77
Expenses	\$12,088.64	\$50,097.13

Cemetery Operations Fund 2022**March**

Portfolio Value	\$67,886.68
Checking Account Balance	589.48
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,140.70</u>
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$69,616.86

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

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)
 Conrad Marsh
 Eli Bahrenfuse
 Brenda Shinstine
 Keith Stahlhut