

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

June 2022

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Melvin Ohlendorf
Nadine Schnurstein
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 pray for the families and communities where lives and sense of safety have been shattered. This month we especially mourn with Buffalo, NY; Laguna Wood, CA; Uvalde, TX; and Tulsa, OK

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

*A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.
~Jeremiah 31:15*

My friends, like you my heart felt like it shattered into infinitesimal pieces on Tuesday, May 23. Receiving a news bulletin on my phone that 14 (ultimately 19) children and 1 (ultimately 2) teacher had died was simply more than I could absorb. Sorrow...shock...anger...my emotions raced through them all and yet I knew that what I was feeling did not begin to compare with the emotions the parents, families, and friends of those beloved children of God were tumbling through.

Working in my office on Saturday, I became aware that while I had gathered information for the Sunday morning memorial tribute to these victims (an act that I have performed far too many times) I was delaying actually putting their photos into the display program and writing their mini eulogies to share with the congregation. On so many levels, I knew that this one hurt too much and I simply was not sure that I had the courage to do it. It had been only a week earlier that I had created a tribute to the 10 victims of the Tops Friendly Markets store shootings in Buffalo. During the creation of a tribute, once I get to know the victims a bit better, recognize their faces, learn their names and their stories, they become people I feel like I know personally and just like when anyone close to you dies there is a period of mourning. But while those factors certainly played a part in my procrastination, I knew deep in my soul that every time I looked at one of those photos of those Robb Elementary fourth grade smiling children, I saw in them the smiles of the fourth-grade children of our church and of our community. And I also saw the smile of my fourth-grade granddaughter. Smiles that expressed pure joy. Smiles that could not fathom the horror that awaited them – in some cases just a few short hours away.

Those children trusted in humanity. Trusted in the adults around them. Just as our children and grandchildren and nieces and nephews and neighbors and students do. But once again, the children – the most vulnerable and the most precious of all of humankind's gifts – have been let down. Yes, we offer that famous phrase "thoughts and prayers" but they deserve more than that. If we don't get serious about controlling non-military access to weapons with a bullet that shreds a body to the point that only DNA can identify them, we have once again let them down. If we don't get serious about requiring universal background checks for all prospective gun purchasers, we have once again let them down. If we don't start placing the rights of our children to live a full life above the loud voices insisting there will be no limiting of gun laws, we have once again let them down.

I am so tired of letting them down.

Pastor Marilyn

Mark your Calendar!

The next blood bank will be held at Faith Fellowship Hall on June 22nd from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Schedule online at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 800.287.4903



Thank you to the Youth Ministry of Faith UCC for the donation of blankets. Our patients will feel special and blessed.

Waverly Health Care Center

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

“Everyone should be committed to finding our neighbor’s strength to help to get to our goals. Instead of pointing out weakness distracting us away from our goals.”

On Saturday, June 4th the Tripoli Fire Department will be celebrating their 125th year!



4:30 pm – Gates Open - Tickets are \$5 to enter
5 pm – Food vendors will begin serving the public:
Marks Family Purebreds will also be grilling throughout the night.
Hightail Delivery with their ice cream selection
Oliver's Hub and Grub will be there with drinks
7 – 11 pm Band K. Sterling and the 85 Silver band

The menu:

- \$10 Cheeseburger Meal with Chips & pop/water
- \$10 Chicken Breast Sandwich with Chips & pop/water
- \$6 Hotdog Meal with Chips & pop/water
- \$15 Combo Meal - 1 Cheeseburger Meal & 1 Hotdog Meal
- \$15 Combo Meal - 1 Chicken Breast Meal & 1 Hotdog Meal



Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2022

Members in Attendance: Lisa Chapin, Conrad Marsh, Keith Stahlhut, Bonnie Travers and Brenda Shinstine.

Council Members Absent: Kathy Westendorf, Kara Marsh, Jerry Lahmann and Eli Bahrenfuse.

Also in Attendance via Zoom: Beth Goudschaal and Vicki Oleson.

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

The meeting was called to order by Conrad Marsh.

Approval of the minutes: Motion by Bonnie Travers to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2022, council meeting, seconded by Brenda Shinstine, motion carried. Motion by Bonnie Travers to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2022, council meeting, seconded by Keith Stahlhut, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Bonnie Travers to approve the report as stated, seconded by Brenda Shinstine, motion carried.

Trustee Report: Nothing to report.

Elder Report: The last day of Sunday School will be May 22. Looking into June, the worship service will stay at 10 am.

Liaison Report: None

Pastor's Report: Pastor will be on vacation May 9 - May 17. Conrad and Eli have contact information should someone need something. Pastor Tyler from Grace will be on call. Roger Goudschaal will lead worship on May 15. Just a reminder, if you are Head Usher be sure to check that all lights are turned off and all doors are locked that need to be locked. The Sunday School students made thank you notes to Donna Funk for the Easter books.

Old Business: Just waiting for better weather to remove the three ash trees. The committee to review the By-laws will meet on Monday, May 9 at 5:30 pm.

New Business: There was discussion on having a meal after the Tripoli Days parade. Possibly a simple lunch with a sandwich, chips and a dessert. Bonnie will contact Karen Milius to see if this something the Women of Faith would like to do. Ryan Smith gave a quote to fix the boiler issues. A Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5. Another quote was given but higher than Ryan Smith. Thank you to Conrad and Steve for setting off bug bombs. Conrad and Steve will set more bug bombs off in another two to three months. Tuck pointing is scheduled for August. The Development Committee will meet on May 23 at 5:30 pm. The committee consists of Bonnie Travers, Don Bunce, Dave Kirchhoff, Vicki Oleson and Marlys Biermann.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Bonnie Travers, seconded by Keith Stahlhut, motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Lisa Chapin

NOTE: These minutes have not yet been approved by Council.

Dear Faith UCC Members and Friends,

Some of you may know Rev. Adam Hamilton from one of the books he authored. We have studied several here at Faith UCC during Lenten Wednesday night studies or during Adult Sunday morning classes. Pastor Adam (whose Facebook page intro reads, “I’m a Christ follower, a husband, father and grandfather, a United Methodist pastor and author” – love that!) serves the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. Following the killings at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Pastor Adam sent out a letter to his parishioners which read in part:

There have been 27 school shootings and 228 mass shootings (four or more victims) in the US since January 1, 2022. Because of our differences over guns, we find ourselves in gridlock and nothing changes.

We can throw up our hands and nothing changes. Or we can ask our legislators to address the root causes and develop better strategies to decrease the chances of school shootings and other acts of violence.

Attached are two letters I will be sending to my representatives that I’d like to invite you to send to your representatives at the state and federal level. The specific suggestions related to guns are suggestions that were supported by an overwhelming number of our gun owners at Resurrection in a survey completed several years ago.

- Find your representatives’ names and e-mail addresses here: <https://openstates.org>.
- Copy the text of the letter below and paste it into an email. (Note: there are two versions – one for federal representatives and one for state representatives.)
- Address it to your representatives by name, sign your name at the end and send it.
- Feel free to tweak the letter so that it represents your views.

If you would like to add your voice seeking better policies to protect our children, the following two pages contain the text of the letters Pastor Adam composed. Of course, as he noted you may want to adjust some of the language to better echo your voice and opinion. If you desire to send a letter but are unable to print the following letters, there will be copies available in the Narthex and in the church office.

As Pastor Adam noted in the letter to his congregation, during the Memorial Day weekend there were 14 more mass shootings, including six people injured at a high school graduation in Alabama and another six teens injured in a mass shooting in Tennessee. We can also add to that list the four victims of the June 1 shootings on the campus of St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, OK.

My friends, something needs to change. Soon. I hope you will join me in encouraging our representatives to do all they can to reduce these incidences of violence.

Pastor Marilyn

SAMPLE LETTER FOR STATE LEGISLATORS

Dear (State Legislator name),

Thank you for the work you do on my behalf as the representative for my district. Last week we all grieved for the lives of 19 children and two teachers killed at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. We shared that grief as Republicans and Democrats. You likely know that since January 1, 2022, there have been 27 shootings at schools across America. Some were suicides. Some were children who accidentally discharged guns, and some were teens who took their guns to school with the intent to kill.

Our state legislature has united around solving major problems in our state in the past. You've worked across the aisle to do what was in the best interest of our state. I'd like to ask that you work across the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, to reduce the likelihood of violence against children as we saw in Uvalde, Texas, this last week. I know you care about our state's children. Please, take action to protect our children.

To that end, I write to encourage bi-partisan efforts to reduce school shootings focused on:

Expanding Mental Health Access:

- Please increase investments in mental health services and raise the gun ownership age to 21.

Responsible Gun Storage: The largest number of gun deaths each year are suicides, often with young adults using guns owned by their parents. In addition, children find guns and inadvertently harm themselves.

- Please pass legislation requiring guns be stored with a trigger lock in place. This will help prevent the needless deaths and the misuse of parents' guns by children.

Licensure and Training: Permit laws are the single most effective way to reduce gun violence. States with permit laws of any kind have less gun violence than those without.

- Please reinstate or expand licenses and training requirements to own a gun.

Background Checks: Background checks are among the easiest laws to thwart through private party sales, straw man sales, gun shows and trading of weapons.

- Please pass universal background checks for all gun purchases, trades and transfers.

You have the power, as legislators, to leave a legacy of safer schools, and better policies to protect the lives of our children. I'm pleading with you to please act.

Sincerely,

SAMPLE LETTER FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

Dear Senator _____,

Thank you for the work you do every day on behalf of the American people and on my behalf as my Representative.

Last week we all grieved as 19 children and two teachers were killed at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. We shared that grief as Republicans and Democrats. You likely know that since January 1, 2022, there have been 27 shootings at schools across America. Some were suicides. Some were children who accidentally discharged guns, and some were teens who took their guns to school with the intent to kill. Twenty-seven school shootings.

Congress has united around solving major problems in the past. You've been bipartisan in your support for Ukraine, spending billions to help Ukraine fend off Russia. What could be possible if Republicans and Democrats saw the deaths of these children in Uvalde, Texas, as a chance to address this issue together? This is our moonshot, our chance to solve a problem and make the world a better place.

To that end, I write to encourage bi-partisan efforts to reduce school shootings focused on:

Research Funding Focused on Reducing Violence Committed by and against Children: We can address this problem, but it will take bi-partisan support of serious research identifying root causes of this violence and practical solutions to address this problem.

- Please increase funding for research at the federal level on causes of and actions that can be taken to reduce violence committed by young adults, and against children and teens.

Responsible Gun Storage: The largest number of gun deaths each year are suicides, often with young adults using guns owned by their parents. In addition, there are children who find guns and inadvertently harm themselves.

- Please pass legislation requiring guns be stored with a trigger lock in place. This will help prevent needless deaths and the misuse of guns in a home.

Licensure & Training: Permit laws are the single most effective way to reduce gun violence. States with permit laws of any kind have less gun violence than those without.

- Please provide incentives to states where permit and training laws already exist, and to those where they are expanded, or are enacted.

Background Checks: Background checks are among the easiest laws to thwart through private party sales, straw man sales and some gun shows and trading of weapons.

- Please establish processes and upgrade technology to help states share this information seamlessly and quickly to maximize public safety.

We can do something about this. These are our nation's children. You have the power, as legislators, to leave a legacy of safer schools and better policies to protect the lives of our children. I'm pleading with you to please act.

Sincerely,

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Marilyn Lahmann Helen Milius
3	Jean Bentley
8	Caleb Marsh Megan Newbrough
10	McKinna Benson Tamara Rosol
11	Karen Buchholz
12	Joan Struck
13	Austin Newbrough
14	Marlys Biermann Justin Hoppenworth Dave Kirchhoff
15	Sara Blessing Pat Warner Zachary Johnson
18	Angie Buchholz Lori Dahlstrom
19	Brenda Sievers
21	Corey Rosol
23	Kennedy Drewis
25	Jerry Snelling
26	Juanita Nuss
28	Grant Goudschaal
29	June Buhr

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

3	Roger & Darlene Buchholz
5	Melvin & Verdeen Ohlendorf
8	Gerald & Marilyn Lahmann
13	Jeff & Karen Chapin
14	Larry & Carol Kammeyer
17	Steve & Dawn Dahlstrom
20	Duane & Sandra Ryherd

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

	<u>May</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$9,636.70	\$50,210.47
Expenses	\$11,580.47	\$61,677.60

Cemetery Operations Fund 2022April

Portfolio Value	\$67,429.91
Checking Account Balance	589.48
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,140.75</u>
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$69,160.14

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

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Marilyn Sargent
Admin 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 Mary Jo Rathe

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