

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

August 2022

Tripoli, Iowa

<i>In this issue:</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>Prayers</i>	1
<i>Pastor's Message</i>	1
<i>Tripoli Days</i>	2
<i>In Gratitude</i>	2
<i>Outreach Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4
<i>Council Minutes</i>	5
<i>August Celebrations</i>	5
<i>Finances</i>	5

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

Glenyce Bolte  
Lisa Chapin  
Melvin Ohlendorf  
Nadine Schnurstein  
Dean Boris (Mary Ann's son-in-law)  
Adam Moeller (Kathy & Mike's son)

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

Brandon Burrows  
Matthew Coulthard  
Keenan Gienau  
Kristian Heidemann  
Kolton Henry  
Alyssa Jones  
Austin Kingsbury  
Kaitlyn Time  
Chazten Wells

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Darlene Bahlmann  
Jean Bentley  
Glenyce Bolte  
Verlyn & Phyllis Buls  
Velda Lynch  
Orlyn Milius

We pray for the families and communities where lives and sense of safety have been shattered by war, violence, flooding, fires, earthquakes, heat, drought, and fear.

“Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed.  
Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.”

How much money is too much money? In the parable referenced above – frequently referred to as “The Parable of the Rich Fool” – Jesus is talking with a man in the gathered crowd. The fellow wants to know how to handle his brother who refuses to divide the family inheritance with him. (We can assume he is referring to an older brother since Judaic inheritance practices called for an older brother to receive two-thirds of an estate, the other third going to the younger.) In response, Jesus offers the above words of wisdom as only Jesus can.

On the surface, I get what Jesus is saying. Greed causes people to never be satisfied they have enough...to live their life hoarding as much as they can...and believing that their needs/wants/hopes hold more importance than those of others. But digging a bit deeper I have to wonder – if you recognize the importance of giving, how you know when you've given enough? Do you ever give enough? Can you ever give enough to a charity...a non-profit organization you believe in...your place of worship...your community...your family?

In May of this year I read an article about a \$122.6 million contribution MacKenzie Scott made to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America organization. If you're not familiar with Scott, she helped to build Amazon with her ex-husband and has an estimated net worth of \$48.3 billion. (I know...I can't begin to wrap my head around that much money either.) It's estimated that Scott has given away more than \$12 billion to nearly 1,200 groups, focusing on “the needs of underrepresented people from groups of all kinds.”

I celebrate Scott's generosity in using her wealth to make a difference in the lives of others, but at the same time I have to wonder – how does she know how much to give...who to give it to...and when to stop. Take that \$122.6 million she gave to Big Brothers Big Sisters. How did she arrive at that figure? Why not a round \$123 million. Or, since we're a country that celebrates much in increments of five, why not make it \$125 million? How does she know when she's given enough?

How do you?

No, this is not a stewardship article. It's meant to be a thought-provoking article. How do you know when you've given enough? How do you know when you've given enough of your time/talents/treasures to the church and other organizations you support? Or your family...friends...neighbors. Granted you may not have the perceived unlimited funds of MacKenzie Scott, but most of us do have enough to give something and often more than we might think. So again, how do you know?

I tithe to the church and have for many years. Personally, that was an important level for me to attain. But I wonder, might achieving that 10% level have been possible sooner if I had only shifted some priorities? Made some different decisions? Maybe. And even now I wonder...is it enough?

How much do you think is enough?

*Pastor Marilyn*

# Tripoli Days – Celebrate Summer!

August 5-7

Faith United Church of Christ will have a float “The Whole World is In God’s Hands” in the Saturday 10 am parade, lunch following the parade, and we will host the community worship at 10 am on Sunday!



For these folks, we are grateful...

On Friday, July 1, the church campus was abuzz with folks gathered to remove the three ash trees from the property. Led by the ever-willing and ever-talented Dave Kirchhoff, the project was completed in record time! Thank you to Dave and his crew: Eli Bahrenfuse, Mike Westendorf, Ruth Kirchhoff, and Tanner Klein. And, of course, Andy from Alliant who made certain all the power lines were down and the scene was safe!

\* \* \* \* \*

Removing big trees leaves big stumps to be removed. A huge thanks goes out to Nate Milius for arranging for their removal and clean up!

\* \* \* \* \*

During worship on Sunday, July 24, Kip Ladage, Bremer County Emergency Management Coordinator, and Matt Tiedt, Bremer County Deputy Sheriff, instructed us on how to respond to an active threat situation not only in the sanctuary but anywhere that violence might be a threat and/or injuries life-threatening. We thank them both for their wisdom and willingness to share it with us. If you missed it, you can watch the presentation on the Faith UCC YouTube channel.

\* \* \* \* \*

As noted above, Faith UCC will have a float in the Tripoli Days parade for the first time in several years. Thank you to those who have put in many hours planning, creating, donating supplies, offering the use of their sheds, and driving the completed float in the parade – Kathy & Mike Westendorf, Bonnie Travers, Brenda & Dean Shinstine, Phoebe Drape, Brenda Sievers, Delores Meier, Janice Peters, Marian Meyer, Dave & Ruth Kirchhoff, Kaitlin Westendorf, Loren Liddle, and Dave Shinstine. (apologies if we missed anyone) Also, thanks to those who decorated the sign with their handprints! Can’t wait to see the completed float rolling down Main Street!

### Time for School!

As students get ready to return to school, Faith UCC wants to send them off on their first day of school with a “Blessing of the Backpacks.” On Sunday, August 21, students are invited to bring their backpack with them to worship for a blessing and a special tag for their backpack.



As always, Faith UCC is grateful for the Tripoli Community School District and supports the students and teachers as often as we can. We will once again offer our support through the gathering of school supplies for the coming year. Below is a copy of the supply lists by grade. If you purchase items for a specific grade level, please clearly indicate that on the bag(s). Beginning Monday, August 1, school supply tubs will be located in the Connector and the Narthex. If possible, please drop off your items by Sunday, August 21. (This list will also be available on the bulletin board in the Narthex)

### **TRIPOLI ELEMENTARY/ MS STUDENT SUPPLY LIST FOR 2022-23**

#### **Preschool:**

1 box of Kleenex  
 school bag large enough to hold binder  
 1 inch, 3 ring binder  
 2 pocket folders  
 1 subject spiral notebook (wide rule)

1 small box of crayons  
 school box (approx. 5x8)  
 3 durable pocket folders  
 12 Expo black dry erase markers  
 Headphones (no earbuds)  
 2 glue sticks

#### **Kindergarten:**

1 plastic pencil box  
 1 large eraser  
 1 doz. yellow #2 pencils  
 2 24-ct boxes of Crayola crayons  
 1 durable plastic pocket folder  
 2 10-ct. Crayola markers, broad washable  
 8 Black Expo dry erase markers  
 Headphones (no earbuds)  
 Art Class - 2 glue sticks

#### **Second grade:**

2 dozen pencils  
 1 7” scissors  
 24 ct. box of crayons  
 1 box of Kleenex  
 school box (approx. 5x8)  
 3 durable pocket folders with prongs  
 4 small glue sticks  
 12 Expo dry erase markers (BLACK ONLY)  
 1 pack of 3-inch post it notes  
 headphones (no ear buds)  
 Art Class - Elmer’s glue (not washable)

#### **First grade:**

eraser  
 1 dozen #2 pencils  
 scissors  
 1 highlighter

**Third grade:**

Plastic school pencil box (approx. 5x8)  
2 dozen pencils  
small pencil sharpener  
1 large eraser  
2 highlighters  
2 blue pens  
1 - box of colored pencils or crayons  
1 box of thick tip markers  
1 - 7" scissors  
4 glue sticks  
8 white board markers  
1 white board eraser  
3 Plastic Pocket folders  
2 spiral notebook, wide rule  
1 durable, plastic 3 prong pocket folder  
1 large box of Kleenex  
headphones  
Art Class – thick tip markers

**Fourth grade:**

4 glue sticks  
24 pencils (not mechanical)  
2 pens, any color  
2 boxes of Kleenex  
scissors  
pencil case or small school box  
4 plastic durable pocket folders with 3-hole prongs  
4 spiral wide-lined notebooks, solid color  
colored pencils  
water based markers  
2 highlighters  
2 – 3-inch post it notes  
headphones  
4 Thin Expo dry erase markers

**Fifth Grade:**

2 dozen pencils  
pencil box or pouch  
adult size scissors  
1 composition notebook, wide ruled  
2 durable pocket folders  
4 glue sticks  
2 boxes of Kleenex  
washable markers  
16 Expo dry erase markers  
1 pack of 3 inch post-its  
1- 1in. binder  
headphones or ear buds  
Art Class – scissors (2nd pair for Art)

**Middle School:**

1 notebook and 1 folder each for Math, Music,  
Science, Social Studies, Literature, English, Life Skills,  
Art  
red checking pens  
pencils  
scissors  
glue stick  
1 box of 8 crayons  
1 accordion folder or trapper keeper  
1 box of Kleenex

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

*We need to start looking for ways to enjoy our neighbor's company or help them. Instead of looking for reasons to push away or not get to know our neighbors.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS



The LifeServe Blood Bank will be held on August 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Faith UCC. Schedule online at [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org) or call 800.287.4903

#### **ST. JOHN BUCK CREEK – HYMN SING & ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

The public is invited to a hymn sing and ice cream social on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm at St. John Buck Creek., 2029 Viking Avenue, Sumner. All activities are free. Any free-will donations will be used toward the organ maintenance fund.



#### **FRIENDSHIP GATHERING**

St. John Women of the ELCA will be hosting a Friendship Gathering on Wednesday, August 17 at 7:00 pm at St. John Lutheran Parish Hall, 109 Washington Street in Sumner. Proceeds will support the Sumner EMS. A silent auction will be held and refreshments will be served.

Faith United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2022

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

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn and Barb Hill.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

The meeting was called to order by Conrad Marsh.

Approval of the minutes: Motion by Kathy Westendorf to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2022, council meeting, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried. Motion to approve the June 5, 2022, Special Council Meeting with adding Jerry Lahmann in attendance made by Kara Marsh, seconded by Eli Bahrenfuse, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Kara Marsh to approve the report as stated, seconded by Vicki Oleson motion carried.

Trustee Report: The ash trees have been taken down. Thank you to all involved with that project. The logs were taken to Fairbank and that money was deposited into the Improvement Fund. Nate Milius will take care of the stump removal and Dave Kirchhoff will take care of the mulch from the stumps. There was more discussion about trimming or removing the shrubs around the church and in the planter on the front of the church. The trimming or removal of the shrubs around the church and in the planter on the front of the church will be taken care of by the Property Committee.

Elder Report: The committee who looked at the By-Laws will meet with the church council on Monday, August 8 at 5:30 pm. Faith Education Team will be meeting sometime in August to discuss the upcoming Sunday School year. A list of school supplies will be posted for the coming school year.

Liaison Report: None

Pastor's Report: Pastor expressed the need for a liaison for the Memorial/Endowment Committee. Eli Bahrenfuse said he would be liaison for the Property Committee. There will be a funeral at Faith Church for a member of Grace Lutheran. Restrictions concerning visitors and the Tripoli Nursing Home were discussed. After some research by Bonnie Travers, it was determined that the Pastor and choir would be considered visitors and able to resume a worship service at TNH.

Old Business: The bladder for the boiler is on back order. It is time to set off more wasp bombs in the church.

New Business: A lunch for Tripoli Days was discussed. A committee is in place for the lunch and would the help of the church council. There is a lilac bush that is overgrown and will need some attention, the Property Committee will look at the bush and talk with KARR Tuckpointing when that time come. There will be a float for Tripoli Days. The thermostat in the church sanctuary and the narthex was discussed. It was decided to set the thermostat at 77 degrees. It can be turned down to 75 degrees and will needed to be set back at 77 degrees. There will be an Active Threat Training on Sunday, July 24 during worship service. The Development Committee has been meeting. SWOT (Strengthens, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) was discussed.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Kara Marsh, seconded by Beth Goudschaal., motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:  
Lisa Chapin

NOTE: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Faith UCC Council

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Jean Ranard
- 3 Shawntelle Moore  
Ashley Penrod  
Marshall Dillon
- 8 Carol Brandt
- 9 Tyler Reeves
- 10 Hannah Buchholz  
Scott Behn
- 11 Tad Chapin
- 12 Jacob Martin
- 14 Mick Axon
- 16 Chad Buchholz
- 21 Leland Timmerman
- 22 Alyssa Foelske
- 29 Justine Liddle  
Aria Blessing
- 30 Eli Bahrenfuse

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Jeremy & Adella Nelson
- 5 Roger & Beth Goudschaal
- 13 Ken & Juanita Mohlis  
Terry & Sara Blessing
- 14 Mike & Kathy Westendorf
- 24 Bob & Donna Sassman
- 25 Dean & Brenda Shinstine
- 26 Brad & Leanne Buchholz
- 27 Clark & Kathleen Snelling
- 29 Justine & David Liddle
- 31 Kara & Conrad Marsh

**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

**Faith United Church of Christ Finances**

**General Fund 2022**

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$6,685.20	\$65,087.92
Expenses	\$11,518.55	\$88,778.10

**Cemetery Operations Fund 2022**

<u>June</u>	
Portfolio Value	\$61,135.73
Checking Account Balance	209.40
Savings Account Balance	<u>3,840.94</u>
<b>TOTAL CEMETERY FUND</b>	<b>\$65,105.99</b>

**Faith UCC 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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