

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

December 2022

Tripoli, IA

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

Vernetta Bunce
Lisa Chapin
Carol Hahn
Carol Kammeyer
Sandy Ladage
Marian Meyer
Mary Ann Meyer
Melvin Ohlendorf
Tamara Rosol
Nadine Schnurstein
Ada Blessing
Tom Benson
Leian Kammeyer
Stacy Nuss
Dean Boris (Mary Ann's son-in-law)
Scott Selberg

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

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

We hold in prayer our members in home...

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

With her family, we mourn the death of Glenyce Bolte. We are grateful for the many years of Glenyce's presence in the life and work of Faith UCC.

The Christmas Spirit: a poem

The Christmas spirit
is that hope
which tenaciously clings
to the hearts of the faithful
and announces
in the face
of any Herod the world can produce
and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
and all the dark nights of our souls
that with God
all things still are possible,
and that even now
unto us
a Child is born!

~ Ann Weems



Advent/Christmas at Faith United Church of Christ



November 27 *First Sunday of Advent*

On this Sunday we light a purple Advent Candle for “Hope” representing the hope offered to us and all past and future generations during this season of Advent as we await the birth of God’s son.

December 4 *Second Sunday of Advent*

On this Sunday we light a second purple Advent Candle of “Peace” representing God’s peace that has always illuminated the possibility of reconciliation and healing for all.

December 11 *Third Sunday of Advent*

On this Sunday we light the pink Advent Candle of “Joy” representing God’s presence in the lives of faithful people of all times and places. We will also be gifted with musical selections from our Adult Choir. Following Fellowship Time the young and the young-at-heart are invited to view “The Star” animated film.

December 18 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

On this Sunday we light the final purple Advent Candle of “Love” representing the God-gifted thread that connects each of us to one another. Our Sunday School classes will offer us narratives and music telling the story of the birth of Jesus.

December 21 *Blue Christmas service (7 pm)*

Our Blue Christmas service is for those who find the Christmas season to be a challenging time due to the death of a loved one...a broken relationship...the loss of a job...or any of the many life situations that can separate us from the joyful festivities of the season. Held on the longest night of the year, the Blue Christmas services offers a reflective time to tenderly feel all of our emotions while we honor the birth of God’s son.

December 24 *Christmas Eve (7 pm)*

We will gather in the sanctuary for our traditional Christmas Eve service of Lessons, Carols, and Communion as we welcome God’s Son, the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel.

December 25 *Christmas Day (9 am)*

We invite you to join us in Fellowship Hall for a casual worship with music, stories, memories, and goodies! Pajamas are approved attire!

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes — November 14, 2022

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

Council Member Absent: Brenda Shinstine.

Also Present: Pastor Marilyn and Barb Hill.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Marilyn.

The meeting was called to order by Conrad Marsh.

Additions to the Agenda: Roger Goudschaal

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Beth Goudschaal to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2022 council meeting, seconded by Kathy Westendorf, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Barb Hill reported that the Women of Faith donated \$1000 to the tuckpointing project. The cost of the tuckpointing was over \$11,000. The money collected from the Bag Sale has been given to the General Fund. Barb Hill reported that an operating loan will be needed. Motion by Bonnie Travers to approve the minutes of the report, seconded by Vicki Oleson, motion carried.

Trustee Report: Shrubs have been removed from around the church. There are wasps' nests hanging to catch the wasp that are moving around. The painting of the louvers on the bell tower was talked about, painting the basement windows at the same time as the louvers was discussed. Also discussed that maintaining the landscaping not only around the church but also around the church parsonage.

Elder Report: The Sunday School will be short a teacher from the middle of December through April. The middle school students will light and extinguish the candles. When the Sunday school sings, the middle school will help with offering and read the liturgy.

Liaison Report: A helper is needed for the Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade Class, look for a craft to help keep them busy during Sunday School.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation has been moved to Sundays following worship. Still looking at ways to be able to go to the Tripoli Nursing Home for a worship service. Advent is approaching along with the Hanging of the Greens followed by a pot luck meal. There will be a craft to complete. There will be one service on Christmas Eve. Looking at having Christmas day worship at 9 am followed by fellowship time. Thank you to all who have helped with worship services.

Old Business: None

New Business: Karr Tuckpointing left a survey to complete and send back. Discussion on locking and unlocking the doors to the narthex, if you push down while locking and unlocking it goes much easier. A reminder to all ushers to be more diligent on the lift and helping when someone would like to use the lift. The mic that is used by the piano is no longer working. Roger Goudschaal has spoken with DB Acoustics and has received a quote to replace the mic and receiver as they are one unit. Roger also suggested on getting a quote from Sim Sound on a mic and receiver to tie in with the live stream equipment.

Motion to adjourn by Bonnie Travers, seconded by Beth Goudschaal.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Chapin

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

A nugget of wisdom from our Faith UCC President, Conrad Marsh:
Before we shine brightest for others, we need to look to God for ways
to improve ourselves!



“I’ll Be Home for Christmas”

Peace UCC Choir of Fredericksburg will perform the Christmas Cantata, “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” on Wednesday, December 14 at 7 pm. Peace UCC would like to invite anyone from the surrounding communities to join them for this special service to help celebrate Christmas. The choir will host fellowship following the Cantata. A free-will offering will be taken and proceeds go to the Fredericksburg Food Bank.



Blood Drive

The next blood drive will be held at Faith Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 20th from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Schedule online at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 800.287.4903

Which Way???

Have you ever been a visitor in a church and uncertain of which direction to go to find the restrooms, Sunday School rooms, or sanctuary? Thanks to Kathy Westendorf, visitors to Faith UCC now have wall signs to direct them. She has created and installed a couple — watch for more in the weeks ahead. Thank you, Kathy, for helping our church to be welcoming to all!

December Birthdays

Dec. 4 Kristi Foelske
Sandra Ladage
Dec. 7 Bob Kammeyer
Dec. 9 Breckyn Liddle
Dec. 10 Larry Piehl
Dec. 11 Laurie Buhrow
Dec. 12 Ryan Osborn
Dec. 16 Hayden Liddle
Dec. 17 Brittany Quigley
Trevor Bunce
Dec. 18 Kristi Bass
Dec. 20 Verdeen Ohlendorf
Dec. 24 Beth Goudschaal
Mary Moeller
Dec. 27 Scott Chapin
Dec. 28 LaVera Buchholz
Dec. 29 Ken Mohlis

December Anniversaries

Dec. 6 Gary & Sandra Snyder
Dec. 31 Scott & JoEllen Behn

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

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$10,572.75	\$110,758.22
Expenses	\$11,060.07	\$143,919.21

Cemetery Operations Fund 2022October

Portfolio Value	\$61,459.07
Checking Account Balance	138.35
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,041.51</u>
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$62,638.93

October 31, 2022

Church 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 UCC Staff

Pastor	Rev. Marilyn Sargent
Admin. Assistant	Barb Rich
Financial Secretary	Roger Goudschaal
Treasurer	Barb Hill
Custodian	Nicole Williams
Director of Music	Beth Goudschaal
Musicians	June Buhr Phoebe Drape Dawn Holm Mary Jo Rathe

Faith United Church of Christ
408 S Main St, PO Box 14, Tripoli, IA 50676
319.882.3585

Email: faithuccchurch@gmail.com

Pastor Marilyn: rev.msargent@gmail.com

Website: www.faithucctripoli.org

Facebook: Faith United Church of Christ, Tripoli

YouTube: Faith United Church of Christ, Tripoli