

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

February 2023

Tripoli, IA

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

Vernetta Bunce	Sandy Ladage
Lisa Chapin	Carol Hahn
Carol Kammeyer	Larry Kammeyer
Velda Lynch	Marian Meyer
Mary Ann Meyer	Melvin Ohlendorf
Nadine Schnurstein	Tom Benson
Leian Kammeyer	Scott Selberg
Dean Boris (Mary Ann's son-in-law)	
Deborah Harkess	

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	Velda Lynch
Jean Bentley	Orlyn Milius
Verlyn & Phyllis Buls	

We mourn with the family and friends of Stacy Nuss and we rejoice with them in her new eternal home with God.



Lent. What memories and images come to mind when you hear the word Lent? For many who grew up in a Christian family, the familiar phrase surrounding Lent is, "What are you giving up for Lent?" The responses can range from a favorite food, caffeine, sweets, shopping, watching tv, arguing – the list of options is long. Some people commit to adding a new positive to their day – community service, re-connecting with friends, calling distant loved one more frequently. Others use the 40 days of Lent to strengthen their spirituality.

In the midst of all that is/has been/will be creating tension and worry and sadness in our current lives, moving deeper into our awareness of God's love and truth will not only strengthen our faith but also help us know how better to respond to people and situations in a new and benevolent way. During Lent, how might committing to setting aside time each day for prayer and contemplation reshape your faith journey?

I recently read a blog from the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue titled, "Time to Renew Your Contemplative Journey this Lent." The following is an excerpt...

Contemplation helps us to "see" in new ways, inviting us to respond out of love and not fear...The Gospels tell us that Jesus often prayed: intensely for 40 days, alone after giving of himself serving people's needs and exercising his power, and communally at meals...his prayer went beyond words, beyond thinking. Jesus rested in Divine Love but not a resting of inaction. Rather, that resting freed him from current ways of thinking and opened a spaciousness within him so that he could "see" in new ways. Jesus' heart became his organ of perception responding from the indwelling of Divine Love to be in service to all.

The magnetic center of Divine Love dwells within each of us — drawing us, inviting us to make the space for us to "see" in new ways and to respond from that love.

On Wednesday, February 22, we will gather in the sanctuary to begin our Lenten journey. On Sunday, April 9, we will gather to celebrate the risen Christ. Please join me in praying for church members and friends that during these days of Lent we might all encounter our still-speaking God...feel the presence of the Son in new and unexpected ways...be filled with the Holy Spirit...and together raise up our alleluias on Easter morning with deeper insight and understanding.

Blessings,

Pastor Marilyn

You will find resources that can assist your contemplative journey at www.iccdinstitute.org. If you are new to contemplation you may find these articles helpful. <https://iccdinstitute.org/when-words-dont-work/>; <https://iccdinstitute.org/contemplation-a-call-to-all/>; and <https://iccdinstitute.org/>

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2023

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

Council Member Absent: Bonnie Travers.

Also present: Pastor Marilyn and Barb Hill. Present via Zoom: Brenda Shinstine.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Marilyn.

The meeting was called to order by Conrad Marsh.

Approval of the December minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as stated by Conrad Marsh, seconded by Keith Stahlhut, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The existing Operating Loan and the loan for the Tuckpointing will be included in the Annual Report. There was discussion on the Tithing/Mission money that has been set aside to go toward a worthy cause. Motion to approve the report as stated by Kathy Westendorf, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

Trustee's Report: The position of Inside Custodian is now Lisa Chapin. The Women's restroom in the Fellowship Hall has been fixed.

Elder's Report: The Middle School students will continue to acolyte on the third Sunday of the month.

Liaison's Report: Lisa Chapin reported that Traci Bahrenfuse and Renee Reeves have joined in helping with Sunday School.

Pastor's Report: Thank you to the Sunday School for the good Christmas Program. Christmas Day service was good, with a birthday cake for Jesus. Annual Reports will be out. Looking toward Lent, discussed having meals during Lent.

Old Business: None

New Business: Outgoing council are Lisa Chapin, Vicki Oleson, Eli Bahrenfuse and Keith Stahlhut. Two names were submitted for consideration to be added to the ballot for Elder's. Names for Trustees were discussed. The Annual Meeting will be held during worship service on January 15, 2023 with a pot luck meal to follow. February 12, 2023 will be the Installation of the new council members. The 2023 Budget was passed out for the council to look over. After some discussion a motion to approve the budget as stated was made by Kara Marsh, seconded by Beth Goudschaal. Following more discussion concerning the utility gas to the Sanctuary, Education Building, Water/Sewer/Trash and gas to the Parsonage, motion to approve the budget by Kara Marsh, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

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

The meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Chain

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

Faith United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2023

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

Council Members Absent: Brenda Shinstine and Bonnie Travers.

The meeting was called to order by President Conrad Marsh.

Approval of the 2022 Annual Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2022 meeting made by Larry Struck, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, the motion was carried.

Approval of the June Congregational Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2022 meeting was made by Kathy Westendorf, seconded by Jerry Snelling, the motion was carried.

President's Report: Conrad reflected on some of the highlights of his report. Thanking many for their help in various ways throughout the year. Conrad also mentioned the return of Adult Education and the Adult Choir. He also mentioned that the decisions that were made by the council weren't always easy but made with the best interest of Faith Church in mind.

Property Committee Report: Eli Bahrenfuse, Liaison for the Property Committee spoke on behalf of the Property Committee. Eli noted that a couple big projects have been completed with future plans of landscaping around the church and the parsonage and the painting of the louvers on the steeple and painting around the windows on the parsonage. Eli also touched on a 3-year plan of looking at the furnaces in the church as the heat chamber in one of them is nearing its end. There were no questions.

Events Committee Report: Kathy Westendorf expressed the need for help with this committee going forward. One of the many things that she spoke about was the Easter Sunrise Breakfast and needing help to make that happen. She also spoke about exploring different ways to bring growth to Faith Church. There were no questions.

Sunday School Report: Kara Marsh reported there is a small group for the Middle School students who are actively participating during the worship service. She also touched on the event with Grace Church and the hopes of doing an event together in the future. Traci Bahrenfuse reported that she helps with the younger students and what a normal Sunday morning looks like. There were no questions.

Memorial Endowment Report: Phyllis Schnurstein thanked the members of the committee for all their hard work during the year. Phyllis also thanked the members of the families of Marty Smalley, Virgil Ducker, Betty Schwartz and Glenyce Bolte for their memorial donations. She spoke about the landscaping project around the church and the parsonage coming up this year in the spring. Phyllis thanked the committee members. There were no questions.

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Annual Meeting minutes continued...

Cemetery Report: Roger Goudschaal gave a financial breakdown of how the year has been going. Roger explained that in previous years the money made from the investments have paid for the expenses, however this last year was not that case. There were no questions.

Women of Faith Report: Karen Milius spoke on behalf of the committee. She spoke about the various events they were involved with this past year and how the money was donated to various projects within the church. They are still not able to do BINGO at the Tripoli Nursing Home. Karen thanked all the Women of Faith for their hard work during the year.

Faith United Church of Christ Giving Report: As Financial Secretary, Roger Goudschaal spoke about the report. Roger thanked all who gave during 2022. He reiterated what Conrad had mentioned about having to borrow for operating expenses and paying back the tuckpointing project. Roger went into some detail explaining the report. A question was asked if those who are giving zero are contacted. Some of those who give zero are students or in a position where they are not able to donate. Don Bunce asked about the loose offering and if that was being designated to any person, Roger explained that if money is not designated by someone, he cannot give credit to anyone for that money.

2023 Faith United Church of Christ Budget:

Prior to the discussion on the 2023 Budget, some of the Council members were uncertain if all of the figures included the final Council updates. In an effort to ensure complete accuracy, the decision was made to postpone the discussion and congregational approval of the budget until the financial pages could be verified.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Marlene Snelling felt the pay for the Inside Custodian should be raised to \$4,500 per year. This will be looked at during the February 6 Council Meeting. There will be another Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2023 to approve the 2023 Faith United Church of Christ Budget. Some discussion on ways to lower some costs at Faith. Conrad explained that the budget had been looked at numerous times with some line items being lowered to almost nothing, but the cost of some utilities has gone up which will be reflected in the budget.

Nominating New Members for Church Council: Elder, out-going council member is Lisa Chapin. Trustee, out-going council member, Keith Stahlhut. Nomination for Elder, Traci Bahrenfuse and Vicki Oleson. Nomination for Trustee, Dean Shinstine and Dave Kirchoff. Financial Secretary, Roger Goudschaal. Treasurer, Barb Hill. A motion by Don Bunce to approve the nominations as stated, seconded by Tamara Rosol. Conrad asked that all who were in favor of the nominations respond by saying "Aye," the nominations were carried.

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Annual Meeting minutes continued...

Pastor's Report: Mindful of the time, Pastor summed up her written report by pointing to the 2022 theme of Advent, "Generation to Generation," noting that Faith UCC celebrates the many generations preceding us and the generations who will follow. We remain connected throughout the years through our passion to share our faith with others. Pastor concluded with the reading of the poem, "Faith Is" by Ellen M. Cuomo.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Lahmann, seconded by Marlene Snelling, the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Chapin

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

Faith United Church of Christ
Special Council Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2023

Members in Attendance: Vicki Oleson, Eli Bahrenfuse, Kara Marsh, Dave Kirchhoff, Beth Goudschaal, Lisa Chapin, and Traci Bahrenfuse.

Members Absent: Kathy Westendorf, Bonnie Travers, Jerry Lahmann, Brenda Shinstine, Dean Shinstine and Conrad Marsh.

Also in Attendance: Barb Hill

Eli Bahrenfuse called the meeting to order.

The purpose of the meeting was to look at the budget. Vicki Oleson presented three different formats for council to look over with the thought these would help the church members better understand the financial activity. (The sheets are titled: 2022 General Fund Statement of Activities, 2022 Designated Fund Statement of Activities, and 2022 Budget/ 2022 Actual Expenses/ 2023 Budget.) Barb Hill expressed that all the information included in the three sheets presented by Vicki are already included in the budget.

There was some discussion on the Memorial/Endowment and the Women of Faith and how they handle the money in their respective accounts. It was stated that the Memorial/Endowment have their own policy to following.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Chain

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

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

When change has to happen,
embrace it and find a place where you can fit in to help.
It makes it easier for those around you to do the same.

REMINDER

A Congregational Meeting to discuss and approve the 2023 Budget will be held following worship on Sunday, February 5.

Lent 2023

During Lent we will return to Wednesday night meals beginning with Ash Wednesday. The meals will be served from 6:15-6:45 pm, followed by worship and study in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Further details will be shared as they are finalized in the next couple of weeks.

Included in this newsletter is a Lenten Prayer calendar for your household. Each day suggests a prayer topic for you to pause and reflect upon as you prepare for Easter.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Lent Prayer Calendar		<u>Ash Wednesday</u> Pray for God to open your heart on your Lenten journey.		On this one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion, pray for the people of Ukraine	Pray for all those separated from their homes
2/26	2/27	2/28	3/1	3/2	3/3	3/4
Pray for students struggling with school	Pray for teachers and administrators	Pray for those struggling with addiction	Prayer for those grieving the loss of a loved one	Pray for those without enough food	Pray for those worried about hospital bills	Pray for your congregation
3/5	3/6	3/7	3/8	3/9	3/10	3/11
Pray for peace among God's people	Pray for someone close to you who needs healing of mind, body, or spirit	Pray for someone in your family	Pray for someone you're having a hard time getting along with	Pray for those who have died in this past year	Pray for yourself	Pray for peace in our nation
3/12	3/13	3/14	3/15	3/16	3/17	3/18
Pray for those who work for social justice	Pray for those without clean drinking water	Pray for those without shelter	Spend 15 minutes in prayer and meditation	Pray for those who are worried	Pray for those who feel alone	Pray for those in power
3/19	3/20	3/21	3/22	3/23	3/24	3/25
Pray for your family	Pray about something you are thankful for	Pray to discover new ways to be kind to others	Pray for the children & youth of our congregation	Pray for those in nursing homes	Pray to be able to forgive someone who has hurt you.	Pray for families who long for healing in their relationships
3/26	3/27	3/28	3/29	3/30	3/31	4/1
Pray for the workers who have picked and harvested the food you eat.	Pray for the single parent struggling today	Pray for those living with depression	Pray for someone you are grateful is in your life	Pray for ways to take better care of God's creation	Pray for those who have never been unconditionally loved	Pray for parents who have lost children
4/2	4/3	4/4	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8
Pray to know just how much Jesus loves you	Pray for ways to show others just how much Jesus loves them	Pray for someone living in an abusive relationship	Pray for those who first taught you about Jesus	Pray for those looking for work	Pray for those who are carrying heavy burdens	Pray for those who long for a new beginning

February Birthdays

Feb. 2 Tim Quigley
 Feb. 5 Teddy Oburra-Ladage
 Feb. 7 Cheryl Dahlstrom
 Feb. 9 Steve Hill
 Marlene Snelling
 Feb. 10 Jay Ranard
 Traci Bahrenfuse
 Feb. 11 Sandi Snyder
 Feb. 12 Carol Kammeyer
 Asher Milius
 Feb. 14 Bailey Klein
 Feb. 15 Mason Penrod
 Feb. 16 Spencer Snelling
 Feb. 18 Kailey Heidemann
 Jodi Heidemann
 Feb. 20 Darlys Buhrow
 Feb. 24 Kristi Ladage
 Alexander Johnson
 Feb. 28 Joyce Kammeyer

Faith United of Christ Finances

General Fund 2023

	<u>January</u>	<u>Budget*</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$10,058.09		
Expenses	\$12,527.04	\$14,566.63	(\$2,039.59)

*Council approved budget not yet approved by congregation

Tuckpointing Loan Balance 1/30/23	\$5,726.09
Operating Loan Balance 12/30/22	\$3,755.25

Cemetery Operations Fund 2022

December

Portfolio Value	\$63,078.90
Checking Account Balance	138.35
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,041.93</u>
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$64,259.18

February Anniversaries

Feb. 1 Vicki Oleson &
 David Konopke
 Feb. 14 David & Susie Lohmann

Faith UCC Staff

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

Church Council

President Conrad Marsh
 Vice President Eli Bahrenfuse
 Recorder

Elders

Traci Bahrenfuse
 Beth Goudschaal
 Kara Marsh
 Vicki Oleson
 Bonnie Travers
 Kathy Westendorf

Trustees

Eli Bahrenfuse
 Dave Kirchhoff
 Jerry Lahmann
 Conrad Marsh
 Brenda Shinstine
 Dean Shinstine

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