

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

March 2023

Tripoli, IA

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

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Lisa Chapin      | Carol Kammeyer     |
| Larry Kammeyer   | Velda Lynch        |
| Marian Meyer     | Mary Ann Meyer     |
| Melvin Ohlendorf | Nadine Schnurstein |
| Tom Benson       | Leian Kammeyer     |
| Scott Selberg    | Dean Boris         |
| 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 pray for the millions of God's children in Turkey and Syria whose lives were forever changed with the recent earthquake.

As the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine approaches (2/24) we continue to pray for resolution and safety for all.

We continue to pray for all the families and communities where lives and sense of safety have been shattered.

In his book, *The Monday Connection*, William Diehl writes,  
*A church that encourages its membership to experience their faith is alive and growing.*

So...how do you experience your faith? And is the church providing enough encouragement?

These are certainly not new questions for the leadership of Faith United Church of Christ, but ones that continue to be focused upon as we move forward. Of course, none of us have all the answers. In part because we don't always know the right questions to ask to obtain the answers we seek. And in part because we don't know the directions of the thoughts that you carry with you each day – both spiritual and secular.

We know that church is no longer the center of a person's socialization opportunities. Catching up on what's going on in the community is now available through multiple social media options. That's not to say folks only came to church 50 years ago for that purpose, but it was a piece of the puzzle. So without that piece, why do modern-day church attendees come? Is it to hear the scriptures? Sing the hymns? Listen to a sermon? Pray together? Learn together? Feel surrounded by folks who share joys with them and share sorrows with them?

Hopefully all of the above. But what more might a 2023 church experience offer? What is your vision? What is your prayer?

My personal prayer is that where there are gaps, we can bring life-changing experiences into the lives of members and friends of Faith United Church of Christ. And then, to use Diehl's book title, to find the Monday Connection. To take what is learned and experienced on Sunday into the world on Monday. To make that connection between our Sunday faith and our Monday faith. To not only find Jesus as our model on how to live life with compassion and outreach on a Sunday mornings but to live with those ideals each day of the week.

And what better time than our journey through Lent? As we travel through these weeks, what if we cleared our eyes and opened our minds and hearts to what we – the members and friends of Faith United Church of Christ – might discover about ourselves as individuals and as a group of spiritual people seeking to shape a world that reflects God's vision?

During Lent, there will be multiple opportunities for you to encounter the Holy through printed word...spoken word...study...music...meditation...prayer and more. May you experience your faith deeply and may you discover all God seeks to offer to you.

Blessings,

*Pastor Mariflyn*

Faith United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2023

Members in Attendance: Beth Goudschaal, Vicki Oleson, Conrad Marsh, Eli Bahrenfuse, Jerry Lahmann, Traci Bahrenfuse

Also in Attendance via Zoom: Brenda Shinstine, Kara Marsh, Kathy Westendorf, Dave Kirchhoff

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn and Barb Hill.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

Reorganization of the 2022 Church Council:

Conrad was unable to continue as President of Council. Motion by Conrad to nominate Jerry Lahmann as President, after some discussion Jerry accepted. The motion was seconded by Beth Goudschaal.

Motion by Vicki Oleson to nominate Beth Goudschaal as head elder. After some discussion, Beth accepted. The motion was seconded by Traci Bahrenfuse, motion carried

Motion by Eli Bahrenfuse to nominate Traci Bahrenfuse as recording secretary, seconded by Vicki Oleson, motion carried.

Motion by Eli Bahrenfuse to nominate Conrad Marsh as Head Trustee, seconded by Jerry Lahmann, motion carried.

At this time, the meeting was led by President Jerry Lahmann.

Approval of the January 2nd minutes: Motion by Conrad Marsh to approve the minutes as stated, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

Approval of the January 15th annual meeting minutes: Motion by Conrad Marsh to approve the minutes as stated, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

Approval of the January 22nd special council meeting minutes: Motion by Conrad Marsh to approve the minutes as stated, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Janitorial salary was discussed. With the amount of work completed the council decided to award the last two weeks of December pay that was not paid out previously, to Lisa Chapin. Council agreed to increase the monthly salary from \$300 to \$350. The Council also requested time tracking to confirm whether wages are acceptable. Salary will be reevaluated once the time tracking is complete. Motion by Eli Bahrenfuse, seconded by Traci Bahrenfuse, motion carried.

Barb and Steve have decided to reduce their pay in half to help support this year's budget. Council agreed this will only be temporary until the budget is revisited in June. Motion by Beth Goudschaal, seconded by Conrad Marsh, motion carried.

Conrad Marsh motion to approve Treasurer Report as stated, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

*(continued)*

Trustee Report: Fire alarms received new batteries in the Ed Wing. Spoke with Smith Plumbing and Heating boiler only able to be turned down to 60 degrees safely. All furnace filters changed and all registers looked at to ensure working properly.

Dave Kirchoff is working with Alliant Energy to enroll in the Energy Edge and Small Business Energy Solution Programs.

Received our current Insurance board with pricing, looking to receive a second quote to confirm we are in the best plan.

Elder Report: Head Usher sheet was passed out. Head Usher duties were reviewed. Elders confirmed there will be Lenten meals. Vacation Bible School was discussed. The Event Committee did confirm they would help. Sunday School continues to sing every 3rd Sunday.

Liaison Report: Kara Marsh to become Sunday School liaison.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported there will be a list of Lenten meal servers sent out sometime this week or next. Pastor also reported that on Monday the 6th there were lights in the kitchen and fellowship hall left on and the heat was set at 70 degrees. Problem is being addressed by the Council.

Old Business: None

New Business: The Church is in need of volunteers to join the Auditing Committee.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Jerry Lahmann, seconded by Beth Goudschaal, motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:  
Traci Bahrenfuse

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



The Faith UCC offering for  
One Great Hour of Sharing will be  
received and blessed on  
Sunday, March 19

## One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

The 2023 OGHS theme is "It's Time to Share" based on Galatians 6:9-10:

*So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all...*

Because Faith United Church of Christ and thousands of other UCC congregations didn't give up or quit, through OGHS the UCC has been able to provide support that offers hope to God's people in need of food, water, medicine, education, and opportunities for sustainable development. The United Church of Christ continues to work with partners to care for others, and not give up... as together we build a just world for all.

## Lent 2023

During Lent we will return to Wednesday night meals beginning with Ash Wednesday (February 22). Our Ash Wednesday meal (sponsored by the Church Council) will be served from 6:15-6:45 pm. The Ash Wednesday service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

On the subsequent Wednesdays in Lent, meals will continue to be served from 6:15-6:45 pm, followed by a video and book study in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. This Lent we will be studying Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Short Stories by Jesus*. (If the title sounds familiar, we began studying this title just prior to the 2020 shut down of all in-person church activities.) The book takes a closer look at some of the parables of Jesus and how they were received by first-century Christians and remain relevant in our lives today. Although you do not need to read the book to participate, if you don't have a copy from 2020 and would like the church to order one for you, please contact the office at 319.882.3585 or [faithucchurch@gmail.com](mailto:faithucchurch@gmail.com). The cost of the paperback book is \$14.99. (NOTE: If the cost does not work within your budget, please contact Pastor Marilyn. There are scholarship funds available.) The book is also available on Kindle and through Audiobook.

Also available for your spiritual journey are a Daily Devotional Booklet, Daily Devotional Cards, and a Lenten Prayer Calendar. The booklet and cards will be available in the Narthex. If you missed the Prayer Calendar in last month's newsletter, please contact the office to receive one.

The Lenten Meals will be hosted by:

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| March 1  | Women of Faith      |
| March 8  | Adult Sunday School |
| March 15 | Adult Choir         |
| March 22 | Sunday School       |
| March 29 | Church Council      |



## Did You Know...

There are multiple ways to monetarily give to the Faith UCC?

- Place a check or envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning
- With your credit union or bank, schedule a monthly check to be mailed to the church
- With your credit union or bank, set up a monthly Electronic Bank Transfer (EFT)
- Submit a payment through Tithe.ly, an online giving designed for churches
- Gifts of Grain

Faith UCC has a website?

- [www.faithucctripoli.org](http://www.faithucctripoli.org). On the website you can find:

Current FaithChat information

The church's calendar

Video of worship services (the Sunday morning worship is posted by Sunday night)

The link for Tithe.ly giving to the church

Gifts of Grain information

Current and past newsletters

PLUS much more! Watch for new pages and information coming soon!



Sunday mornings at  
Faith United Church of Christ

We hope you will join us!

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 am  | Education for all   |
| 10:00 am | Worship (in-person<br>or live streamed on<br>our YouTube channel) |

March Birthdays

March 1 JoEllen Snelling-Behn  
 March 3 Glen Ladage  
 March 4 Todd Quigley  
 March 5 Corbin Liddle  
 March 7 Verona Biermann  
 March 10 Darlene Buchholz  
 March 13 Kaitlin Westendorf  
 March 15 Kenny Buhrow  
 March 16 Dolores Schmidt  
 Steve Schmidt  
 March 17 Conrad Marsh  
 March 18 Kristian Heidemann  
 March 21 Zachery Buhrow  
 March 22 Matthew Moeller  
 March 30 Gary Moeller  
 Holly Johnson  
 Theodore Reeves  
 March 31 Neysa Rineknburger

**Faith United of Christ Finances**

General Fund 2023

February      Budget\*      Variance

FEBRUARY FIGURES  
 NOT YET AVAILABLE  
 AT THE TIME OF THIS PRINTING

Cemetery Operations Fund 2023

January

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Portfolio Value            | \$64,041.97        |
| Checking Account Balance   | 138.35             |
| Savings Account Balance    | <u>1,042.16</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL CEMETERY FUND</b> | <b>\$65,222.48</b> |

March Anniversaries

March 2 Everette & Sharon Funk  
 March 17 Steve & Barb Hill  
 March 18 Dave & Phoebe Drape

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<br>Phoebe Drape<br>Dawn Holm<br>Mary Jo Rathe |

Church Council

President Jerry Lahmann  
 Vice President Eli Bahrenfuse  
 Recorder Traci Bahrenfuse

Elders

Beth Goudschaal (Head Elder)  
 Traci Bahrenfuse  
 Kara Marsh  
 Vicki Oleson  
 Bonnie Travers  
 Kathy Westendorf

Trustees

Conrad Marsh (Head Trustee)  
 Eli Bahrenfuse  
 Dave Kirchhoff  
 Jerry Lahmann  
 Brenda Shinstine  
 Dean Shinstine

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