

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

July 2023

Tripoli, IA

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

Lisa Chapin	Velda Lynch
Mary Ann Meyer	Nadine Schnurstein
Beth Goudschaal	Leian Kammeyer
Scott Selberg	Dean Boris
Deborah Harkess	Carol Lynch
Keith Selberg	Larry Kammeyer
Carol Kammeyer	Barb Rich
Dolores Meier	

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	

The members of Faith UCC mourn with the family and friends of Judy Buhr. May we all be comforted in knowing she now rests serenely in God's heavenly realm.

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

*"...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...
You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

This passage from Mark's gospel is from a discussion between Jesus and some of the Jerusalem leaders – chief priests, scribes, and elders. At the end of this particular lively exchange of questions and answers, one of the scribes approaches Jesus and asks, "Which is most important of all the commandments?" to which Jesus replies, "The first is, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Love God. Love neighbor. Jesus spells it out for the scribe and for us. No parable to interpret. No ambiguity in his message. Love God. Love neighbor. So why do many of us who proclaim to follow Jesus get it wrong?

Yes, I wrote "us" because although I try, I fully admit I miss the mark sometimes. It doesn't make me happy and I'm pretty certain Jesus has a headshake over some of the things I say and/or do. Yet I imagine what puts Jesus' into a head spin are those who declare themselves followers but never seem to fully grasp the meaning of "love God...love neighbor." They release biased, hate-filled rhetoric for the cameras, on the floor of the city/state/or national voting body, from the pulpit, in the studio, in the lunchroom, over the neighbor's fence – anywhere they can get others to listen. If the others agree – they can be easily loved. If not – well probably not much love is headed their way.

Think about that declaration, "Love your neighbor." How literal are you willing to take these words from Jesus? Do you think 1st Century Jesus would make the same pronouncement as 21st Century Jesus or do you think he would now furnish a few loopholes – "I didn't mean you have to love that person...or that person...or *certainly* not that person!" No, that's not the message of Jesus. You know that. I know that. Anyone who's ever read the words in red knows that.

Friends, you don't need me to remind you that there are a lot of troubled people and scary circumstances and bad situations out there. It is unsettling. Which is why these words from Jesus need to be repeated by you day after day. There are folks who need *you*. They need to feel compassion and understanding from *you*. As Christians...as followers of Jesus...as people who have read the words in red and heard them repeated over and over again, it is time to live those words. Fully, completely, abundantly. Don't let your heart be filled with judgment and anger. Find love in your heart to share with others. Find love in your heart to accept others. Find love in your heart to listen to others. Find love in your heart to care for others.

Love for God. Love for neighbor. Don't make it complicated. Just make it happen.



Pastor Marilyn

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2023

Members in Attendance: Beth Goudschaal, Vicki Oleson, Jerry Lahmann, Kathy Westendorf, Brenda Shinstine, Eli Bahrenfuse, Bonnie Travers, Dean Shinstine, Dave Kirchhoff

Also in Attendance via Zoom: Traci Bahrenfuse

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Barb Hill, Jean Ranard, Phyllis Schnurstein, Marlys Biermann, Marlene Snelling

Absent Members: Conrad Marsh, Kara Marsh

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

Approval of the May 1st minutes: Motion by Brenda Shinstine, to approve as stated, seconded by Bonnie Travers

Liaison Report: Memorial Committee was in attendance they finalized a brochure to share with the congregation explaining endowment funds and memorial funds. The Memorial Committee is also working on raising the funds needed to get the endowment CD to the desired funds to earn the extra interest. The Memorial Committee also stated they would like more communication on funds donated and help communicate the needs of the church to the donor. Motion by Bonnie Travers to approve brochure presented, seconded by Dave Kirchhoff.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Bonnie Travers, to approve as stated, seconded by Beth Goudschaal

Trustee Report: Bell tower dates June 23rd and June 24th. The louvers will be painted. Funds available to rent the lift and materials. Summer Day Camp has a fund started at American Savings Bank. Motion by Traci Bahrenfuse to approve the Summer Day Camp to use Faith UCC TIN, seconded by Kathy Westendorf. Alliant Energy Edge is still in process, working to get a contact to finish the quote. A furnace is also needed, waiting for an estimate. Insurance was approved and will be reinstated yearly to cover the Summer Day Camp.

July 16th will be the budget review discussion in church, requested by the congregation.

Generous Donations:

New gravel in the back parking lot with painted lines.

The remaining balance of the operating loan will be paid off.

Elder Report: Summer Day Camp is going well, with more children still enrolling.

Flyer sent to the church for Christmas in July a United Way fundraiser – we will be requesting donations.

Pastor's Report: Make sure to lock both doors to fellowship hall. Community Club mail, looking for a representative from the Church, Pastor will try to attend meetings, but with the Holidays it may be hard. Next council meeting moved to July 10th due to the Holiday. Discussion on moving service in the summer months to 9am. Working with the pianist to confirm if that could be accommodated. Pastor will be out June 28th – July 5th for the General Synod.

Old Business: None

(Continued)

New Business: None

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Beth Goudschaal, seconded by Vicki Olseon, motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Traci Bahrenfuse

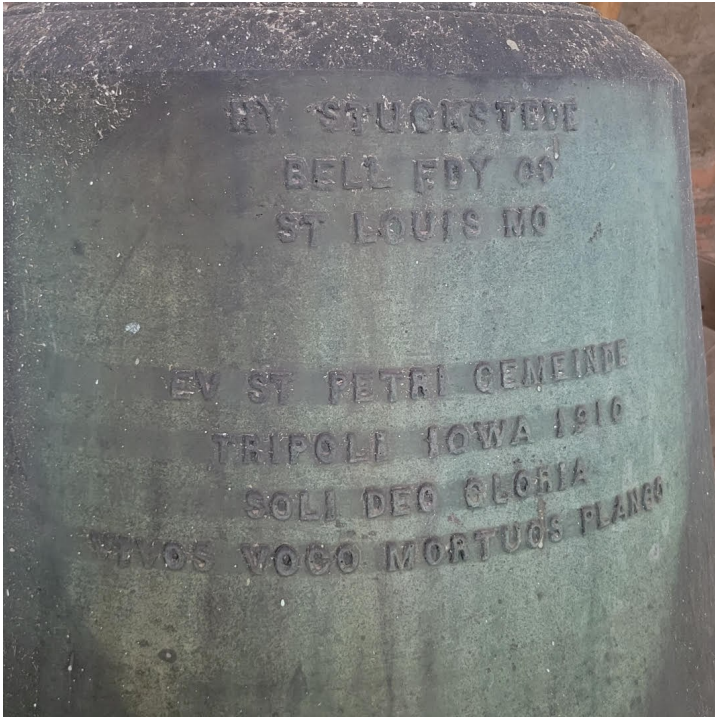
These minutes have not yet been approved by Church Council



Thank you to:

- All who gave funds to the repayment of the Operating Loan and to Dean and Brenda Shinstine for their recent donation to pay the remaining balance.
- Jerry & Marlene Snelling and Spencer Snelling for their donation of rock for the back parking lot entrance.
- Dave Kirchhoff and Brian Milius for rolling the new rock.
- Brian Milius for painting new lines in the back parking lot.
- Bonnie Travers and Steve Hill for taking recyclables to the recycling center.
- Mike & Kathy Westendorf and Kaitlin Westendorf for the donation of paint used in painting the bell towers.
- Kaitlin Westendorf (Westy's Paint & Stain LLC) for donating time to paint the bell towers.
- Dave Kirchhoff, Brian Milius, and Eli Bahrenfuse for the donation of their time & talents to repair the bell towers.
- Mary Chapin and Jerry & Marilyn Lahmann for their work on the south flower bed.
- And to the many, many others who regularly give of their time, talents, and treasures to the ever-important work and upkeep of this church.

Our Church Bell



During the process to determine repairs needed to the interior of the Bell Tower, Eli was able to get close to the bell and took this photo. After some research it was determined that the first three lines designate the foundry where the bell was produced —

HY Stuckstede of St. Louis, Missouri.

The next two lines identify the church —
Ev St. Petri Gemeinde (Evangelical St. Peter Community).

“Soli Deo Gloria” is Latin for “Glory to God Alone.”

“Vivos Voco, Mortuos Plango” is Latin for “I call the living, I mourn the dead.”

Thank you, Eli, for sharing with us a part of our church’s history most of us will never see!

Outreach

Faith United Church of Christ is joining with the Waverly-Shell Rock Area United Way in bringing Christmas in July to those in need throughout Bremer/Butler Counties.

During the month of July, totes marked “Christmas in July” will be found throughout the building for the collection of full-size, new, unopened personal care products. Suggested products are:

- Shampoo
- Lotion
- Hand Soap
- Toothpaste
- Feminine Pads
- Razors
- Toilet Paper
- Pull-Ups
- Baby Wipes



- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush
- Tampons
- Shaving Cream
- Facial Tissues
- Diapers
- Paper Towels
- Conditioner

Or monetary donations can be made through www.wsrunityway.org/givejuly or Venmo: @wsrunityway

<u>July Birthdays</u>	
July 1	Conner Piehl David Konopa
July 5	Rick Foelske Karen Milius
July 7	Kayla Milius
July 8	Juanita Mohlis Aleta Reeves Adam Reeves
July 10	Kevin Sievers
July 12	Ruth Quigley
July 13	Debra Johnson
July 17	Linda Heinemann Reick Bailey Quigley Casey Rosol
July 18	Max Ambrose Mary Chapin
July 20	Spencer Holm Susie Lohmann
July 21	Pastor Marilyn
July 22	Theresa Davis
July 23	Phyllis Buls Everette Funk Clark Snelling
July 25	Nic Moore
July 26	Barb Hill Isabel Marquis Billy Bunce
July 30	Lianne Franzen

<u>Faith United Church of Christ Finances</u>			
<u>General Fund 2023</u>			
	<u>June</u>	<u>Budget*</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$19,980.31		
Expenses	\$14,692.54		
*Council approved budget not yet approved by congregation			
<u>Cemetery Operations Fund 2023</u>			
<u>May</u>			
Portfolio Value		\$57,246.31	
Checking Account Balance		438.35	
Savings Account Balance		<u>6,043.80</u>	
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND		\$63,769.20	

<u>Worship by the numbers...</u>			
	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Attendance</u>	<u>Monetary Gifts</u>
June 4	47	21	\$2,067.36
June 11	58	18	\$2,237.00
June 18	64	16	\$2,196.25
June 25	50	13	\$1,880.00

<u>Church Council</u>	
President	Jerry Lahmann
Vice President	Eli Bahrenfuse
Recorder	Traci Bahrenfuse
<u>Elders</u>	
	Beth Goudschaal (Head Elder)
	Traci Bahrenfuse
	Kara Marsh
	Vicki Oleson
	Bonnie Travers
	Kathy Westendorf
<u>Trustees</u>	
	Conrad Marsh (Head Trustee)
	Eli Bahrenfuse
	Dave Kirchhoff
	Jerry Lahmann
	Brenda Shinstine
	Dean Shinstine

<u>July Anniversaries</u>	
July 8	Wendy & John Hawes
July 10	Karla & Jerry Hyde
July 14	Marlene & Jerry Snelling Wilma & Leland Timmerman
July 18	Ruth and Dave Kirchhoff

<u>Faith UCC Staff</u>	
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