

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

October 2023

Tripoli, IA

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

Sandy Martin	Nadine Schnurstein
Delores Meier	Joan Stuck
LaVera Buchholz	Larry Kammeyer
Lauren Crossman	Joan Matthias
Marlene Homeister	Edna Shinstrine
Tyler Schultz	Beverly Shinstine

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

*"Hear, O Israel:*

*The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.*

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

*Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.*

*Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.*

*Bind them as a sign on your hand,*

*fix them as an emblem on your forehead,*

*and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

– Deuteronomy 6:4-9

The above passage is part of the Shema prayer that has been recited by many traditional practicing Jews since the second century. Often the Shema is written upon a parchment scroll, placed in a mezuzah (a small, decorative box) and affixed on the doorpost of the entrance to a Jewish home. Of the mezuzah, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin writes, "When a Jew enters his house, he sees the mezuzah and is thereby reminded how he should act in his home. Likewise, when a Jew leaves the house, the mezuzah reminds him of the high level of behavior he is expected to maintain wherever he goes."

Do you allow your behavior in and away from your home to be guided by your faith? Is your daily interaction and behavior with family and friends and strangers affected by your belief in God? What might you use to quietly remind yourself of who you are and whose you are and use that knowledge to transform your life? Maybe it's a scroll or a sign on your door...maybe it's a paperclip in your pocket...maybe it's a cross on a chain around your neck...maybe it's a common word that when you hear it helps you to better focus on what it means to believe in the One who created us all.

I invite you to take some time to discover your own daily personal form of a reminder. When you touch it or hold it or look upon it, remember these words (and perhaps even speak them out loud) from Deuteronomy...

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

Think about it...pray about it...listen for God's still-speaking voice guiding you. Open your heart and your mind to all that awaits you as a beloved child of God!

In Peace,

*Pastor Marilyn*

Faith United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September 5th, 2023

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

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Kara Marsh

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Marlene Snelling, Helen Milius, Phyllis Schnurstein, Jean Raynard, Marlys Biermann, and Shawntelle Moore

Absent Members: Dean Shinstine, Conrad Marsh, Barb Hill

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

Approval of the August 7th Minutes: Motion to approve by Dave Kirchhoff. Seconded by Beth Goudschaal.

Treasurer Report: Motion to approve by Beth Goudschaal. Seconded by Brenda Shinstine  
Women of Faith donating \$2,000 to the furnace/AC fund.

Trustee Report: Fridge in Fellowship Hall needs attention. Eli called Gulbranson's Appliance out of Cedar Falls; they specialize in commercial equipment. Waiting for a call back.

Solar system: Still working with Elsamiller Electric on an audit, we are also looking into grants available. We would receive a 30% tax credit if it is installed by 2032. The panels would have to be installed by the meter. Alliant offers a 70% coverage of project total cost, with an audit. Working to confirm we qualify.

Looking into replacing the water heaters to Flash heaters (on-demand heat), would save money on electric.

Elder Report: Women of Faith is hosting a basket raffle on October 29, 2023. The event will be called Faith Fund for Furnace Fund, lunch will also be served.

First day of Sunday School 9/10, with breakfast served for the kids.

Neighbors in Need will be discussed during September 17<sup>th</sup> service.

Candles and holders donated in honor of Logan Liddle.

Elders working on reviewing and updating the bylaws.

Summer Day Camp: Went well for the first year, many lessons learned to help improve next year. Working to update rules for parent drop offs, to confirm hours needed for staffing and to improve payroll.

Profit was \$671.00 for the first year. Great feedback from the parents and everyone is looking forward to an even more successful year next year.

Special thanks to everyone that donated toys, food, money, air conditioner, their time, and talents. It was greatly appreciated and helped make their first year a success.

*(continued on next page)*

Memorial Committee: Motion to change the memorial endowment financial representative from Phyllis Schnurstein to Marlene Snelling by Dave Kirchhoff. Seconded by Eli Bahrenfuse. Motion approved.

Currently have endowment CD of \$47,917.72, will reinvest \$47,900, we need \$50,000 to be able to draw residual income. \$2,100 is needed by September 14<sup>th</sup>. Current rates are 4.45% interest on 7 months or 4.65% interest on 21 months. The committee is looking to find out if rates can be improved.

Memorial CD due September 4<sup>th</sup> is currently at \$8,612.13. Memorial Savings is \$3,454.08, total funds \$12,066.21.

The memorial committee received a bid for the landscaping, \$750 for material and Eli to donate labor. They approved to proceed with this bid. Landscaping to be completed soon.

The memorial committee has requested a visible sheet of funds coming in and going out of the memorial fund.

The memorial committee is updating and reviewing their policies, will be completed by the end of the year for council approval.

The memorial committee members donated \$156 to print and send the endowment/memorial brochures to the congregation.

Liaison Report: None.

Pastor's Report: Working with Wartburg on their choir singing during service this winter, more details to come. Looking into licensing for movie nights held at the church, once a month.

Old Business: Nothing.

New Business: Received a bill from the city for tree trimming that wasn't completed in time. Property Committee to run through all properties and confirm priorities. They will work to receive estimates if needed for any issues they may find.

Bonnie Travers will be leading a time for teen talk before church for youth that have been confirmed, to continue growing their faith.

Motion to adjourn by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Beth Goudschaal.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:  
Traci Bahrenfuse

“Faith Fun” For Furnace Fund

Silent Auction with a Lunch

**October 29, 2023**

(Following worship)



Items can either be in a basket—a box—or just an item

Items will be on display for bidding on

Sunday, October 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th

All proceeds will go toward the new furnaces and air conditioning units.

(Sponsored by the Women of Faith)



Prayer Shawl Ministry

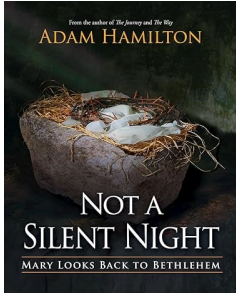
These beautiful prayer shawls were created by our very own “Drop-A-Stitch” group. Each Thursday afternoon, they gather for good conversation as they knit or crochet these shawls that will be given to those struggling...mourning...or rejoicing. Through the years the group has been gifted with yarn from others or often purchased the yarn themselves. However, their yarn supply is dwindling. If you or someone you know has yarn no longer needed — full or partial skein in any color — Drop-A-Stitch would be more than happy to use it in an upcoming creation!

Prayer Chain



The Prayer Chain of Faith UCC is a group of members who have committed themselves to pray for those struggling with physical, spiritual, or emotional needs either personally or someone dear in their life. If you have a prayer request please contact Pastor Marilyn at 319.429.1442 or [rev.msargent@gmail.com](mailto:rev.msargent@gmail.com). If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please contact Pat Warner at 319.882.3162 or [prwrnr@butler-bremer.com](mailto:prwrnr@butler-bremer.com).

## Announcements



Adult Ed begins Sunday, Oct 1 at 9:00 am. The first book discussed will be "Not a Silent Night" by Rev. Adam Hamilton. Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby.

### Pet Blessing

You are invited the Faith UCC Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 8th at 1 pm. Join us in the back parking lot with the furry/winged/finned/scaled member(s) of your family. All animals must be leashed or caged. We will also be collecting food for the local animal shelter. If your pet is uncomfortable with crowds, we hope you will bring along a photo to share. If your living situation doesn't allow you to have a living pet, we also welcome stuffed animals. Hope to see you on the 8th! And maybe you'll see S'more there!



### Choir

Choir practice will be starting on Wednesday, Oct 4th at 6:00 pm We need people who like to sing! You don't have to have a great voice. Please consider joining us. We always have fun! Hope to see you on the 4th!

### All Saints Sunday

During worship on Sunday, October 29, we will remember those who have gone before us, honoring their lives and faithfulness within the body of Christ. As you arrive for worship, you will have the opportunity to receive a card upon which to write down the name(s) of those you carry in your heart. These names will be individually read during worship. Additionally, if you have a photograph you would like to have shown on the worship screen, please email or bring into the office by Monday, October 23.

October Birthdays

Oct. 2 Gary Snyder  
 Oct. 9 Nathan Milius  
 Oct. 11 Duane Ryherd  
 Trevor Stahlhut  
 Cameron Ladage  
 Oct. 12 Barb Sowers  
 Oct. 14 Sharon Funk  
 Oct. 19 Tim Drewis  
 Roger Goudschaal  
 Oct. 21 Branigan Bunce Smith  
 Oct. 22 JoAnn Steward  
 Oct. 29 David Lohmann  
 Oct. 31 Ellen Kalkbrenner

Faith United Church of Christ Finances

General Fund 2023

	<u>September</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$6,539.20		
Expenses	\$15,097.41	\$12,314.60	(\$2,782.81)

Cemetery Operations Fund 2023

August

Portfolio Value	\$60,030.71
Checking Account Balance	1,239.31
Savings Account Balance	<u>2,546.49</u>
<b>TOTAL CEMETERY FUND</b>	<b>\$63,816.51</b>

October Anniversaries

Oct. 1 Kevin & Laurie Buhrow  
 Oct. 4 Max & Carol Ambrose  
 Oct. 10 Brian & Trevor Bunce  
 Brad & Kim Bunce  
 Oct. 12 Don & Vernetta Bunce  
 Oct. 14 Rich & Karen Milius  
 Oct. 17 Robert & Joyce Kammeyer  
 Oct. 28 Shawn & Sara Marquis

**Worship by the numbers...**  
**September 2023**

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Attendance</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
Sept. 3	55	20	\$1,818.00
Sept. 10	57	22	\$2,081.00
Sept. 17	50	11	\$1,123.00
Sept. 24	48	11	\$2,264.00

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

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