

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

September 2023

Tripoli, IA

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

Bonnie Travers	Nadine Schnurstein
Delores Meier	Scott Behn
Sara Blessing	Keith Selberg
Scott Selberg	Joan Matthias
Marlene Homeister	Edna Shinstrine
Tyler Schultz	

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.

"Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication."

~ Ephesians 6:18a

Prayer. It is such an important part of our relationship with God. God listens to prayers. God answers prayers. It is through prayer that we can communicate with God. Yet for many of us, prayer is something we know we should do but aren't sure if we are doing it right. Is it better to pray in a quiet, small voice? A firm voice with volume? Or is it better to silently offer your prayers through your thoughts? The short answer is, yes – all forms of prayer are welcomed by God.

Do you ever feel you need to have all your items ready to be presented in an orderly fashion before you can pray? Or that you need to be a better person before you can pray? After all, would God want to hear from you if earlier in the day you had acted completely unreasonable with someone? Again, yes. God wants to hear from you no matter what you've done or how orderly you speak."

Can you pray when you're angry? When your world is crumbling around you and you are just plain angry, does God want to hear those prayers? Three for three – yes, God does.

In her book, Traveling Mercies, author Ann Lamont writes that she has two prayers she knows she can always fall back on: "Help me, help me, help me" and "Thank you, thank you, thank you." And yes, God listens to Ann's prayer.

So whether you are one who has a daily prayer ritual or are a "pray as you go" person...whether your prayers are verbose or short and to the point...whether you pray on your knees or while lying in bed or standing with your arms lifted to the sky...the good news is – it doesn't matter. God is always ready to listen. Let us pray...

Pastor Marilyn

September Meetings

Congregational Meeting

A Faith United Church of Christ Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, September 3 following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the replacement of furnace and air conditioning units for the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall.

Women of Faith Meeting

On September 3, all women of the church are invited to a Women of Faith meeting which will be held in Fellowship Hall following the Congregational Meeting. Grab a cup of coffee and a treat and join us!

Elders/Trustees/Council Meetings

All three meetings originally scheduled for Monday, September 4 will be held on Tuesday, September 5.

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
August 7 2023

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Members in Attendance: Beth Goudschaal, Jerry Lahmann, Kathy Westendorf, Brenda Shinstine, Eli Bahrenfuse, Dave Kirchhoff, Conrad Marsh, Bonnie Travers

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Barb Hill

Absent Members: Dean Shinstine, Traci Bahrenfuse, Vicki Oleson, Kara Marsh

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

Approval of the July 10th Minutes: Motion to approve by Beth Goudschaal. Seconded by Dave Kirchhoff.

Approval of July 16th Congregational Meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Beth Goudschaal. Seconded by Dave Kirchhoff.

Treasurer Report: Barb Hill informed us that our even pay payment for Black Hills Energy has changed as follows:

Church was \$521, now \$351

Ed Building was \$473, now \$365

Parsonage was \$164, now \$124

Black Hills Energy reviewed our even pay, and our bill this month is \$62 due to the previous overages.

Our tuckpointing loan has been paid off.

Motion to approve by Dave Kirchhoff. Seconded by Conrad Marsh.

Trustee Report: We have received three quotes for new air conditioners and furnaces. Tripoli Plumbing and Heating was asked and declined to bid. The council has decided that Ryan Smith's quote was the most cost efficient out of the three. If all three units are replaced at once the price would be \$27,000.00. He also said that we could pay for the furnaces this fall and then wait until spring to pay for the A/Cs to be able to give us more time to raise the funds. Motion to recommend Ryan Smith's quote to congregation by Eli Bahrenfuse. Seconded by Kathy Westendorf.

Material to replace louvers in the bell tower has been purchased. Hopefully this month it can be installed.

The speaker on the East wall of Fellowship Hall is not working. Jerry Lahmann said he would look at it before we call someone to fix it.

Update on solar power for the church. We cannot install the solar array at the cemetery. It would have to be on the roof of the Ed building. We are still waiting for a final quote from Elsamiller Electric. There are a few possible grants that are being looked at.

The lawn mowing sign up sheet is out of volunteers for the last half of August. Please reconsider signing up. See Jerry Lahmann or Pastor Marilyn for sign up sheet location.

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Elder Report: The Christmas in July items have been replaced with needed school supplies.

Liaison Report: None

Pastor's Report: United Way supplies have been collected and will be delivered on Wednesday, August 9th by Kathy Westendorf.

Pam Peters will be joining the church on Sunday, August 13th.

Pastor has reached out to Pastor Tyler confirming that there were no hard feelings about us hosting the Tripoli Days Luncheon and he confirmed that there were none.

Old Business: Custodial pay has been brought up. We have decided we need to see the number of hours that Lisa Chapin is working to best evaluate her wages.

New Business: The sound level of the organ has been discussed with the organists. This will be a trial-and-error process.

The light behind the altar was discussed and we decided that it will remain off due to interference with the projector screen and for safety purposes.

The fridge in the kitchen of fellowship hall needs to be looked at for possible thermostat issues.

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

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Eli Bahrenfuse

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

Tripoli Celebration Days Lunch

Thank You to.....Mary Chapin, Jean Ranard, JoEllen Behn, Renee Reeves, Joan Struck, Darlys Buhrow, Kathy Westendorf, Barb Hill, Sandi Snyder, Helen Milius, Tamera Rosol, Beth Goudschaal, Vernetta Bunce, Marian Meyer, Sandy Martin, Donna Sassman and Delores Meier for donating all the desserts.

Thank you to.....Kathy Westendorf, Marlys Biermann, Bonnie Travers, Donna Funk, Pat Warner, Alfred Gloede, Phyllis Schnurstein, Mary Ann Meyer, Don Bunce, and Nate Milius for the monetary donations and misc items needed.

Thank you to.....Larry and Joan Struck for taking the tickets.

Thank you toour Servers Mike and Kathy Westendorf, JoEllen and Scott Behn, and Dave Kirchhoff.

Thank you to.....Lisa Chapin for all the cleanup in the fellowship hall and kitchen.

Thank you to.....Bob Sassman for putting the sign out each day.

Thank you to.....Helen, Brian, Kimberly, Kayla Milius, Paisley Liddle, and Amelia Reeves for the dining room help.

Thank you to.....Joan Struck, Donna Sassman, Jean Ranard, Sharon Funk, Juanita Mohlis, Marilyn Lahmann, Karen Milius and Marlene Snelling for the food preparation.

Special Thank You to....Rich Milius for preparing all the Pork Loins and slicing them.

Special Thank You to....Marilyn Lahmann for the donation of all the Lemonade, to Karen Milius for the Paper Products and Monetary donation, to Juanita Mohlis for the Baked Beans and all the ingredients in preparing them and Marlene Snelling for the Potato Salad.

Whatever you did to help make this a very successful event it was all greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the people that attended and enjoyed the Delicious Lunch. A lot of helping hands...make for a Faith Loving Family.

THANK YOU!!! God Bless You!

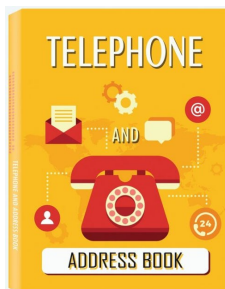
The Lord Shares His love for us through 'Special People' like you!

Thank you for your help, your gifts and your talents today.

~Committee~

Marilyn Lahmann-Karen Milius-Juanita Mohlis-Marlene Snelling

Address/Telephone/Email Updates



In an effort to verify the church office has current and accurate contact information for Faith UCC members, we are asking for your assistance. Please review your information in the 2018 directory for accuracy. Have you dropped your landline? Have a new cell phone number? Updated to a new email address? Please contact the office via email/phone to either **confirm your listing is correct or update with corrections/additions.**

If you do not want to be listed in the directory, we need that information as well.

We appreciate your assistance in maintaining accurate records. As soon as all information is verified, a new member listing will be made available to our members.



On Sunday, August 13, Faith UCC welcomed Pam Peters into our church family. Pam holds many childhood memories of attending worship here at Faith. Following the passing of her parents Larry and Joy Busse,, along with the love and support she feels from the members of Faith, Pam felt God's nudge to become a member. Although distance prevents Pam from regularly attending in person, Pam is a faithful online viewer of our services!

Happy Birthday, Pastor Selberg

Rev. Keith Selberg faithfully served Faith United Church of Christ from 1967 to 1968 and returned as a one-year interim before Pastor Marilyn's arrival. On Sunday, September 30, Pastor Keith will be celebrating his 90th birthday and Pat (his wife) is hosting a card shower to celebrate this milestone birthday. So let's "shower" him with cards! Cards can be mailed to:

Rev. Keith Selberg
Northgate Care Center
960 - 4th St. NW
Waukon, IA 52172



A Thank You Note to All—

On July 15th, I was in my attic when I stepped on sheetrock and I fell to the floor below. After my fall, and during my healing, I felt surrounded by God and the angels. I received the help I needed to get to the hospital and get the care I needed through all of you! Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and many acts of kindness. Through this experience I felt humbled by the kindness shown to me. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

Love in Christ,
Bonnie Travers

Outreach

SUICIDE INTERVENTION EVENT

The Bremer County Suicide Prevention Coalition is sponsoring an event, "What to Know about Suicide: Intro to Intervention" on September 14 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at the Denver American Legion, 161 E. Main St., Denver, IA. This is a free event and no registration is required. For more information call 319.352.2993.

Friends of the Family

Friends of the Family is reaching out to share some exciting opportunities to make an impact in our community through volunteerism. Contact Madison Gaffney at madison@fofia.org or 319-576-2232 to learn more about volunteering for Friends of the Family. A brochure will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Our next local mission opportunity is donating school supplies to teachers and students attending classes in Tripoli. Beth Goudschaal has posted the list of items needed within each class. The lists are on a multi-page document so if you have a cell phone with camera, please take a photo of the class you would like to provide supplies for and take it with you the next time you go shopping. Or review the lists and select the item or items you would like to donate regardless of grade. The complete list for elementary and middle school is also available at <https://www.tripoli.k12.ia.us/elementary>. Click on the "Elem & MS Supply List" icon. Baskets/Tubs for your donations are in the Narthex and in the Connector. Please bring in your donations by Sunday, September 10.

Faith UCC Daycamp

The Faith UCC Daycamp has come to an end but the joy-filled memories remain! Thank you to the teachers — Helen Milius, Anna Batton, Justine Liddle, and Karen Ensign.. Thank you to the helpers — Bonnie Travers, Kimberly Milius, Ameliya Reeves and to Shawntelle Moore who handled the bookkeeping. Thank you to all who donated funds and toys and supplies, those who prepared food and provided snacks. Thank you to the parents who believed in our new venture. And a HUGE thank you to all of the kids who brightened our lives this summer! As you can see from the photo — they had a great time!!



Following worship on August 27, we celebrated the daycamp with food and games. Thank you to Kathy Westendorf, Ruth Kirchhoff, Traci Bahrenfuse, Jennifer Dillon and Helen Milius for planning the party; to Mike Westendorf and Dave Kirchhoff for demonstrating their hamburger and hot dog grilling skills; to all those who brought yummy sides; and, of course, all those who celebrated with us!

September Birthdays

Sept. 2	Lisa Chapin
	Orlyn Milius
Sept. 3	Peyton Benson
Sept. 4	R.J. Ott
Sept. 8	Travis Buhrow
Sept. 9	Brad Bunce
	Jennifer Dillon
Sept. 12	Wendy Hawes
Sept. 15	Cheyenne Moore
Sept. 16	Rich Milius
	Adelade Lang
Sept. 17	Jan Heidemann
Sept. 19	Roger Buchholz
	Bonnie Travers
Sept. 21	Amy Drewis
Sept. 22	Justin Dillon
Sept. 24	Randy Rinkenburger
Sept. 25	Braydon Bunce
Sept. 27	Sue Schwarze
Sept. 28	Delores Meier

Faith United Church of Christ FinancesGeneral Fund 2023

	<u>August</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$8,340.10		
Expenses	\$10,805.99	\$10,942.34	(\$136.35)

Cemetery Operations Fund 2023July

Portfolio Value	\$60,995.06
Checking Account Balance	1,060.57
Savings Account Balance	<u>3,545.76</u>
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$66,601.39

September Anniversaries

Sept. 3	Jay & Jean Ranard
Sept. 8	Tanner & Bailey Klein
Sept. 10	Brian & Angie Buchholz
Sept. 17	Larry & Joan Struck
Sept. 26	Eli & Traci Bahrenfuse

Church Council

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

Trustees

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

Worship by the numbers...

	<u>In-person</u> <u>Attendance</u>	<u>Online</u> <u>Attendance</u>	<u>General</u> <u>Offering</u>
Aug. 6	Service at Grace		715.00
Aug. 13	44	17	1,772.00
Aug. 20	46	21	4,104.00
Aug. 27	63	19	1,603.00

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