

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

November 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
Larry Kammeyer	Juanita Mohlis
Joan Matthias	Marlene Homeister
Beverly Shinstine	Dan Gloede

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.

"...your young shall see visions and your old shall dream dreams.

~ Joel 2:28b and Acts 2:28b

Whether reading of God's words spoken directly from the prophet Joel or reading Peter quoting Joel quoting God on the Day of Pentecost when folks were amazed...perplexed...or accusing others of being drunk at 9 o'clock in the morning, I've always found power in those words, *"Your young shall see visions...your old shall dream dreams."*

I remember being young and looking around and envisioning things as I wished they could be. I grew up in a congregation that was very active in social justice. I grew up believing in the equality of all of God's children. All of God's children. I grew up knowing that the world hadn't yet achieved God's original plans for God's people, but my visions were that things were getting better and would continue to do so.

I long held onto those visions but I must admit in the past couple of decades I've felt my vision disappearing like a wispy cloud on a breezy day.

It reminds me of what the apostle Paul wrote – *"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways."* (1 Corinthians 13:11) Were my visions childlike? Was I too young to see things as they really were? As an adult, did I need to abandon my "childish ways" of believing things could and would turn around?

Maybe it's in aging...maybe it is in our adulting that Joel and Peter picture us as beginning our dreaming. As our years dwindle down, perhaps they become not visions for our lifetime but rather dreams for our descendants. Dreams for our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren and all of the children of the world.

During a recent worship service at Urbandale UCC, my mom spoke to the children of the church. She shared what she had learned from her ancestors and what she hoped to pass on to her descendants. She spoke eloquently and from the heart as the young ones who were gathered around her listened and asked questions. Undoubtedly some will long recall her words as they form their own visions...and someday those visions will be shifted into dreams for their own descendants. Because isn't that what we do as faithful children of God? Share and hope and have visions and dreams.

I cannot envision standing on the brink of turning 100 as my mother is doing but no matter at what age my journey ends, I will still have dreams for those to follow. Dreams of kindness and consideration... dreams of equality for all...dreams of adequate food and water for all of God's children...dreams of an end to multiple-casualty shootings and the horrors of war...dreams of wealth equity.

"You may call me a dreamer, but I'm not the only one." ~ John Lennon

Please pray and dream with me,
Pastor Marilyn

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
October 2nd, 2023

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

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Traci Bahrenfuse

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Barb Hill

Absent Members: Dean Shinstine, Dave Kirchhoff, Kara Marsh

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn..

Approval of the September 5th Minutes: Motion to approve by Beth Goudschaal. Seconded by Kathy Westendorf

Treasurer Report: Motion to approve by Eli Bahrenfuse. Seconded by Beth Goudschaal.

Trustee Report: Eli has contacted three different companies in regard to the fellowship refrigerator, with no response. Jerry and Conrad to get more contacts for him to reach out to. Eli also looking into the requirements for servicing on the elevator and if a contract is needed with the company that manufactured the elevator or if a contact at Schumacher Elevator can complete those inspections. The annual contract with the manufacturer is \$425/yearly. If repairs/services are needed on the elevator and we are not in contract with the manufacturing company, it is \$180/hr plus travel fees of \$180/hr and an additional \$.60 a mile. Eli is working to get clarification.

Elder Report: The Elders are reviewing the by-laws to see if any changes or updates are needed. The Elders are also confirming if the by-laws are being performed/completed as stated. The Elders are also working to confirm which committees are still active and meeting and which are not. Confirm if any need to be removed from the by-laws or more engagement is needed from the congregation.

Liaison Report: The Memorial Committee was able to reach the \$50,000 needed for the best interest payout for the endowment.

Pastor's Report: When Pastor is out on vacation, we have a budget to compensate her coverage, currently we have not been paying this out. Motion to approve \$50/per Sunday coverage by Kathy Westendorf. Seconded by Bonnie Travers. Pastor will be out November 5th- November 14th. October 29th is All Saints Sunday.

Old Business: Discussion on custodial wage increase. The custodian is working 7-8hrs weekly and also takes rags home to wash. Motion to increase custodial wages to \$400/monthly by Bonnie Travers. Seconded by Beth Goudschaal.

There are funds in an Easter/advent gifts budget that wasn't been used, looking into maybe using this towards the furnace fund.

New Business: Nothing.

Motion to adjourn by Beth Goudschaal.. Seconded by Eli Bahrenfuse. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Traci Bahrenfuse

*These minutes are not yet approved by Council

THANK YOU !!!
“Faith Fun” Furnace Fund

October 29, 2023

Thank You to.....

Everyone who donated items for the Silent Auction – we had some really nice things.
A Big thank you to our Bidder Winners...this was fantastic!

Our sincere thank you to the people who donated and helped with the Hot Beef, Gravy,
Mash Potatoes, Salads and Dessert for our Noon Luncheon.

Everything was very delicious and we had so many people who attended to enjoy it.
Lots of yummy good food!

Thank you to the people that helped cleanup after the Luncheon.

This is a day that everyone who contributed in anyway we want you to know
this was so greatly appreciated and we are so very thankful
for all the support and love from all of you.

A lot of helping hands...make for a ‘Faith Loving’ Family.

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

Thank you for your help, your gifts your kindness and your warmth

for this “Faith Fun” event.

THANK YOU!!!
May God Bless You!
~ Karen Milius and Marlene Snelling ~

* * * * *

Total donations for the luncheon	\$1,291.00
Total donations from the auction	<u>4,330.00</u>
Total raised on 10/29	\$5,621.00
Previous furnace fund balance	<u>4,852.49</u>
Total furnace fund balance 10/30	<u>\$10,473.49</u>

Advent/Christmas

Women of Faith

On Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 am the Women of Faith will hold their annual Christmas Party. Breakfast will be served, along with games and a \$15.00 gift exchange that is optional to participate in. An offering for a local mission will be taken. All women of the church are invited.

Come join for fun and fellowship!



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the church during the holiday season, we will be placing an order with Petersen & Tietz the week of November 20th. The cost will be \$14 for:

- * A beautiful 6.5" potted poinsettia with a minimum of 5 blooms. Choose from: red, red with white spots, pink, and white
- * A decorative gold water tight pot cover.

Order forms will be available in the narthex & office. If you would like to purchase in memory or in honor of someone, you may note that on the form. Or you may call the office at 319.882.3585 or email faithucchurch@gmail.com.

Advent/Christmas service schedule:

- December 2 — Beginning at 9 am we will be moving the Christmas decorations from the Ed Wing to the Sanctuary in preparations for the Hanging of the Greens. We will also need help erecting our tall Christmas tree.
- December 3 — 10:00 am First Sunday of Advent/Hanging of the Greens
- December 10 — 10:00 am Second Sunday of Advent
- December 17 — 10:00 am Third Sunday of Advent
Adult Choir sings
- December 24 — 10:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:00 pm Christmas Eve service





Thank you to the Women of Faith for the beautiful flowers and to the Sunday School children for the anniversary cards. ~ Don & Vernetta Bunce

THIS PASTOR HAS AN AWESOME CHURCH!

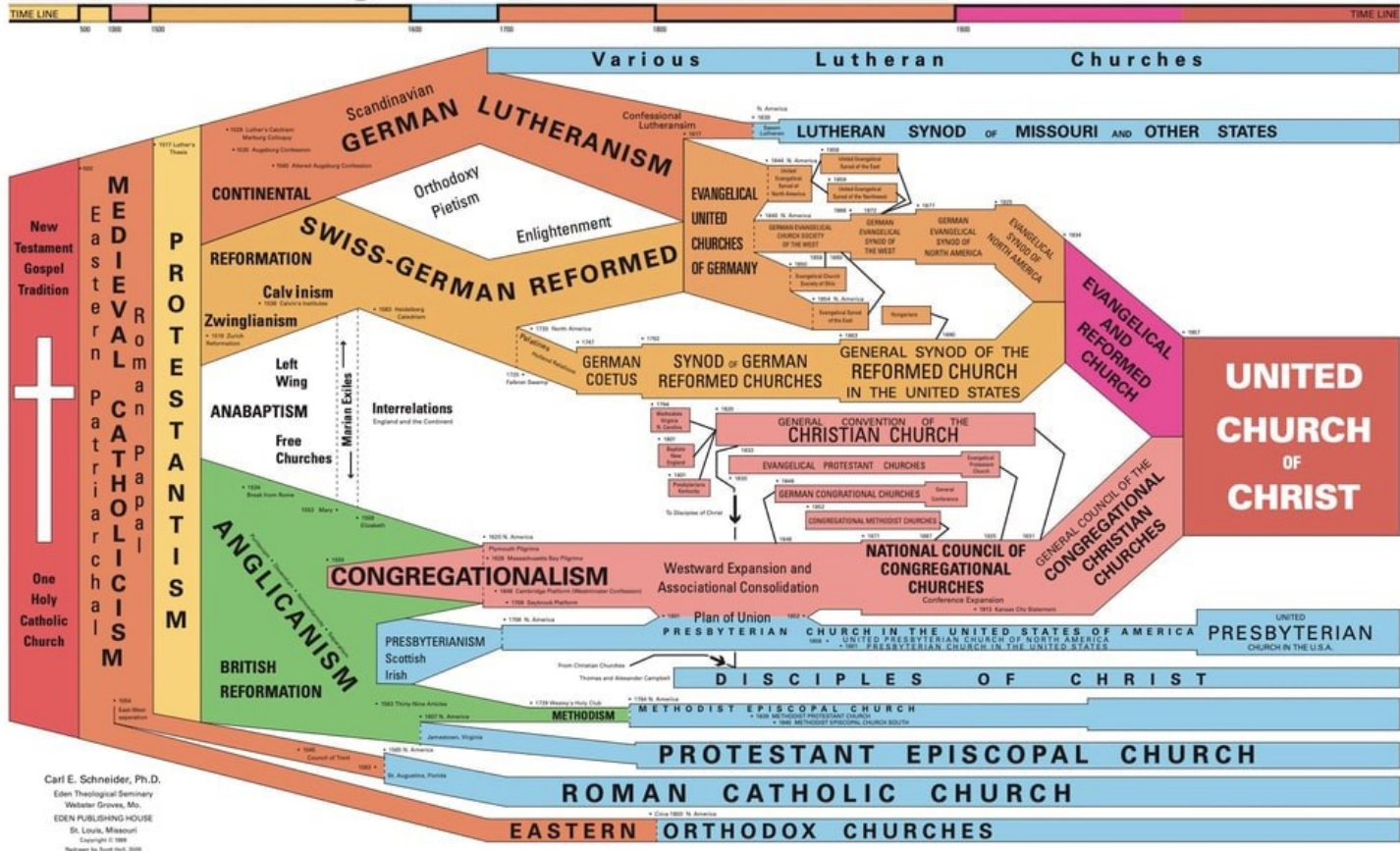
Thank you, Faith United Church of Christ, for remembering me during Pastor Appreciation Month. You all mean so much to me and I appreciate each one of you! Pastor Marilyn



How much history of the United Church of Christ do you know?

During the coming months the Faith UCC newsletter will contain some UCC historical items to help members and visitors get to know more about our denomination. This month we begin with the

Origins of the United Church of Christ



Carl E. Schneider, Ph.D. Eden Theological Seminary Webster Groves, Mo. EDEN PUBLISHING HOUSE St. Louis, Missouri Copyright © 1988 Reprinted by Faith UCC, 2008

November Birthdays

Nov. 1	Erica Newbrough Amy Price
Nov. 5	Morgan Peters
Nov. 7	Cody Buchholz
Nov. 8	Vernetta Bunce Lonny Moore Jayden Stahlhut
Nov. 9	Joe Lahmann
Nov. 10	Rob Rathbone
Nov. 13	Keith Stahlhut
Nov. 14	Amanda Johnston
Nov. 15	Kara Marsh
Nov. 19	Karla Hyde Lisa Timmerman
Nov. 21	Wilma Timmerman
Nov. 22	Marilyn Coulthard Brenda Shinstine
Nov. 24	Sandy Martin
Nov. 28	Mike Johnson
Nov. 29	Melissa Bass

November Anniversaries

Nov. 4	Mike & Holly Johnson
Nov. 12	Ashley & Jordan Penrod
Nov. 23	Nate & Lesley Milius

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

Faith United Church of Christ FinancesGeneral Fund 2023

	<u>October</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$9,164.50		
Expenses	\$10,577.23	\$14,315.64	(\$3,738.41)

Year-to-date 2023

Offerings	\$114,937.68		
Expenses	125,368.74	133,693.29	(\$8,324.55)

Cemetery Operations Fund 2023September

Portfolio Value	\$57,352.91
Checking Account Balance	1,239.31
Savings Account Balance	<u>2,546.49</u>
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$59,352.91

Worship by the numbers...October 2023

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
Oct. 1	45	37	\$1,486.00
Oct. 8	54	22	\$1,633.00
Oct. 15	78	29	\$1,680.01
Oct. 22	57	30	\$1,707.00
Oct. 29	61	22	\$2,009.00

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