

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

January 2024

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	Bonnie Travers
Mary Ann Meyer	Dean Boris
Keith Stahlhut	Kesler Schulmeister

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 mourn with Dean and Brenda Shinstine on the death of their sister-in-law Beverly Shinstine and we give thanks for her eternal home with God.

We also mourn with Keith Stahlhut and Jenny Woodring on the death of their son, Trevor, beloved child of the church. We give thanks for Trevor's eternal home with God.

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

Scripture gives us the narrative...

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among God's people!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

~ Luke 2: 8-20

Howard Thurman gives us our part of the story...

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

~Howard Thurman

Blessed New Year,

Pastor Marilyn

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
December 4th, 2023

Members in Attendance: Jerry Lahmann, Kathy Westendorf, Brenda Shinstine, Bonnie Travers, Vicki Oleson, Conrad Marsh and Dave Kirchhoff

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Traci Bahrenfuse, Eli Bahrenfuse and Kara Marsh
Also in Attendance: Barb Hill, Pastor Marilyn, Marlys Biermann, Phyllis Schnurstein, Jean Raynard, and Marlene Snelling.

Absent Members: Dean Shinstine and Beth Goudschaal

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Approval of the November 6th Minutes: Motion to approve by Jerry Lahmann. Seconded by Bonnie Travers.

Treasurer Report: Motion to approve by Bonnie Travers. Seconded by Vicki Oleson.

Memorial Committee: Revised by-laws were reviewed by the Council. Discussed a few updates to be added to the revisions. Once revisions are completed, motion to approve by Dave Kirchhoff. Seconded by Brenda Shinstine.

Trustee Report: Snow removal quotes were sent out. Quotes received and awarded to Spencer Snelling at \$80 a visit. Holmes doing the sidewalks at \$60 a visit.

The Council will be personally thanking the congregation on Sunday for the increased donations and almost covering the full amount for the furnaces.

On Saturday December 9th , the new lights and fixtures will be installed. Can order the LED bulbs through the same company when needed.

Budget meeting being held December 17th after church.

Continual research on the Solar Program. Looking into more grants and confirming final numbers for potential benefits of installing solar panels for the church.

Elder Report: Hope Overflow is scheduled for February 11th to perform during the service.

Liaison Report: None

Pastor's Report: Thanks everyone for hanging of the greens prep on Saturday. Thank you to Kathy for the craft and planning on the potluck after the service.

December 10th Kids perform their Christmas Program

December 17th Adult choir singing

December 21st Blue Christmas at 7pm

December 24th Morning service as normal and Christmas Eve service at 7pm.

(continued on next page)

Old Business: Review constitution and adding revisions on the active members portion to update verbiage to align with the mission of the Church.

New Business: Working to create an outreach program to help the Elders communicate with active and non-active members. To receive honest feedback to help shape our church to the needs of the congregation.

Next council meeting will be held on January 2nd due to the Holiday.

Motion to adjourn by Kathy Westendorf. Seconded by Jerry Lahmann.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Traci Bahrenfuse



The 2023 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 21, 10 am. Printed Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 14th. Following the worship/meeting, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a potluck to celebrate our congregation! If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like a report, contact the office.



Thank you to Faith congregation for the Christmas gift. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. I also enjoyed all the members who stopped in during this holiday season. It was great to see so many smiling faces that I normally don't get to see.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Barb Rich

I am again so deeply touched by the kind gestures, beautiful notes, and generosity of the members and friends of Faith United Church of Christ. I feel blessed to have each of you in my life and continue to be humbled that you allow me to be a part of yours. The Advent/Christmas seasons are very special and there are so many folks who add their special touches to make the weeks memorable for all. First, I thank Barb Rich who continued to move through all of the preparations and changes and last-minute requests with a smile – I could not have done it without you! Steve & Barb and Brian & Trevor, thank you for your continued dedication to bringing our worship to the sanctuary screen and also to those unable to attend in person. Thank you to our Altar Committee — Karen, Kayla, and Ruth — for creating the lovely altar and keeping the poinsettias looking good! To the leaders, teachers, and students, thank you for gifting us with scripture and music that allowed us to remember the true meaning of Christmas. Music shared with us from our adult choir, Christmas Eve soloist and accompanist Sara, and our weekly musicians — June, Phoebe, Dawn, and Mary Jo — gifted our listening ears with so many beautiful pieces. Whether you were someone who decorated the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, or Ed Wing; erected our outside nativity scene; lit Advent candles; read scripture; prepared goodies; donated poinsettias; welcomed long-time members and new visitors; worshipped at Faith on Advent Sunday mornings or the Blue Christmas service or the Christmas Eve services, thank you for being a part of this celebration of the arrival of God's Son into our world. May the light continue to shine among us all year long!

In gratitude and love,
Pastor Marilyn



<u>January Birthdays</u>	
Jan. 3	Marian Meyer
Jan. 6	Phoebe Drape
Jan. 7	Alfred Gloede
Jan. 8	Brian Milius Velda Lynch
Jan. 10	Darlene Bahlmann
Jan. 11	Maguire Johnson
Jan. 14	Ron Quigley
Jan. 15	Max Mueller
Jan. 19	Mary Ann Meyer
Jan. 20	Katlyn Marquis
Jan. 21	Donna Sassman
Jan. 23	Kathy Westendorf Larry Kammeyer
Jan. 24	Shawn Marquis Delaney Marsh
Jan. 25	Paisley Liddle
Jan. 27	Brian Buchholz
Jan. 30	Shane Buchholz Marlys Ryan

<u>Faith United Church of Christ Finances</u>			
<u>General Fund 2023</u>			
	<u>December</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$13,578.32 *		
Expenses	\$31,343.12	\$14,181.88	\$17,161.24
<u>Year-to-date 2023</u>			
Offerings	\$137,679.41		
Expenses	\$167,906.98	\$158,603.55	9,303.43
*12/31 offering not included in this figure			
<u>Cemetery Operations Fund 2023</u>			
<u>November</u>			
Portfolio Value		\$59,162.36	
Checking Account Balance		143.59	
Savings Account Balance		<u>2,647.75</u>	
TOTAL		\$61,953.70	

<u>Furnace Loan—12/28/23</u>	
Loan	\$3,000.00
12/14 Interest expense	8.66
12/14 Payment	-1,270.00
12/28 Interest expense	5.40
12/28 Payment	<u>-400.00</u>
Current Loan Balance	\$ 1,344.06

<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>Worship by the numbers...</u>			
<u>December 2023</u>			
	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
Dec 3	56	29	\$1,683.01
Dec. 10	72	26	\$1,922.11
Dec. 17	54	31	\$3,750.00
Dec. 24(am)	73	49	\$2,833.00
Dec. 24(pm)	87	49	\$1,850.00

<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