

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

May 2024

Tripoli, IA

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

Nadine Schnurstein	Dean Shinstine
Vernetta Bunce	Kenny Buhrow
Keith Stahlhut	Mary Ann Meyer
Velda Lynch	Jolene Bunce
Dean Boris	Lilia Acero
Kesler Schulmeister	Andrade

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Darlene Bahlmann	Velda Lynch
Jean Bentley	Orlyn Milius
Verlyn & Phyllis Buls	

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
Kaitlyn Kime	Chazten Wells

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

On Sunday, April 28, our youth moved throughout the congregation and gathered \$192 in contributions (and a few IOUs for those who forget their checkbook) for Strengthen the Church, one of the five annual national giving opportunities of the United Church of Christ. As many of you know, Faith UCC has been one of the Five for Five UCC churches (contributing to each of the five) for decades. This is an annual commitment made by an estimated 25 percent of the national number of UCC congregations. It is an achievement of which we can be proud.

Also on Sunday the members and friends of Faith UCC generously contributed more than \$6,000 to the growing fund to purchase new air conditioner units this spring. Through donations to the delicious meal prepared by the Women of Faith (all of the food was donated), auction items, bountiful bidding, and monetary contributions, the event was a tremendous success. Additionally, Roger continues to record generous Sunday morning offering contributions to the fund. Won't be long before the units will be paid in full!

The above are just two of the ways that Faith UCC shares with the wider community and takes care of our own needs. We also have a faithful group of women who knit and crochet prayer shawls for others. Our youth have invited us to join them in tying blankets that were donated to hospitals and children with cancer.. We donate school supplies in the fall and Christmas gifts in the winter. Yet do you ever wonder – is there more we might we be doing?

For reasons mostly beyond our control, in the past few years our outreach to others and organizations has declined. We no longer host the monthly Mobile Food Pantry or collect food for the Oran Food Pantry. We are rarely added to the LifeServe schedule for blood drives. The Visiting Nurses no longer use our space to provide vaccines. Outside groups no longer hold meetings here.

We are fortunate that last year and again this year we provide a day camp five days a week for area children. Monday thru Fridays become a bustling, exciting time! But is there more? What about for the other end of the age spectrum? Inviting area Seniors to use our Fellowship Hall a couple of afternoons a month (or more) to play cards or board games?

What about volunteering outside of the church building? There are many area organizations with opportunities for volunteers to share their time and talents. Do you currently volunteer? Would you be willing to share your story and invite others to join you? Brenda Sievers and I have been working on creating a system where area volunteer needs can be compiled and shared with the congregation in the hopes something might sound interesting for an individual or small group. What do you think?

During a recent discussion with a member around some of these same questions, they reminded me that we are an aging congregation and folks just can't do what they once did. I get that. I admit I am one of those who more frequently groans when I stand up...and runs out of energy early some evenings! But even within our limitations we can find ways to help others.

To quote a wise theologian — “A church with a strong mission environment is a stronger church.” Together may we live fully into the stronger church God is calling us to be!

~ Pastor Marilynn

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
April 2nd, 2024

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Members in Attendance: Jerry Lahmann, Vicki Oleson, Kathy Westendorf, Eli Bahrenfuse, Traci Bahrenfuse, Conrad Marsh, Beth Goudschaal, and Dave Kirchhoff

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Brenda Shinstine, Dean Shinstine, Kara Marsh, and Bonnie Travers

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Barb Hill and Phyllis Shnurstein

Absent Members: None.

Opening Prayer. Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Memorial Committee: Ruth Kirchhoff and Lisa Chapin both were asked/volunteered to cover Phyllis's spot on the committee. Phyllis will stay on for 3 more months to help the transition of the new committee members. Next scheduled meeting is April 15 th . Dave Kirchhoff motioned to have a written vote to elect the new member. Seconded by Vicki Oleson. Results of vote confirmed the new member will be Ruth Kirchhoff as the Treasurer of the Memorial Committee. Other members nominated from last month Wilma Timmerman and Sandy Snyder (secretary).. Dave Lohmann will join the following year due to the committee currently being full. Both CD's need to be renewed by the end of April. Checking into interest rates and securing at a higher rate.

Approval of the March 3rd Minutes: Motion to approve by Traci Bahrenfuse. Seconded by Beth Goudschaal.

Treasurer Report: Correction from the report, Mike Westendorf to be paid \$50 for covering Pastor under the Pulpit Supply budget. Motion to approve by Vicki Oleson. Seconded by Kathy Westendorf.

Trustee Report: Looking at finances and any cost savings that can be done. Looking into sick days, disability and workers compensation under our insurance to see if any additional benefits available. Lawn mowing signup sheet still down in fellowship hall, please sign up. Nest program/app for thermostats can be set up for the church. It will track usage and help reduce high energy days automatically to save money. Nest thermostats are normally \$129.99, rebate available through, Alliant Energy smart hours is offering at \$15 through their website. Motion to purchase three nest thermostats to help save funds made by Kathy Westendorf. Seconded by Eli Bahrenfuse.

Update on Ed building roof. Brand new fabric roof in 1989, is now coming loose and torn. There is a seam and edge loose. Imperial roofing will get estimates on repair costs.

Air conditioners fund currently at \$3,498.25

Elder Report: Helen to send us a list of graduating students. Graduation set for third Sunday of May. We will start contacting (244 members) to receive feedback about our Church.

Liaison Report: None

Pastor's Report: Wanted to thank everyone for helping cover Easter Sunday. Kathy and Mike for facilitating the Easter breakfast. Special thank you to Barb Rich for all her work while Pastor was sick and being so flexible. Sharing that there is strong on-line viewing for Sunday worships and the Easter Holiday. Discussing "God Loves You" campaign. Pastor working on a letter to share with people that may not feel comfortable or feel they will not be accepted at church for whatever reason.

New Business: Members of the Council and terms to be clearly listed for all members to access. Beth G to work on updating and confirming members and term dates.

Motion to adjourn by Beth G. Seconded by Eli Bahrenfuse.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Traci Bahrenfuse

These minutes have not yet been approved by Council

THANK YOU !!!
“Faith Fun” for New Air Conditioning Units

April 29, 2024

Thank You to.....

Everyone who donated items for the Silent Auction – we had some really nice things.

A Big thank you to our Bid Winners.

And thank you so much for all the monetary donations.

All of the above was fantastic!

Our sincere thank you to the people who donated the food and helped with the Hot Beef, Mash Potato, and Gravy, and Ice Cream Sundaes for our Noon Luncheon.

Everything was delicious and we had so many people that attended
to enjoy it and join in the fun!

Thank you to the people that helped with the 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, Marilyn Lahmann and Marlene Snelling ~

Thankful
&
Blessed

Women of Faith

There will be a short meeting of the Women of Faith after the service on May 5th. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. All women of the church are invited.

Faith United Church of Christ is offering Summer Day Camp



Open for Children
PK-5th Grade

**Play
Grow**

May 28th - August 23rd
OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY
7AM - 5:30PM
408 S Main St. Tripoli, IA



Please email for more information: miliush@tripoli.k12.ia.us or
tbahren@gmail.com

Made with PosterMyWall.com

The summer day camp is looking for donations of gift cards or money to local grocery stores to help offset the cost of meals for the summer program. The school is most likely not going to do the summer food program, this will add an extra expense for the program. Thank you for all the support for the summer day camp.

FARM PLANT SALE & LAMB VIEWING

On Sunday, May 5th from 10 am to 5 pm you are invited for a family-friendly day at the Yellow Table Farm, 1469 Norfolk Ave., Tripoli. There will be a plant sale of heirloom tomato, pepper plants and many other plants. There will also be a lamb viewing. Come spend an afternoon at the farm!

May Birthdays

May 1	Joel Martin
May 2	Linda Anderson
May 3	Bob Sassman
	Nadine Schnurstein
May 4	Jeremy Nelson
	Larry Struck
	Justin Dahlstrom
May 7	Karson Liddle
May 8	Carol Hahn
May 12	Kim Bunce
	Dawn Dahlstrom
May 15	Ruth Kirchhoff
	Reed Osborn
	Linda Schumacher
May 16	Emrie Bahrenfuse
May 17	Don Bunce
May 18	Verlyn Buls
May 19	Samantha Johnson
	Anthony Marquis
May 22	Kevin Buhrow
May 27	Shawn Buchholz
	Everett Bahrenfuse
May 28	Doretta Brandhorst
	Monica Franzen
May 30	Edward Brandt
	Donna Funk

Faith United Church of Christ FinancesGeneral Fund 2024 (thru 4/24/24)

	<u>April</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$12,789.24		
Expenses	\$ 9,720.97	\$ 9,973.36	\$ (251.39)

Year-to-date 2024

Offerings	\$42,744.19		
Expenses	\$45,224.10	\$51,359.61	\$ (6,135.51)

Cemetery Operations Fund 2024March 2024

Portfolio Value	\$64,523.87
Checking Account Balance	143.59
Savings Account Balance	<u>2,649.94</u>
TOTAL	\$68,143.40

Worship by the numbers...April 2024

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
April 7	66	52	\$2,133.88
April 14	53	39	\$3,231.00
April 21	95	25	\$1,926.00
April 28	72	19	\$2,294.00

May Anniversaries

May 17	Brian & Helen Milius
	Glen & Sandy Ladage
May 30	Daniel & Amy Price

Church Council/Terms

President	Jerry Lahmann
Vice President	Eli Bahrenfuse
Recorder	Traci Bahrenfuse

Elders

Traci Bahrenfuse	1st term expires Jan. 2026
Kara Marsh	2nd term expires Jan. 2027
Vicki Oleson	2nd term expires Jan. 2026
Bonnie Travers	1st term expires Jan. 2025
Kathy Westendorf	1st term expires Jan. 2025

Trustees

Dave Kirchhoff (Head Trustee)	1st term expires Jan. 2026
Eli Bahrenfuse	2nd term expires Jan. 2025
Jerry Lahmann	2nd term expires Jan. 2025
Conrad Marsh	2nd term expires Jan. 2026
Brenda Shinstine	1st term expires Jan. 2025
Dean Shinstine	1st term expires Jan. 2026

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
	Sara Goudschaal
	Dawn Holm
	Mary Jo Rathe