

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

June 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
Jolene Bunce	Dean Boris
Sheryl Johnson	Paula Bruns
Lilia Acero Andrade	
Kesler Schulmeister	

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.

Several years ago, the United Church of Christ had a motto,

To believe is to care, to care is to do.

I particularly like those words because they speak to my understanding of who I am called to be as a faith-filled child of God. I cannot simply profess my faith. I am called to demonstrate it in a variety of ways.

Building on that understanding, Brenda Sievers and I have been chatting about how we shared an interest in providing Faith UCC members and friends of all ages the opportunity to put their faith in motion.

We began by thinking about how we can present volunteering opportunities for members by highlighting volunteer opportunities in the area. Then our discussion went down some other paths (as enlivening conversations often do) and we began envisioning activities that could bring folks together (both from the church and the community) by participating in something they *currently* enjoy or *might* enjoy or *want* to enjoy but don't know how. While we still want to do some work on volunteering options, we decided bringing folks together was a good place to begin building community.

If you didn't already know, Brenda is part of a writing group in Florida. She has shared selections from her writing (some inspirational, some humorous, some touching, all enjoyable) with the Faith UCC Tuesday Morning Book Study group and we are big fans! Brenda has volunteered to share her gift and passion for writing with the rest of us.

I love the way Brenda offers her writing group idea by asking, "Have you ever thought about writing down some of your life stories? We ALL have stories! Then perhaps we could share some of our stories with others, like our nursing home residents for example."

We also talked about learning other types of skills together – making a pie, a special cookie, a bowl of chili or another favorite family recipe. We could then share our "results" with others. We have some wonderful bakers and cooks in our congregation who we hope will be willing to teach us their skill. Brenda is one of them. While in Florida, she learned how to make gnocchi (yum!) from her Italian friends and is ready to share her knowledge!

We also have folks in the congregation who can knit. Crochet. Sew. Paint. Garden. We have so many opportunities for people of all ages to learn together and grow together.

How about you? Is there something you would like to learn? Is there a skill you would be willing to share? It starts with a ripple. A ripple that can spread beyond just Faith UCC.

To believe is to care, to care is to do.

There are many ways we can care and share our skills with others, and through that our faith and our love shines through. We've listed just a few – what ideas might you have? Brenda and I would love to hear them. Let's chat!

~ Pastor Marilynn

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
May 6th, 2024

Members in Attendance: Jerry Lahmann, Vicki Oleson, Kathy Westendorf, Eli Bahrenfuse, Conrad Marsh, Kara Marsh, Bonnie Travers, and Dave Kirchhoff

Members in Attendance via Zoom: None.

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Barb Hill and Helen Milius

Absent Members: Brenda Shinstine and Dean Shinstine and Traci Bahrenfuse

Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Summer Day Camp: This year we have 18 children enrolled and registered. Staff and high school helpers are confirmed. Looking into weekly outing/activity for enrolled children and any child(ren) in the community wanting to participate. They would be charged at a higher rate. Looking into donations (gift cards) to help fund the breakfasts/lunches for the children. Also, looking into once weekly free lunch for any child in the community, looking into funding and options to ensure we can support this service. There has been people willing to donate for the food already. Will need a high school helper every day this year. All profits from the day camp will end back at the Church. Bonnie made the motion to approve Wednesday meals, Kara seconded.

Approval of the April 2nd Minutes: Dave made a motion of striking last sentence from Memorial Minutes about him covering the CD. Dave motioned to approve revised minutes; Vicki seconded.

Treasurer Report: A/C fund has been covered. We had a \$5,000 donation and the Women of Faith will finish covering the bill when it comes with the donations from the silent auction. Thanks to all congregation members for their donations. Conrad motion to approve., Kathy seconded.

Trustee Report: Discuss quote from Imperial Roofing to fix Ed Building roof. Some minor fixes required. Six items needing repaired. Estimate is not to exceed \$1980. Roof is 30 + years old. Trustees recommend proceeding. With the quote being under \$2000 no need for congregational approval. Motion to plant trees for Trevor Stalhut per Keith's request made by Bonnie, seconded by Vicki. Alliant Energy nights and weekends program will save us around \$726/year. Kathy motion to approve it, seconded by Vicki. We are waiting to find out about Nest thermostats. We will discuss flash water heaters in the future to save some energy vs electric water heaters.

Elder Report: Beth G resigned as head elder after the last council meeting (April 2nd). Looking into backfills to cover as Elder. Vicki has agreed to be the Head Elder. Kathy motioned for Vicki to replace Beth, Seconded by Kara.

Faith UCC has one Tripoli Senior graduating the year — Hunter Johnson.

There is one student eligible for confirmation in the fall. After conversation with parents and student, the decision has been made to teach a one-student confirmation.

Discussion on bringing coffee in the Narthex. Orchestrating and cleanup will be needed.

Liaison Report: Memorial committee renewed the CD's. Profits from the CD will come as a check straight to the Church. The committee is running smoothly with the new members. Committee meeting soon to go over by laws.

Pastor's Report: Next Sunday is Graduation Sunday, Pentecost Sunday and end of Sunday School. Week of May 13th, Pastor will be out of office Tuesday-Thursday.

It has been suggested to reach out to people that have visited before in order to do that we need to confirm people are signing the guestbook with an address and or phone number.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Talk about moving church service to 9 am during summer. The organists have all said it would work for them. Motion to approve after discussion with the congregation on preferred service time made by Kara, seconded by Kathy.

Need to find someone to head up the coffee in the Narthex.

Motion to adjourn by Dave, seconded by Kara

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Eli Bahrenfuse

These minutes have not yet been approved by Council



The invoice for the new air conditioning units has been paid! Thank you to all who made that possible by so generously donating funds — we are ready for the summer heat!

Summer Wednesday Lunches

Beginning Wednesday, June 12, the Faith UCC Day Camp will be inviting children (ages 1-18) of the community to join the Day Camp children for lunch. Lunch will be served from 11-11:30. The menu for June is:

June 12 Spaghetti & Beef Sauce

June 19 Hot dog on a bun

June 26 Mac & Cheese

All meals will be served with vegetables, fruit, & milk

If you would like to donate funds for this community meal at Faith UCC, please contact Shawntelle Moore, 319.231.7894.



Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, June 2 and continuing through Sunday, August 25, the Faith UCC Sunday morning worship will begin at 9:00 am.

Have You Wondered What Heaven is Like?

Have you wondered what heaven is like? Will our pets be in heaven? Kraig Kroemer lives in Cedar Falls and he had the opportunity to visit heaven during his open heart surgery at Mayo Clinic 3 years ago. Kraig would like to share his spiritual experience on Saturday, June 29th at Heritage Methodist Church, 102—230th St., Waverly at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Make plans to attend and bring someone with you to hear Kraig's inspiring and powerful experience. This is a free event open to all ages. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Bonnie Travers, facilitator for Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group, 702.203.9567.



Summer Bible Study

Bonnie Travers will be leading a summer Bible study looking at the New Testament in the book, "The Story." This study will be on Tuesday afternoons for about one hour starting June 18th at 2:00 pm. The study will last approximately 9 weeks. To learn more or to sign up, please contact Bonnie at 702.203.9567.



<http://Nubiagroup.blogspot.com/>

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Hunter Johnson**, Tripoli High School 2024 graduate! Faith UCC sends our best wishes to you as your life journey continues!



Congratulations to **Roger Goudschaal** who was selected as the 2024 Tripoli Friend of Education. Through his annual work on the Tripoli Variety Show helping to raise funds for the Tripoli Fine Arts programs and the many other ways he volunteers his time, talents, and treasures to the school, we think the committee made a great decision!

Congratulations to **Darlys Buhrow** who retired from Tripoli Schools after many years of service! How many kids do you suppose have ridden on her bus? Undoubtedly, she has made lots of memories with the Tripoli school kids. Darlys, we thank you for all you have done for the school through the years! Enjoy your retirement!



Kim Bunce

Congratulations to **Kim Bunce**, Wartburg College Office Coordinator of Scholarships and Gift Planning, on her retirement. Kim worked for the college for 35 years and helped to make a big difference in the lives of countless students. Enjoy your retirement, Kim!

Thank You!!!

From our **Drop-A-Stitch** group...

We want to thank all those who have donated to our yarn supply. We will keep “stitchin’!”



Thank you, **Keith Stahlhut**, for using your son Trevor’s memorial money to gift the church with five trees. Throughout the church campus, Eli has planted (thank you, Eli) a Red Bud, an Autumn Fantasy Maple, an Autumn Blaze Maple, a Fall Fiesta Maple, and two Pear trees — one Bartlett and one D’Anjou. The two pear trees are planted near the sidewalk on the northeast corner of the lot. It is Keith’s hope that when the pear trees begin producing fruit, passersby will take a pear and enjoy!

On Tuesday, May 21, an EF4 tornado hit the city of Greenfield and in approximately one minute damaged or destroyed 153 homes. Faith UCC quickly responded by notifying church members and the Tripoli community that we would be collecting items requested by the Greenfield UMC for the community. On Sunday, May 26, Jackie Kuhrt-Hansen and her family packed up the MANY donations and delivered them to Greenfield. Together we helped to make a difference!



On Sunday, May 12, the home of Josh Franzen and family was destroyed by fire. Fortunately no one was injured but the family lost everything. Once again the members of Faith UCC responded generously with monetary gifts and gift cards to the Franzen family. Caring for others, just like Jesus said. Livin’ the Gospel, Faith UCC! We are livin’ the Gospel!

June Birthdays

June 1	Marilyn Lahmann Helen Milius
June 3	Jean Bentley
June 8	Caleb Marsh Megan Newbrough
June 10	McKinna Benson Tamara Rosol
June 11	Karen Buchholz
June 12	Joan Struck
June 13	Austin Newbrough
June 14	Marlys Biermann Justin Hoppenworth David Kirchhoff
June 15	Sara Blessing Pat Warner
June 16	Zachary Johnson
June 18	Angie Buchholz Lori Dahlstrom
June 19	Brenda Sievers
June 21	Corey Rosol
June 23	Kennedy Drewis
June 25	Jerry Snelling
June 26	Juanita Nuss
June 28	Grant Goudschaal
June 29	June Buhr

June Anniversaries

June 3	Roger & Darlene Buchholz
June 8	Gerald & Marilyn Lahmann
June 14	Patti & Troy Mehman
June 17	Steve & Dawn Dahlstrom
June 20	Duane & Sandra Ryherd

Faith United Church of Christ Finances**General Fund 2024**

	<u>May</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$22,673.17		
Expenses	\$26,273.39*	\$12,091.33	\$14,182.06

Year-to-date 2024

Offerings	\$67,731.36		
Expenses	\$74,741.67	\$65,445.41	\$ 9296.26

*includes new A/C expense

Cemetery Operations Fund 2024April 2024

Portfolio Value	\$62,056.04
Checking Account Balance	143.59
Savings Account Balance	<u>2,650.52</u>
TOTAL	\$65,673.93

Church Council/Terms

President	Jerry Lahmann
Vice President	Eli Bahrenfuse
Recorder	Traci Bahrenfuse

Elders

Vicki Olesen (Head Elder)	2nd term expires Jan. 2026
Traci Bahrenfuse	1st term expires Jan. 2026
Kara Marsh	2nd term expires Jan. 2027
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

Worship by the numbers...**May 2024**

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
May 5	56	41	\$1,929.00
May 12	70	33	\$1,293.00
May 29	66	32	\$3,041.00
May 26	50	29	\$11,324.00

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 Sara Goudschaal Dawn Holm Mary Jo Rathe