

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

September 2024

Tripoli, IA

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

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Carol Kammeyer      | Dean Shinstine |
| Nadine Schnurstein  | Keith Stahlhut |
| Mary Ann Meyer      | Paula Bruns    |
| Dean Boris          | Sheryl Johnson |
| Kesler Schulmeister |                |

We hold in prayer our members in home...

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Darlene Bahlmann      | Velda Lynch |
| 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 mourn with Carol Kammeyer on the death of her daughter-in-law Leian. May the memories guide you and your family through these days of sadness and may you find comfort in knowing that for Leian all struggle has ended and she is resting safely in God's loving arms.

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



The prevailing theory is that Mahatma Gandhi is credited with this quote. However, some say it was condensed into a sound bite from a longer Gandhi quote. Still others suggest it was said by someone else entirely. Let's set all that aside and focus on the meaning of those words:

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Most of us feel a bit verklempt as we attempt to navigate the chaos of the world outside of our own home. Maybe even sometimes there too. Our emotions of turmoil and commotion and confusion seem so overwhelming at times. We look at leaders of our country...our community...our school...our church and say, “Why can't you fix this!” Yes, sometimes our desires for change require steps out of our reach -- the passage of new laws or the establishment of new rules to guide us to those changes we wish to see. But are they really? God has given us voice and wisdom and abilities to speak up, write about, lend support, take actions that let others know that we believe there is a better way.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he shared these thoughts with them...

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

~Romans 12:1-2

In other words, be the change you wish to see in the world. Be changed from the inside out by God's love and you can help change the world. You know what God wants. You know what Jesus taught about welcoming others and loving others and feeding others and offering care not just to those in your immediate group of friends but to those living on the margins. To those experiencing life challenges you can't even imagine.

“Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.”

Listen to Ghandi. Listen to Paul. Listen to God. Be the change.

*Pastor Marilyn*

*Smile,  
God  
Loves  
You*

Faith United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Kara Marsh

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Keith Stahlhut, Helen Milius, Shawntelle Moore and Barb Hill.

Absent Members: Traci Bahrenfuse and Dean Shinstine

Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Motion made by Bonnie Travers to accept Sharon McLavey as elder to replace Beth Goudschaal, second by Dave Kirchoff. Thank you, Sharon, for answering this call.

Approval of the July Minutes: Motion to approve by Bonnie Travers, seconded by Dave Kirchoff

Treasurer Report: Motion to approve treasurer report by Eli Bahrenfuse, second by Conrad Marsh. Dave noted we are down approximately 50% of the budgeted amount for utilities due to changes that we have made. For this month we have a credit and did not need to make a payment. Confirming the changes are working!

Trustee Report: The roof repair on the Ed building is done and the bill for \$1,570 has been paid. It has been noted the canopy on the Ed building is deteriorating and needs repair. Quote to fix it came in at \$1,800. Trustees are discussing if they want to hire out for this repair or if it is something the trustee and property committee could repair making it less costly. Landscaping rock has been placed around the church. Thank you to Mike Westendorf, Dave Kirchoff, and Eli Bahrenfuse. It was decided to not go with any plants at this time. The bill for this project will be put together by Eli and will be given to "The Women of Faith" who have set money aside for this project. A few other small projects will need done this fall, such as bringing in black dirt and seeding some areas. A big thank you to Mike Westendorf for power washing the roof of the narthex and put down a mildew resistant product. Trustees will discuss next year if the congregation will continue the lawn mowing or to hire it out, since getting people to assist with mowing is challenging. The savings is estimated at \$1,500-\$1,800 a year.

Keith Stahlhut attended the trustee meeting and discussed putting in two memorial benches along with Bonnie Travers. One for his son and one for Bonnie's son. The benches would be 5 feet long, set at an angle on a concrete slab that will be 12' wide and 10' deep. To sit by the pear trees with a planter in between. Keith will take it to the city to make sure there are no problems with doing this memorial behind the sidewalk by the parsonage. The motion was made by Sharon McLavey to approve the drawing of the proposal and seconded by Kathy Westendorf, pending city approval.

Elder Report: We will be setting a meeting to finalize the bylaws. The church service will be shown on the church Facebook page but we need to wait another month or so per Facebook rules. Until then it will be on Pastor's Facebook page. Traci is working on updating the church website. We will leave the welcome sign out front while the weather is nice to welcome everyone! Head ushers were asked to ring the bell on Sunday before church or if unable to find someone since Steve is very busy at that time with the video and screen.

Pastor's Report: Pastor was contacted by Grace to check if she could help out with emergencies, and she has agreed. She also as agreed to help with funerals and has been doing this since Grace is without a Pastor at this time.

Old Business: Helen Milius and Shawntelle reported the day camp has been very successful! They wish to thank everyone who sponsored a meal and those who assisted with food donations. They reported there will be at least \$2,000 going to the church as a profit after paying all the bills. Helen reported she does not want to work the day camp next year, she is finding she needs more time off in the summer. She did agree to stay on as advisor, and to stay on the committee. Shawntelle is hoping to get school lunches back next year. Council does feel it is a great mission and a benefit to the community. Day camp personnel will meet late September or early October with the final numbers and council will discuss whether we want to move forward with day camp next summer, and to look for someone to replace Helen. Thank you to everyone who made the day camp a success! Thank you, Barb Hill, for doing the extra tax work that was needed. It has been a great service for our community!

New Business: None.

Motion to adjourn by Brenda Shinstine. Seconded by Kathy Westendorf

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:  
Bonnie Travers

Minutes have not yet been approved by Council



Crock Pot Missing!!

The church is missing one of the large crock pots. Please return to the church kitchen if you have borrowed it.

Thanks you.



Beginning Sunday, September 1,  
worship will return to 10:00 am

On Sunday, September 8,  
Sunday School returns at 9:00 am.

Adult Ed will begin on Sunday,  
October 13 at 9:00 am

Be sure to practice some self-care...

WHAT POSITIVE EXPERIENCES OR MOMENTS BROUGHT ME JOY TODAY?

DID I ENCOUNTER ANY CHALLENGES, AND HOW DID I MANAGE THEM?

**QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION**

WHAT AM I GRATEFUL FOR TODAY?

WHAT GOALS OR INTENTIONS CAN I SET FOR TOMORROW?

United Church of Christ™  
**MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK**

\* \* \* \* \*

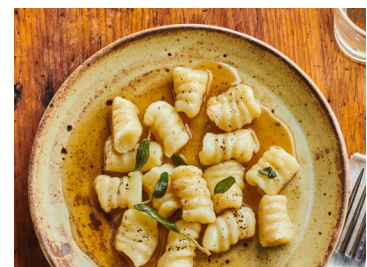


Make a Note!

The Women of Faith will have a meeting on Sunday, September 8, 2024 following the Worship Service. We will meet at the corner table in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to at-

Let's Make Gnocchi!

On Saturday, September 7th at 10:30 am, Brenda Sievers will be leading another "How to Make Gnocchi" class. Contact Brenda at 319.239.6528 with questions or to let her know you are interested. If possible, please bring a cookie sheet and \$3 to cover the cost of ingredients.



**Tripoli Celebration Days Lunch**

Thank You to.....  
all of you that donated Pies and Dessert.  
Thank you to.....  
the people that took Tickets.  
Thank you to .....  
our Servers at the Serving Line  
Thank you to.....  
the person for putting the Sign out each day.  
Thank you to.....  
our youth helping in the Dining Room  
Thank You to....  
the person for preparing all the Pork Loins  
Thank you to.....  
the people for cleanup in the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall  
Thank you to.....  
our Well Seasoned Faithful Ladies for preparing all the Food and Kitchen Duties

**A Huge and Special Thank You to.....**

the people that donated the following items:  
Hamburger - Pork Loins - Bake Beans - Potato Salad - Potato Chips – Buns - Lemonade -  
Napkins - Place mats – Plates – Glasses - Plastic Silverware - Carryout containers...  
because of the above donations our luncheon was **ALL PROFIT.**  
~THANK YOU~ ~THANK YOU~ ~THANK YOU~

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~

Karen Milius-Marlene Snelling



September Birthdays

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

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/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  |
| Sharon McLavey            | 2nd term expires Jan. 2027* |
| Bonnie Travers            | 1st term expires Jan. 2025  |
| Kathy Westendorf          | 1st term expires Jan. 2025  |

Trustees

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dave Kirchoff (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 |

\*Sharon is completing the term of Beth Goudschaal

Faith United Church of Christ FinancesGeneral Fund 2024

|           | <u>August</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Offerings | \$ 7,087.20   |               |                 |
| Expenses  | \$10,075.40   | \$11,290.84   | (\$1,215.44)    |

Year-to-date 2024

|           |              |              |            |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Offerings | \$89,067.33  |              |            |
| Expenses  | \$110,204.63 | \$106,148.67 | \$ 4056.02 |

Cemetery Operations Fund 2024July 2024

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Portfolio Value          | \$62,522.19     |
| Checking Account Balance | 833.84          |
| Savings Account Balance  | <u>3,151.43</u> |
| TOTAL                    | \$69,207.46     |

Worship by the numbers...August 2024

|        | <u>In-person<br/>Attendance</u> | <u>Online<br/>Viewing</u> | <u>General<br/>Offering</u> |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aug 4  | 64                              | 22                        | \$1,770.00                  |
| Aug 11 | 52                              | 25                        | \$624.00                    |
| Aug 18 | 58                              | 29                        | \$1,939.00                  |
| Aug 25 | 61                              | 33                        | \$2,282.00                  |

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<br>Phoebe Drape<br>Sara Goudschaal<br>Dawn Holm<br>Mary Jo Rathe |