

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

January 2025

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
Sheryl Johnson	
Kesler Schulmeister	
Susan Cline	

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Darlene Bahlmann	Velda Lynch
Orlyn Milius	JoAnn Steward
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.



For you, the members and friends of Faith UCC, and for me, 2025 will have many new experiences. Some will be easier than others...some will be joy-filled...some will be sad...some will be filled with apprehension, but all will be important steps upon our journey together and apart.

When this meme recently came across my Facebook feed, I found much comfort in its words and in its truth. While we are all a bit unsure of the events and adventures that await each of us in 2025, what we must be sure of is that we do not walk these steps alone.

While what we have shared together these past 17 years has been amazing, it is important for us to also remember that our journey together was indeed due to a God nudge. As many of you have heard me say, as soon as the Iowa UCC Associate Conference Minister told me about a church in Tripoli that was looking for a minister, I felt a stirring that I knew was God telling me, "This is the one." As always (no surprise), God was right!

As I bring my ministry to a close at Faith UCC, I know without a doubt that God continues to watch over this congregation. And when the time is right (and yes, it will take some time) God will whisper to someone else, "This is the one" and a new amazing journey will begin!

Blessings and love,

*Pastor Marilyn*

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

Members in Attendance: Jerry Lahmann, Kathy Westendorf, Bonnie Travers, Brenda Shinstine, Traci Bahrenfuse, Conrad Marsh, Dean Shinstine, Vicki Oleson, Eli Bahrenfuse, Sharon McLavey, and Dave Kirchhoff

Members in Attendance via Zoom: None

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Barb Hill, Steve Hill

Absent Members: Kara Marsh

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Opening Prayer

Approval of the November 4th Minutes: Motion to approve by Vicki Oleson, seconded by Bonnie Travers.

Treasurer Report: Correction will be made to Office supplies in non-budgeted showing on the treasurer report. Being reimbursed back into office expense account. Budget looking great for the year. Motion to approve by Conrad Marsh. Seconded by Dean Shinstine.

Trustee Report: Brenda, Dean, Eli, Mike, and Dave completed the canopy on the Ed building. Nest thermostat on timer no need to adjust temperature. In regards to the church basement, contacted Rusty Berger from Waukon with Rusty Berger Masonry will inspect walls and determine issues. Suggested tile drain and sealer on the basement/foundation would help regardless but will still inspect to confirm.

2025 budget will need finalized in December to discuss in January and will be available to present at the annual meeting. Putting together annual reports, office will request directly with the committees.

Major project for 2025 will focus on the basement. Property committee will review any other issues and will bring to council.

Elder Report: Will share updated bylaws at the Annual Meeting. Need volunteers to create committees to support the new and updated bylaws. We need a nominating committee and search committee for new Pastor. President and Vice President terms are up end of January.

Need to continue coffee and water in the narthex before church. Office will purchase creamer, water, cups and coffee to have on hand at all times.

Traci sending Kathy a list of the Sunday school students for the Christmas sacks.

Pastor's Report: Great first Sunday of Advent hanging the greens. Great time visting Willow Winds. Looking forward to Christmas and all services in December.

Pastor has notified everyone of all external contacts of her resignation. Motion to accept Pastors resignation dated November 23<sup>rd</sup> with end date of January 30<sup>th</sup> made by Dave Kirchoff and seconded by Traci Bahrenfuse. Pastor is creating a master file of special services, passwords, lectionary resources etc. for a knowledge transfer for interim/new pastor.

Last day for Pastor Marilyn will be the last day of January. She is requesting to live in the patronage for additional month, motion to approve Traci Bahrenfuse seconded by Kathy Westendorf. She also requested to be paid out four weeks of vacation. Motion to approve by Conrad Marsh. Seconded by Brenda Stinstine.

Old Business: Confirmand will be confirmed end of January. Pastor, mentor and confirmands' parents in agreement that Everett is ready for his next step in faith and becoming a member of the Church.

New Business: Conference contacted for transition of Pastor Marilyn's retirement and backfill. They will be reaching out in the next week. We will want an interim Pastor. Once we understand the feedback from the congregation, we can align our church pre-requisite/profile. Once completed we will send out a request to the Conference. Then the Conference will open our request to Pastors looking for employment. The search committee will review applicants and have them come in to perform Sunday service and the congregation will vote.

Motion to adjourn by Kathy Westendorf, seconded by Jerry Lahmann.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:  
Traci Bahrenfuse

Minutes have not been approved by Council

### Women of Faith

There will be a short meeting of the Women of Faith on Sunday, January 12th following worship in the Fellowship Hall. We would like to take an offering at this meeting. In the past we had taken an offering at our annual Christmas party and sent the donation to the Tripoli Nursing and Rehab Activity Fund. All women of the church are invited to attend.



# Thank you

Pastor Marilyn has served our community for the past 17 years with faith-filled service and professionalism. She has been with us bringing us husbands and wives together during memorable marriage services, we have all stood with her as she baptized our babies into our faith community; and she has compassionately and prayerfully walked with us as we grieve the loss of loved ones. We sincerely thank her for her years in ministry assuring that we, her congregation, were nurtured in our faith. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless her in her future endeavors providing her retirement with much happiness, good health and peace.

President Jerry Lahmann



THANK YOU to the Faith congregation for the generous Christmas gift. I enjoyed seeing all the members who stopped in during this holiday season. It was fun to see the many smiling faces that I normally don't get to see. John and I had a wonderful Christmas with our kids and grandkids. Extra bonus was the nice weather to build big snowmen with the grandkids.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Barb Rich

I am once 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 to those unable to attend in person. Thank you to our Altar Committee — Karen, Kayla, and Ruth — for creating the lovely altar and taking care of the poinsettias! A big thank you to Kathy Westendorf who diligently worked to create and provide an Advent Craft for all ages. To the Sunday School teachers and students, thank you for gifting us with scripture and music that allowed us to remember the true meaning of Christmas. We also experienced the joy of the season thanks to our weekly musicians, the adult choir, and our Christmas Eve soloists — Ameliya Reeves and Roger Goudschaal, the duet of Beth Goudschaal and Sara Blessing, and the Milius Family Trio — Helen, Kayla, and Kimberly. 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 service, thank you for being a part of this celebration of the arrival of God's Son into our world. May his light continue to shine among us all year long!

In gratitude and love,

Pastor Marilyn



The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 19 at 10 am. Printed Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 12th. 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.

### Year End Statements

Year-End Giving Statements will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, January 12. After January 31, they can be picked up in the office. If you are unable to pick up your statement, we can email or mail it to you

## Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteers are needed to prepare the communion elements each month. These once-a-month Sunday morning tasks include filling the communion cups, place the bread for the trays, take the elements to the sanctuary, and arrange them on the communion table. Following worship the cups need to be gathered, the remaining elements placed back on the cart, and returned to the kitchen. Trays cleaned and put away and communion cups washed. If interested, please call the

church office 319.882.3585, Marilyn Lahmann at 319.882.3327 or Marlys Biermann at 319.882.4227.

Among the many things Pat Warner has done for Faith UCC through the years, has been serving as the organizer of our Prayer Chain. When a prayer request is received by Pastor Marilyn, she has notified Pat who in turn has contacted the first person on the prayer chain calling list. After many, many years, Pat is retiring from this task. We thank her deeply for her compassion and dedication to the members and friends of Faith. If you would like to step into Pat's role, please contact Pastor Marilyn. Additionally, if you are not on the Prayer Chain calling list and would like to be included to receive notifications when others are in need of prayer, please also contact Pastor Marilyn.



January Birthdays

January 3	Marian Meyer
January 6	Phoebe Drape
January 7	Alfred Gloede
January 8	Brian Milius
	Velda Lynch
January 10	Darlene Bahlmann
January 11	Maquire Johnson
January 14	Ron Quigley
January 15	Max Moeller
January 19	Mary Ann Meyer
January 20	Katlyn Marquis
January 21	Donna Sassman
January 23	Kathy Westendorf
January 24	Shawn Marquis
January 24	Delaney Marsh
January 25	Paisley Liddle
January 27	Brian Buchholz
January 30	Shane Buchholz
	Marlys Ryan

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

	<u>December</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$14,984.63		
Expenses	\$16,578.01	\$18,631.58	(\$2,053.57)

Year-to-date 2024

Offerings	\$143,328.43		
Expenses	\$162,567.72	\$166,693.55	(\$4,125.83)

Cemetery Operations Fund 2024November 2024

Portfolio Value	\$67,463.63		
Checking Account Balance	39.14		
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,152.67</u>		
TOTAL	\$68,655.44		

Worship by the numbers...December 2024

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
Dec. 1	56	42	\$1,489.00
Dec. 8	80	24	\$3,993.00
Dec. 15	38	27	\$2,862.40
Dec. 22	39	28	\$2,365.00
Dec. 24	122	30	\$1,966.00
Dec. 29	48	33	\$1,718.00

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 McClavey	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 a term

Faith UCC Staff

Pastor	Rev. Marilyn Sargent
Admin. Assistant	Barb Rich
Financial Secretary	Roger Goudschaal
Treasurer	Barb Hill
Custodian	Samantha Rossum
Director of Music	Beth Goudschaal
Musicians	June Buhr
	Phoebe Drape
	Sara Goudschaal
	Dawn Holm
	Mary Jo Rathe