

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

February 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	

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.

Hello, Fellow Faith UCC Members –

What a whirlwind of events. As we work through the Retirement of our beloved Pastor, we are looking towards the future with great anticipation. The upcoming months will look a little different as the Council navigates through the process of backfilling Pastor Marilyn's daily duties and confirming Pulpit supply for the upcoming Sundays. We are working diligently during this trying time.

We do have all services in February covered under Pulpit supply. We would like to notify all members that there will be no Communion offered in February but will be moving forward on the first Sunday of each month.

We are excited to announce that Hope Overflow will be leading our worship on the 2nd of February. We will do a free will donation again. We look forward to another great service with them. We will have an informational meeting on the 9th of February. We will take this time to share all updates the Council has confirmed and all avenues we are pursuing moving forward. Finding and hiring a new Pastor is a long process, we are working closely with the Conference and following their plan of action, process chart. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to have them ready during this service. Mike Westendorf will be leading our worship on the 16th of February. Brad Braley will be leading our worship on the 23rd of February.

Please take special note that the best way to get ahold of Barb Rich regarding any matters for our Church would be by email at faithuccchurch@gmail.com or calling the church directly at 319-882-3585, please note the office will only be open Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 3pm. The Council did obtain a new cell phone for our Church, this number is 319-327-4441, you can either text or call this number. In the interim of getting a full-time Pastor, a member of the council will have this phone to answer any urgent concerns, issues, or needs of our members.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6



Many Blessings,
Faith UCC Council Members

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minute
January 6, 2025

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

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Bonnie Travers, Kara Marsh

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Barb Hill

Absent Members:

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Opening Prayer

Approval of the December 2nd Minutes: Motion to approve by Eli Bahrenfuse, seconded by Conrad Marsh.

Treasurer Report: Pastor approved two payments on vacation payout if needed to ensure funds are available. Motion to approve by Dean Shinstine and seconded by Vicki Oleson.

Trustee Report: Budget adjusted for next year. Left Pastor pay the same, will circle back if more funds needed for pulpit supply. Raise given to Office Assistant to \$15/hr. She confirmed she will help out with transition as Pastor exits. Increased pulpit supply from \$500 for the year to \$4,800. Current rate \$.70 cents a mile and \$200/ service. Working with local retired pastors and conference to line up fill ins.

Increased yearly pay for video streaming from \$2,000 to \$2,600 for the year.

Add a line item for parsonage repairs and maintenance with a budget of \$2,000 for the year.

Utilities were reduced by \$4,000 for the year. Budget for 2025 is \$158,811.55.

Motion to approve by Vicki Oleson. Seconded by Traci Bahrenfuse.

Working to obtain new cell phone with Pastor's retirement. Sharon McLavey to work with Barb Hill to complete obtaining a cellphone at US Cellular.

Elder Report: Annual Report submitted.

Pastor's retirement party will be Sunday January 26th celebrating after church service during fellowship with the Confirmand. Plan for the open house in the afternoon for the community

Open house Sunday January 26th 2-4pm. Traci will add to the website. Traci will call Tripoli Leader. Announce at Grace Lutheran through a service or note in their bulletin – Kathy to contact.

Special Invites will be handled by Pastor Marilyn

Working on getting a slideshow for this event with pictures from Pastor Marilyn

Collecting and compiling feedback from the calls made to the congregation to help build the profile for what we are looking for in a new pastor and to improve any processes/concerns that were received.

Liaison Report: Wilma Timmerman will be exiting and David Lohmann will be joining the memorial committee. \$3,124 was put into money market and increased the interest from .25% to 1%.

Pastor's Report: Pulpit Supply list shared with Council. Recipe shared for the nut free and gluten free bread shared at Communion. Pastor working to finish documentation to share with Council to help cover her duties after her retirement.

Church directory – Pastor sending contact information to Vicki to get this setup.

Thank you to the Council for sticking together through the highs and lows. You are going to rock it going forward. Love you all, God Bless you all!

Old Business: None.

New Business: Need a nominating committee.

Dave Kirchhoff nominated Mike Westendorf and Jay Raynard for approval by congregation. Both individuals accepted if they are approved.

Thank you to Eli Bahrenfuse and Jerry Lahmann for their amazing leadership and support to our church.

Head Ushers for February: Kathy Westendorf and Vicki Oleson. Will get the rest of the year figured out in the February Meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Kara Marsh, seconded by Kathy Westendorf.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:


Traci Bahrenfuse

Minutes not yet approved by Council

*God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave.
How does the creature say Grace?
How does the creature say Thanks?*

~ "God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale
by Jaroslave J. Vajda

In the summer of 2007, God gifted me by pointing to a congregation in Tripoli, Iowa, and telling me to go. It was a journey that forever changed my life. This past Sunday as we celebrated the culmination of that journey, my thoughts drifted back to that long-ago summer and moved forward through all of the memories we have since created together. As Vajda's lyrics ponder how to say thanks to God, I too find myself struggling to not only find adequate words to offer to God but also to offer to the congregation of Faith UCC. Sunday was absolute perfection – the gift from the congregation, the flowers from Women of Faith, the music, the cake, the food, the smiles, and yes, even the tears touched my heart deeply. To all those who attended or watched online the worship that affirmed my ministry and brought my Faith UCC ministry to a close, as well as to witness the confirmation of Everett – well, if you didn't feel the movement of the Holy Spirit you weren't paying attention. And as the many came in the afternoon to continue the celebration, bringing with them words of encouragement and gratitude – how could I not feel the love? To say a simple "Thank you" feels inadequate and yet how can I possibly express the depth of my gratitude? (I can hear some of you chuckling, "Pastor is actually at a loss for words?" Yes. Yes I am.) But I will try. Thank you to the Council for overseeing Sunday afternoon's event. Thank you to the choir, Phoebe, and Sara for playing and singing some of my favorites during worship. Thank you to our AMAZING kids for all of the cards they made for me! Thank you to all who participated in Sunday's activities. Faith United Church of Christ, you welcomed me in and made me feel loved from the very beginning and as I leave 17 years later, I'm still feeling the love. I know God has much in store for the church. Remember – God IS still speaking!

 Pastor Marilyn

Hope Overflow—February 2nd

We welcome the return of Hope Overflow from Wartburg College to our 10:00 am worship service on February 2nd. Please come and join us as we lift our voices in song. And bring a friend, too. There will be fellowship in the church basement following this special service. We will gather a free will offering for them. **Hope to see you there!**

Mark your Calendars!!

Women of Faith are planning a Luncheon and Silent Auction on Sunday, March 16, 2025. The theme will be Spring/Easter.. **A Basket or related items** will be accepted for this fundraiser. Contact Marlene Snelling or Karen Milius for donations. More details to follow. *Hoping you'll join in the fun!*

There will be a meeting for Women of Faith following worship on Sunday, February 16th. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Get your coffee and please join us. All women are invited.

Lunch Box Contributions

The Lunch Box Fund raised \$150.00! Thanks to everyone who has contributed. We will start again this month. Feel free to contribute.

Thanks, Beth Goudschaal



Newsletter

Newsletter Submission Deadline

Items you would like to add to the March newsletter need to be sent to faithuccchurch@gmail.com or contact Barb in the Church Office by February 20th.

February Birthdays

Feb. 5	Teddy Ladage
Feb. 7	Cheryl Dahlstrom
Feb. 9	Steve Hill
	Marlene Snelling
Feb. 10	Jay Ranard
	Traci Bahrenfuse
Feb. 11	Sandi Snyder
Feb. 12	Carol Kammeyer
	Asher Milius
Feb. 14	Bailey Klein
Feb. 15	Mason Penrod
Feb. 16	Spencer Snelling
Feb. 20	Darlys Buhrow
Feb. 24	Kristi Ladage
Feb. 28	Joyce Kammeyer

Faith United Church of Christ Finances
General Fund 2025

	<u>January</u> *	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$9,983.21		
Expenses	5,783.45		*

Through January 28, 2025

Year-to-date 2025

Offerings	\$9,983.21
Expenses	\$5,783.45

Cemetery Operations Fund 2025

December 2025

Portfolio Value	\$63,747.44
Checking Account Balance	39.14
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,152.92</u>
TOTAL	\$64,939.50

February Anniversaries

Feb. 1	Vicki Oleson & Dave Konopa
Feb. 14	David & Susie Lohmann

Worship by the numbers...

January 2025

	<u>In-person</u> <u>Attendance</u>	<u>Online</u> <u>Viewing</u>	<u>General</u> <u>Offering</u>
Jan. 5	51	56	\$2,047.00
Jan. 12	76	51	\$,1826.00
Jan. 19	not available	32	\$,1,779.00
Jan. 26	119	39	\$ 4,250.00

Church Council/Terms

President
 Vice President TBD Vote 2-3-2025
 Recorder

Elders

Vicki Oleson	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2026
Traci Bahrenfuse	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2026
Kara Marsh	2nd term expires Jan.31, 2027
Sharon McClavey	2nd term expires Jan.31, 2027*
Bonnie Travers	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2025
Kathy Westendorf	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2025

Trustees

Dave Kirchoff	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2026
Mike Westendorf	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2028
Jay Ranard	1st term expires Jan.31, 2028
Conrad Marsh	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2026
Brenda Shinstine	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2025
Dean Shinstine	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2026

*Sharon is completing a term

Faith UCC Staff

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