

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

March 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	Sheryl Johnson
Kesler Schulmeister	

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Darlene Bahlmann	JoAnn Steward
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.

We mourn with the family of Velda Lynch, beloved child of Faith United Church of Christ. We give thanks for Velda's new eternal home with God.

Lenten Study Opportunity

During Lent this year, we will be reading "The Way" by Adam Hamilton. We will begin on Wednesday evening March 12th. The books have been ordered. Please contact the Faith UCC office if you would like a copy. We will also be sharing and discussing a DVD that accompanies this book study. Bonnie Travers will be facilitating this discussion.

We will gather in the Faith Church Fellowship Hall at 5:30 for a Lenten evening meal. We will then remain in Fellowship Hall to begin the book discussion at 6:30.

Join us as we travel with Adam Hamilton as he retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Once again Hamilton approaches his subject matter with thoughtfulness and wisdom. Using historical information, chronological data, and stories of the faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism, to being tempted, including the people he loved, the parables he taught, the enemies he made, and the healing he brought. We will enter Jerusalem, where Jesus was arrested and crucified, then continue this journey with Jesus through his death and resurrection! Please join us for this 6 week Lenten study.

Bonnie was inspired to put together this article after beginning the book "Practicing the Way" by John Mark Comer. The Tuesday morning Zoom Book Group is currently reading this book. If you are interested in joining the Zoom Book Group, please call the Faith UCC office. You are welcome to join!

"The Way"

According to John Mark Comer, author of "Practicing the Way," the original name for the followers of Jesus was "The Way" or "the followers of The Way." Comer cites Saul in Acts Chapter 9: Saul was speaking in the synagogue in Damascus, saying "are any of you following the way?" The Greek word for way is hodos, which literally means a road or path.

Comer goes on to say that the way of Jesus is not just ideas we believe to be true, but more a way of life! Christianity is more than a theory about the universe, more than teaching written down on paper, rather, it is a path along which we journey, in the deepest and richest sense, it is the way of life!

So often in the church much is said about what to believe, what is right or wrong, but little is said about a lifestyle that reflects a relationship with God. Are you in a right relationship with God? Is your heart humble and soft so God can use you? Softer hearts prevail as we ask God for wisdom in troubling times.

Life is hard, and especially now that our church is going through transition and changes. Change is hard and challenging. We sometimes feel with change we are losing a piece of ourselves. Let's face it, loss is hard. How do we navigate change without feeling threatened or lost? We ask God to give us understanding hearts. We are going to all make mistakes as we try to make our way on this new journey of trying to fill pastor Marliyn's shoes.

Continued



If we humble ourselves and give one another grace, and if we ask God to give us wisdom and patience, we can navigate this new path. As we journey together ask yourself how can God use me? Allow Him to transform you for work in his kingdom now and forever. Ask yourself, are you following the way? Jesus said, I am the way and the truth and life. This is a way of life modeled after Jesus himself that is far beyond anything this world can offer. It can open you up to God's presence and power. However it requires you to follow a path marked out for you by Jesus himself. How do we find the right path?

Jesus said enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate that leads to destruction, for many will enter it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. The way of Jesus is narrow, meaning it is a very specific way to live. If you follow it, it will lead you to a life pleasing to God, and the assurance of eternal life in His kingdom. Live your life now and forever in union with Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior.

How do we ensure that our words and actions are pleasing to God? Do our words and actions match? If not, how can God use our earthly circumstances to change our hearts? How can we prevail with softer hearts, forgiving one another. The Bible tells us to spend time studying his word. Communicate your desires in prayer, while listening for that small soft voice nudging you in a particular direction.

Does your thinking line up with Jesus' teachings? He gives us people who love God to help us discern the will of God., through conversations and ideas rooted in prayer from the congregation and direction of the conference. The council will need your patience, prayers and understanding as they travel "the way" that God has set before us. He has put us on a path as followers of the way! May we journey the path with grace and love from our Lord Jesus Christ with soft hearts, listening ears, and forgiving one another.

Lord, help us discern your will in the future of this congregation as we make A Way forward! Amen.

Love in Christ, Bonnie Travers

Lenten Service Schedule

March 5	Ash Wednesday— Bonnie-Smith Davis
March 12	Bonnie Travers—Lent Study
March 19	Bonnie Travers—Lent Study
March 26	Bonnie Travers—Lent Study
April 2	Bonnie Travers—Lent Study
April 9	Bonnie Travers—Lent Study
April 17	Bonnie Travers—Lent Study
April 18	Good Friday— Service with Grace Luth.

Sunday Supply Pastor Schedule

March 2	Mike Westendorf
March 9	Rev. Brad Braley with Communion
March 16	Rev. Kendy Miller (Conference Pastor) with Conversation
March 23	Bonnie Smith-Davis
March 30	Rev. Gary Catterson
April 6	Rev. Amy Wiles with Communion
April 13	Faith UCC Lay Person
April 20	6:30 am Easter Sunrise—Mike W. 10:00 am Rev. Brad Braley
May 4	Rev. Amy Wiles with communion

Cell Phone Number 319-327-4441

Please note that the best way to get ahold of Barb Rich regarding 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 from 9 am to 3 pm. You may leave a message for non-emergency matters. For immediate needs, call or text 319-327-4441.



Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
February 3rd, 2025

Members in Attendance: Kathy Westendorf, Brenda Shinstine, Traci Bahrenfuse, Conrad Marsh, Dean Shinstine, Vicki Oleson, Sharon McLavey, Dave Kirchhoff, Jay Ranard, Mike Westendorf and Kara Marsh

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Bonnie Travers, UCC Conference: Kendy Miller, Jeff Hagaman

Also in Attendance: Barb Hill

Absent Members: None

Opening Prayer by Kathy Westendorf

Meeting called to order by Dave Kirchhoff

UCC Conference Chat: Jeff Hagaman is an expert in the search and call committees. He is a retired Pastor and his previous church is still looking for a full time Pastor after almost two years.

Kendy Miller serves as an associate conference minister. Her job title is Generalist. She specializes in helping build the profile of the church and helping us really discern our needs and wants for a full-time Pastor. Urges us not to make any fast, easy decisions that we may regret later.

The UCC would like us to follow authorization and recommendations for the protection of our church, community and denomination. Two to three people from our congregation could be appointed for leading Communion and Baptisms, if they accept. They would need proper training that is lead by the Conference. Sacramental Servants are not a paid position, and a ten-hour training is required. Lay ministry standing or Licensed pastors, are hired to be bridge Pastors or until we find a full-time Pastor. If any interest Cory and Kendy would be able to walk with those to fulfil this calling.

Flow Chart shared by the Conference: Shows step by step what would be most beneficial for the Church and being successful in forming our search and call committee and finding our next full-time Pastor.

Lots of tools and resources available, one being discernment travel log. Might be a great first step in our path forward.

We should look at this as an opportunity, although a stressful time, we can build off the wants and needs of our congregation and keeping communication open in our path forward.

Approval of the January 6th and January 21st Minutes: Motion to approve by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Brenda Shinstine.

Treasurer Report: Current balance at bank - \$14,251.34 before Sunday's deposit.

Check written for Pastor's two week of vacation. Pastor requested the last two weeks be paid by mid-February. Council approved to pay this out. Motion to pay all four weeks, \$4,250.80 to Pastor by Jay Ranard. Seconded by Bonnie Travers.

Motion to approve the treasurer report by Dean Shinstine. Seconded by Conrad Marsh.

Trustee Report: Problems with moisture on the walls in the basement. Working to get ahold of contractors for quotes, no responses as of yet. In March the property committee will go to the parsonage to check in for what repairs are needed.

Flash water heater for the kitchen, waiting on a quote. May need improved electrical to run this water heater. Couple volunteers, Brian Bunce, Lynn Johnson and Sharon McLavey will help support any needs in the office. In case Barb Rich is out sick or any unforeseen issues come up.

Boiler update: exhaust pump replaced not the issue. Wiring harness replaced and seemed to fix the issue. Checking with Ryan to see if we can return the exhaust pump.

Elder Report: Kathy will make the gluten free bread for Communion in March.

Marlene Snelling announced they will be doing the silent auction/meal on March 23rd.

Will it be possible to do Lenten meals this year? Hoping to have Council help taking turns, serving and cooking.

Sign up for fellowship and liturgists to be passed around church again, seemed to have more volunteers.

Pulpit Supply: covered through April 17th and Easter Sunday covered. Working to continue to fill the remainder of the year.

Old Business: Constitution and bylaws have been reworked. The question is on the Committees, many are not being fulfilled. We may need to update the bylaws.

New Business:

Kara Marsh nominated Dave Kirchoff for President. Seconded by Vicki Oleson.

Traci Bahrenfuse nominated Vicki Oleson for Vice President. Seconded by Jay Ranard.

Vicki Oleson nominated Traci Bahrenfuse as Secretary and seconded by Mike Westendorf.

Traci Bahrenfuse nominated Bonnie Travers for head Elder. Seconded by Vicki Oleson.

Dave Kirchoff nominated Mike Westendorf for head Trustee. Seconded by Jay Ranard.

Working to setup a Retreat for the Council and Committees to review and update to align with the needs of our Church.

Dave Kirchoff and Mike Westendorf as the President and head Trustee have access to checking and savings accounts and the safe deposit box and both the CD's.

Motion to adjourn by Traci Bahrenfuse. Seconded by Kara Marsh.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Lunch Box Contributions

The Lunch Box Fund raised \$185.00! Thanks to everyone who has contributed. We will start again this month. Feel free to contribute.

Thanks, Beth Goudschaal



Coffee Fellowship Servers

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| March 2 | Leland & Wilma Timmerman |
| March 9 | Tamara Rosel |
| March 16 | Steve & Barb Hill |
| March 23 | Lunch & Silent Auction |
| March 30 | Larry & Joan Sturck |

Thank you for serving!

Women of Faith

Women of Faith will have a meeting on Sunday, March 20, 2025, following worship. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Grab a cup of coffee and join us. Everyone is invited to attend.

Lent starts March 4th
Meals and Services will be as follows:
All Meals 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Lenten Services in Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m

March 4th - Shrove Tuesday

*Meal - Pancakes and Sausages served 5:30 -6:30 p.m. No services

~Meals~

We want each group serving to make the **Meals Simple**.
Suggestions could be: Soups, Sandwiches, Pizza, Simple Desserts, Simple Salads,
whatever you choose...Make It Simple.

We would like this to be a Fellowship Time before the Lenten service.

'Lent is a time period to allow us to reflect and open our hearts to Jesus'

March 5th Ash Wednesday *Meal Served By - Church Council Elders

March 12th *Meal Served By - Women of Faith

March 19th *Meal Served By - Education Board and Sunday School

March 26th *Meal Served By - 9:00 Sunday Morning Coffee Group

April 2nd *Meal Served By - Choir and Adult Sunday School Class

April 9th *Meal Served By - Women of Faith

April 17th Maundy Thursday *Meal Served By - Church Council Trustees

April 18th Good Friday Services 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Easter
6:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast—serving after Sunrise Service Event Committee

Easter Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

**Women of Faith
is planning a Lunch and Fundraiser
March 23, 2025**

*Serving Lunch following the Worship Service
Menu will be
Hot Beef Sandwich/Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Plate
Ice Cream Sundae - Beverage*



**SILENT
AUCTION**

Bidding will begin March 2nd through March 23rd.

We would like to invite you to donate a basket (small or large),
a table item or baked item for the Silent Auction.

*Suggested items for a Basket could be: Spring Summer, Easter, Coffee,
Chocolate, Men, Women, BBQ, Child, Breakfast, Pasta, Gift Cards,
Evening Out, Garden, Sport, Spa, etc.
Crafts, Wood Items, Lawn Items, etc.
Pies, Breads, Rolls, etc.*

(Baked items will be brought in on Sunday, March 23 but will be listed on the Bidding Table)

Auction Items need to be at the Church Fellowship Hall by February 28th.
Please contact Marlene Snelling or Karen Milius with questions, details or ideas.

We ask that you kindly let Marlene or Karen know if you are planning
a donation so we will have ample table space.

Everyone is invited to participate in this FUN Event!

All proceeds will go towards repairing our Church Walls

“We do not want the walls to come tumbling done” Joshua 6:20

March Birthdays

March 1	JoEllen Snelling-Behn
March 3	Glen Ladage
March 4	Todd Quigley
March 5	Corbin Liddle
March 7	Verona Biermann
March 10	Darlene Buchholz
March 13	Kaitlin Westendorf
March 15	Kenny Buhrow Taylor Marsh
March 16	Delores Schmidt Steve Schmidt
March 17	Conrad Marsh
March 18	Kristian Heidemann
March 21	Zachery Burhow
March 22	Matthew Moeller
March 30	Gary Moeller Holly Johnson Theodore Reeves
March 31	Neysa Rinkenburger Patti Mehmen

March Anniversaries

March 2	Everette & Sharon Funk
March 17	Steve & Barb Hill
March 18	Dave & Phoebe Drape

Church Council/Terms

President	Dave Kirchhoff
Vice President	Vicki Oleson
Recorder	Traci Bahrenfuse

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 (Head Elder)	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2025
Kathy Westendorf	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2025

Trustees

Dave Kirchhoff	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2026
Mike Westendorf (Head Trustee)	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 United Church of Christ Finances

General Fund 2025

	<u>February</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$10,766.40		
Expenses	\$ 8,546.75	\$8,797.57	(\$250.82)

Year-to-date 2025

Offerings	\$20,749.61
Expenses	\$17,750.56

Cemetery Operations Fund 2025

January 2025

Portfolio Value	\$67,056.67
Checking Account Balance	39.14
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,353.17</u>
TOTAL	\$68,448.98

Worship by the numbers...

February 2025

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
Feb. 2	52	49	\$5,563.00
Feb. 9	50	42	\$,1338.00
Feb.16	51	40	\$,1,438.00
Feb. 23	38	26	\$1,010.00

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