

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

July 2025

Tripoli, IA

## Connect with us!

### Church Office phone:

319-882-3585

Office Staffed:

Tuesday & Thursdays 9am to 3 pm

### Cel phone:

319-327-4441

If you cannot reach the office,  
feel free to call the cell phone.

### Website:

<https://faithucctripoli.org/>

### YouTube:

@faithunitedchurchofchrist2821

## Why Pray?

Jews do it, Muslims do it, Hindus do it, Buddhist do it, Pagans do it, Christians do it. What is it? Prayer, prayer is the one common ritual and practice that all religions embrace. No matter how diverse the religions of the world may be, the one common thread is prayer.

Everyone longs to connect and find comfort and divine communication, that is why we pray. However when our prayers are not answered in the way we want, we may wonder if we are praying the right way. Is prayer really worth our time, and how is prayer supposed to work? We may even wonder if God is listening to our prayers.

Why does prayer seem to disappoint, when it's supposed to bring us comfort. Perhaps it's like putting money in a pop machine, and not getting a can of pop. In our disappointment we kick and bang on the machine, and walk away without our can of pop. We vow to never put money in that machine again. We feel as if we have put in too many prayer coins, and received too few satisfying answers. Why doesn't prayer seem to work, and why do we end up disappointed? Why pray?

Prayer remains important even when God's answers differ from our expectations. We pray because it strengthens our relationship with God. Prayer builds faith as well as trust in God's good character. Prayer says I believe in you and I trust in your Divine plan. This leads to spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of God. Prayer turns our attention from ourselves and to God.

Prayer is not something we do to get what we want. Prayer remains important even when God's answers differ from our expectations. God may not answer our prayers the way we expected or wanted, but we continue to pray. Prayer is communication between heaven and earth. Prayer leads us to a deeper understanding and to spiritual growth. Jeremiah 33:3 says "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and hidden things that you do not know."

Everything that God does and has done is because of prayer. God's holiness, integrity, and faithfulness is a testament to his character. That's why we pray "Thy will be done". The Bible tells us that prayer is a fundamental aspect of Christian living, and that is why we pray.

Bonnie Travers, Head Elder Faith UCC

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

Carol Kammeyer	Dean Shinstine
Nadine Schnurstein	Keith Stahlhut
Mary Ann Meyer	Dolores Schmidt
Bradley Bahlmann	Imogene Spree
Shirley Brown	

We hold in prayer our members in home...

JoAnn Steward	Orlyn Milius
Verlyn & Phyllis Buls	Marlys Ryan

We pray for members and friends of the church serving in the military...

Brandon Burrows	Charlen Wells
Matthew Coulthard	Colton Henry
Kristian Heidemann	Alyssa Jones
Kaitlyn Kime	

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

We mourn the death of Darlene Bahlmann, a longtime member of Faith UCC. We give thanks for Darlene's new eternal home with God.

We mourn with Jerry & Marilyn Lahmann on the death of his stepmother, Ester

Faith United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 2nd, 2025

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

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Kara Marsh

Also in Attendance: Juanita Mohlis, and Barb Hill

Absent Members: None.

Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order by Dave Kirchhoff

Approval of May 5<sup>th</sup> Minutes: Motion to approve by Jay Ranard. Seconded by Mike Westendorf.

Treasurer Report: Accounts moved to Dane Johnson. Created a new account for offering/giving through stocks.

Motion to approve April and May treasurer report by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Kathy Westendorf

Trustee Report: The quote received for the basement repairs was very large. At this time, we are unable to support these repairs. Working with Ryan Smith to go through the tiles to see what issues we have going on. Parsonage repairs almost completed. Blinds came in just need installed. Eric Holthouse with Holthouse Const. from New Hampton doing the ceiling repairs.

Kathy painting entry way, door and ceiling. Lights, door handles all updated. Floor joists repaired.

Have a potential renter. Working through prior approvals and confirming they are a good candidate for the house. Motion to decline the potential renter due to council vote by Jay Ranard. Seconded by Dean Shinstine.

Samantha vacation June 20<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> will accept any volunteers to help on the necessary duties. Motion to pay the full month of salary by Vicki Oleson. Seconded by Traci Bahrenfuse.

Elder Report:

Dean Shinstine and Mike Westendorf accepted to be funeral attendants.

Sacramental Training was completed with five people, follow up training 6/15 at 5pm. Background check will need completed and council will have to also approve candidates.

Suggested to have Altar Communion instead of passing trays. Will discuss and explain it during the next congregational meeting and will do an anonymous survey to confirm if we should continue this going forward.

Still working on bylaws and getting them updated.

AA meetings still being held without issue.

7/6, 7/20, 8/31 – still need to get pulpit supply.

Mental Health Event happening June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Two welcoming baskets to new residents delivered.

Liason Report: Memorial Committee: updated new angel statue put outside in the landscape. Dave K fixed the banner stand so we will not need to purchase a new one.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Approached by a member to host piano lessons in the church. Working with our insurance to ensure the church isn't liable for any accidents during the lessons held at the Church. Motion to approve piano lessons as long as a building use agreement and waivers signed by participants by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Mike Westendorf.

Dave K, Vicki Oleson, Conrad Marsh to create a policy for future requests to use the church facilities motion to approve Kara Marsh and seconded by Mike Westendorf.

Motion to adjourn by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Jay Ranard.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:  
Traci Bahrenfuse

\*These minutes have not been approved by Council

### Lunch Box Contributions

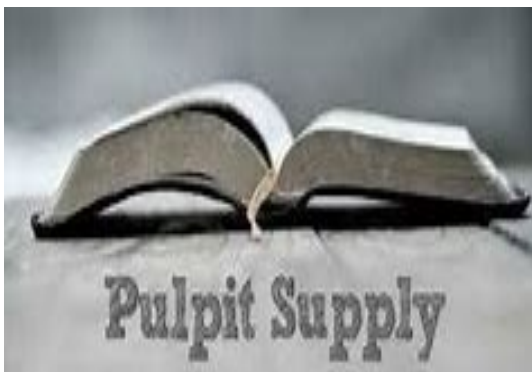
The Lunch Box Fund raised \$40.00! Thanks to everyone who has contributed. We will start again this month. Feel free to contribute.

Thanks, Beth Goudschaal



### Lawn Mowing

The sign up sheet for lawn mowing can be found in the Fellowship Hall. Let's work together to keep the grounds of Faith UCC looking beautiful this summer. A riding lawn mower is in the garage of the parsonage for you to use.



### Sunday Supply Pastor Schedule

July 6	Bonnie Smith-Davis
July 13	Mike Westendorf
July 20	Rev. Kristin Wendland
July 27	Rev. Brad Braley
August 3	Rev. David Feltmann (Communion)
August 10	Community Worship at Grace
August 17	Mike Westendorf or Bonnie Travers
August 24	Rev. Brad Braley
August 31	Bonnie Smith-Davis

# Happenings at Faith UCC

Greeting from the Council,

For those of you that received the Faith Talk newsletter last month and contacted the office, thank you! We are happy to reconnect. If you are receiving this newsletter through postal mail and would be willing to switch to a digital version through email, please contact the church office and leave a message on the phone (319-882-3583) or email the church office ([faithuccchurch@gmail.com](mailto:faithuccchurch@gmail.com)). Also, if there are multiple people in your household that would like to receive the newsletter via email so that you don't need to share it, please let us know. We would like to increase our connections via email if that is something that works for you. We are also happy to continue to send the newsletter through the postal service for those of you that do not use email. Our goal is to connect! Thank you!

## Women of Faith

The Women of Faith will be meeting on July 13th after worship. Meeting will be held in the corner of the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are welcome to come.

## Coffee Fellowship Servers

July 6  
July 13      Jerry & Marilyn Lahmann  
July 20      Carol & Dan Groskurth  
July 27      Larry & Joan Struck

*Thank you for serving!*



## Tripoli Days Float—Help Wanted

Every Friday night at 5:30 pm we will be meeting at Buhr's Building on Main St. to build a float for the Tripoli Day Parade. Donations can be made for building supplies. Please make check to Faith UCC and designate "for float" in the memo.

**Come and join the fun on Friday evenings!!!**



The parsonage looks great! Thanks go to many of our Faith members that helped clear out the parsonage, clean, repair, and paint. Much work has been done by many, and we thank you all. Special thanks go to Mike and Kathy Westendorf and Dave and Ruth Kirchhoff for the leadership they provided throughout this project, and for all the work that they contributed.

<u>July Birthdays</u>	
July 1	Conner Piehl
	Dave Konopa
July 5	Rick Foelske
	Karen Milius
July 7	Kayla Milius
July 8	Juanita Mohlis
	Aleta Reeves
	Adam Reeves
July 10	Kevin Sievers
July 12	Ruth Quigley
July 13	Debra Johnson
July 17	Linda Heinemann Reick
	Bailey Quigley
	Casey Rosol
July 18	Max Ambrose
	Mary Chapin
July 20	Spencer Holm
	Susan Lohmann
July 22	Theresa Drewis
July 23	Everette Funk
	Clark Snelling
July 25	Nicolaus Moore
July 26	Barb Hill
	Isabel Marquis
	Billy Bunce
July 30	Lianne Franzen

**Faith United Church of Christ Finances**  
**General Fund 2025**

	<u>June</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$7,054.00		
Expenses	\$9,413.37	\$11,200.91	\$1,787.54

<u>Year-to-date 2025</u>		<b>**All figures through June 27, 2025</b>	
Offerings	\$61,665.15		
Expenses	\$53,309.47		

**Cemetery Operations Fund 2025**

May 2025

Portfolio Value	\$56,806.78
Checking Account Balance	1,176.14
Savings Account Balance	<u>4,154.09</u>
TOTAL	\$62,137.01

July Anniversaries

July 8	Wendy & John Hawes
July 10	Jerry & Karla Hyde
July 14	Jerry & Marlene Snelling
	Leland & Wilma Timmerman
July 18	Dave & Ruth Kirchhoff

**Worship by the numbers...**

**June 2025**

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
June 1	42	198	\$1,446.00
June 8	50	289	\$1,271.00
June 15	65	230	\$2,204.00
June 22	47	215	\$2,063.00
June 29	71	219	

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)	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2028
Kathy Westendorf	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2028

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	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2028
Dean Shinstine	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2026

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