

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

September 2025

Tripoli,

Connect with us!

Church Office phone:

319-882-3585

Office Staffed:

Tuesday & Thursdays 9am to 3 pm

Cell phone:

319-327-4441

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

Website:

<https://faithucctripoli.org/>

YouTube:

@faithunitedchurchofchrist2821

A Tandem Bike Ride With God

I used to think of God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know Him.

But later on, when I met Jesus, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Jesus was in the back helping me pedal. I didn't know just when it was He suggested we change, but life has not been the same since I took the back-seat to Jesus, my Lord. He makes life exciting. When I had control, I thought I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places and at break-through speeds; it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it often looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!" I was worried and anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared", He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, my Lord's and mine. And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, fly to shorten scary passages. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus. And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He just smiles and says... "Pedal."

(Author unknown)

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

Carol Kammeyer	Dean Shinstine
Nadine Schnurstein	Keith Stahlhut
Mary Ann Meyer	Cheryl Dahlstrom
Doretta Brandhorst	Gerald Liddle
Shirley Brown	Gary Synder
Marvin & Trivona Drewis	

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	Charten Wells
Matthew Coulthard	Colton Henry
Kristian Heidemann	Alyssa Jones
Marvin & Trivona Drewis	

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

We mourn with Sharon Funk and family on the passing of Everette. We give thanks for Everette's eternal life with God.

Our sympathy to Jerry and Marlene Snelling on the passing of Jerry's cousin, Sharon Sommerfelt.

Reminder of Dates and Times

Worship—Begins at 10:00 am on Sunday, September 7th

Sunday School—Begins at 9:00 am on Sunday, September 7th

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
August 4th, 2025

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

Members in Attendance via Zoom: None.

Also in Attendance: Barb Hill

Absent Members: Dean Shinstine.

Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order by Vicki Oleson

Approval of June 29th (July) Minutes: Motion to approve by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Brenda Shinstine.

Treasurer Report: Motion to approve by Bonnie Travers. Seconded by Conrad Marsh.

Trustee Report: Basement wall issues working with Holthouse Construction in New Hampton. Water came in on the north wall basement a couple inches in. Need to correct before it becomes a larger problem.

Downspout extensions being added to get the water away from the basement.

Exterminator called to spray the parsonage, a few bugs were observed by the tenants- \$500 bill.

Trees fell in the cemetery during the last storm. Minor damage clean-up was done, still need some clean up to cut down a damaged tree to protect us from any weather issues in the future.

Trustees working on employee contracts for Church employees to confirm job description, duties and paid leave etc. Will need to train backfills for any church employees with no full-time Pastor to make sure we have the correct staffing for all congregational members and any needs of the community.

Elder Report: Tripoli days coming up and Women of Faith hosting the meal. Community worship at Grace at 9am.

Altar communion performed again, still working out the kinks. Will need two ushers holding wine and one or two ushers during the communion.

Looking into a Pastor to lead confirmation. Three eighth graders and five seventh graders. Will reach out to Pulpit supply and confirm payment. Will also confirm we can have a Pastor of a different denomination lead UCC confirmation. Having 7th and 8th graders together due to unforeseen circumstances of next year.

Looking to start confirmation in the fall if we can confirm a leader.

Bonnie completing home visits and doing a lot of the behind scenes work for the Church.

Bonnie, Lisa Timmerman and Sharon finalizing their sacrament servers training.

August 17th, Brevan Biermann will perform special music.

Motion to approve to pay any member that fills in to lead service at the same rate as the pulpit supply pastors effective date July 1 by Vicki Oleson. Seconded by Jay Ranard.

Liason Report: Memorial Committee would like to invite Johnston to a meeting to discuss CD renewals and making educational investments.

Invite Kendi Miller to come to the next meeting August 17th to discuss how to communicate opportunities for endowments with members.

Minutes (Continued)

Old Business: Wednesday 8/6 is the meeting with Al Hoeper for an informational meeting on their plans and thoughts for the future of their church. Dave, Jay and Bonnie attending the meeting to share feedback with the Council.

Piano lessons have started.

New Business: Motion to approve a week of paid vacation for Barb Rich by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Vicki Oleson.

Motion to adjourn by Traci Bahrenfuse Seconded by Conrad Marsh. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Traci Bahrenfuse

*Minutes not yet approved by Council

NEWSLETTER

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



Lunch Box Contributions

The Lunch Box Fund raised \$60.00! Thanks to everyone who has contributed. We will start again this month. Feel free to contribute.

Thanks, Beth

Coffee Fellowship Servers

September 7

September 14

September 21

Patti Mehmen

September 28

Bahrenfuse Family

Thank you for serving!



Sunday Supply Pastor Schedule

Sept. 7

Rev. David Feltmann (Communion)

Oct. 5

Rev. Kathy Young (Communion)

Sept. 14

Bonnie Smith-Davis

Oct. 12

Rev. Amy Wiles

Sept. 21

Rev. Kathy Young

Oct. 19

Rev. Brad Braley

Sept. 28

Rev. Amy Wiles

Oct. 26

Rev. David Feltman

Tripoli Celebration Days Luncheon Donations

Hamburger:

Barb Hill, Karen Milius, Jean Ranard

Baked Beans, Condiments and Pickles

Juanita Mohlis

Potato Salad, Plates, Tablecloths

Marlene Snelling

Cooking, Slicing and Delivering the Pork Loin

Tamara Rosol

Salad Ingredients:

Joan Struck, Karen Milius, Bonnie Travers, Barb Hill, Beth Goudschaal, Marlene Snelling

Potato Chips:

Barb Hill

Pies and Desserts:

Tamara Rosol, Darys Buhrow, Sandra Snyder, Kathy Westendorf, Marian Meyer, Marlys Biermann, Jean Ranard, Mary Chapin, Kara Marsh, Karen Milius, Marlene Snelling, Joan Struck, Delores Meier, Barb Hill, Bonnie Travers

Lemonade:

Marilyn Lahmann

Ice:

Ruth Kirchhoff

Outdoor Sign updating and setting out:

Bob Sassman

Tickets:

Barb Hill, Karen Milius

Dining Room Help:

Helen Milius, Kayla Milius, Kimberly Milius, Emerie Bahrenfuse, Amilie Reeves

Serving Line Help:

Eli Bahrenfuse, Traci Bahrenfuse, Ruth Kirchhoff, Dave Kirchhoff, Sue Schwarze, Marlys Biermann, Marilyn Lahmann, Sharon McLavey

Kitchen Help:

Juanita Mohlis, Marlene Snelling, Tamara Rosol, Jerry Snelling, Rich Milius

Monetary Dontions:

Donna Sassman, Kara Marsh, Vernetta Bunce, Beth Goudschaal, Mary Ann Meyer, Sandra Martin, Kathy Westendorf, Kaye Osborn, Karen Milius (Money Donations used to pay for Pork Loins and Buns)

Food Preparations Thursday:

Joan Struck, Donna Sassman, Bonnie Travers, Marlys Biermann, Marilyn Lahmann, Karen Milius, Sue Schwarze, Juanita Mohlis, Marlene Snelling

A Huge and Special thank you to everyone who helped
with the Luncheon and made it very successful.

The Lord Shares His Love for us through 'Special People' Like you!
Thank you for your Help, your Gifts and your Talents.

Grateful...Thankful...Blessed...The “Women of Faith”

September Birthdays

September 2	Lisa Chapin
	Orlyn Milius
September 3	Peyton Benson
September 9	Brad Bunce
	Jennifer Dillon
September 12	Wendy Hawes
September 15	Cheyenne Moore
September 16	Rich Milius
	Adelane Lang
September 17	Jan Heidemann
September 19	Roger Buchholz
	Bonnie Travers
September 21	Amy Drewis
September 22	Justin Dillon
September 24	Randy Rinkenburger
September 25	Braydon Bunce
September 27	Sue Schwarze
September 28	Delores Meier

September Anniversaries

September 3	Jay & Jean Ranard
September 8	Tanner & Bailey Klein
September 10	Brian & Angie Buchholz
September 17	Larry & Joan Struck
September 26	Eli & Traci Bahenfuse

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 United Church of Christ Finances General Fund 2025

	<u>August</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$ 7,936.00		
Expenses	\$ 5,835.68	\$8,088.60	\$2,252.92

Year-to-date 2025 (Thru August 29, 2025)

Offerings	\$83,569.63
Expenses	\$65,751.14

Cemetery Operations Fund 2025

July 2025

Portfolio Value	\$57,520.67
Checking Account Balance	251.17
Savings Account Balance	<u>2,205.16</u>
TOTAL	\$59,976.97

Worship by the numbers...

August 2025

	<u>In-person</u> <u>Attendance</u>	<u>Online</u> <u>Viewing</u>	<u>General</u> <u>Offering</u>
Aug. 3	51	24	\$1,708.00
Aug. 10	Worship at Grace		\$ 250.00
Aug. 17	66	19	\$ 1,407.00
Aug. 24	58	23	\$ 1,430.00
Aug. 31			\$ 2,671.00

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