

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

February 2026

Tripoli, IA

Connect with us!

Church Office phone:

319-882-3585

Office Staffed:

Tuesday & Thursdays 9am to 3 pm

Temporarily Nights and Weekends

Cell phone:

319-327-4441

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

Website:

<https://faithucctripoli.org/>

YouTube:

The Month of Love

By Brenda Sievers

February - the month of love.
Eros comes first to mind:
romance, passion, hearts in red.
Yet love is more than roses.
It is vulnerable, and ever faithful.

Storge is love that grows at home.
It holds memories in common.
Parents, children, kin-
a love shaped by time,
and a shared becoming.

Phileo is a chosen love.
A friendship of like souls. A brotherhood or sisterhood,
forged through trust and laughter,
and bound by shared hopes and dreams.

And then - Agape.
The love that gives without measure.
Unconditional. Unearned. Enduring.

“For God so loved the world
that He gave His only Son...”
This is love made visible-
selfless, sacrificial, and without limit.

“A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another:
just as I have loved you,
you are also to love one another.”
John 13:34

This is the call-
to love our neighbors, and our communities,
with a steadfast Agape Love.
Every single day,
Each and every month. .

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

Carol Kammeyer	Dean Shinstine
Nadine Schnurstein	Keith Stahlhut
Cheryl Dahlstrom	Megan Anderson
Doretta Brandhorst	Gerald Liddle
Shirley Brown	Delores Meier
Dan Goskurth	Gary Snyder
Janice Spree	Alica Guzman
Kenny & Darlys Buhrow	
Linda Hamilton	

We hold in prayer our members in home...

JoAnn Steward	Marlys Ryan
Verdeen Ohlendorf	Verlyn & Phyllis Buls

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

We extend our sympathy to Brian and Helen
Milus and girls on the passing of Helen's
grandfather, Duane Bahlmann..

We express our sympathy to Brian & Angie
Buchholz and family on the passing of
Angie's father, Milo/"Buctch"

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2026

Members in Attendance: Kathy Westendorf, Traci Bahrenfuse, Vicki Oleson, Dave Kirchhoff, Mike Westendorf, Bonnie Travers, Dean Shinstine, and Brenda Shinstine

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Sharon McLavey, Conrad Marsh and Kara Marsh,

Also in Attendance: Barb Hill and Ellen Kalkbrenner

Absent Members: Jay Ranard

Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order by Dave Kirchhoff

Approval of December 1st Minutes: Motion to approve by Bonnie Travers. Seconded by Brenda Shinstine.

Treasurer Report: Update needed to add the Dane Johnston accounts to our assets. Motion to approve by Dean Shinstine. Seconded by Bonnie Travers. Motion to approve Ellen Kalkbrenner as the new interim treasurer to backfill Barb Hill. Seconded by Traci Bahrenfuse.

Trustee Report: New proposed budget shared. Adding a new line under pulpit supply for mileage currently being marked under car allowance under Pastor compensation. \$2,000 more budgeted for mileage under Pulpit Supply. Add line item for NE Conference dues under Dues and Subscriptions. Have been using their services for their guidance on the process of obtaining a new Pastor. Motion to add the line. Total proposed for 2026 budget is \$139,970.00. Motion to approve budget as stated Traci Bahrenfuse. Seconded by Vicki Oleson.

Church360 – is still being tested. Still working through some transitions. Working to keep the same account numbers and line item numbers for easy reference from the old system to the new Church360 system. Roger working on getting the offerings line item added. Discussion on who should be the administrator for this system.

Garage windows are in but will wait until spring to install.

Brian and Trevor volunteered to get a list of our current computers/printers with age, compatibility with each other, it causes issues with the videos/presentation to run during the live stream.

Gilmore Tree Service will be giving us a quote to finish the two trees at the cemetery and Casey Rosol will clean up and take the wood.

Calling an exterminator to look into wasp issues.

Elder Report: January 18th annual meeting with a council meeting following to welcome new council members. A potluck will follow fellowship.

February service to bless new members and new council members.

Marleen coordinating Lenten meals and Pastor Feltman to lead Ash Wednesday service and Maundy Thursday. Doing a Bible Study after the Lenten meals every Wednesday on Sermon on the Mount. Good Friday service used to be with Grace but they are now sharing a Pastor. Pastor Feltman will lead Good Friday as well. Mike Westendorf will be leading Sunrise Service and Kathy to host the breakfast following.

Working to form an updated mission/vision statement. Going to reach out to Kendy Miller about having an open meeting with the congregation on help to complete this.

Need to establish a search committee.

January 12th meeting with St John Siegel.

Usher duties are going to be updated and shared with Council.

Old Business: Still seeing issues with rent being paid on time. Council working to set firm expectations and if still not paid in full will need to work towards eviction.

New Business: Need to find a new liaison for the Memorial Committee with Vicki's term completing on the Council.

Bonnie completed the on-line discernment training. Needs to complete a psych evaluation before moving forward. Motion to approve reimbursing Bonnie for \$685, polity course by Vicki Oleson. Seconded by Sharon McLavey.

AA Meetings on Sunday nights – anyone that can open/close church to them. Bonnie unable to do this going forward.

Patti Mehmen, Jennifer Dillion – Elders

Dan - Trustee

Motion to adjourn by Traci Bahrenfuse. Seconded by Dean Shinstine.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Traci Bahrenfuse



Lunch Box Contributions

The Lunch Box Fund raised \$35.00! Thanks to everyone who has contributed. **The school is very appreciative for this help.**

Thanks, Beth Goudschaal

Coffee Fellowship Servers

Feb. 1	Mary Chapin
Feb. 8	Karen Milius
Feb. 15	
Feb. 22	Jerry & Marilyn Lahmann

Thank you for serving!



Lent starts February 18th

Meals and Services will be as follows:

All Meals Served 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Services will be in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m

Maundy Thursday Service will be in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.

Rev. David Feltman will be doing 'The Sermon On The Mount' Series at the Services

February 17th - Shrove Tuesday

*Meal - Pancakes and Sausages served 5:30 -6:30 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall no services

*~Meals~

We want each group serving to make the meals simple.

Suggestions could be: Soups, Sandwiches, Casseroles, Pizza, Simple Desserts, Simple Salads,
whatever you choose make it Simple.

(For quietness during the Service -we ask that you clean the kitchen up after Services and attend the Services-thank you)

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

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

February 18th Ash Wednesday *Meal Served By _____ - Church Council Trustees

February 25th *Meal Served By _____ - Women of Faith

March 4th *Meal Served By _____ - Choir

March 11th *Meal Served By _____ - 9:00 Sunday Morning Coffee Group

March 18th *Meal Served By _____ - Sunday School

March 25th *Meal Served By _____ - Women of Faith

April 2nd Maundy Thursday *Meal Served By _____ - Church Council Elders

April 3rd Good Friday Services _____ 7:00 p.m _____ Rev. David Feltman

April 5th Easter Sunrise Service _____ 6:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast Served Following The Sunrise Service _____ -Event Committee

Easter Worship Service _____ 10:00 a.m.



Women of Faith

Women of Faith will have a meeting Sunday, February 8th following the Worship Service. We will meet at the table in the corner of Fellowship Hall. Bring your coffee and treat and join us. All women are invited.

THE LIVED FAITH, THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT IN 2026 –

Lenten Study at Faith United Church of Christ

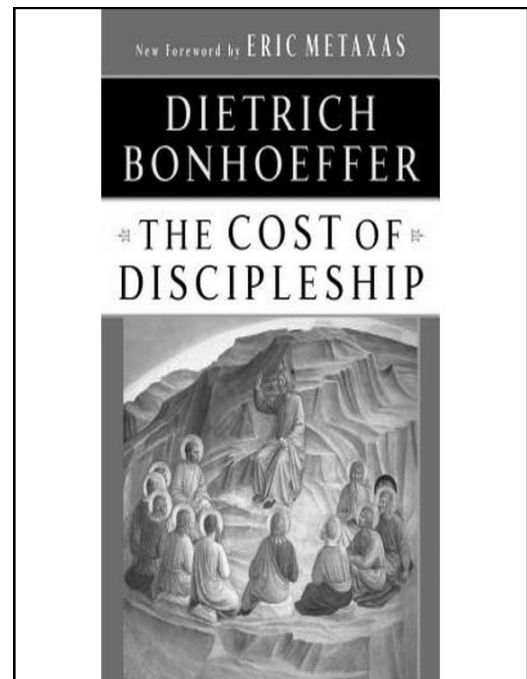
Led by Rev. David Feltman

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book The Cost of Discipleship is one of the most prominent books on the Sermon on the Mount. The title may scare you off. Bonhoeffer saw genuine faith as something that demanded great sacrifice and commitment. He was a young German pastor who joined the underground movement to work for Hitler's defeat. Bonhoeffer was imprisoned for his stand and died, a martyr in 1945, during the collapse of the Nazi regime. He was 39. Bonhoeffer writes about "cheap grace" and "costly grace". His book will be one of my resources for this study. It is my hope that each of us will ask through this Lenten journey, what does it mean for me to live the faith.

There is so much distortion of Christianity in our time. I am convinced much of that distortion could be corrected if Christians would be willing to be saturated[in Christ's teachings as we find them in Matthew 5-7.

I look forward to being with you.

February 25	6:30 pm
March 4	6:30 pm
March 11	6:30 pm
March 18	6:30 pm
March 25	6:30 pm



<u>February Birthdays</u>	
Feb. 2	Tim Quigley
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. 18	Kailey Heidemann
Feb. 20	Darlys Buhrow
Feb. 24	Kristi Ladage
	Alexander Johnson
Feb. 28	Joyce Kammeyer

<u>February Anniversaries</u>	
Feb. 1	Vicki Oleson & David Konopa
Feb. 14	David & Susie Lohmann

<u>Faith United Church of Christ Finances</u>			
General Fund 2026			
	<u>January</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$ 7,625.00	\$10,280.00	-\$2,605.00
Expenses	\$10,319.82	\$11,664.17	\$1,361.18
Year-to-date 2026			
Offerings	\$ 7,625.00		
Expenses	\$ 10,319.82		
Cemetery Operations Fund 2025			
<u>December 2025</u>			
Portfolio Value		\$58,530.10	
Checking Account Balance		51.70	
Savings Account Balance		<u>1,506.17</u>	
TOTAL		\$60,087.97	

<u>Worship by the numbers...</u>			
<u>January 2026</u>			
	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>General</u>
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Viewing</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Jan. 4	65	31	\$1,818.00
Jan. 11	60	NA	\$1,562.00
Jan. 18	45	NA	\$2,678.00
Jan. 25	51	40	\$ 952.00

<u>Church Council/Terms</u>	
President	Dave Kirchhoff
Vice President	Vicki Oleson
Recorder	Traci Bahrenfuse
<u>Elders</u>	
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 McLavey	2nd term expires Jan.31, 2027*
Bonnie Travers (Head Elder)	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2028
Kathy Westendorf	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2028
<u>Trustees</u>	
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
*Sharon is completing a term	

<u>Faith UCC Staff</u>	
Admin. Assistant	Barb Rich
Financial Secretary	Roger Goudschaal
Treasurer	Ellen Kalkbrenner
Custodian	Samantha Rossum
Director of Music	Beth Goudschaal
Musicians	June Buhr
	Phoebe Drape
	Sara Goudschaal
	Dawn Holm
	Mary Jo Rathe