

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

March 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:

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

Carol Kammeyer	Cheryl Dahlstrom
Nadine Schnurstein	Keith Stahlhut
Paula Black	Megan Anderson
Gerald Liddle	McKina Benson
Shirley Brown	Delores Meier
Dan Goskurth	Gary Snyder
Janice Spree	Alica Guzman
Kenny & Darlys Buhrow	

We hold in prayer our members in home...

JoAnn Steward	Marlys Ryan
Verdeen Ohlendorf	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
February 1, 2026

Members in Attendance: Dave Kirchhoff, Mike Westendorf, Bonnie Travers, Dean Shinstine, Brenda Shinstine, Sharon McLavey, Patti Mehmen, Jennifer Dillon, Jay Ranard, Dan Groskurth.

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Karen Marsh and Kathy Westendorf.

Also in Attendance: Ellen Kalkbrenner.

Absent Members: None.

Opening Prayer: Bonnie Travers.

Meeting Called to Order by: Dave Kirchhoff.

Approval of January Minutes: Motion to approve by Dean Shinstine. Seconded by Brenda Shinstine.

Treasurer Report: Ellen Kalkbrenner created new budget layout in Excel. Will continue to work on fine tuning the form. Will have a credit card registry. Follow up with getting copier worked on to be able to send emails. Treasurer report to be emailed out before monthly council meetings. Motion to approve by Mike Westendorf. Seconded by Brenda Shinstine.

Trustee Report: Air conditioning needed in Narthex and parsonage. Priority Narthex. Estimation for Narthex is \$4,500.00. estimation for parsonage is \$5,289.65. Mike Westendorf proposed making an announcement during church service to have a special designated offering to raise the funds or use repair funds. Jay Ranard motioned to take \$4,500.00 to the congregation for approval to replace the air conditioner in the Narthex. Seconded by Sharon McLavey.

Mike Westendorf and Dave Kirchhoff will be cutting down the tree, instead of paying a company to do this. Any help is welcomed. Mike and Dave will check into renting a chain saw. Casey Rosol has agreed to do clean up and take the wood.

Discussion of purchasing CD's or starting a Money Market with the extra funds we have in savings and checking while using Pulpit Supply. Council will table discussion for next month.

Due to insurance liability, we will need to have confidentiality forms signed by Steve Hill, 360 administrator, Ellen Kalkbrenner, treasurer, Roger Goudschaal, financial secretary, and Barb Rich, office secretary.

Elder Report: Lenten service schedules are posted. Meals to be served from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Bible study after Lenten meals every Wednesday on Sermon on the Mount. Pastor Feltman to lead Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Mike Westendorf will be leading Sunrise service and Kathy to host the breakfast following. Saturday, February 7, 2026, the council will be meeting to update the church's mission/vision statement. Kendy Miller, from the council, will be on zoom to help with this. Sunday, February 8, 2026, is the date set for installation of the new council members and elected members for Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Discussion for a confirmation date is still to be decided. Discussed head usher duties. Packet given out with detailed instructions. Will do a walk thru for new members and do a video for reference.

Liaison Report: Sharon McLavey has accepted the position of liaison for Memorial and Endowment Committee. Motion to approve by Bonnie Travers. Seconded by Jay Ranard.

Old Business: Rental agreement, to be reviewed and consulted by legal counsel. Motion approved by Jay Ranard. Seconded by Mike Westendorf. Northeast Association Dues. \$2.00 per member. 253 active members. Budgeted for \$1000.00.

New Business: Election of officers: President: Dave Kirchhoff. Motion to approve by Bonnie Travers. Seconded by Sharon McLavey. Vice President: Mike Westendorf. Motion to approve by Jay Ranard. Seconded by Jennifer Dillon. Head Elder: Sharon McLavey. Motion to approve by Jay Ranard. Seconded by Patti Mehmen. Secretary: Patti Mehmen. Motion to approve by Bonnie Travers. Seconded by Dean Shinstine. Head Trustee: Dean Shinstine. Motion to approve by Jay Ranard. Seconded by Sharon McLavey. Bonnie Travers will continue her study through the conference to obtain her license to minister at Faith UCC of Tripoli, Iowa. Bonnie Travers needs a letter of recommendation from council members to present to the conference for her continuation of study. Dave Kirchhoff will draft and finalize the letter for the council to sign. Patti Mehmen will take over opening the church on Sunday nights for AA Meetings. Meetings are approximately 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Sharon McLavey and Jay Ranard will be the backup if needed.

Meeting held on January 12th with St. John Segal about sharing a Pastor. New Pastor “search committee” has been formed. The committee will begin drafting a new profile for future candidates to review. Committee members: Ellen Kalkbrenner, Trevor Bunce, Brian Bunce, Ameliya Reeves, Linda Rieck, Karen Milius. Jennifer Dillon has agreed to be the liaison for the committee and will keep the council updated.

Discussion about technology issues we are having with older computers, media shout, and printer connections to the system. Steve Hill, Brian Bunce, and Trevor Bunce has agreed to research age, connections, and possible upgrades.

Motion to adjourn by Brenda Shinstine. Seconded by Dan Groskurth.

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

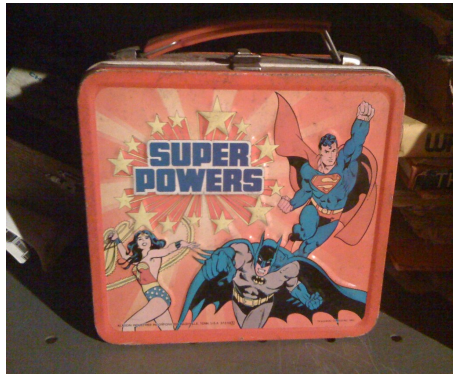
Patti Mehmen

These minutes are not approved by Council

<u>Lenten Meals—5:30 pm</u>	
Mar. 4	Served by Choir
Mar. 11	Served by 9:00 Coffee Group
Mar. 18	Served by Sunday School
Mar. 25	Served by Women of Faith
Apr. 2	Church Council Elders
Apr. 5	Easter Breakfast (after Sunrise Service)
	Events Committee



March 1	Mike Westendorf
March 4	Rev. David Feltman (Wed. night)
March 8	Rev. Brad Braley
March 11	Rev. David Feltman (Wed. night)
March 15	Rev. David Feltman
March 18	Rev. David Feltman (Wed. night)
March 22	Rev. David Feltman
March 25	Rev. David Feltman (Wed. night)
March 29	Rev. Gary Catterson (Palm Sunday)
April 2	Rev. David Feltman (Communion) (Maundy Thursday)
April 3	Good Friday
April 5	Mike Westendorf (Easter 6:30 am)
April 5	Rev. Gary Catterson (Easter 10 am)



Lunch Box Contributions

The Lunch Box Fund raised \$65.35 Thanks to everyone who has contributed. The school is very appreciative for this help.

Thanks, Beth Goudschaal

Coffee Fellowship Servers

March 1	Alfred & Connie Gloede
March 8	Jerry & Marlene Snelling
March 15	Mike & Kathy Westendorf
March 22	Dave & Ruth Kirchhoff
March 29	

Thank you for serving!





Women of Faith

Women of Faith will have a meeting on Sunday, March 29th 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

Member Information Sheet

Included with this Newsletter you will find a Member Information Sheet. We are asking members to update their information so when we enter information into our new system we are sure to be as accurate as possible. If you have already filled out the sheet, you do not have to fill this out again. There will be a box on the altar in the Connector that you can drop it into or email to church office: faithuccchurch@gmail.com.

Thank you.

A SPRING EVENT COMING SOON !!

'Spring Garden' & Divine Baked Items'

May 3, 2026

Sponsored by the 'Women of Faith'

This Event will be a Two Tiered Silent Auction and Lunch.

Two Tiered is as follows:

Spring Garden

Spring Garden can be Yard Art-Things to set in your Yard-Garden Tools-Planter Boxes-Outdoor Pots-Certificates for Tress-Plants, Shrubs-or fill a basket or Box with Yard outdoor things.



Divine Baked Items

Divine Baked Items can be Pies-Rolls-Pastries of all kinds-Basket of Jam,Jellies,Peanuts Butters-Basket of Pie Fillings, etc.- or you choose whatever you would like.



We invite you to share your talents, items, and gifts to this fun event.

We would like your Item/Items to be in the Fellowship Hall by March 29, 2026.

Please kindly let Juanita or Marlene know as to the item/items you are planning to donate,

This will allow us for ample table space. (Baked items will have a picture by it for Bidding)

There will be a lunch on May 3rd before the closing of the Auction Bids:

Hot Roast Beef Sandwich with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Relishes, Dessert and Beverages.

Everyone is invited to participate

Let's Think Spring.

We are in the process of updating our church records in the new 360 software. Please provide the following information on each individual in your home. There will be a box in the Narthex to leave the form or send to the office. Thanking you in advance for your help.

Household Name: _____(ex: Smith)

Address _____

Landline phone: _____

Wedding anniversary date (If applicable, please include year) _____

Please confirm that you would be willing to receive the Newsletter by email. Y N

Please list each member in your household:

#1 Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Cell Phone _____ Email: _____

#2 Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Cell Phone _____ Email: _____

#3 Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Cell Phone _____ Email: _____

#4 Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Cell Phone _____ Email: _____

#5 Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Cell Phone _____ Email: _____

#6 Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Cell Phone _____ Email: _____

March Birthdays

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

March Anniversaries

Mar. 17	Steve & Barb Hill
Mar. 18	Dave & Phoebe Drape

Church Council/Terms

President	Dave Kirchhoff
Vice President	Mike Westendorf
Recorder	Patti Mehmen
<u>Elders</u>	
Sharon McLavey (Head Elder)	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2027
Kara Marsh	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2027
Bonnie Travers	2nd term expires Jan.31, 2028
Kathy Westendorf	2nd term expires Jan.31, 2028
Patti Mehmen	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2029
Jen Dillon	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2029
<u>Trustees</u>	
Mike Westendorf	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2028
Jay Ranard	1st term expires Jan.31, 2028
Brenda Shinstine	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2028
Dean Shinstine Head Trustee	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2029
Dan Groskurth	1st Term expires Jan. 31, 2029
Dave Kirchhoff	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2029

Faith United Church of Christ Finances
General Fund 2026

	<u>February</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$ 8,140.98	\$10,280.00	-\$2,139.02
Expenses	\$ 6,010.51	\$11,703.67	-\$5,693.16

Year-to-date 2026

Offerings	\$ 16,445.98
Expenses	\$ 17,528.50

Cemetery Operations Fund 2025

January 2026

Portfolio Value	\$60,317.46
Checking Account Balance	51.70
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,506.48</u>
TOTAL	\$60,875.64

Worship by the numbers...

February 2026

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
Feb. 1	71	51	\$1,626.00
Feb. 8	69	27	\$2,787.00
Feb. 15	64	19	\$1,590.00
Feb. 17	37	11	\$ 314.00
Feb. 22	57	15	\$1,138.00

Faith UCC Staff

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