

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

April 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,

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
Morgan Smith	Dolores Schmidt

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 sympathies to LaVera Buchholz and Ruth Quigley on the death of their sister, Marjorie Meyer.

We extend our sympathies to Jay and Jean Ranard on the passing of Jay's sister, Dixie Ganske.

We extend our sympathies to Marian Meyer on the passing of her son-in-law, John Gleason.

We extend our sympathies to Ed Brandt & family on the passing of Carol. We give thanks to Carol's eternal life with God.



Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2026

Members in Attendance: Dave Kirchhoff, Mike Westendorf, Kathy Westendorf, Dean Shinstine, Brenda Shinstine, Sharon McLavey, Patti Mehmen, Jennifer Dillon, Kara Marsh, Dan Groskurth.

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Bonnie Travers.

Also in Attendance: Ellen Kalkbrenner.

Absent Members: Jay Ranard.

Opening Prayer: Bonnie Travers.

Meeting Called to Order by: Dave Kirchhoff.

Approval of February Minutes: approval of minutes with the following corrections: member in attendance via zoom should be Kara Marsh. Estimation for the air conditioning for the Narthex is \$4,735.47. Approved payment for Northeast Association Dues for 2026 is \$500.00. Motion to approve by Mike Westendorf. Seconded by Kara Marsh.

Treasurer Report: reviewed check registry and income/expense reports. March will have increased expenses due to property insurance of \$3,021.00. Financial report with a positive balance in checking account of \$36,138.96. motion to approve treasurer report by Brenda Shinstine. Seconded by Mike Westendorf.

Trustee Report: trustee committee donating \$151.34 to the air conditioning fund. Women of Faith donating \$1,000.00. Motion to go forward on getting congregational approval for installation of air conditioning in the narthex. Estimated cost is \$4,735.47. Congregational meeting set for March 22nd. Motion to approve Mike Westendorf. Seconded by Kara Marsh. Motion to move \$10,000.00 from checking account to a 7-month CD and \$10,000.00 to a money market with Readlyn Savings Bank. Motion to approve by Mike Westendorf. Seconded by Jennifer Dillon. Lawn care for the summer will remain with a signup sheet for volunteers. Letter of notice of termination of tenancy and demand for possession to be sent to parsonage tenants written by Beau Buchholz, Attorney. Dean Shinstine to talk to his nephew to move forward on ways of repairing the wall in Fellowship Hall and estimation of cost.

Elder Report: Easter Sunrise Service to be held on Sunday, April 5th at 6:30 am with breakfast to follow prepared by Kathy Westendorf. Signup sheet will be put out for donations of baked goods to be served as well. Service to be led by Mike Westendorf and Roger Goudschaal. Easter Sunday Service at 10 am led by Rev. Brad Braley. A blessing of the prayer shawls will be done during an upcoming church service. Dave Kirchhoff will contact Brad Bradley to set up a date to perform blessing. Shawls will be taken to Sumner nursing home. Motion for Jennifer Dillon and Kara Marsh to start a process promoting proactive Facebook posts of accomplishments of our members of the congregation and any updates or happenings in the church and/or community. Motion to approve by Sharon McLavey. Seconded by Kathy Westendorf.

Liaison Report: as of 12/31/2025 balance of the Memorial Money Market and Memorial CD was \$16,042.91. Discussion to possibly set up an informative meeting to discuss what an endowment is.

Old Business: search committee to prepare a paragraph of what we are looking for in a pastor. Discussion will continue of the sharing of a pastor with St. John's Siegel. Council continues to work on finalizing a vision statement.

New Business: Women of Faith cleaned out items in the storage area. Items on tables in fellowship hall for anyone to take. Discussion to pick dates and times for vacation bible school this summer. Motion to approve the summer day camp program for 2026. Motion by Brenda Shinstine. Seconded by Sharon McLavey. Lights in sanctuary and heat in the basement have been seen to be on during the week. Everyone needs to be sure to shut off lights and turn down heat before locking up the church, this is part of the head usher duties.

Next meeting set for April 6, 2026.

Motion to adjourn by Dean Shinstine. Seconded by Kathy Westendorf.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Mehmen

Minutes are not approved by Council



Upcoming dates:

May 17 Graduation Recognition
May 31 Confirmation Sunday



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



Fire Department Spring Fundraiser

Tripoli Fire Department is holding their spring Breakfast on April 19th from 7:30 am to noon. Menu will be pancakes, eggs, rinderwurst, cinnamon roll, milk, juice or coffee. Free will donations will be accepted.

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: _____



April 2	Rev. David Feltman (Communion) (Maundy Thursday)
April 3	Rev. David Feltman Good Friday
April 5	Mike Westendorf (Easter 6:30 am)
April 5	Rev. Gary Catterson (Communion) (Easter 10 am)
April 12	Rev. David Feltman
April 19	Rev. Brad Braley
April 26	Rev. Amy Wiles
May 3	Rev. Brad Braley (Communion)
May 10	Rev. David Feltman (Mother's Day)
May 17	Rev. Dave Feltman (Graduation)
May 24	Rev. Gary Catterson
May 31	Rev. Baad Braley (Confirmation)



Lunch Box Contributions

The Lunch Box Fund raised \$40.00. Thanks to everyone who has contributed. **The school is VERY appreciative for this help.**

Thanks, Beth Goudschaal

Coffee Fellowship Servers

April 5	Easter Breakfast
April 12	Dean & Brenda Shinstine
April 19	Tamara Rosol
April 26	Patti Mehmen

Thank you for serving!



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 April 5th

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.

April Birthdays

April 3	Vicki Oleson
April 4	Kaye Osborn
	Tracy Buchholz
	Ameliya Reeves
April 5	Brian Bunce
April 7	Kimberly Milius
April 9	Catie Ott
April 12	Dean Shinstine
	Danny Dillon
April 14	Susan Cline
April 16	Phyllis Schnurstein
April 18	Austin Foelske
April 19	Sandra Ryherd
	Charlotte Johnson
April 20	Steve Dahlstrom
April 22	Lincoln Drewis

Faith United Church of Christ Finances
General Fund 2026

	<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offering	\$12,529.70	\$12,058.00	\$ 471.70
Expenses	\$14,079.26	\$10,788.19	-\$3,291.07

Year-to-date 2026

Offerings	\$ 28,975.68
Expenses	\$ 31,607.76

Cemetery Operations

February 2026

Portfolio Value	\$62,032.53
Checking Account Balance	51.70
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,506.77</u>
TOTAL	\$63,591.00

April Anniversaries

April 5	Kenny & Darlys Buhrow
April 10	Scott & Lisa Chapin

Worship by the numbers...

March 2026

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>General</u>
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Viewing</u>	<u>Offering</u>
March 1	49	27	\$ 2,111.00
March 9	70	30	\$ 1,073.00
March 15	No Church Service—Weather		
March 22	56	32	\$ 7,148.64
March 29	70	31	\$1,445.00

Church Council/Terms

President	Dave Kirchhoff
Vice President	Mike Westendorf
Recorder	Patti Mehmen

Elders

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

Trustees

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 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