# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ | June 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 | Jim Anderson |
| Gerald Liddle | McKina Benson |
| Shirley Brown | Mary Ann Meyuer |
| Gary Snyder | Alice Guzman |
| Morgan Smith | Dolores Schmidt |

We hold in prayer our members in home...

| | |
|---|---|
| JoAnn Steward | Marlys Ryan |
| Verdeen Ohlendorf | Phyllis Buls |
| Leland & Wilma Timmerman | |

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

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|---|---|
| Brandon Burrows | Charten Wells |
| Matthew Coulthard | Colton Henry |
| Kristian Heidemann | Alyssa Jones |

## God is Still on the Throne

By Brenda Sievers

The world feels heavy,
suffocating.
How can we breathe,
when the weight of the world
bears down,
squeezing our souls
with the sounds of war.

Do not give up.
Pray for a lasting peace.
Discover the gifts of nature
that summer provides.
Find your joy.
And never forget
that God is still on the throne.

Galatians 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2026

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

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Bonnie Travers.

Also in Attendance: Ellen Kalkbrenner.

Absent Members: Dan Groskurth.

Opening Prayer: Kathy Westendorf.

Meeting Called to Order by: Dave Kirchhoff.

Approval of March Minutes: Motion to approve: Kara Marsh, seconded by Sharon McLavey.

Treasurer Report: March financials had more expenses as there were some additional bills for March, quarterly insurance due and extra wages to pastors due to additional services for the month with Lent season. The parsonage bills will be paid from the parsonage funds available. Motion to approve: Kara Marsh, seconded by Sharon McLavey.

Trustee Report: a meeting with the congregation on March 22nd was called to order by Dave Kirchhoff for open discussion on air conditioning to be installed in the narthex. Total cost is $4,485.47. motion to approve installing air conditioner in the Narthex made by Don Bunce and seconded by Jay Ranard. Discussion to cash out a stock of $500.00 that has depreciated in value to go towards air conditioner. Motion not to cash out stock at this time made by Jay Ranard and seconded by Patti Mehmen. Air conditioner to be installed by Ryan Smith Plumbing with a deposit to be paid upfront of half the balance due, with remaining balance to be paid after installation. The deposit amount is $2,242.73. motion to pay half the balance due upfront by Mike Westendorf and seconded by Jay Ranard. A quarterly financial report will be made available to the congregation. Ellen Kalkbrenner has prepared a graph to illustrate quarterly financials. Spring cleaning was discussed and Mike Westendorf has been keeping up on the outside yard work both at the church and the parsonage. Dean Shinstine to start working on basement walls of the church. The tenants have moved out of the parsonage. They left several items in the house. Items to be moved into the garage and tenants notified for a chance to come get the items they want. A lot of cleaning needs to be done in the parsonage. Lawn care sign up sheet is available for volunteers. Discussion of concrete needing to be fixed on the back patio between the church and Ed buildings as there is a sink hole.

Elder Report: Mother's Day Sunday service will be observed on May 10th. Graduation Sunday will be on May 17th at 10 am with a breakfast given to graduates and immediate family members of Pizza and fruit at 9 am before church service. Invitations will be mailed out to members graduating. Pastor Feltman to officiate service. Confirmation Sunday will be on May 31st at 9 am, breakfast for the 8 confirmands and their immediate family members of Pizza and fruit to be served before services at 8 am. Invitations will be mailed out to confirmands. Pastor Braley to officiate.

Liaison Report: there are pamphlets in the Narthex on Endowments. Memorial committee will move forward to promote Endowments.

**April 6 , 2026 Minutes (Continued)**

Old Business: The search committee met on March 15th to discuss the vision and mission of the church. Working on a profile for a new pastor. There is a lot of work involved in this. Jennifer Dillon is liaison for this committee. A committee made of Jay Ranard, Dave Kirchhoff and Bonnie Travers met with members of St. John's Segal to negotiate sharing of a pastor.

New Business: a conference to have a round-table discussion to enhance youth in our church led by Brad Braley and David Feltman will be scheduled. Discussion on purchasing a digital version of hymnals for services will be tabled until a later date. Cost of digital hymnals is $300.00 and $100 for the digital accompaniment.

Next meeting set for Monday May 4, 2026.

Motion to adjourn by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Sharon McLavey.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Council Meeting Minutes
Faith United Church of Christ
May 11, 2026

Members in attendance: Dave Kirchhoff, Mike Westendorf, Kathy Westendorf, Dean Shinistine, Brenda Shinstine, Jay Renard, Dan Groskurth, and Bonnie Travers.

Absent members: Kara Marsh, Jennifer Dillon, Patti Mehman, and Sharon McLavey.

Opening Prayer: Bonnie Travers

Meeting called to order by: Dave Kirchhoff

Motion to approve April's minutes by Mike; 2nd Jay.

**Treasurer Report:** The report was prepared by Ellen Kalkbrenner and presented to the council by Jay Renard. For Confirmation Sunday, Rev. Braley will be paid $200 for the service and $200 for confirmation. Replacing the narthex air conditioner will cost $4,485.47. Donations already committed for the project total $2,380, leaving a remaining balance of about $2,100. The Women of Faith offered to cover that balance. The treasurer was approved to transfer funds from the Parsonage Rent account as needed to cover expenses. Motion to approve Dean; 2nd Kathy.

The council thanked the Women of Faith for their donation toward the narthex air conditioning and for organizing the successful meal and silent auction held on May 3. The council also thanked everyone who helped, including Justin Leonard from Fredericka Locker, for assisting with the meat and participating in the activities. Women of Faith, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

**Trustee Report:** Mike Westendorf and Dave Kirchhoff repaired the paving stones near the back door of the education building. The basement walls are still being evaluated to determine the best repair approach. The parsonage will need professional extermination, and pricing is being investigated. Required procedures must be completed before cleaning and repairs can begin. The council will also review pricing for a rental manager when the parsonage is ready to be rented again. The lawn-mowing calendar is continuing to fill up.

**May 11, 2026 Minutes (Continued)**

**Elders Report:** On Mother's Day, carnations with tags made by the Sunday School were given to the mothers, and cake was served during fellowship. A graduation breakfast was held on May 17 for graduates Kayla Milius and Derrick Buchholz. Congratulations to the graduates. Confirmation will be celebrated on May 31, when eight young adults will affirm their baptism. This will be a special day for them and for their families and friends at Faith UCC. Congratulations to the confirmands.

The council also thanked Pastor Brad Braley, Kara Marsh, and Jen Dillon for teaching the confirmation classes.

**Liaison Report:** The Memorial Committee is discussing easier ways to access funds, including the possibility of opening a money market account.

The search committee liaison shared concerns that the committee needs more direction from the council in developing the church profile. The council will discuss with liaison Jen Dillon how best to support the committee. St. John Siegel is also preparing its profile, as both profiles should be submitted at the same time. The process is extensive.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Justine Liddle would like to organize a Vacation Bible School. The council will speak with Justine about how to best support the effort and how to raise the funds needed. Motion to approve Kathy 2nd Brenda.

The council is looking to reestablish the Faith Education Committee. This committee would support the Sunday School program and its teachers. The council is seeking 3-4 people, along with a council liaison, to serve on the committee. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the council.

The council is also considering hosting a youth evening this summer. The idea is to gather young people from the community at the church on Sunday evenings for Christian praise music, use of the screen, and fun activities. Anyone willing to help organize this youth-centered event should contact Dave.

The council discussed Church 360 access and approved full access for Treasurer Ellen Kalkbrenner, who will be working on reports and system audits. Motion by Brenda; 2nd Jay

The next council meeting will be Monday, June 1, at 6:30 PM. Elders and Trustees will meet at 6:00 PM.

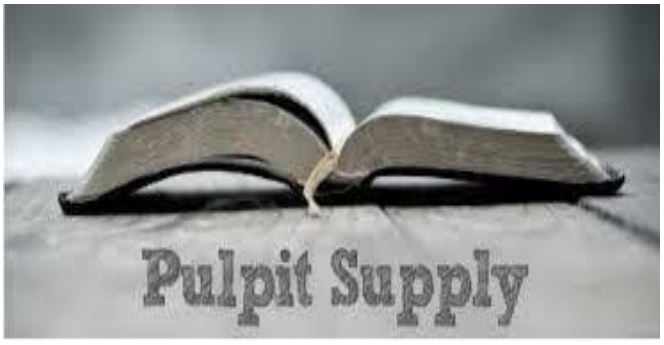
Motion to adjourn Dean; 2nd Mike.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Traver

WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of Faith will have a meeting on Sunday, June 28th following the worship. All women of the church are welcome.

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|---|---|
| June 7 | Rev. David Feltman (Communion) |
| June 14 | Rev. David Feltman |
| June 21 | Rev. Gary Catterson |
| June 28 | Rev. Tom Wiles |
| July 5 | Rev. Amy Wiles (Communion) |
| July 12 | Rev. David Feltman |
| July 19 | Rev. Tom Wiles |
| July 26 | Rev. Gary Catterson |

Thank you to all who so kindly donated yarn or money to purchase yarn so we can continue with our mission of making prayer shawls. We do apricated your help.

Drop-A-Stitch Group.

## 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

| | |
|---|---|
| June 7 | Council |
| June 14 | Jerry & Marlene Snelling |
| June 21 | |
| June 28 | |

**Thank you for serving!**

# A Special Thank You.....

Faith United Church of Christ had another great event.
Our Hot Roast Beef Lunch and
**Spring Garden and Divine Baked Items Auction**
**It Was a Huge Success!**
We want to thank each and everyone of you who joined
us for the Delicious Lunch.
Thank you to the persons who donated the food.
Thank you all for the Freewill Offering Donations this was great!
Thank You to the people that cleaned up after the lunch.
Thank you All.....
Many Thanks to the persons that donated items for
the Silent Auction and a huge Thank You to the Winning Bidders.
There was a lot of laughter, fun and great fellowship.

Our Lunch and Silent auction was all profit.

**Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.**
This is so greatly appreciated!

A lot of helping hands...make for a 'Faith Loving' Family.

Thank you for your help, your gifts, your kindness, your love
and your support for this "Faith Fun" Event.
**Thank you!!!**

May God Bless You!
~ Women of Faith ~

*The Lord shares His Love for us through 'Special People' like You!*

# Emerald Crossing - Vacation Bible School

An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23
Sunday, July 12th - Thursday, July 16th 5:30pm-8:30pm
Faith United Church of Christ
408 S Main St. Tripoli, IA 50676

We are excited to bring back VBS! This year we will take an adventure through Psalm 23 in the Irish theme Emerald Crossing. Students will explore the life of the shepherd-king David and will learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd.

VBS will start Sunday, July 12th and conclude on Thursday, July 16th. Each evening VBS will start at 5:30pm with a whole group gathering and end at 8:30pm. On Thursday, July 16th beginning at 8:15pm, we will have a short program to share what we have learned during the week. Students ages 3 through 6th grade (spring '26) are welcome to join. We also will need volunteers 7th grade and older.

There is no cost to attend. Students should bring a sack supper and drink each night. A daily snack will be provided. Each night during the opening gathering, we will take a free will offering. The offering collected each night will be split between a mission project and Faith UCC VBS.

We look forward to seeing you this year! If you have any questions, please reach out to Justine Liddle 319-939-1499 or Helen Milius 319-239-8893

Please look for registration information coming soon!

## June Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| June 1 | Marilyn Lahmann |
| | Helen Milius |
| June 8 | Caleb Marsh |
| | Megan Newbrough |
| June 10 | McKinna Benson |
| | Tamara Rosol |
| June 11 | Karen Buchholz |
| June 12 | Joan Struck |
| June 13 | Austin Newbrough |
| June 14 | Marlys Biermann |
| | Justin Hoppenworth |
| | Dave Kirchhoff |
| June 15 | Sara Blessing |
| | Pat Warner |
| June 16 | Zachary Johnson |
| June 18 | Angie Buchholz |
| | Lori Buchholz |
| June 19 | Brenda Sievers |
| June 21 | Corey Rosol |
| June 23 | Kennedy Drewis |
| June 25 | Jerry Snelling |
| June 26 | Juanita Nuss |
| June 28 | Grant Goudschaal |
| June 29 | June Buhr |

## Faith United Church of Christ Finances
## General Fund 2026

| | *May* | *Budget* | *Variance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Offerings | $11,051.64 | $12.058.00 | -$1,006.34 |
| Expenses | $ 8,169.92 | $ 9,953.66 | $1,783.74 |

**Year-to-date 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| Offerings | $ 60,290.98 |
| Expenses | $ 52,352.84 |

### Cemetery Operations

**April 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| Portfolio Value | $63,415.77 |
| Checking Account Balance | 1,051.70 |
| Savings Account | 507.35 |

## June Anniversaries

| | |
|---|---|
| June 3 | Roger & Darlene Buchholz |
| June 8 | Jerry & Marilyn Lahmann |
| June 14 | Patti & Troy Mehmen |
| June 17 | Steve & Dawn Dahlstrom |

**Worship by the numbers… May 2026**

| | In-person Attendance | Online Viewing | General Offering |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 3 | 81 | 23 | $3,154.02 |
| May 10 | 78 | 34 | $1,095.25 |
| May 17 | 113 | 17 | $2,361.00 |
| May 24 | 49 | 29 | $2,885.00 |
| May 31 | 174 | 31 | $1,556.37 |

## 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** |