

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

August 2026

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Nadine Schnurstein
Mary Ann Meyer
Carol Kammeyer
Gary Snyder
Gerald Liddle
Jim Anderson
Tad Chapin
Cheryl Dahlstrom
Keith Stahlhut
Morgan Smith
Shirley Brown
McKinna Benson
Paula Black
Alicia Guzman

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

Brandon Burrows
Matthew Coulthard
Kristian Heidemann
Colton Henry
Charlen Wells
Alyssa Jones

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Phyllis Buls
JoAnn Steward
Marlys Ryan
Verdeen Ohlendorf
Leland & Wilma Timmerman
Dolores Schmidt

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

August

August, a symphony of heat and haze,
Where summer's fervor continues its blaze.
With days of gold and skies of blue,
August whispers secrets old and new.

In fields of amber and ripened grain,
August's bounty yields without refrain.
Each harvest's yield, a testament told,
In August's warmth, stories unfold.

With every dawn, a promise gleams,
In August's rays, hope redeems.
A time for reflection, for gratitude's song,
As August guides us where we belong.

In August's heat, memories are spun,
In laughter shared and battles won.
A tapestry of moments, woven tight,
In August's embrace, we find delight.

So let us savor August's embrace,
And cherish each moment, every trace.
For in its midst, we find the key,
To unlock the door to destiny.

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
June 1st, 2026

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

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Kara Marsh.

Also in Attendance: Ellen Kalkbrenner.

Absent Members: Mike Westendorf.

Opening Prayer: Bonnie Travers.

Meeting Called to Order: Dave Kirchhoff.

Approval of May Minutes: Motion to approve: Dan Groskurth, seconded by Kathy Westendorf.

Cemetery Committee: Roger Goudschaal was present to request the council's approval to have a congregational meeting to amend the bylaws clarifying the usage of perpetual funds.

Treasurer Report: May had additional expenses due to Narthex air conditioning payment of \$2,242.73. Funds were allocated from the Improvement Fund. Women of Faith donated \$2,105.47 to cover the difference from donations and the total of the invoice of \$4,485.47. Women of Faith also donated an additional \$394.55 to the Improvement Fund, bringing their total donation to \$2,500.00.

June will incur extra expenses due to insurance and contractor payroll.

Collaboration between Ellen and Roger on the process of issuing 6-month giving statements for members.

An updated Income vs Expense chart will be made available to the congregation.

It has been confirmed that Church 360 will allow us to add a "2nd Book" at no additional charge. The annual fees would be changed only if we added another module. Accounts are set up separately or as different "books".

Discussion to follow up on using other areas within the UCC family for additional "books" Motion to approve Dean Shinstine, seconded by Sharon McLavey.

Trustee Report: Motion to cash out stocks that have been gifted to Faith UCC to be deposited into the general fund made by Patti Mehmen and seconded by Jay Ranard.

A date will be scheduled for cleaning the parsonage, Brenda Shinstine will contact a carpet cleaning service to access carpet stains and possibility of cleaning carpets vs replacing. Two garage windows to be replaced.

Elders Report: Dave Feltman will celebrate his 47th anniversary of his ordination. A reception with cake and refreshments will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 7th. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 12th thru July 16th from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Justine Liddle is coordinating the program with assistance from Helen Milius. A fundraising campaign will be conducted to help offset Vacation Bible School expenses. The baptism of Wrenleigh Obermeyer is scheduled for June 14th, during church service. Discussion regarding cost-saving measures for monthly newsletter postage was tabled for a future meeting.

Liaison Report: The Memorial and Endowment Committee has prepared a letter to be distributed to members regarding endowments and opportunities for planned giving.

Old Business: The search committee continues work on finalizing the pastoral profile. Liaison Jennifer Dillon, members of the search committee and the negotiating committee (Jay Ranard, Dave Kirchhoff and Bonnie Travers) will meet with representatives of St. John's Segal to compare profiles and discuss shared profiling efforts. Dave will contact St. John's Segal to confirm a tentative meeting date of June 17th at 6:30 pm.

New Business: Community Praise Hour to be held on Sunday June 28th at 6:30 pm. All ages are welcome. This hour of contemporary praise and worship music is a way to get the community involved and to come together for a fun, relaxed, and spiritual uplifting hour.

Discussion on finding a leader for the Faith Education Committee. This role includes organizing education for Faith UCC.

Tom Wiles has agreed to some open dates for church services.

Next meeting set for July 6th, 2026. Motion to adjourn by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Dean Shinstine.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Patti Mehmen

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

Members in Attendance: Dave Kirchhoff, Kathy Westendorf, Mike Westendorf, Kara Marsh, Dean Shinstine, Brenda Shinstine, Patti Mehmen, Bonnie Travers, Jay Ranard, Dan Groskurth.

Also in Attendance: Ellen Kalkbrenner. (via phone)

Absent Members: Sharon McLavey, Jennifer Dillon.

Opening Prayer: Bonnie Travers.

Meeting Called to Order: Dave Kirchhoff.

Additions to the Agenda: Motion to approve the adding of Ellen Kalkbrenner to Summer Day Camp account by Jay Ranard, seconded by Kathy Westendorf.

Approval of June Minutes: Motion to Approve: Bonnie Travers, Seconded by: Brenda Shinstine.

Treasurer Report: June Financial Balance Sheet; Income/Expense; Check Register. Balance sheets note: Account 12242 Johnson Financial Account-moved from Endowment to General Savings at RSB based on cash out deposits- now listed with designated Savings; General Fund Money Market Savings and General Fund CD. Funds deposited in the General Fund Money Market Savings Account: Janice Koch Estate- \$2,000.00, no designation given, can be dispersed as needed. Motion to disperse \$2,000.00 to the cemetery committee by Mike Westendorf and Seconded by Kara Marsh.

Sale of stock in the Giving Account in the amount of \$6,974.00 deposited into the General Fund Money Market Savings account until designated for use. Income vs Expense for June reviewed. Final payment to Ryan Smith for Narthex AC \$2,242.74. Payments to Contract employees in the amount of \$3,237.50. The 2nd of 4 payments made for annual insurance premium of \$3,021.25. Elevator Inspection complete, June certification issued with no recommendations. Motion to approve June's Treasurer's Report by: Kara Marsh, Seconded by: Mike Westendorf.

Trustee Report: A budget update for June will be made available to the congregation. A big thank you to Patti Mehmen for the cleaning of the church when Samantha was on vacation. Discussed contacting Aliant Energy to get a comparison of usage compared to a year ago. The Parsonage is still in need of cleaning. There will be a list of cleaning that needs to be done for the council members to complete. Dan Groskurth will replace the garage windows. Brenda Shinstine will contact the carpet cleaners for possible cleaning the first week of August. The Air Conditioner will be turned on in the Parsonage to keep moisture out. Discussed possibly landscaping the South Side of the Church between the sidewalk and road, as grass does not grow in this area.

Elder Report: a motion was made to approve the dismissal of membership for Mike and Holly Johnson made by Bonnie Travers and seconded by Kara Marsh. Vicki will remain in charge of the Pulpit supply. The Sunday after Labor Day, September 13th will be the start of 10 am services. The Elders will be working on an updated usher duty check list.

Old Business: The search committee is working on a digital profile. St. John's is updating their 5-year-old profile. The committee is set to meet on July 15th and July 22nd to review and edit a final draft. The committee is hoping to have a combined profile completed on the 1st of August. Motion made by Jay Ranard for Roger Goudschaal to speak to the congregation about changing the by-laws for cemetery treasurer to write checks out of the perpetual care funds for upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery. Seconded by: Kathy Westendorf. There will be an announcement during an upcoming church service to set a date for a congregational meeting on the vote to change the cemetery by-laws. Praise hour is scheduled for Sunday, July 12th and Sunday, July 26th.

New Business: Discussion to have a float in the Tripoli Days Parade, times to meet to discuss, create, and construct the float will be determined. The AA meeting will be moved to the spare office during Vacation Bible School.

Next meeting is set for August 3rd, 2026.

Motion to adjourn by: Dean Shinstine and seconded by: Kara Marsh.

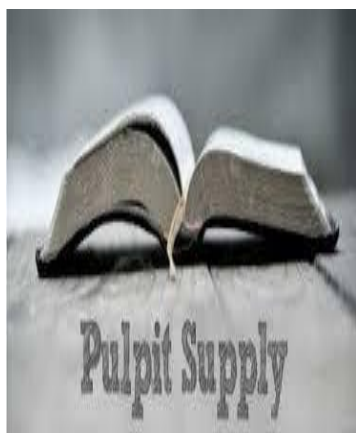
The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Mehmen

Council

*Minutes not approved by



Pulpit Supply

August 2 (Communion)	Rev. David Feltman
August 9	Rev. Brad Braley
August 16	Rev. Amy Wiles
August 23	Rev. Gary
Catterson	
August 30	Rev. Tom Wiles
Sept. 6 (Communion)	Rev. Tom Wiles
Sept. 13	Rev. David Feltman



Lunch Box Contributions

The Lunch Box Fund raised \$40.00 this month. Thanks to everyone Who contributed. The school is very appreciative for this help.

Thanks, Beth G.



Enjoy the Parade – Watch for the Faith UCC Float

Thank you to everyone that helped build the float for the parade. It was a great idea to fit in with the theme. Do you think we will win first prize?



VBS News

This year our VBS theme was Emerald Crossing where students learned about the shepherd king David and to have a firm foundation in God's Word. Throughout the week, 19 students learned how to cross from anxiety to peace and from fear to faith as they heard the Psalm 23 in lessons. They made crafts, had snacks and played games that all related to the story of the day. We are thankful for the students and volunteers that came and helped during the week.



Sunday School Information

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13th. Please be on the lookout for more information in the next newsletter and on Facebook

Praise Hour on August 2nd will be cancelled.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, August 9th for "Praise in the Park" from 4-7 at Chapin Park. The concert is sponsored by 882 Kingdom Crew.

Faith United Church of Christ

408 South Main Street - Tripoli

Tripoli Days

~Luncheon~

Saturday – August 8, 2026

Serving after the Parade until 1:00 p.m.

Hot Beef Sandwich with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy



Salads

Beverages



Pies

Adults \$12.00 Children 10 & under \$6.00 Preschool & under n/c

Air Conditioned Fellowship Hall

~Take outs available~

Everyone Welcome!

August Birthdays

August 1	Jean Ranard
August 3	Shawntelle Moore
	Ashley Penrod
	Marshall Dillon
August 9	Tyler Reeves
August 10	Hannah Buchholz
	Scott Behn
August 11	Tad Chapin
August 12	Jacob Martin
August 16	Chad Buchholz
August 21	Leland Timmerman
August 29	Justine Liddle
	Aspen Blessing
August 30	Eli Bahdrenfuse

August Anniversary

August 1	Jeremy & Adella Nelson
August 5	Roger & Beth Goudschaal
August 13	Ken & Juanita Mohlis
August 14	Mike & Kathy Westendorf
August 24	Bob & Donna Sassman
August 25	Dena & Dean Shinstine
August 27	Clark & Kathleen Snelling
August 29	Justine & David Liddle
August 31	Kara & Conrad Marsh

Faith UCC Council

President	Dave Kirchhoff
Vice President	Mike Westendorf
Recorder	Patti Mehman

Elders

Sharon McLavey *	2 nd term expires 1-31-27
Kara Marsh	2 nd term expires 1-31-27
Bonnie Travers	2 nd term expires 1-31-28
Kathy Westendorf	2 nd term expires 1-31-28
Patti Mehmen	1 st term expires 1-31-29
Jen Dillon	1 st term expires 1-31-29

Trustee

Mike Westendorf	1 st term expires 1-31-28
Jay Ranard	1 st term expires 1-31-28
Brenda Shinstine	2 nd term expires 1-31-28
Dean Shinstine*	1 st term expires 1-31-29
Dan Goskurth	1 st term expires 1-31-29
Dave Kirchhoff	2 nd term expires 1-31-29

*Head Elder or Trustee

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

	<u>July</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$8,273.50	\$10,280.00	-\$2,006.50
Expenses	\$4,903.91	\$10,208.66	\$5,304.75

Year-to-date 2026

Offerings	\$70,184.45
Expenses	\$59,191.98

Cemetery Operations Fund -June 2026

Portfolio Value	\$61,028.16
Checking Account Balance	101.70
Savings Account Balance	4,057.77
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$61,187.63

Worship by attendance - July 2026

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>Offering</u>
July 5	36	27	\$1,336.00
July 12	53	12	\$2,975.00
July 19	57	20	\$2,605.00
July 26	37		\$1,212.00

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
	Dawn Holm
	Sara Blessing
	Mary Jo Rathe