

FAITH TALK

Faith United Church of Christ

November 2018

Tripoli, Iowa

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

Krystal Liebau
Andrew Warner
Sheila Behn
Stacy Nuss
Laura Durscher
Larry Smalley
Nora Ann Beck
Janice Vorthmann
Glenyce Smith

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

Shane Buchholz
Brandon Burrows
Matthew Coulthard
Kristian Heidemann
Ethan Henry
Kaitlin Westendorf

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Jean Bentley
Richard Buhr
Betty Holm
Betty Hills
Orlyn Milius
Betty Roder
Garnetta Snyder

We mourn with Ruth & Dave Kirchhoff and their family on the passing of their brother-in-law Dean Delorenza.

We mourn with Marlys Biermann and her family on the passing of her infant great-nephew Elliott Conrad Beck.

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

~ Acts 2:41-47

Our Tuesday morning Bible Study is currently studying the book of Acts. There are many reasons Acts is one of my favorite books of the Bible and the above verses are examples of why. Three thousand people heard Peter's message and walked forward to be baptized! They were together...taking care of one another...sharing what they had with all of their new brothers and sisters in the faith. And day by day God found them new folks that were added to the rolls.

Quite a contrast to most modern-day places of worship isn't it? Like so many mainline congregations, we here at Faith know well the wringing of the hands as Sunday morning attendance dwindles. We look around for those that once sat near us and we miss their smiles. We miss their voices raised in song. We miss their "amen" at the end of prayers.

The back of the 10/21 UCC bulletin offered some thoughts I think are worthwhile as we move forward together on this journey...

Much that concerns many churches in mainstream Protestant denominations are these questions: How do we grow? How do we add people in the pews? How do we survive? Trying to answer these questions often leads to reminiscing about when the sanctuary was full or there were 30 confirmands or the pastor stayed for 30 years in the same church. Back in those days, there wasn't much a church needed to do except have a personable pastor, probably a young man with a wife and two darling toddlers. It was a time when youth had less to draw down their time and few places for fellowship. So-called Blue Laws prohibited many businesses from being open on Sundays thus carving out a space in people's lives for Sunday worship. You didn't have to worry much about what it meant to be church. Church was a part of the world. Today, all that is different. There is so much else to do Sunday mornings, and ways to believe in this world, and pastors don't stay more than 5-7 years anymore. What is a church to do?

In Mark 10:35-45, Jesus talks about service. He says the measure of being great is being a servant to all. He says, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." In John's Gospel, Jesus says, "If you love me, feed my sheep." Perhaps it's time for us to stop thinking what the world should do for us, but what we should do for the world. Perhaps our worry is not how to grow, but how to serve.

So do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. ~ Isaiah 41:10

~ Pastor Marilyn ♥

OUTREACH AND THINGS TO DO

The **WOMEN OF FAITH** bring to the church the monthly opportunity to support **HIS HANDS FOOD PANTRY** in Oran through monthly donations of food and household items. For the month of November, the food pantry has requested donations of

Paper Products: Paper towels, toilet tissue, baggies, aluminum foil

Items may be placed in one of the baskets located throughout the building.

Area Volunteer Opportunities

The Grout Museum District in Waterloo is seeking volunteers to assist with various mailings – labeling, sorting, stuffing, etc. Call 319.234.6357 for more info.

Through Big Brothers/Big Sisters of NE Iowa, Little Brothers or Sisters and their family can be adopted for the holiday season. Lists will be provided and gifts can be dropped off at the office located at 2530 University, Waterloo. For more information contact Angela Orr at 319.234.9397, ext 117 or angela@iowabigs.org.

November 19-21, Northeast Iowa Foodbank volunteers will hand out holiday bags filled with Thanksgiving food items. The goal during the three days is to serve more than 4,000 area households. Contact Jessica Haring at 319.235.0507 or jharing@northeastiowafoodbank.org

If you have some time to share on a Tuesday evening or Friday morning, call Roger Burgart at 563.920.8522 to volunteer with the distribution of food at His Hands Food Pantry in Oran.

Your help is always welcome at the Tripoli Mobile Food Pantry as we serve the area food insecure each month here at Faith UCC with donations from the NE Iowa Food Bank. During November the Mobile Food Pantry will be on the **THIRD** Thursday, Nov. 15. Typically the Mobile Food Pantry is on the **FOURTH** Thursday of the month. The truck arrival and set-up begins 4, distribution is from 5-6.

Waverly Health Center Event

Tuesday, November 13 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in Tendrils Rooftop Garden Waverly Health Center will be hosting **Grief and the Holidays**. They will provide tips to help navigate the holiday season.

Festival of Trees

November 13-18 at Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, UNI - 8201 Dakota St, Cedar Falls. Multiple events available including a Christmas themed brunch, Fashion Show, Teddy Bear & Tea and others. All proceeds support Sartori Memorial Hospital. Call 319.268.3161 for more info or visit <https://www.wheatoniowa.org/giving/festival-of-trees/>

Christmas with Wartburg

On December 1 and 2, Wartburg College presents this annual celebration to proclaim the Good News of Christ's birth in word and song. To purchase tickets call 319.352.8691 or visit <https://www.wartburg.edu/christmas>

Women of Faith

**Women of Faith will meet on
Tuesday, November 13th at
6:45 pm. Everyone is invited to
attend the meeting!**

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2018

Members In Attendance: Steve Hill, Rich Milius, Melvin Ohlendorf, Keith Stahlhut, Larry Struck, Tracy Buchholz, Mary Ann Meyer, Brian Bunce, Roger Goudschaal, Juanita Mohlis, Marlene Snelling, Lisa Chapin, Barb Hill, and Pastor Marilyn Sargent Members Absent: None

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn Sargent

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm

Additions to Agenda: Directional signage and Communion set

Minutes of September 4, 2018: MSC

Treasurer's Report: MSC

Trustee's Report:

Brick and mortar in utility room will need to be reviewed. Window painting around parsonage is on hold as the windows are needing to be replaced. Dehumidifier might need to be purchased for the kitchen as there is moisture build up behind the refrigerator from all the rains. Curb by the north entrance has been put back for handicap accessibility.

Elder's Report:

Fish Fry from September 15th went very well. Lot of compliments on the fish and the meal.

Pastor Marilyn Vacation:

October 7th Worldwide Communion – Roger Goudschaal

October 14th FEC/Sunday School – Amanda Bunce

October 21st – Roger Goudschaal

Confirmation begins in November.

Liaison's Report:

Cemetery Committee – Rebalance stocks in the perpetual care fund and was able to get fees lowered.

Faith Education Committee – Vacation Bible School is going well.

Pastor's Report:

October 28th will be the Fall Association Meeting. 2:30 registration and meeting at 3 pm. Thank you to those helping or attending funerals. Jim Reid from Peace UCC in Fredericksburg will be on call while Pastor is on vacation.

Old Business:

Committee working on the projector project has finalized quotes and we will go with Sim Sound and Video for \$18,950. We will need an electrician on site while projector is installed.

New Business:

Motion to approve hall rental. MSC

Signs with directions for visitors to see where the office is labeling for the entrances. Office will look into some options.

Will work with Memorial Committee to purchase new communion set.

Will look into options to change the candles from wax to oil.

Adjourn: MSC

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce, Recorder

Minutes not yet approved by Council
MSC = Motion, seconded, carried

Faith United Church of Christ
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2018

Meeting called to order at 11 am.

Purpose of the meeting is to approve the spending of designated money raised for the projector project. Two quotes have been reviewed and the committee has selected Sim Sound for this project. Memorial funds have been raised for this project and is around \$20,000 raised. This project will be around \$18,000. There will be additional cost of an electrician that we will not be able to have a quote in advance.

Questions/Comments from the floor:

Jay Ranard Question on future cost of the projector for maintenance.

Response Projector will have a 3-year warranty on equipment. Roger has called other churches and no major repairs were reported.

LaVera Buchholz This could help save on paper cost.

Jerry Snelling What advantages will this project bring the church?

Response Will be able to show scriptures, hymns, videos, and announcements.

Bonnie Travers This is the way of the future. This will open up doors and ways we can worship. Also will help enhance the service.

Larry Struck Who will run the projector and will this be a paid position?

Response: Will not be a paid position and we will have volunteers to run.

Trevor Johnson Waverly Shell Rock Schools use projectors 8 hours a day and they have no issues.

Donna Sassman Who will create power points?

Response Barb Rich will be creating the displays.

Mary Chapin Who will run if there are no volunteers?

Response Head ushers will assist with projector.

LaVera Buchholz Donated money to this project and if it does not go through there will be some offended people.

Response Money is all from donations and nothing will be coming out of the general fund.

Motion by LaVera Buchholz to move ahead with this project with a second by Barb Sowers.

Donna Sassman requested vote by ballot.

Vote was counted:

34 – Yes

15 – No

Motion Melvin Ohlendorf to adjourn, 2nd by Marlene Snelling. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Bunce, Recorder

Minutes not approve by Council
MSC = Motion, seconded, carried

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The first Sunday of Advent is December 2! Following Sunday School classes, we will gather in the sanctuary for worship, communion, and our annual Hanging of the Greens! We hope you will join us as we explore the meaning behind many of our Christmas traditions including the colors of the season, the Christmas tree, and poinsettias. Following worship we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a scrumptious holiday meal and then participate in an intergenerational craft project for each person to take home. It is a delightful way to begin this beautiful season. We hope you will join us!

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



One of our neighbors has recently reached out to us to offer assistance for some of our members. Shannon Brewer (he and his family live directly south of the Ed Wing) is offering to clear snow for our elderly members who find it difficult to do themselves. He wants no payment for task but has agreed to accept \$5 per month to cover the cost of gas for his snowblower. If you would like be a recipient of this kindness, call Shannon or his wife Lemon at 319.415.2110.

Reminder:
Daylight Savings Time
Ends Saturday, November 3
Set your clocks back one hour before
you go to bed on Saturday night.



NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHERS: Larry Struck & Juanita Mohlis

Ushers:

4 Church Council
11 Jay & Jean Ranard
18 Bob & Donna Sassman
25

Greeters:

4 Larry & Joan Struck
11 Marlene & Jerry Snelling
18 Kathy & Mike Westendorf
25 Susan Cline

Liturgists:

4 Jennifer Dillon
11
18 Roger Goudschaal
25

Fellowship Time Servers:

4
11 Sandy Martin, Delores Meier
18 Scott Behn & JoEllen Snelling
25 Tamara Rosol & Donna Sassman

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Erica Newbrough
Amy Price
4 Amanda Sheffler
Krystal Liebau
5 Morgan Peters
Oliver Sheffler
8 Vernetta Bunce
Lonny Moore
Jayden Stahlhut
9 Joe Lohmann
10 Rob Rathbone
11 Stacey Snyder
12 Jerry Lahmann
13 Keith Stahlhut
14 Amanda Johnston
19 Karla Hyde
Lisa Timmerman
21 Wilma Timmerman
22 Marilyn Coulthard
Brenda Shinstine
Molly Sowers
24 Sandy Martin
28 Mike Johnson
29 Melissa Bass

Faith UCC

Council

President Roger Goudschaal
Vice-president Hill Steve
Recorder Brian Bunce

Elders

Marlene Snelling (Chair)
Brian Bunce
Lisa Chapin
Roger Goudschaal
Mary Ann Meyer
Juanita Mohlis

Trustees

Rich Milius (Chair)
Tracy Buchholz
Steve Hill
Melvin Ohlendorf
Keith Stahlhut
Larry Struck

Staff

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Administrative Assistant Barb Rich
Financial Secretary Roger Goudschaal
Treasurer Barb Hill
Inside Custodians Kenny & Darlys Buhrow
Director of Music Elizabeth Goudschaal
Musicians June Buhr
Phoebe Drape
Dawn Holm
Mary Jo Rathe

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