



Focus on Faith Faith United Church of Christ

1630 W. 38th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806
563-391-5726

Email: office@faithuccdavenport.org
Established January 1, 1964

December 2019
Vol.19-12 Issued Monthly
Rev. Heidi Hulme
Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm daily



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

“Joy to the World, the Lord is come.” - Isaac Watts

*“Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth;
break forth into grateful song and sing praises!
Yes, sing songs of praise extolling Love’s way;
lift up your hearts with gratitude and joy!” - Psalm 98
(translation, Nan C. Merrill)*

*“As we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that
ennobles rather than embitters. We have hardship without
becoming hard. We have heartbreak without being broken.” -
Desmond Tutu*



The early snow has turned my heart toward Christmas. Our outdoor lights and decorations are in place and I am (not so) patiently waiting for the day of Thanksgiving to have them on every evening. As we prepare our hearts for the business of the Advent season, I would like to invite you to spend some time thinking about those things which bring you joy. To help you do this, our worship series will unpack joy; where we have it in our lives; when we are afraid to let joy ring; and remember that joy is so often born of pain.

The beloved Christmas classic “Joy to the World,” turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watt’s interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a “new song” – and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than “joy” being yet another word for “happiness,” as we worship together, we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion – all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.

Along with our normal Sunday morning worship, we will hold our annual Blue Christmas worship. This year, we will combine with First Christian Church on December 1st at 4:00 p.m. here at Faith. Together we will create space to remember that sorrow is a part of life, and explore how we can find joy in our sorrow.

We will also gather for Small Group Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday mornings—December 4, 11, and 18.

I invite you to come, bring your family and friends, and together we will remember JOY. Experience JOY. We will join with heaven and nature and sing JOY TO THE WORLD together.

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*



*May the blessing of joy abide within you;
May the blessing of peace rest upon you;
May the blessing of love flow out through you;
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at Christmas and in the new year.
From our house to yours, may you find joy this Christmas Season!*

Love, The Hulmes

FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – November 12, 2019

Property:

Bob will purchase a new snow blower for the church.

Outreach:

Share-A-Meal served 90 on October 29.

Spiritual Life:

Myrene performed her usual duties.

Christian Education:

Will decide whether to hold a Children’s Christmas Program.

Other Business:

Fundraising going well. More to come in January.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2019



- 1 Adam Holdt
- Don Emde
- 5 Calvin Ingstad
- 7 Brad Downing
- 12 Carsen Gerisher
- 16 Connie Moreno
- Pamela Edmond
- 17 William Disney
- Brendan Disney
- 20 Daniel Adams
- 21 Linda Martin
- Rebecca Christy
- 26 Nathaniel Pratt
- 27 Chandler Ozmon
- 30 Carmela McBride
- 31 Nancy Anderson

Notes from the
Council President



Hello Everyone,

We received an update for the roof and we’ll have further discussion at our Congregational Meeting on December 8 immediately following worship. We have a lot to think about, but hopefully we can get this taken care of soon. It will take some time to raise the funds for the roof but the fundraising committee has some great ideas. We are open to any thoughts you may have, so bring them along! May you have a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!



**IN NEED
OF PRAYER**

Our loved ones:

- Kay Showens Joan Goodin
- Harry Stroupe Paul Dammeier
- Lois Wellendorf

Our home bound:

- John Raap Dorris Adams Helen Wiese
- Jack Kohrs Millie Allison

Our World:

Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cape Verda, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories

Treasurer’s Report October 2019			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	OCTOBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 5,805.00	\$ 7,147.50	\$ 58,053.00
OCWM	\$ 205.00	\$ 207.00	\$ 2,106.15
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 210.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 2,346.49
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 495.35	\$ 6,733.26
Total Giving	\$ 6,220.00	\$ 7,969.85	\$ 69,238.90
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 5,805.00	\$ 7,642.85	\$ 64,777.26
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 234.87	\$ 24,473.35
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 5,805.00	\$ 7,877.72	\$ 89,250.61
Pastor Expense	\$ 6,216.00	\$ 4,675.78	\$ 61,211.83
Employee Expense	\$ 1,420.00	\$ 767.72	\$ 11,995.53
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 313.00	\$ 201.00	\$ 2,819.17
Office Expense	\$ 283.00	\$ 131.96	\$ 2,947.67
Property Expense	\$ 1,337.00	\$ 788.16	\$ 10,986.92
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 9,569.00	\$ 6,564.62	\$ 89,961.12
Net General Fund	\$ (3,764.00)	\$ 1,313.10	\$ (710.51)
Submitted by Martha Watters			

Council Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 10, 2019 Jan. 14, 2020

Stewardship letters went out this past week! As you prepare your giving for 2020, please consider setting up an online giving account. Go to our website www.faithuccdavenport.org and click on Online Giving. You can also download the Online Giving App to your phone—directions for this are also on our website.

Share-A-Meal

We do NOT serve a meal in December.



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We need your Help!.....Please Volunteer!

Ushers, Greeters, and Liturgists along with Fellowship Hour Host/Hostess are needed.

Cookies for fellowship hour are needed, homemade or store bought are fine.

Ushers are needed for December and January

**Please contact the office if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral visit. 563-391-5726
Please note the hospitals no longer notify us.**



Pastor Heidi will be on vacation from December 25—January 1 and will return to the office on January 2, 2020.



Women's Group
Wednesday, December 4th
at 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Gathering
at Deb Sullivan's

This group is open to all women of the congregation and generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month in a member's home.

In December We Party!

Everyone is asked to bring a hearty appetizer (this is our meal) and a grab bag gift of no more than \$10. If you have questions, ask one of our regular members: Jan Hannel, Martha Watters, Pastor Heidi, Nancy Jones, Becky Christy, & Deb Sullivan.



OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed on December 25, 26, 27 and also closed on January 1, 2, 3
In observance of Christmas and New Years

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month
January Newsletter article deadline is December 8
(one week early due to Christmas)
January Newsletter will be mailed December 18

Report from Fundraising Committee

FUNDRAISER INFO!!

We now have 2 fundraisers going for the "Raise the Roof" fund.

Terri Lynn Nuts and Snacks – We have some bags of nuts at church for cash and carry items, but you can also put in an order and we will get it ordered for you!

We also have a website set up for those who are out of town friends and family who want to order. Go to <https://faithUCC.terrilynn.com> .

Rada Cutlery – These are those amazing kitchen knives that everyone loves! We have catalogs and order forms at church and are also working on a website for this as well. Go to <https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=3322254.0f0d5e>

We will place orders for both of these from the church after December 1. Payment needs to be received when ordering. There will be more fun things happening at the church after the first of the year! Watch the church Facebook page and the newsletters for further information!!

~ Jill Pepper

UPDATED Roof Bid

When presented to the congregation at the Annual budget meeting, there were further questions and discussion regarding the cross removal. The motion was tabled in order to get some answers, and all of the information is compiled. We have received the following updated bid from Cedar Valley Steel for the removal and disposal of the cross:

- 1) Cedar Valley Steel
\$7,000—remove and disposal of iron cross
- 2) White Roofing
\$36,944—includes removal of the skylight, building a peak to cover the hole, add R18 insulation (currently R3), reshingle with construction grade shingles.

Council is calling a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8 immediately following worship to further discuss these bids, as well as discuss financing.

**These prices are good until spring of 2020*

***There was a question regarding whether we need to insulate the sanctuary.*

Based on the US Department of Energy calculation using R3 moving to R21, for a 4500 sq. ft. roof, and using our current cost, the estimated energy savings per year is \$1200, which calculates to a savings of \$36,000 over 30 years—assuming there will never be a gas cost increase.

If you have questions, please see Mick Noteboom, Todd Ozmon, or Pastor Heidi.



HOLIDAY



Schedule

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent
 Sunday School—9:15 a.m.
 Worship/Communion—10:30 a.m.
 Youth Group—12:30—2:30 p.m.
 Blue Christmas Worship—4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3

Bazaar Celebration Dinner at Mo Brady's
 4830 N. Brady Street
 Davenport, Iowa 52806
 Cocktails—5:30 p.m. and Dinner—6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4

Quiet Time with God—9:00 a.m.
 Small Group Bible Study—10:00 a.m.
 Women's Group at Deb Sullivan's - 6:30 p.m.
 \$10 Christmas Gift Exchange / Bring an appetizer

Sunday, December 8

Sunday School—9:15 a.m.
 Worship – 10:30 a.m.
 Congregational Meeting immediately following worship

Wednesday, December 11

Quiet Time with God—9:00 a.m.
 Small Group Bible Study—10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 15

Sunday School—9:15 a.m.
 Worship with Children's Program— 10:30 a.m.
 Christmas Caroling and Chili Supper—4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 16

Crafters—6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Bring a snack to share and a friend!
 Simple craft provided

Wednesday, December 18

Quiet Time with God—9:00 a.m.
 Small Group Bible Study—10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 22

Worship/Birthdays—10:30 a.m.
 Christmas Fund Special Offering taken

Tuesday, December 24

Candlelight Worship—5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Office Closed

December 25, 26, 27 & January 1, 2, 3

Holiday Bazaar Celebration

Tuesday, December 3

Mo Brady's

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Sign up deadline is December 1

(Everyone is responsible for their own cost)



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Caroling to our shut-ins will take place **Sunday, December 15**. Anyone wishing to join in the fun is asked to meet at church by **4:00 p.m.** and bring a batch of chili to add to the pot for supper following our visits. A sign-up sheet for other food items will be on the Action Board. Singers of all ages are welcome. Please join us! Questions can be directed to Becky Christy or Pastor Heidi.



BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 1, at 4:00 p.m.



Blue Christmas

This service, usually held on the longest day of the year, is meant to help those of us living through dark times. It will be reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope. Join us for this special service.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR



Our Holiday Bazaar was once again a huge success, but not without help from so many people from our congregation. From the breakfast and lunch crew to the attic shop, crafters, bakers, and cookies by the pound makers, and we can't forget the set-up and clean-up volunteers. A **BIG Thank You** for all you do year after year.

This year we were able to raise \$4212.07. Each and everyone of you who helped in any way is what makes this so successful. Thank you again, and God Bless you!

	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
12-01	_____	Marlene Long	Arlene Barclay
12-08	_____	_____	Jan Hannel
12-15	_____	_____	_____
12-22	_____	_____	_____
12-29	_____	_____	_____

Acolytes: Youth Sandwich makers: Kay, Linda, Myrene

★
THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5



For over 100 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a way to ensure that a light of love and hope will always shine for faithful servants of our church who find themselves facing unforeseen financial need.

Because of the generosity of churches and individuals who contributed a total of \$2,539,471 to the 2018 Offering, over 1,000 individuals and families in need were helped with Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, special grants for emergencies, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks. We will take this special offering during worship on December 22, 2019. Thank you for your generosity!

Advent Wreath Lighters Sign Up

Advent begins December 1. This year's theme is **"Heaven and Nature Sing!: 300 Years of Joy to the World"**. We are looking for individuals or families to light the Advent wreath during our Sunday morning worship services this season. Please sign up on the sheet on the Action Board. See Pastor Heidi for details.

Church Women's United

December 6
 1:30 p.m.
 St. John's Methodist Church
 Central Show Choir
 RSVP to Nancy Jones

Student Success Store Needs Our Help!!

Because of the early cold temperatures, the Store is in need of the following items. There is a table in the fellowship hall for the items.

Diapers – all sizes

Non-perishable food items

Winter coats – Men, Women, & Children

Warm winter clothing – gently used

Warm socks – all sizes

Mittens, scarfs, and hats – Adult & Children

Pledge Card Blessing

We will bless our pledge cards during worship on November 24, 2019.

Poinsettias

Christmas poinsettias cost \$10/6in or \$15/8in pots and will be placed in the sanctuary by **December 1**. You may order, with color choice, by signing up on the list on the Action Board by **November 24**.

Crafters
Monday, Dec. 16th
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!
 Join us! Bring a friend!

Bring a snack/hors d'oeuvres to share!
 Bring your imagination and creative spirits as we gather to brainstorm ideas for our Spring sale to be held on Saturday, May 16th.
 We will have a simple craft to do together for this first gathering.

Building Use

As a member of the Faith UCC tribe, you are able to use the building for gatherings for FREE! All we ask is that you let the office know so we can make a note on the calendar in order to avoid double bookings and as a courtesy to inform the janitors. Thank you!

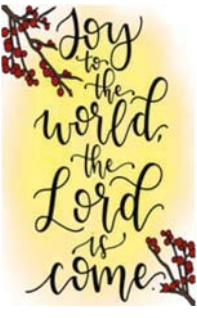











Annual Report Heads Up

It's time to start preparing the various annual reports. Please include participant names as well as the number of participants. This type of data will be invaluable for use in the future.

DID YOU KNOW?

Batteries are recyclable! If you would like to lessen your carbon footprint, bring your batteries to the church and place them in the container provided in the narthex.

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>1</u> 1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship/ Communion</p> <p>12:30-2:30 p.m. Youth Group</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Blue Christmas</p>	<p><u>2</u></p> <p>5:30 p.m. ROC meeting</p>	<p><u>3</u></p> <p>Bazaar Celebration At Mo Brady's</p> <p>Drinks-5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Dinner-6:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>Everyone is responsible for their own drinks</i></p>	<p><u>4</u></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Women's Group at Deb Sullivan's <i>Bring heavy hor devour and a</i></p>	<p><u>5</u></p> 	<p><u>6</u></p> <p>Church Women's United</p> <p>1:30 p.m. St. John's Methodist Church</p> <p>Central Show Choir</p>	<p><u>7</u></p>
<p><u>8</u></p> <p>9:15 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Newsletter</p>	<p><u>9</u></p> 	<p><u>10</u></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Council</p>	<p><u>11</u></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p>	<p><u>12</u></p> 	<p><u>13</u></p>	<p><u>14</u></p> 
<p><u>15</u></p> <p>9:15 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship with Children's Program</p> <p>4:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>16</u></p> <p>Crafters 6:30-8:30 p.m. <i>Bring a friend! Bring a snack to share. Craft will be provided.</i></p>	<p><u>17</u></p> 	<p><u>18</u></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>Mail Newsletter</p>	<p><u>19</u></p>	<p><u>20</u></p> 	<p><u>21</u></p>
<p><u>22</u></p> <p>9:15 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><u>23</u></p> 	<p><u>24</u></p> <p>Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service</p>	<p><u>25</u></p> <p>Christmas Day</p> 	<p><u>26</u></p> 	<p><u>27</u></p>	<p><u>28</u></p> 
<p><u>29</u></p> <p>NO Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Birthdays and Anniversaries</i></p>	<p><u>30</u></p>	<p><u>31</u></p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> 	<p><u>31</u></p>	<p><u>31</u></p> 	<p><u>31</u></p>	<p><u>31</u></p>