



Focus on Faith

Faith United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm daily



PASTORAL PONDERINGS



Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." ~ Genesis 22:1-2

Did you read the above scripture? If not, take time to read it again. How crazy is that? After 99 years, God's promise of a son finally comes to fruition, and now God asks him to sacrifice him! How does that make sense??

Before I was in the Iowa CENTER/LEARN program, it was stories like this that caused me to avoid the Old Testament if at all possible. During the Old Testament class, we were instructed to pick a story and put together a sermon or a Sunday School lesson on it. Our instructor—the Old Testament professor from what was Bangor Seminary in Bangor, Maine—said this, "For some of you, this will be easy. For others, because you have shared with us your fear of the OT, this will be difficult. So I challenge you to pick something outside of your comfort zone. Don't choose a story you are familiar with, or comfortable with. Pick one that makes your skin crawl." *{She really did say that!}* So I did. And in doing so, it changed not only my outlook on the Old Testament, but my outlook on God. In the exegesis (study of) this story, I learned so much of who God is and why God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son. (BTW—if you don't know the ending of this story, turn to Genesis 22 and read it for yourself. And if you want to discuss it, come and see me!)

It is only in studying the scriptures that we find out who the real God is, and how much God loves us. While coming to worship each Sunday helps you understand scripture better, it is not the end-all-be-all. If you really want a full relationship with God, if you really want to know how Christ lived, if you really want to grow your faith, then you need to do more than just attend a one hour a week worship service. You have to step outside of your comfort zones and stretch yourself. Just like a flower, you can't plant the seed and walk away. You have to tend it—water it and give it the right amount of sunlight. In the same way, in order to grow your faith, you have to tend to the seeds that are planted.

Guess what?! We can help you! We have some wonderful opportunities for you to join us and work on growing your faith.

First, there are still two more Wednesday evening Lenten programs that you can attend. Here we will have a simple supper together, and then gather to learn how to meditate. If you haven't made it to one yet, I challenge you to try it at least once. Who knows what you will learn?!

Second, besides the confirmation class we have for 6-8th graders, and the Children's Sunday School classes, we also have ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL that starts at 9:30 on Sunday morning. Mick Noteboom brings a vast array of life experiences to this time of learning, and the conversations are always thought-provoking. I challenge you to give it a try. Grab your coffee and a cookie, and who knows, you might just learn a thing or two!

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – March 19, 2019

Property:

Discussed issues with the sanctuary roof.

Outreach:

Getting involved in The Backpack Program at River Bend Foodbank.

Spiritual Life:

Wednesday evening Lenten supper and program with Edwards is going well.

Christian Education:

More adults encouraged to attend Sunday School.

Other Business:

Researching information on sound system and copier.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2019



Our loved ones:

Arlene Barclay & Family Lois Wellendorf
Gavin King Harry & Maggie Stroupe

Our home bound:

Dorris Adams Helen Wiese Jack Kohrs
Millie Allison Millie Middleton

Our World:

East Timai, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea

Treasurer's Report February 2019			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	FEB	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 5,805.00	\$ 4,538.00	\$ 9,344.00
OCWM	\$ 205.00	\$ 227.00	\$ 415.15
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 210.00	\$ 566.49	\$ 741.49
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 553.00	\$ 1,538.00
Total Giving	\$ 6,220.00	\$ 5,884.49	\$ 12,038.64
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 5,805.00	\$ 5,091.00	\$ 10,882.00
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 10,084.53	\$ 11,935.61
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 5,805.00	\$ 15,175.53	\$ 22,817.61
Pastor Expense	\$ 6,216.00	\$ 5,490.48	\$ 10,950.67
Employee Expense	\$ 1,420.00	\$ 1,329.20	\$ 2,583.40
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 313.00	\$ 46.96	\$ 188.36
Office Expense	\$ 283.00	\$ 176.30	\$ 522.93
Property Expense	\$ 1,337.00	\$ 1,259.86	\$ 2,705.12
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 9,569.00	\$ 8,302.80	\$ 16,950.48
Net General Fund	\$ (3,764.00)	\$ 6,872.73	\$ 5,867.13
Submitted by Martha Watters			

From the Council President

We have come to a point that the roof is in need of being replaced. The sanctuary leaks and the wind has blown a few shingles off the roof. This is going to be a major expense in the near future and we have received a couple quotes for this already. As you all know, we don't have the funds for something like this. Council has been brainstorming ideas on how to raise the funds for this. We are open to ideas.

Todd Ozmon, Council President



Online Giving

We are keeping up with technology!

Our church now provides Online Giving as an electronic tool for contributions so you can give via the Internet or download the app to your phone. Click on the Donate/Give Link on our website at www.faithuccdavenport.org to get started.



Palm/Passion Sunday

April 14 @ 10:30 a.m.

Faith UCC



Maundy Thursday

April 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

Edwards UCC

Good Friday
April 19 @ 6:00 p.m.
Potluck/Services
Faith UCC



Easter Sunday, April 21

9:15-10:00 a.m.
Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m.
Worship/Communion

Christ is Risen!

Please contact the church office if you or someone you know needs a pastoral visit or is going to be in the hospital. 563-391-5726.

Share-A-Meal
5:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 30

Women's Group Meeting
 NO MEETING in APRIL

I would like to thank all of you that have sent cards and prayers. A special thank you to Becky Christy for all her wonderful note cards. I miss seeing you all on Sunday mornings and appreciate your well wishes.
 Millie Middleton



May Newsletter articles deadline
is April 14 (this is early)
the newsletter will be sent out
on April 24

Congratulations to Lyndy Holdt for making the Dean's List in the fall of 2018 at the University of Dubuque. Great Job!

Shout Out! To Sophie Pepper for receiving a superior rating on her piano solo.

Extra Special Thanks! For your continued prayers and past financial gifts and support and for myself and my family. Remission Achieved!!! I have felt the love from you all throughout this whole journey. Recovery of my strength and immune system continues to be very slow but steady improvements are being made. My doctors are happy with my progress so far. **Miracles can happen and each of you are a blessing!**
Thank you again, and again (and again) Love, Arlene Barclay

April

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| April 3 | Helena Henry | April 17 | Lea Rhodes |
| April 6 | Lyndy Holdt | April 19 | Kirsten Gebhardt |
| April 8 | Doris Emerson | April 19 | Jill Pepper |
| April 8 | Peyton Ozmon | April 30 | Barbara Stipes |
| April 15 | Bob Cobb | | |

Lent Simple Supper and Program

Edwards United Church of Christ
 5:30 p.m. Supper
 6-7:00 p.m. Program-Learning to Meditate
 April 3 - Faith will serve April 10 - Edwards will serve

Please use the sign up sheet on the board to RSVP



Continental Breakfast

Easter Morning
 9:15-10:00 a.m.
 Join us before
 Worship.



EASTER TREAT BAGS

It is almost Easter! This year we are excited to announce that we will be trying something new. This year we will not be having an Easter Egg Hunt, but instead we will be handing out treat bags to the children at the end of Easter Sunday Worship. We will need your help with donations. We need things such as: candy, small toy like party favors, small boxes of crayons or any other small items.

We need these donations no later than April 14. If questions, ask Jill Pepper or Pastor Heidi. Thank you.



Sign up sheet to order Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one is on the bulletin board. Cost is \$10 each. Deadline to order is April 8th.



Saturday, May 18
 Spring Attic Shop & Crafts
 More on this Next Month

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.

	Greeter	Usher	Liturgist
Apr 7	Janelle Hoker	Gary Hoker	Henry Pepper
Apr 14	Sandy Holdt		Jan Hannel
Apr 21			Karleen Noteboom
Apr 28			Rick Thomas
Acolytes: Youth		Sandwich Maker: King Family	
		Flowers:	

2019 Council Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

April	9	May	14	June	11
July	9	August	13	Sept.	10
October	8	Nov.	12	Dec.	10

April 2019

Sun

Mon






Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time 5:30 p.m. Edwards UCC Simple Supper 6:00-7:00 p.m. Program	4	5 	6
7 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship/ Communion	8 Deadline to order lilies	9 6:30 Council	10 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time 5:30 p.m. Edwards UCC Simple Supper 6:00-7:00 p.m. Program	11 5:30 p.m. Baskets	12 	13
14 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Newsletter articles due	15 	16	17 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time	18 6:00 p.m. Worship at Edwards UCC Maundy Thursday	19 6:00 p.m. Potluck /Worship Faith UCC Good Friday	20 Holy Saturday
21 No Sunday School See Holy Week Schedule Easter Service Communion	22 	23	24 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time Newsletter Sent	25	26	27
28 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship/ Birthdays & Anniversaries	29	30 5:15 p.m. Share-A-Meal	<u>Youth Group- Schedule</u> Noon-2:00 p.m. April 7th at First Christian No meeting on April 21	<u>Confirmation Schedule</u> 12:30-2:30 p.m. 14th at Edwards 28th at Edwards	