



Focus on Faith

Faith United Church of Christ

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Established January 1, 1964

April 2020

Vol. 20-4 Issued Monthly

Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

"You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday." ~ Psalm 91:5-6

I'm looking out my kitchen window at the snow falling, creating a clean white blanket on our deck, and little white pockets among the grass, which actually started peeking out of its dormancy as the weather began to warm. It is peaceful, calm, and relaxing to watch. Something I have been craving over the last couple of weeks.

This scene seems almost out of place given the chaos this big blue marble we call home has been experiencing. As COVID-19 continues to march across the planet, many of us find ourselves afraid, and for good reason, being in the groups which have been most affected. We are human, and fear is part of who we are. Widespread panic seems to be overwhelming when you watch the continuously changing reports—regardless of which news you watch, and yet, if you go to the CDC website, you find straight facts, and nothing about how afraid we should be.

I am not afraid. At least not so much for myself, or even my family. I do worry for those who are most vulnerable: those in the most affected groups; those who are homeless and have no place to self-quarantine if they would need; those who cannot get their meals because the meal site they frequent has shut down; those who live in facilities which are closed to all visitors and can't understand why their loved ones don't come to see them every day, or tuck them into their beds at night; those who are affected by the empty grocery shelves because they can only purchase a little at a time; those who can't afford to get "extra" medicine, or toilet paper; those who have had to stop working because the business has closed and they have no income; and all of the others who are especially vulnerable at this time.

My brother said something to me last week which I reflect on when I begin to fall prey to my own fear. He said, "It must be really hard being the spiritual leader in the middle of the Apocolypse." He was right. But this statement isn't just about me, it's about the wider Church as well. It's a reminder that we are called to care for the most vulnerable at all times, even in our own fear, even when we have to risk something in order to care for them.

While we are going to scale back on our time together physically, we will still be together in Spirit. (See page 2 for further details on how to stay connected, including for worship, during this time.)

For now, let us actively and intentionally seek out ways we can help those in need. If you need personal items or food, or whatever, or you know someone who needs these things, please let me know. If I don't have them, I know I can find them!

For now, *stay diligent in prayer*. We have a long road ahead of us. Our friends and family, our community, our country, and our world will have much to recover from when this has passed. As a faith community, we are the spiritual leaders of this community, therefore let us lead knowing the Spirit is always showing us something new.

Stay well, Friends, and do not fear—and WASH YOUR HANDS!!

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

STAYING CONNECTED

As we continue to move through this time of “social distancing” or outright “stay at home” orders, we need to continue to connect.

Here are ways you can stay connected to Faith UCC, as well as to one another:

- 1.) Each Sunday, from now until we are able to gather together, we will hold worship at **10:30 a.m. on Sunday on Facebook Live**. Please go to our Facebook page and LIKE it:
<https://facebook.com/FaithUCCDavenport/>
Then watch for the live stream.
There is a tag under the bottom of the live stream that says “Watch together with friends or with a group.” If you click the START button, it will post on your timeline, and your friends can watch as well. (Because a few of us did that yesterday, Jill’s worship has been watched 195 times!)
- 2.) We are offering Bible Study via ZOOM at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings**.
- 3.) Beginning **Monday, March 30**, we will offer three days a week to gather via ZOOM—video or phone. Once these are set up, I will send the link, and you will use that same link each time you want to join. These gatherings are for space to decompress, to “be” together, to check in, to laugh, to cry, to pray. You may join for the whole hour, for just a few minutes, one day, two days, or all three days.

Mondays at 2:00 p.m.

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

HOW TO JOIN ZOOM

If you have never participated in a ZOOM gathering, it is a place where several people can gather by video (using your PC, iPad, or smart phone). If you are not able to video in, there is a number you can call and you will still be a part of the group.

For Bible Study, I will send an email with the link.

For our “to be together” gatherings, I will send the link with the bulletin this week.

If you are joining from a computer, you must download the application file.

If you are joining from a mobile device, download the app ZOOM Cloud Meetings from the App/Play Store.

If an “Application Launcher” or “External Protocol Request” box appears, click “remember my choice” option box and click “OK”

1. Click on the ZOOM link you have been provided with.
2. (From Computer) you will be prompted how you wish to join your audio.
If you are on the computer, click on Join Computer by Audio.
3. (From Phone) Call in on the number provided in the link, and enter the meeting ID given to you from the link.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me, and I will walk you through it! I want you to be able to participate in any way you can, and feel comfortable!

FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – March 10, 2020

- Property:**
Lawn mowing signup sheet has been posted
- Outreach:**
ROC Listening Campaign is ready to begin
- Spiritual Life:**
Lenten soup suppers are on Wednesday evenings
- Christian Education:**
Sunday School continues. Getting ready for Easter and VBS
- Other Business**
Fundraising painting event on March 29
- Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.
May Newsletter article deadline is April 19.
May Newsletter will be mailed April 29.

At this point,
 Pastor Heidi plans to be on vacation April 13–19.
 Jill Pepper will lead worship on April 19.



Notes from the Council President

Hello,
 I want to thank the congregation for understanding the situation we are currently in. We are doing the best we can to help prevent the spread of the virus. We are now doing online worship so people can watch if they would like. Please watch for updates via email, mail, and Facebook. In the next week or so, besides Facebook Live, we will post our worship on YouTube. Please keep each other in your prayers as this time is tough for all of us, but especially the ones in the essential businesses and must continue to work through this time. Please reach out to us if you are in need of help.

Todd Ozmon—Council President

**“Entering the Passion of Jesus”
 Picturing Ourselves in the Story**



Friday, April 10
Good Friday
 “Last Supper:
 The Rest of the Story”
 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 12
EASTER SUNDAY
Continental Breakfast
 9:15 a.m.—10:00 a.m.
Worship
with Communion
 10:30 a.m.



Treasurer’s Report February 2020

| PLEDGE ACCOUNT | MO.PLEDGE | FEB | GIVEN YTD |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 6,182.42 | \$ 5,279.00 | \$ 11,148.00 |
| OCWM | \$ 160.75 | \$ 137.00 | \$ 289.00 |
| Maintenance Reserve | \$ 305.92 | \$ 435.00 | \$ 610.00 |
| Non-Pledge Gen Fund | \$ - | \$ 401.00 | \$ 862.00 |
| Total Giving | \$ 6,649.08 | \$ 6,252.00 | \$ 12,909.00 |

| GENERAL FUND | MO BUDGET | | TOTAL YTD |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Pledged & NP Giving | \$ 6,182.00 | \$ 5,680.00 | \$ 12,010.00 |
| Misc Gen Fund Giving | \$ - | \$ 32.59 | \$ 8,102.67 |
| Total Gen Fund Inc | \$ 6,182.00 | \$ 5,712.59 | \$ 20,112.67 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Pastor Expense | \$ 6,398.00 | \$ 5,544.72 | \$ 10,773.83 |
| Employee Expense | \$ 1,437.00 | \$ 797.32 | \$ 1,594.64 |
| Church Ministry Exp | \$ 325.00 | \$ (50.00) | \$ 63.40 |
| Office Expense | \$ 301.00 | \$ 171.46 | \$ 522.45 |
| Property Expense | \$ 1,337.00 | \$ 1,871.19 | \$ 3,996.54 |
| Total Gen Fun Exp | \$ 9,798.00 | \$ 8,334.69 | \$ 16,950.86 |

Net General Fund **\$ (3,616.00)** **\$ (2,622.10)** **\$ 3,161.81**
 Submitted by Martha Watters

Easter Lilies

Help us adorn the sanctuary
 on Easter morning by
 purchasing an Easter Lily in
 memory of a loved one. Cost is \$10 each.
 Please contact the office
 if you would like one.



2020 Council Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
 Apr. 14 May 12 Jun. 9 Jul. 14 Aug. 11
 Sept. 8 Oct. 13 Nov. 10 Dec. 8



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Our loved ones:

Kay Showens Janelle Hoker Shara Rangel
Joan Goodin Karen Byers Harry Stroupe
Lois Wellendorf Janell and Kenny Alger

Our home bound:

John Raap Dorris Adams Helen Wiese
Jack Kohrs Millie Allison Paul Dammeier

Our World:

East Timor, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan,
North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, Djibouti,
Sumalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia

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.

| | <u>Usher</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>Liturgist</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 4-05 | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| EASTER | | | |
| 4-12 | | | Becky Christy |
| 4-19 | | | Jan Hannel |
| 4-26 | | Sandy Holdt | |
| Acolytes: Youth | | Sandwich Makers: Kings | |



| | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------|------------------|
| April 3 | Helena Henry | April 19 | Kirsten Gebhardt |
| April 6 | Lindy Holdt | April 19 | Jill Pepper |
| April 8 | Peyton Ozmon | April 30 | Cassandra Disney |
| April 15 | Bob Cobb | April 30 | Barbara Stipes |

Don't forget to put your name and program on any In-Kind receipts you turn in to the office. Need it to record the donation.

Thanks!!



Report from the Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee is busy getting things planned for the year. We will be having:

- 1. Our painting party!! We have postponed our painting party to May 3 at 1 PM** at the church. All our spots are full! Bring your own beverages!
- 2. A euchre tournament.** We are working out details on this and are hoping to hold this during this spring. We will let you know as soon as we have dates and details worked out.
- 3. A Trivia night.** Details are being worked out on this and we will let you know as soon as we have dates and locations!

Nuts and knives are still being sold, so continue to spread the word on those. Please stay tuned to the bulletins, Facebook page, and upcoming newsletters for further details on these events!

Terri Lynn Nuts:

<https://faithUCC.terrilynn.com>



Rada Cutlery:

<https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=3322254.0f0d5e>



We have more fun activities that we are working on for the new year. We hope you will join us!

~ Jill Pepper

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 16

Spring Attic Shop & Craft Fair
More on this next month!

Summer Camp



Even youths grow tired and weary, and the young stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:30-31

Throughout each camp you will experience an awakening of your spirit to renew a sense of joy and wonder of fellowship and nature.

AWAKEN EXPERIENCE RENEW

See Pastor Heidi for a brochure!
Or visit www.PilgrimHeights.org

WITH Gratitude

Becky and Church Family,
Thank you so much for my basket! What a wonderful surprise on this Friday morning! Nick and I will cherish them always! Nick and I adopted another dog—a second sheepadoodle named Daisy. She is 3.5 years old and our Mia will be 3 in April. It is so much fun watching them play! We will all 4 be going to Colorado next week to enjoy a much needed vacation to celebrate Nick (3/9) and my (3/14) birthday but also to celebrate Daisy's adoption. We finally feel like we've found a church family here in Granger! We've been attending the Methodist Church for about a year! Believe me when I say—I miss my Sundays at Faith more than you know! You all will forever hold a very special place in my heart!

Love, Malarie Gilley (Millie Middleton's Friend)
P.S.—Adore the card, too. Thanks Gillian!



CONGRATULATIONS!!
Congratulations to all the musicians who did awesome on their solos!!

Sophie Pepper — superior rating on piano solo
Sophie Pepper — 1 rating on her violin solo
Karsten Hulme — 1 rating on his upright bass solo
Gregory Kress — 1+ rating on his saxophone solo
Henry Pepper — 1 rating on his cello solo

Share-A-Meal

There will be **NO Share-A-Meal** in April. The next time we serve will be Friday, May 29 at 5:15 p.m. See the Action Board to sign up.



WOMEN'S GROUP
NO Wednesday evening Women's Group in April due to Lent.



The Little Dresses For Africa (LDFA) sewing group will start meeting here at Faith UCC in the Fellowship Hall on **Fridays from 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

All are welcome, even if you don't sew.

We gladly accept donations of:
Cotton fabric
1/4 inch elastic
Double fold bias tape, all colors
Thread, all colors

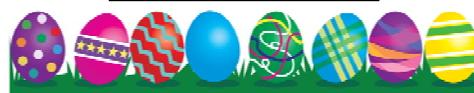
We are always in need of monetary sponsors to help with postage and shipping costs.

We are also looking for additional missionaries, groups, or contacts who are willing to take any of our dresses to parts of the world where they are needed!

Donations or questions may be directed to:
Arlene Barclay, cell (563)322-5757
Thank You!



EASTER TREAT BAGS



It is almost Easter!

Once again, we will not be having an Easter Egg Hunt, but instead will be handing out treat bags to the children at the end of Easter worship. We will need your help with donations.

We need things such as:
Individually wrapped candy
Small toy like party favors
Small boxes of crayons
Any other small items

Please bring donations to the office no later than **April 5**. If you have questions, see Jill Pepper or Pastor Heidi. Thank you!

April 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
|  | | | 1 NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES | 2 | 3 NO SEWING GROUP | 4 |
| 5 Palm Sunday NO SUNDAY SCHOOL / WORSHIP OR YOUTH GROUP | 6 Council will meet to re-evaluate our schedule | 7 | 8 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time 10:00 a.m. Bible Study | 9 | 10 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group Good Friday Worship 5:00 p.m. | 11  |
| 12 Easter Sunday NO Sunday School 9:15-10:00 a.m. Breakfast 10:30 a.m. Worship | 13 Pastor on vacation | 14 6:30 p.m. Council | 15 NO Quiet Time NO Bible Study | 16 5:30 p.m. Basket Class | 17 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group ROC Cohort meet | 18 |
| 19 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>(Jill Pepper lead worship)</i> 12:30-2:30 p.m. Youth Group Edwards UCC Newsletter | 20 Pastor Heidi back in the office 6:30-8:30 p.m. Crafters | 21 | 22 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  | 23 | 24 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group  | 25 |
| 26 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Birthdays and Anniversaries | 27  | 28 | 29 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Mail Newsletter | 30 |  | |