



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

January 2019

Vol.19-01 Issued Monthly

Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Asst. Judy Cummings

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm daily



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." ~ Jeremiah 29:11

I was told by a wise friend once that you don't have to know what's coming next to be clear. I was worried, and for the life of me, can't remember why! What I do remember is that after three years, these words still hit me in a place that resonates.

We live in a time that is uncertain. And we live in a world filled with power struggles, violence, brokenness, hate, and ME! ME! ME! It's easy to cry out "What is going to happen next?" With no straight answers, it is easy to let fear take over. Once fear takes control, we spiral away from our purpose in life, lose sight of our beacon of hope, and God is no longer our center.

But our time and world isn't the only time and place since the beginning that has had trouble.

Pharaoh wanted the boys dead because he knows they may grow up to fight against him. But there was one brave woman who wouldn't allow that to happen. She had no idea what the future would hold, but she was clear about the fact that she wasn't going to let her baby die. And Moses grew up in the Palace to release the captive Hebrews from the injustice and abuse they were facing by leading them to the Promised Land.

Then there's Mary – a young teen who is promised to a gentleman to be married. Before the vows can be exchanged, she finds herself to "be the favored one", and ends up pregnant. A visit from the angel Gabriel calms her, and even though she knows the possibility of abandonment, and even death, were ahead, she was clear – she was to carry and give birth to a very special baby.

And Joseph? He could have turned his back, but he didn't. He married the young girl, and Jesus was born.

The Wise Men had no idea where that strange new star was going to take them, but they were clear – they were to follow it.

Finally, Jesus. His life mission was crystal clear – love everyone; be a beacon of hope and beam of light in a world filled with shadows. Show God's love to everyone – no exceptions – even if they want to chase you out of town, try to trap you, or even kill you. **JUST BE LOVE.**

As we move into a new year (where does the time go?!?!?) you don't have to know what is coming next in your life to be clear about who and whose you are. You don't even have to know what your next step is to be clear about what you want your life to be.

Trust God. Keep God at your center. Love yourself – because you are created to be God's beloved just as you are. Share that same love and mercy, grace, and hope with everyone you encounter. Even - and maybe especially – in the face of adversity.

God doesn't promise we won't suffer and have hardships. God DOES promise that we will never be alone and that we will be abundantly blessed. I may not know everything, but I am clear on this. We are about to celebrate the miracle that Jesus is – a baby who was born in a stinky manger who grew up to change the world. And if he can do it – so can we! One day, one place, one person at a time. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

**GIVE LOVE.
LIVE LOVE.
SEE LOVE.
BE LOVE.
JUST
BE
LOVE**

FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – December 11, 2018

Property:

Sanctuary roof leak repaired.

Outreach:

Two new members joined our church.

Spiritual Life:

Advent Season has arrived.

Christian Education:

Confirmation class will begin in January combining with Edwards Congregational Church.

Other Business:

Faith UCC has been gifted a Little Free Library book box and a Love Your Neighbor sign.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2019

But we will give ourselves continually to

Prayer

and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4



From the Council President

To Our Church Family,

May You each have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Faith United Church of Christ Council Members

Deb Sullivan, Council President



and Potluck following Worship
Sunday, January 20, 2019

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 1 Marlene Long
- 3 Stephanie Mellecker
- 4 David Webb
- 8 Jeffrey Banks
- 10 Nancy Jones
- Arlene Barclay
- 14 Robert Fairbanks
- 16 Michelle Holdt
- 17 Aryn Mellecker
- 22 John Raap
- Shara Rangel
- Kathy Edlemon
- Sarah Pratt
- Vanessa Banks
- Eli Ozmon

Our loved ones:

- Barb Koenig Sid & Ardella Boots Brian Campbell
- Janice Harpist Julie Sutherland JR Showens
- Arlene Barclay & Family Rev. Dixie Laube Kenny Alger
- Rick McBride Gavin King Lois Wellendorf

Our home bound:

- Dorris Adams Helen Wiese Jack Kohrs
- Millie Allison Millie Middleton

Our World: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

Treasurer's Report November 2018

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	NOVEMBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 5,956.00	\$ 4,402.00	\$ 61,668.00
OCWM	\$ 220.00	\$ 259.00	\$ 2,454.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 210.00	\$ 270.00	\$ 8,051.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,473.00	\$ 8,257.37
Total Giving	\$ 6,386.00	\$ 6,404.00	\$ 80,430.37

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD	
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,054.00	\$ 5,875.00	\$ 69,925.37
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 211.23	\$ 24,935.59
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,054.00	\$ 6,086.23	\$ 94,860.96

Pastor Expense	\$ 6,075.00	\$ 2,985.27	\$ 61,357.64
Employee Expense	\$ 1,312.00	\$ 1,046.71	\$ 12,637.28
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 287.00	\$ 111.12	\$ 2,628.58
Office Expense	\$ 287.00	\$ 135.61	\$ 3,467.81
Property Expense	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 2,580.99	\$ 14,878.72
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 9,185.00	\$ 6,859.70	\$ 94,970.03

Net General Fund \$ (3,131.00) \$ (773.47) \$ (109.07)

Submitted by Martha Watters

**2018 Annual Reports
are due in the office by
December 30, 2018**



**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.**

Share-A-Meal
Tuesday, January 29

Dates Church Office is Closed

December 24 & 25
December 31 & January 1, 2019

Pastor Heidi on Vacation
December 26 –29
December 31 & January 1

(Pastor Heidi will be available for emergencies only)

Women's Group 2019 Schedule

Jan. 2	No meeting	July 3	No meeting
Feb. 6	Jan Hannel	Aug. 7	Christy/Jones
March	No meeting	Sept. 4	Christy/Jones
April	No meeting	Oct. 2	Christy/Jones
May 1	Dinner Out	Meetings at 7:00 p.m.	
June 5	Deb Sullivan	Dec 4	Christmas Mtg.

(Watch the announcements for additional info.)

An update from Barb Koenig: I am out of the hospital and my sister has gone back to Texas, so I am on my own. First day back in the pulpit was December 9th, and it went well. I am weak and walk with a walker, but get stuff done slowly. Will have two more procedures in Bismark in January and then hope to recover fully. The good news is that my daughter Megan is engaged and will be getting married in August. A good incentive to heal. Hi to all.

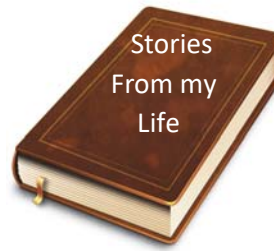
ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, January 19
 Doors open at 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. play begins
 \$64/Table of 8
 Cash prizes for top three winners!
 Bring your own snacks;
 drinks are available to purchase.

*Proceeds benefit the Alumni Association
 & Children's Campus*

<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
-----------------------	---------------------	-------------------------

Jan 6		Karsten Hulme
Jan. 13		
Jan. 20	<u>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!</u>	
Jan. 27		
Acolytes: Youth	Sandwich Maker:	Hokers
	Flowers:	



Check out the book written by Helen Wiese in the Church Library.

February Newsletter article deadline
is January 20

The newsletter will be sent out
on January 30

VOLUNTEER

COOKIES FOR DONORS

We are collecting 4-6 dozen cookies weekly for the
Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center
 Sign up sheet on the bulletin board
 Cookies should be brought to the Church on Sunday for Monday delivery.

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.

2019 Council Meetings

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

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

2019 Communion Servers

Jan.	Becky Christy	Feb.	Pam Edmond
Mar.	Linda Martin	Apr.	Carol Spies
May	Jill Pepper	June	Becky Christy
July	Carol Spies	Aug.	Sandy Holdt
Sept.	Linda Martin	Oct.	Sandy Holdt
Nov.	Pam Edmond	Dec.	Kay Showens

January 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<p>1 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>2 No Quiet Time No Women's Group Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5</p>
<p>6 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship/Communion</p> <p><i>Epiphany</i></p>	<p>7</p> 	<p>8 6:30 p.m. Council</p>	<p>9 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p>	<p>17 No baskets</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Annual Meeting & Potluck Newsletter Articles due</p>	<p>21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p>	<p>24</p> 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship/Birthday</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Pastor Heidi at Conference →</p>	<p>29 5:15 p.m. Share-A-Meal</p>	<p>30 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time Newsletter Sent out.</p>	<p>31</p> 		