



# Focus on Faith

## Faith United Church of Christ

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Established January 1, 1964

September 2020

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Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



### PASTORAL PONDERINGS

*"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ~ John 8:32*

We—and by “we”, I mean “I” - have talked an awful lot about the trials and tribulations of 2020, and we really don’t need to rehash them. Yes, that is part of the truth, but there is another part of the truth that we tend to leave out, especially when we are feeling the fear and despair of all that has been thrown at us.

That truth is the continued abundant blessings we have been given, as a world, as a nation, as a community, as a church, and as individuals. I want to share that part of the truth with you here.

#### WORLD

In this time of chaos and uncertainty, besides our humanity, we now have another thing in common with every single person walking on this planet—the experience of this pandemic. Every single human has their own stories to share about their lived experience. We are not alone!

#### NATION

We have much to work on as a nation, and even in the difficulties and tragedies that continue to be thrown our way, we have been blessed with the opportunity to begin to make things right—to offer justice and equality in ways that we have been ignoring. The more we work toward justice and peace, the more God will bless us.

#### COMMUNITY

In this last storm, I watched our community gather in ways I haven’t experienced before. Again, everyone in our community was affected by this last storm in one way or another, and yet, neighbors helped neighbors, strangers prayed for each other, and a real sense of community was present, if even for a brief moment.

#### CHURCH

This is the most amazing! During this time of sheltering in place, we have raised enough money to replace the roof and take down the cross, to repair the hail damage on the shed and gutters; we have purchased a new sound/video system (which is just about complete!); continued to offer our pledges for the bills that our church has; held a paint party; continue to gather on ZOOM every other Wednesday evening; gather in person and on ZOOM for Bible Study; held our first ever Virtual Vacation Bible School with 3 other churches; and we endured 15 weeks away from one another—while still worshipping—thanks to technology.

#### INDIVIDUAL

This might be my favorite truth. We have grown, albeit with growing pains, but we have grown nonetheless. We have stretched our ideas past what we have always done, and what we have known, opening ourselves to new life. We have used the creativity that God instilled in us. While we are rebuilding life, which can be hard, we are being given the opportunity to play! Think about it, in the beginning when God created everything, do you really think God stressed and worried, and was afraid? No way! God played! God said, LIGHT! and called it GOOD! God made water, land, animals, plants, and then called them all GOOD! And then God made humans—and we are GOOD. Creation wasn’t serious work—it was play! And now we are being invited to take part in that play; to come up with new ways to be and live, and new ways to love. And, as long as we keep God at the center—all of it will be GOOD!

In this time of chaos, uncertainty, and fear, these are the truths that we tend to overlook. Opportunity and abundance. But more than that, this opportunity is offering us freedom from the bondage we once thought to be truth. We don’t have to produce, produce, produce to be successful! We have to LOVE, and be loved. That’s all. And that is the abundant truth.

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

**FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**Church Council Highlights – August 19, 2020**

**Property:**

Severe wind storm damaged trees and also the cross on Fellowship Hall.

**Outreach:**

Undershepard list is being revised.

**Spiritual Life:**

Karleen hopes to do usher signups by phone and meet with Pastor Heidi soon.

**Christian Education:**

Virtual Vacation Bible School was a success.

**Other Business**

The Painting Party raised \$150 for Quad City Inter-faith.

**Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

October Newsletter article deadline is September 20.

October Newsletter will be mailed September 30.

**SHARE-A-MEAL**

The next time we are scheduled to serve will be **Tuesday, September 29 at 5:15 p.m. THIS IS NOT YET CONFIRMED.** Please watch for further details.

Notes from the Council President

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is doing great. We continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation. We will always follow CDC recommendations to make sure we are protecting one another. Please keep the administrators, teachers, and students in your prayers as they prepare, or have already, headed back to school.

We have 2 spots open on Council, so if you would like to join our hard working group, please let us know. Thanks.

*Todd Ozmon—Council President*



- 1 Matthew Stroupe**
- Emma Banks**
- 2 Aaron Wellendorf**
- 6 Linda Fox**
- 12 Charles Fox**
- Harry Stroupe**
- Helen Christy**
- Connor Bouillon**
- 14 Karsten Hulme**
- 18 Michael Kent**
- 21 Jim Spies**
- 22 Harrison Christy**
- 24 Lori Collier**
- Martha Watters**
- 27 Mick Noteboom**
- 30 Nancy Allen**

**Treasurer's Report July 2020**

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	JULY	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,182.42	\$ 5,382.00	\$ 43,124.00
OCWM	\$ 160.75	\$ 107.00	\$ 1,054.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 305.92	\$ 919.00	\$ 3,694.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 747.00	\$ 4,102.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 6,649.08</b>	<b>\$ 7,155.00</b>	<b>\$ 51,974.00</b>

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,182.00	\$ 6,129.00	\$ 47,226.00
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 25.73	\$ 210.87
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 4,149.54	\$ 24,565.59
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 6,182.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,304.27</b>	<b>\$ 72,002.46</b>

Pastor Expense	\$ 6,398.00	\$ 5,946.46	\$ 43,596.91
Employee Expense	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 797.32	\$ 5,581.24
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 325.00	\$ (118.12)	\$ 385.55
Office Expense	\$ 301.00	\$ 310.54	\$ 2,995.65
Property Expense	\$ 1,337.00	\$ 423.35	\$ 9,548.97
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 9,798.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,359.55</b>	<b>\$ 62,108.32</b>

<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (3,616.00)</b>	<b>\$ 2,944.72</b>	<b>\$ 9,894.14</b>
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Submitted by Martha Watters

**2020 Council Meetings**

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

Sept. 8 Oct. 13 Nov. 10 Dec. 8

**Eastern Iowa Association Annual Meeting**

with a brief worship via ZOOM

**Sunday, September 20**

1:00 p.m.

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like the ZOOM link in order to attend.

## **Fundraising Committee**



### **TERRI LYNN NUTS**

We have new product on hand!

Mammoth Pecan Halves—\$13

Deluxe Mix (No peanuts) - \$13

Roasted Whole Cashews—\$13

Trail Mix—\$11

Malted Milk Balls—\$11

Honey Roasted Peanuts—\$9

Chocolate Jumbo Peanuts—\$9

Gummi Bears—\$9

**Or order Terri Lynn online:**

<https://faithUCC.terrilynn.com>

**Or order RADA Cutlery online:**

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



### **RADA CUTLERY**

And we still have cutlery on hand:

Bread Knife—\$7.75

Handi Stir—\$6.00

Tomato Slicer—\$5.75

Serrated Knife—\$5.00

Cutting Board—\$2.00



### **WOMEN'S GROUP**

Wednesday, September 2

7:00 p.m.

We will meet at the church

for fellowship and some light crafting.

*Please join us for fellowship even if you don't craft!*

### **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.**

We gladly accept donations:

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.

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

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!



**Please contact the office if you or someone you know is in need of a pastoral visit.**

**563-391-5726 Please note the hospitals no longer notify us.**

*As we have done since March, we continue to pray for all those who are affected in any way with the virus. We add to this, all those who are affected by the racial tensions and divisions. We also pray for the leaders of this community, country, and of the world, to keep God at the center as they make decisions that are best for all humans.*

### **Our Faith Family**

Jan Johnson

Dave Leamer

Hazel McBride

Marlene Long

Mick Noteboom

Lois Wellendorf

Kay Showens

Gloria Power

Janelle Hoker

Janell and Kenny Alger

Family of Deb and Jim Sullivan

### **Our Homebound**

Dorris Adams

Millie Allison

Paul Dammeier

Joan Goodin

Jack Kohrs

John Raap

Helen Wiese

### **Our Family and Friends**

Pat Hicks

Paula Wakeland

Karen Byers

Merrill Pepper

Randy Bales

Kelly Baird

Gabe Shineman



### **Our World**

Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,

Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Belarus, Moldova,

Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia



*We delivered 34 backpacks to the EICC Student Success Store. Thank you to everyone who donated, and to Christys for delivering them.*

**We received the following thank you:**

Rev. Heidi and Faith United Church of Christ,

Once again your kind members, with their very generous and thoughtful gifts of new backpacks, school supplies and other items, filled our heart with deepest gratitude ! So, on behalf of staff, instructors and students in WDC, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to you and your church members. Because of people like you, Students like ours who have very challenging lives, feel less stressed and are more motivated to continue their education.

Wish you and our dear friends in Faith United Church of Christ health and happiness.

Regards,

Zahra (Niloofar) Basti  
Career Navigator/Adult Education & Literacy

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



AT THIS POINT

we still plan to hold our annual  
HOLIDAY BAZAAR and  
ATTIC SHOP



**Saturday,  
November 7, 2020**  
Watch for  
further details!



**VIRTUAL VBS THANK YOU!!**

A HUGE thank you to Jill Pepper for all her excellent planning, leading and execution of a very different kind of VBS. We joined with Edwards UCC, Hope UCC of Moline, and First Christian DOC of Davenport for a time of in home, and online learning with Harry Potter, Jesus and ME!  
Thanks to all who donated items or money for this new adventure!  
While this was fun, we pray that next year we will be able to celebrate and worship in person!

**Attic Shop Reminder**

**DEADLINE TO BRING ITEMS IN IS SEPTEMBER 1!**

If you are planning to bring items for the fall attic shop, please be sure they are **clean!** We have a reputation for having one of the nicest attic shops in our area. Please help us keep it that way. We also want to remind you that items can only be brought in by Faith families unless permission has been given.

*Please, no linens of any kind.*

# HELP US STAY A 5 FOR 5 CHURCH IN 2020

We are a 5 for 5 church, this means that we choose to take all 5 of the special offerings of the UCC. While this is easy to do, it is actually not all that common for the local UCC churches to follow through with. With everything that has gone on this year, we have missed taking two of these special offerings. One Great Hour of Sharing, and Strengthen the Church. Therefore, we are going to make them up.



One Great Hour of Sharing® supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC.

OGHS was originally scheduled to be taken on **March 22**.

We have rescheduled this special offering for **August 30**.



Strengthen the Church supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. This offering was originally scheduled to be taken **May 31**. We have rescheduled this special offering for **September 13**.



## Watch for these exciting things:

**\*We will be rolling out our new website by September 1. Go to [www.faithuccdavenport.org](http://www.faithuccdavenport.org) to see it!**

*(Thank you to Martha for working so hard!)*

**\*Watch your email or mail beginning September 1 for a survey about our Share-A-Meal ministry.**

### Avoid Coronavirus Scams

- \* Don't respond to texts, emails or calls about checks from the government.
- \* Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.
- \* Be wary of ads for test kits. Most have not been approved by the FDA, and aren't necessarily accurate.
- \* Hang up on robocalls. Scammers use to pitch everything from low-priced health insurance to work-at-home schemes.
- \* Watch out for emails claiming to be from the CDC or WHO. Use sites like [coronavirus.gov](http://coronavirus.gov) and [usa.gov/coronavirus](http://usa.gov/coronavirus) to get the latest information.
- \* Do your homework when it comes to donations. Never donate in cash, by gift card, or by wiring.

# September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>LEAVE ROOM FOR JESUS</p>  <p>Please sit 6 ft. apart</p>		<b>1</b>	<p><b>2</b> 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Women's Group</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> 	<p><b>4</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p>	<b>5</b>
<p><b>6</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Communion</i></p> <p><i>Strengthen the Church Special Offering</i></p>	<p><b>7</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>SPECIAL ELECTION 7 a.m.— 8 p.m.</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Council</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Be Together ZOOM</p>	<b>10</b>	<p><b>11</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p> 	<b>12</b>
<p><b>13</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>  <p>face masks are encouraged</p>	<b>14</b>	<p><b>15</b></p> 	<p><b>16</b> 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p>	<p><b>17</b> 5:30 p.m. Basket Class</p>	<p><b>18</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p>	<b>19</b>
<p><b>20</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i></p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<p><b>23</b> 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Be Together ZOOM</p>	<b>24</b>	<p><b>25</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p>	
<p><b>27</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> 	<b>29</b>	<p><b>30</b> 9:00 a.m. Quiet Time</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p><i>Mail Newsletter</i></p>			