



Focus on Faith
Faith United Church of Christ
 1630 W. 38th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806
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Email: office@faithuccdavenport.org
 Established January 1, 1964

April 2021
 Vol. 21-4 Issued Monthly
 Rev. Heidi Hulme
 Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. They will not grow tired or weary, and their understanding no one can fathom. They give strength to the weary and increase the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and youth 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 40:28-31

A year ago, I was writing less than a month after beginning our shelter in place period. It seems like a lifetime ago, and yet feels like 10 minutes ago. A year ago, we were unable to be together to celebrate the story of our Risen Christ conquering death. This year, we will be able to be together, as each person feels appropriate. This is good news!

As I look back at what I wrote a year ago, I was reminded of what my brother said, “It must be really hard being the spiritual leader in the middle of the Apocalypse.” In so many ways, it has been—it certainly was then. But I think the apocalypse we expected, isn’t exactly what we have experienced. Destruction of epic proportions on a global scale, yes. But if we were to look back a year ago, many of us would have believed that the destruction of death could have been even greater. Instead, we find the destruction to be on a much wider scale, not just death from a virus.

Destruction of entire economies, not just in our neighborhood, but all over the globe. People out of work with no way to put food on the table. Shortages of food, the inability to get it where it needs to be. Racial tensions and political divisions continue to pile up like the snow in a blizzard. I know this sounds like doom and gloom. But friends, I have some very good news!

We are approaching the time of Easter. And this is the time that proves to us, despite all of the awful things that are happening, that death doesn’t win! As Christians, when we lean on God, we will find the strength to make it through all of this! We have made it this far, why wouldn’t we be able to make it all the way?

Our world is being made new—the shattered pieces of injustice, inequality, and violence—are being molded into something new. It isn’t going to happen overnight. Even Jesus had to lay in the tomb for 3 days! This is our Holy Saturday, our dormant time. The time our strength will be renewed. And in the right time, the stone will be rolled away, and we emerge with the new life God is wanting for us. It won’t be easy, it won’t be the same as it was. We may not recognize what we see at first—Mary didn’t. She thought Jesus was the gardener! But then, it will happen! Our new will be recognized and we will run to share it with the world! We will soar on wings like eagles, and run and not grow weary, walk and not be faith. This is the celebration of new life—of love conquering death. And we get to be a part of it! Let’s celebrate!

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

COFFEE HOUR RETURNS!
 Council has voted to begin Fellowship Hour following worship on EASTER SUNDAY!
 We will have coffee and light refreshments!

 Pastor Heidi will be on vacation April 5-11.
 Jill Pepper will lead worship on April 11. Miriam Prichard will be on call in case of an emergency. Contact her at 563-272-9858.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
 We will hold a brief congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, April 11 to discuss repairs to the parking lot.
 We will be in person, as well as via ZOOM. Let Pastor Heidi know if you would like the ZOOM link.

FROM THE COUNCIL:

**Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.
May Newsletter article deadline is April 18.
May Newsletter will be mailed April 28.**

Church Council Highlights – March 9, 2021
Property:
 Parking lot damage, Gary obtained quotes to review at congregational meeting, April 11
Outreach:
 Distributed Lenten bags to members
Spiritual Life:
 Held Holy Vessels conversations on Wednesday, planning Easter coffee hour after service
Christian Education:
 VBS discussions taking place—to be held in person
Other Business
 Conference annual report submitted by 3/3 and Biennial report to state submitted by 3/31.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

WOMEN'S GROUP
 Wednesday evening Women's Group
 April 7, 2021
 6:30 p.m. at Faith UCC
 Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun!

Share-A-Meal
 The next time we are scheduled to serve will be
Friday, April 30 at 5:15 p.m.
THIS IS NOT YET CONFIRMED.
 Please watch for further details.

Notes from the Council President
 Happy Easter!
 I missed seeing the Easter lilies in the sanctuary last year so I am looking forward to seeing them displayed on Easter Sunday. It will be so wonderful to have Fellowship hour after church on Easter Sunday—the first since the pandemic began.
 Winter was hard on our parking lot — we will discuss these issues at the Congregational Meeting on April 11th.
 Martha Watters —Council President



Spring Attic Shop

Save the Date
Saturday May 15, 2021
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Masks Required

More details next month—we will have a bake sale and a craft sale — the main focus will be the attic shop.



The Little Dresses For Africa (LDFA) sewing group meets Fridays 1:30-3:30 p.m. Please watch schedule for any changes.


We continue to look for additional contacts who are willing to take any of our dresses to any parts of the world where they are needed!

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

Treasurer's Report February 2021			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	FEB	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 8,826.00	\$ 13,161.50
OCWM	\$ 156.00	\$ 272.00	\$ 408.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 389.00	\$ 459.00	\$ 772.50
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 641.00	\$ 1,121.00
Total Giving	\$ 6,830.00	\$10,198.00	\$ 15,463.00
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 9,467.00	\$ 14,282.50
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 59.47	\$ 64.97
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,806.25
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 9,526.47	\$ 16,153.72
Pastor Expense	\$ 6,503.00	\$ 5,629.38	\$ 10,839.56
Employee Expense	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 813.30	\$ 1,626.60
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 320.00	\$ 154.20	\$ 264.20
Office Expense	\$ 426.00	\$ 331.86	\$ 649.94
Property Expense	\$ 1,366.00	\$ 2,614.41	\$ 4,936.39
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,052.00	\$ 9,543.15	\$ 18,316.69
Net General Fund	\$ (3,767.00)	\$ (16.68)	\$ (2,162.97)

Submitted by Martha Watters

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!!





Our prayers are for all God's children, and all of creation. We pray for whatever sort of healing each part of creation, and each human needs. We hold in prayer those with hardened hearts, asking God break them open. We pray for the leaders of each of our communities, our country, and of the world, to keep God at the center as they make decisions that are best for all humans. We pray for all to turn from the evil that seems to be consuming us, and turn back toward God. We pray for repentance, and ask for God's forgiveness for when we fall short of God's plans for us. We pray for all who continue to be thrown into harms way. And we continue to pray for all those who are affected in any way with the virus.

Our Faith Family

Bob Cobb
Sheryl Mortimore
Dave Leamer
Marlene Long
Mick Noteboom
Lois Wellendorf

Our Homebound

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

Our Family and Friends

Merrill Pepper
Shawna Jaeger
Lisa
Carlette Ketelsen
Heather Smith
Donna McGill
Karen Byers
Randy Bales
Terry Showens
Paula Wakeland
Bill Stroupe
Sid and Ardella Boots

Our World

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Our deepest condolences go to the family of Vivian Giebelstein.

Vivian died on Thursday, March 25, 2021, in hospice care in Tulsa, OK.

**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.**



April 3 Helena Henry
April 6 Lyndy Holdt
April 8 Peyton Ozmon
April 15 Bob Cobb
April 19 Kirsten Gebhardt
April 19 Jill Pepper



**We need
your
help!**

If you are able and willing to help make salads and/or desserts for funeral luncheons, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have questions, please contact Janelle Hoker, Jan Hannel, or Gloria Kuehl.



Congratulations to Lyndy Holdt for making the Dean's List for the fall term at the University of Dubuque.

2021 Council Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
At this point, we will meet via ZOOM, unless otherwise advised.

Apr. 13 May 11 Jun. 8 Jul. 13
Aug. 10 Sept. 14 Oct. 12 Nov. 9 Dec. 14

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist <i>and online</i>	2 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group Good Friday Worship 7:00 p.m. Online only	3 
4 Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship / Communion 	5	6	7 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Group Faith UCC	8	9 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	10 
11 10:30 a.m. Worship 	12	13 6:30 p.m. Council 	14 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	15 5:30 p.m. Basket Class	16 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	17
18 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	19	20	21 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	22 	23 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	24
25 10:30 a.m. Worship	26  <i>April Showers</i>	27	28 10:00 a.m. Bible Study <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	29	30 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group 5:15 p.m. Share-A-Meal NOT CONFIRMED	