



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

December 2020
 Vol. 20-12 Issued Monthly
 Rev. Heidi Hulme
 Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” ~ Hebrews 13:8

Once again, we find ourselves changing how we worship. This time, at least for this moment, not only do we wear masks and are socially distant, we are only allowed 15 people in the worship space at a time. Will that change? Yes, but for now, it’s difficult to predict which way it will change—increased numbers, or close all together for a little while. Makes no matter what happens in the future, today, 15 people it is!

This has been a year filled with twists and turns, ups and downs, and downright strange things. All of it is change. And much of it is really hard, because we view change as being hard. But what I have realized this year, is that no matter how hard change is, most—if not all—change is necessary, and most of it is really good! Change can be life giving, life-saving, honest to goodness real opportunities to grow!

This year, we have taken a giant leap and moved our worship online. We certainly didn’t HAVE to, but we decided it was a new opportunity, Has it worked? Yes! Even with our hiccups and glitches, it has worked! We have moved our weekly Bible Study, Council meetings as well as our Congregational meetings to ZOOM along with in person. Has this worked? Yes! Will we continue all of these changes once we are post-COVID-19? Absolutely! These changes, though they have been hard, have meant growth for this tribe, as well as for us as individuals. It has taught us that ministry is ever evolving, ever growing, and can’t be shoved into a neat little box. Spirit moves best when we let go of whatever we are holding so tightly to.

Our next step in change will be to prayerfully discern how we are going to restructure the Council in order to make it work for who we are as a tribe in such a time as this. Currently, we have 2 open seats, and in January, we will have 2 more open seats. This means 50% of the seats on the Council will be unfilled. In our discussions, we have decided that it is time for a change. We still have “business” to conduct, but is there a new way we can do that? How can we practice being good stewards of the resources (especially human) we currently have? A change in the structure of the governing body will take time and work. But this change is a huge opportunity! By restructuring, we will be able to concentrate better on the ministries that we are being called to, rather than on “who will we get to fill these positions?” The shift in our energy will move from inside to outside. And if we have learned anything this year, that is that mission and service isn’t inside our building.

I am still looking for 2 more people to help dream and vision this new opportunity. Once I can gather these 3 people, we will begin our dreaming and visioning. Then in July, we will hold a congregational meeting where we will present the vision. If you are interested in joining Mark Christy and I, please contact me.

For those of you who are NOT fans of change at all, it’s okay. Change is an emotional experience, and none of us can tell the other what to feel. A decade ago, while attending a Marriage Encounter weekend, we learned that “emotions are neither right or wrong, they just are.”

Regardless of how much change happens, as we move into the Advent and Christmas seasons, take a moment and imagine how Joseph felt being engaged to a woman who got pregnant. Imagine how Mary felt when she was told by the Angel she would have a baby. Or how Elizabeth felt when Baby John leapt in her womb when Mary approached; or the shepherds when the Angels approached them. Imagine the pandemic of joy felt throughout the world on the night that Mary gave birth to our Savior.

Our good news this season is, no matter how much change we face, our God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. God’s love for us never ends. Need proof? You will need to wait. But when it comes, it will be the biggest change you will ever experience—and it will be the greatest!

For now—may God bless you and your loved ones during this season of waiting.

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*



FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – November 10, 2020

Property:

Mowing and mulching have been taking place.

Outreach:

Pledge letters and cards are prepared.

Spiritual Life:

Getting ready to decorate the church for Christmas.

Christian Education:

Still uncertain how to navigate Sunday School due to COVID-19.

Other Business

Discussion about how or whether to reconstruct the Council.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Notes from the Council President

Hello everyone,

As everyone knows, COVID has increased in the area and we have made several changes to follow the governors guidelines. These are hard times for all of us and the Council has had to make a lot of tough decisions. We closed one Sunday so we could decide what the next steps are. We want the best for the church and want to make sure we are keeping everyone as safe as possible. If you need the church for anything, please let us know so we can reserve that date and make sure you only have up to 15 people in the church at a time. We don't know what the future holds with COVID but we are constantly looking at the CDC and what the Governors guidelines are. If you have concerns please, let Council know so we can address them. We are always open to any thoughts you may have. I hope everyone has a safe and blessed holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving!

Todd Ozmon—Council President

SHARE-A-MEAL

The next time we are scheduled to serve will be

**Tuesday, December 29 at 5:15 p.m.
THIS IS NOT YET CONFIRMED.**

Please watch for further details.



Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

**January Newsletter article deadline December 13.
January Newsletter will be mailed December 16.**

Treasurer's Report October 2020			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	OCTOBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,182.42	\$ 6,027.00	\$ 60,999.00
OCWM	\$ 160.75	\$ 102.00	\$ 1,590.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 305.92	\$ 244.00	\$ 4,626.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 356.00	\$ 5,569.00
Total Giving	\$ 6,649.08	\$ 6,729.00	\$ 72,784.00

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD	
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,182.00	\$ 6,383.00	\$ 66,568.00
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 39.56	\$ 347.93
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,568.59
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,182.00	\$ 6,422.56	\$ 91,484.52

Pastor Expense	\$ 6,398.00	\$ 5,649.20	\$ 62,049.46
Employee Expense	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 797.32	\$ 7,973.20
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 325.00	\$ 197.05	\$ 1,761.82
Office Expense	\$ 301.00	\$ 499.21	\$ 4,303.69
Property Expense	\$ 1,337.00	\$ 1,220.13	\$ 13,319.86
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 9,798.00	\$ 8,362.91	\$ 89,408.03

Net General Fund	\$ (3,616.00)	\$ (1,940.35)	\$ 2,076.49
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Submitted by Martha Watters

2020 Council Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 8

*May the love that came that holy night,
light all your days with hope and joy!
May God's blessings flow abundantly
in the New Year!*

*Peace and Love,
Pastor Heidi, David, Karsten, and Jarrod*



Annual Report Heads Up

Annual Reports are due by December 31. Please include participant names as well as the number of participants. This type of data will be invaluable for use in the future.





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. As we continue to wait for answers to our country's election, we continue to 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

Janelle and Gary Hoker
Arlene Barclay
Rev. Barb Koenig
Dave Leamer
Marlene Long
Mick Noteboom
Lois Wellendorf

Our Faith Family

Gloria Power
Keisha Power
Bob Cobb
Gloria Kuehl
Amy Dowell
Matt Gebhardt

Our Homebound

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

Our Family and Friends

Donna Cobb
Julie Sutherland
CJ Svagera
Daniel McPherson
Norma Hammonds
Terry Showens
Heather Smith
Paula Wakeland
Karen Byers
Merrill Pepper
Randy Bales
Donna McGill
Family of Deb & Jim Sullivan

Our World

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam,
People's Republic of China, Hong Kong,
Macao, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Stateless People

Our deepest condolences go to Harry Stroupe on the death of his sister on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

Our deepest condolences go to Linda and Mike Martin on the death of their friend Tausha Serrano on Thursday, November 19, 2020.

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.



- 1 Adam Holdt
- Don Emde
- 5 Calvin Ingstad
- 7 Brad Downing
- 12 Carsen Gerisher
- 16 Connie Moreno
- Pamela Edmond
- 17 William Disney
- Brendan Disney
- 19 James Walck
- 20 Daniel Adams
- 21 Linda Martin
- Becky Christy
- 26 Nathaniel Pratt
- 27 Chandler Ozmon
- 30 Carmela McBride

Pastor Heidi will be on vacation
Friday, December 25 through Saturday, January 2.
Jill Pepper will be leading worship on **December 27.**



Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund

helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy and lay church employees in need, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to hundreds of annuitants. We will collect this special offering **Sunday, December 20.**



Hat/Mitten/Scarf Tree

Once again we are collecting mittens, hats, and scarves, and this year, we are adding socks. They will be given to Humility of Mary. The tree is set up in the narthex.

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Monday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m.

This is a service, usually held on the longest day of the year, is meant to help those of us living through dark times. It will be reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope. This year we will join First Christian, Edwards UCC, and Hope UCC as we hold this worship online.



Be A Blessing!

Yard signs seem to be all the rage. Companies (like roofers and tree services) advertise at homes they have worked or are working at. There are thank yous to healthcare workers, police, and firefighters. And we can't forget the political campaign ads.....

Faith UCC has jumped on board, but we want to advertise our faith. Below is an image of signs that we have available for you to put in your yards. We are giving them away, but if you would like to make a donation so we can get more, they are \$15/each.

If you would like one of these signs, please contact Cheryl Leamer at 563-340-0414 or you can contact the office at 563-391-5726 or email office@faithuccdavenport.org.



Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 2

6:30 p.m.

Faith United Church of Christ

Women's Group is open to all women of the congregation and generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month—currently we are meeting at the church.

In December We Party!

Everyone is asked to bring individual snack/treats to share, your own beverage, and a gift of no more than \$10. We will social distance in the Fellowship Hall.

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS??



TERRI LYNN NUTS

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

Or order Terri Lynn online:

<https://faithUCC.terrilynn.com>

Or order RADA Cutlery online:

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

RADA CUTLERY

We only have a few pieces of cutlery left on hand:

Handi Stir—\$6.00
Bread Knife—\$7.75



The **Little Dresses For Africa (LDFA)** sewing group

will NOT be meeting until January.

Update: **#200 dresses** have been given to a friend of Deb Sullivan to take with him when he goes home **to Nigeria!** We will share photos as soon as they are available.

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!



Holiday bazaar



HOLIDAY BAZAAR 2020—RE-IMAGINED

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who participated in our Holiday Bazaar Re-Imagined! Take a look at the chart below—that is totally amazing!

If you didn't get a chance to check out our crafts, you still have a chance! Once again, we **re-imagine** how to make that happen.

- 1) If you would like to come and look, please contact Pastor Heidi to set up a time for your own personal shopping time!
- 2) Check out our Facebook page for pictures of what we still have available. Comment on the photo, if you are interested, or contact Pastor Heidi to set up a "drive by" pick up!

These are new times, and they call for creative, new ways of doing and being church.

Thank you to those who helped set up, cashier, bake, craft, and clean up! Together we make wonderful things happen!

Becky Christy, Martha Watters, Sharon Batten, Cheryl Leamer, Arlene Barclay, Nancy Jones, Jan Hannel, Karleen Noteboom, Jan Johnson, Carol Ginneberge, Linda Martin, Shara Rangel, Women's Group, David and Karsten Hulme

If I missed anyone, I am so sorry!!

PreSales	\$ 100.50
Sunday, 11/8	\$ 94.50
Monday, 11/9	\$ 359.70
Tues, 11/10	\$ 224.15
Wed, 11/11	\$ 131.60
Thu-Sun 11/15	\$ 259.40
After Sales	\$ 319.60
Total Sales	\$ 1,489.45
Less Rada Sales	\$ 13.25
Less TerriLynn Sales	\$ 85.00
Total Craft&BakeSale	\$ 1,391.20



This Advent, our worship series is "I Believe Even When: Fill the Night with Music and Light."

The history of humanity is fraught with pain—especially the pain that comes accompanied by fear and leads to oppression and violence of one people against another. This is the world into which Jesus was born, and through which his teachings would challenge and call for transformation. The opening words of an anonymous Jewish poet, "I believe in the sun, even when the sun is not shining, " were scrawled on a wall during the Holocaust.

This is the title for the theme song for this season, "I Believe Even When," and it calls us to examine our penchant for annihilating fear by annihilating each other.

The power of narrative and music will call us to a different response—one of transformation and reconciliation through hope, love, joy, and peace.

This Advent and Christmas, join us as we fill the night with music and light and affirm and act on the reasons why we can still "believe, even when" we are discouraged.

Follow us on our Facebook page:

@FaithUCCDavenport

10:30 a.m. Sundays

or on YouTube after noon



Las Posada Cancelled

Due to the rise in COVID-19 numbers, the combined churches have decided to postpone the Las Posada scheduled for December 5th until 2021.



December 2020



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Group Faith UCC	3 	4 No Sewing Group	5
6 10:30 a.m. Worship	7 	8  6:30 p.m. Via Zoom	9 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Be Together ZOOM	10	11 No Sewing Group	12 
13 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	14	15	16 10:00 a.m. Bible Study <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	17 5:30 p.m. Basket Class	18 No Sewing Group	19
20 10:30 a.m. Worship	21 	22	23 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Be Together ZOOM	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship WATCH FOR DETAILS	25  <i>Christmas DAY</i> Pastor Heidi On Vacation →	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship	28	29	30 NO Bible Study	31 		