



# Focus on Faith

## Faith United Church of Christ

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Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



### PASTORAL PONDERINGS

*"Too much of a good thing is bad for you!" ~ Proverbs 25:16*

There is a slight possibility that I ordered too many flowers to plant this spring. I know, it sounds strange—too many flowers—but look at the pictures. After filling these pots, I still have all of these left to plant! Now, believe me, I will find places to plant these, but maybe I went a little overboard. (SHHHHH!! DO NOT TELL DAVID!)



When is something “too much?” Is there such a thing as “too much?” Looking at the Proverb, which is in the Bible, I would guess that yes, too much isn’t always good. For instance, if you have ever eaten at a buffet and eaten too much, even though the food was good, how do you feel? Or if you are on the river fishing or boating, or outside on a beautiful sunny day, but don’t apply enough sunscreen, what happens?

We are blessed to live in a country where clean water is in abundance; available healthcare is at every corner (almost!); and education is available to anyone who wants to learn. But is that really true for everyone?

Have you ever heard of a *food desert*? According to the Food Empowerment Project, food deserts are geographic areas where residents’ access to affordable, healthy food options (especially fresh fruits and vegetables) is restricted or nonexistent due to the absence of grocery stores within convenient traveling distance. According to a report prepared for Congress by the Economic Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture, about 2.3 million people (or 2.2 percent of all US households) live more than one mile away from a supermarket and do not own a car. In urban areas, access to public transportation may help residents overcome the difficulties posed by distance, but economic forces have driven grocery stores out of many cities in recent years, making them so few and far between that an individual’s food shopping trip may require taking several buses or trains. In suburban and rural areas, public transportation is either very limited or unavailable, with supermarkets often many miles away from people’s homes.

How about clean water? According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 30 million Americans lived in areas where water systems violated safety rules at the beginning of 2020. Others simply cannot afford to keep water flowing. As with basically all environmental and climate issues, poor people and minority communities are hit hardest.

How many of you have more “stuff” in your homes than you need? Every time I go to our basement, I think, “Why do we have so much STUFF?” That is followed by a wave of gratitude for what we have, then a wave of guilt knowing that we have so much and there are literally billions of people on this planet that don’t have anything, including a roof over their head, food to eat, and clean water to drink. Honestly, it becomes very overwhelming.

When Jesus walked this earth, he didn’t attach himself to material possessions. He even told his disciples that when they traveled to other places, they weren’t to take anything with them, only their clothes (not even any food!) and to rely on the hospitality of strangers.

This is our model. Maybe we won’t be like the disciples, traveling with nothing. But we can be the hosts and hostesses, radically sharing whatever we have with those who need it. For some, that will be money. For others, it will be time. For others, it will be food. And for others, it will be flowers. I know that “too much” of any one this is subjective—it is in the eye of the beholder. So instead of “too much” let’s think of it as abundance. Because we have been blessed with an abundance of ..... (fill in the blank), we will share it with those in need.

When we radically share our abundance with joy, the light of God shines through us, and people who never knew God, can be blessed. We are Christ’s hands and feet. May it be so.

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

## FROM THE COUNCIL:

### Church Council Highlights – May 11, 2021

**Property:**

Parking lot repair set for May 20. Roof repair scheduled for late summer

**Outreach:**

Committee is planning a Neighborhood picnic.

**Spiritual Life:**

Coffee Hour after church—need hosts and hostesses.

**Christian Education:**

VBS theme—Peace Hope and Love. VBS will be an evening event this year.

**Other Business**

Memorial committee is replacing refrigerator.

**Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 2021**

### Notes from the Council President

We had a successful Spring Attic Shop. Thanks to all who helped—by baking, volunteering time, spreading the word about the event, set up, and clean up. Everything was appreciated.

A huge thank you to Jim Spies for taking care of the yard. If you'd like to help, please contact Jim or Gary.

Remember that Summer hours are in effect beginning May 30. Worship is at 10 a.m.

Martha Watters —Council President

#### Treasurer's Report April 2021

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	APRIL	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 6,202.00	\$ 24,568.50
OCWM	\$ 156.00	\$ 156.00	\$ 654.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 389.00	\$ 904.00	\$ 1,906.50
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 607.00	\$ 2,228.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 6,830.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,869.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,357.00</b>

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 6,809.00	\$ 26,796.50
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 78.47	\$ 203.16
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,806.25
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 6,285.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,887.47</b>	<b>\$ 33,805.91</b>

Pastor Expense	\$ 6,503.00	\$ 5,739.76	\$ 23,619.58
Employee Expense	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 813.30	\$ 3,253.20
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 320.00	\$ 56.96	\$ 388.46
Office Expense	\$ 426.00	\$ 379.77	\$ 1,314.68
Property Expense	\$ 1,366.00	\$ 844.23	\$ 8,650.87
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 10,052.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,834.02</b>	<b>\$ 37,226.79</b>

<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (3,767.00)</b>	<b>\$ (946.55)</b>	<b>\$ (3,420.88)</b>
Submitted by Martha Watters			

### WOMEN'S GROUP

Wednesday evening Women's Group  
June 2, 2021  
6:30 p.m. at Faith UCC  
All women are invited to join us!

### PILGRIM HEIGHTS CAMP & RETREAT CENTER



2021 Camp Schedule starts June 6th. We would love to have you join us for summer camps at Pilgrim Heights this year. We feature many different camps for children, youth and families. Our curriculum will be SHINE! Living as children of God in a Restless World. We can't wait to share this with you in the beauty of God's creation. For registration forms and scholarship information please see Pastor Heidi or visit [www.pilgrimheights.org](http://www.pilgrimheights.org).

### Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

**July Newsletter article deadline is June 20.**

**July Newsletter will be mailed June 30.**

### *Share-A-Meal*

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



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!

### 2021 Council Meetings

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

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



### We Pray For

We pray for our community, our country and our world as we continue to be divided by racial injustice, political chaos, decisions about how to handle this pandemic, and power struggles. We lament our inability to change those things which cannot be changed, and pray for strength to work toward God's justice and peace. Break open hardened hearts, O God, and help us to be still long enough to hear your still-speaking voice calling us to turn to you. Amen.

#### Our Faith Family

Mick Noteboom  
Karen Risler  
Gary Hoker  
Sheryl Mortimore  
Dave Leamer  
Marlene Long  
Lois Wellendorf

#### Our Homebound

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

#### Our Family and Friends

Rev. Barb Koenig  
Jacob, Katie, and Baby Jake  
Merrill Pepper  
Carlette Ketelsen  
Heather Smith  
David Burton  
Sid and Ardella Boots  
Derrick Cudd  
Nicholas Passcuzzi  
Karen Byers  
Randy Bales  
Terry Showens  
Bill Stroupe

Address for  
Barb Koenig  
Miller's Point  
3500 21st SE  
Mandan, ND  
58554

#### Our World

Lesotho, Mambia, South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania

*Our condolences go to Pastor Heidi and her family on the death of her aunt on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.*

**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.**



### THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Spring Attic Shop, Craft, and Bake Sale

Our third annual Spring Attic Shop was a success!  
As of Sunday, May 16, we made \$994.36!  
We couldn't have accomplished a successful event without you  
sharing of your time, talents, and donations.

We are also truly grateful to all members  
who took time out of their Saturday to help.  
We are now on to getting things ready for the  
Holiday Bazaar which will be held **Saturday, November 6th!!**



Happy Anniversary!

**Happy 46th Anniversary to Karleen and Mick Noteboom!**

**Happy 81st Birthday to Karleen!**

They will celebrate both events on May 29 with the entire family at the first gathering they have had in 6 years.



- 1 Trenton Wakeland
- 6 Richard Fox
- 8 Beau Gerisher
- 12 Mark Duncan
- 13 Karen Wakeland
- 23 Janelle Hoker
- 26 Brendan McBride
- Lucas Smith
- 27 John Adams



**Lyndy Holdt**—Graduated from the University of Dubuque with a BS in Biology and Environmental Science. She will attend grad school at U of Iowa in the fall.

**Scott Appel** Kay and Larry Showens' grandson. Graduated from U of Eastern Illinois in Recreational Administration. He is working at a camp near DeKalb with youth who have Downs Syndrome.

**Ethan Jakubsen**—Graduates from West High School. He will attend Loras College in the fall.



**Vicki Ertel for 30 years of volunteering at CASI!**

# June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  6:30 p.m. Women's Group Faith UCC	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group  	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Communion</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting  	<b>9</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	<b>12</b>	
<b>13</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	<b>17</b> 5:30 p.m. Basket Class  	<b>18</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	<b>19</b>	
<b>20</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship  <i>Newsletter            articles due</i>	<b>21</b>  	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	<b>26</b>	
<b>27</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	 <b>SUMMER</b>			