



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

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." ~ Matthew 11:28-30

In worship on Sunday, I said "Healing is a journey." It wasn't written in my sermon or any of the prayers. It wasn't anywhere in the worship series on Jesus' healing stories that we are doing this Lenten Season. But the words came to me, and for whatever reason, I can't let them go.

In our culture of instant everything, patience for healing is not something for which we seek. When we break a bone, we want it healed quickly so we can get back to our normal life. When a tragedy happens, we want the pain to go away, and sometimes we use coping mechanisms, like alcohol or drugs, to deal with the pain.

In her book "My Stroke of Genius" by Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor, she discovers that it takes 90 seconds for emotions to cycle in our body. And if we could stay with any emotion that comes up for at least 90 seconds, then it would not anchor in our bodies.

What an amazing thing. 90 seconds to allow ourselves to emote whatever it is we need, and then let it leave our bodies. Imagine how much healing we could do with a simple 90 seconds! Now, will it make it go away? No, but it won't be stuck within us. Will it heal everything? Of course not! This is emotion we are talking about. But the interesting part is that emotion is a huge factor in our whole-self health. The emotions we hold deep within us instead of letting them go, contribute to mental, spiritual, and physical dis-ease, and manifest in all sorts of things: physical, economical, mental, spiritual, environmental, to name a few.

That is why we are going to start our journey to holy and wholeness. Every one of us holds something we need healing from, and together, we can help each other through the rough patches. It won't happen over night, which is why it's a journey. It will require strength, patience, courage, stamina, and the willingness to do those things which are hard. But in the end, we will be healed. Jesus' life taught us that each of us are worthy to be healed, and that nobody is out of the reach of God's grace and love. Thanks be to God.

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*



**Don't forget to turn
you clocks ahead on
Sunday, March 14!!**

FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – February 9, 2021

Property:

Fire extinguishers were tested. Boiler inspection scheduled

Outreach:

Banner location not decided.

Spiritual Life:

Valentine's Day decorating, Preparing for Lent.

Christian Education:

No Sunday School classes.

Other Business:

New Hope, New Life, New Faith held first meeting.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

March Newsletter article deadline is March 21.

March Newsletter will be mailed March 31.

Funding Future Leadership

On **March 21, 2021** we will be taking the special offering called "Funding Future Leadership." This offering is for scholarship aid which helps Iowa members-in-discernment as they continue in their education to become ministers. It's important that we all do our share in helping tomorrow's leaders today!

It is expensive to train ordained clergy. Sadly, as time has gone on the burden of paying for education has shifted from the denomination to the student, leaving many seminary students and pastors deeply in debt. This isn't a sustainable trend that will lead to a healthy future for our UCC Congregations. Will you help support this worthy project?

Notes from the Council President

Hello,

Jesus was knocking on my door... I finally listened and decided to step up and get on council for this year. I am finishing the last year of Todd's term. Amy Dowell will take the Vice President position. Cheryl Leamer and Karleen Noteboom will continue their positions from last year and will help out where needed. The New Hope, New Life, New Faith committee will meet this year to formulate the new council. Until then, we will continue as in the past.

Special thanks to Gary Hoker for helping with all the snow removal this season. It's been a huge help.

Martha Watters — Council President



One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of five special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ.

This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC.

OGHS will be taken on **March 14.**

Treasurer's Report January 2021

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO. PLEDGE	JAN	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 4,335.50	\$ 4,335.50
OCWM	\$ 156.00	\$ 136.00	\$ 136.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 389.00	\$ 313.50	\$ 313.50
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 480.00	\$ 480.00
Total Giving	\$ 6,830.00	\$ 5,265.00	\$ 5,265.00
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 4,815.50	\$ 4,815.50
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 1,806.25	\$ 1,806.25
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 6,627.25	\$ 6,627.25
Pastor Expense	\$ 6,503.00	\$ 5,210.18	\$ 5,210.18
Employee Expense	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 813.30	\$ 813.30
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 320.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
Office Expense	\$ 426.00	\$ 318.08	\$ 318.08
Property Expense	\$ 1,366.00	\$ 2,321.98	\$ 2,321.98
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,052.00	\$ 8,773.54	\$ 8,773.54
Net General Fund	\$ (3,767.00)	\$ (2,146.29)	\$ (2,146.29)
Submitted by Martha Watters			

2021 Council Meetings

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

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



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
Shawnia Jaeger
Lisa
Carlette Ketelsen
Heather Smith
Donna McGill
Julie Sutherland
Karen Byers
Randy Bales
Terry Showens
Paula Wakeland

Our World

United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales; and Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

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.



Notes of **THANKS**

EICC STUDENT SUCCES STORE

Faith UCC,

You've done it again! Faith UCC is such a wonderful friend to the students in EICCD's adult learning programs. Our West Davenport Center students are blessed by your generosity. As you know, the Student Success Store provides the additional incentives to students in our High School Completion program to complete activities that will help them succeed on the HiSET test and thus earn their high school equivalency diploma. By completing these activities, they earn credits at the store and can redeem them for basic needs like clothing, diapers and bus tokens and for treats such as jewelry or gift items. Your ongoing support helps our staff keep the store stocked with much-needed items and a few splurges for these deserving students.

We are most grateful for your generosity of \$400 plus \$200 in Aldi gift cards. Be assured that you are making a difference to a group of people who need it most.

Sincerely,
Honey Bedell, Executive Director

HUMILITY OF MARY

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your contribution of \$100.00. Your donation provides much needed support for our important ministries and for the comfort and loving care of retired sisters. Our sisters and associates join me in expressing our appreciation for your generosity.

With our appreciation and God's blessings,
Sr. Mary Ann Vogel
President, Congregation of the Humility of Mary

FRIENDLY HOUSE

Dear Friends at Faith UCC,

Thank you for your generous gifts of food, adult diapers, and \$400 to support Friendly House this year. This is a gift that will make an immediate impact for a family and for children as we help them put food on their tables and essential supplies in their pantries. Thank you for making a difference.

Sincerely,
Lorelei Pfautz, Executive Director

The Little Dresses For
Africa (LDFA)
sewing group
meets Fridays
1:30-3:30 p.m.

Please watch schedule for any changes.

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!



March BIRTHDAYS

8 Nicole Smith
11 Michelle Minnich
16 Amy Dowell
19 Sheryl Mortimore
24 Vivian Giebelstein
24 Jackson Holdt
26 Barry Smith
27 Gillian Preston
28 Larry Showens Sr.
28 Heidi Hulme
29 Carol Roy
29 Kristen Walck
30 Ethan Walck
31 Paul Dammeier



TERRI LYNN NUTS

Mammoth Pecan Halves—\$13
Deluxe Mix (No peanuts) - \$13
Roasted Whole Cashews—\$13
Malted Milk Balls—\$11
Trail Mix—\$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>

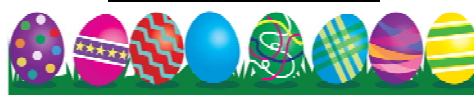
RADA CUTLERY

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

Handi Stir—\$6.00
Bread Knife—\$7.75



EASTER TREAT BAGS



It is almost Easter!

Once again, we will not be having an Easter Egg Hunt, but instead will be handing out treat bags to the children at the end of Easter worship. We will need your help with donations.

We need things such as:
Individually wrapped candy
Small toy like party favors
Small boxes of crayons
Any other small items

Please bring donations to the office no later than April 5. If you have questions, see Jill Pepper or Pastor Heidi. Thank you!

SHARE-A-MEAL

The next time we are scheduled to serve will be

Tuesday, March 30 at 5:15 p.m.
THIS IS NOT YET CONFIRMED.

Please watch for further details.



WOMEN'S GROUP

NO Wednesday evening
Women's Group
for March due to Lent.

CELEBRATING LENT 2021

"Holy Vessels"

**Sunday,
February 28**
"Keeping Safe"



**Wednesday,
March 3**
Community/
Economic Health



Sunday, March 7
"Stories"



Wednesday, March 10
Mental Health

Sunday, March 14
"Different Pictures"

**Wednesday,
March 17**
Intellectual
Health



Sunday, March 21
"Restoration"



Wednesday, March 24
Environmental Health

Sunday, March 28
Palm Sunday
"Holy, Wholly"



Wednesday, March 31
Integrated Health

Thursday, April 1
Maundy Thursday
"Healed....
6:30 p.m."



Friday, April 2
Good Friday
"...and Still Healing"
Commission of Christ
6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 4
EASTER SUNDAY
Worship with Communion
10:30 a.m.

LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

*"He took our infirmities and bore
our diseases."
Matthew 8:17b*

HOLY VESSELS



A LENTEN SEASON OF RECOVERY

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten "season of recovery" for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Beach glass offers us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process.

Join us for worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in person, on Facebook Live, or on YouTube!

Wednesday Evening Discussion

This year, our discussions will follow the worship series, "Holy Vessels".

We will gather at 6:30 p.m. for conversation in the sanctuary, as well as via ZOOM. Please contact Pastor Heidi for the ZOOM link if you need it.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 15, 2021

Spring Attic Shop & Craft Fair

More on this next month!

LENTEN WORSHIP LEADERS STILL NEEDED

We still need the following:
Readers and Ushers
Please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Pastor Heidi.

Easter Lilies

Help us adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning by signing up for an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one.
Cost is \$10 each. Deadline to order is March 28.



March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Special School Election Polling 7:00 a.m.— 8:00 p.m.	3 6:30 p.m. Holy Vessels	4	5 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	6 
7 10:30 a.m. Worship Communion	8	9 6:30 p.m. Council	10 6:30 p.m. Holy Vessels	11	12 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	13  SPRING AHEAD DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
14 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>One Great Hour Of Sharing Special Offering</i>	15	16 	17 6:30 p.m. Holy Vessels	18 5:30 p.m. Basket Class	19 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	20
21 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Funding Future Leader Special Offering</i> <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	22	23	24 6:30 p.m. Holy Vessels	25	26 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	27 
28 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Easter Lilies order due</i>	29 	30 5:15 p.m. Share-A-Meal <i>Watch for details</i>	31 6:30 p.m. Holy Vessels <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	1 MAUNDY THURSDAY	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3 