



Focus on Faith
Faith United Church of Christ
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Email: office@faithuccdavenport.org
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 Rev. Heidi Hulme
 Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.” ~ Proverbs 16:33

Do you believe in coincidence? When something happens to you, and it seems that you were in just the right place at the right time, do you believe that is only by chance? Or is there something more to that? (If you are up for a deeper discussion, just let me know!)

Personally, I don’t believe in coincidence. I believe that if we are open, God will use us, or those around us, to be the hands and feet God needs at that point in time.

Case in point. (If you are friends with Jarrod on Facebook, you may have already seen this story. If not, here it is.) On Tuesday, he and a couple of friends were bored because they didn’t have class, and decided to do some shed hunting in the mountains. (Shed hunting is looking for the antlers that the animals have shed for the season.) They saw a couple of men down the mountain from them flailing their arms, and looking like they were saying hello. They soon found out that one of them was injured, and they needed help. One of Jarrod’s friends hiked back up the mountain to get cell service and called for help. Jarrod and his friends stayed with them until rescue came, eventually flying a helicopter in to get him. If these young men hadn’t decided ON A WHIM to go shed hunting, who knows how much longer the two men would have been there. Coincidence? I think not!

But there is more to the end of this story. Jarrod has been going through a period of discernment—wondering if being a DNR officer is what he wants to do. Talking with him Wednesday morning, he said that the BLM—Bureau of Land Management) has summer positions that he could apply for, and that the Forest Service Ranger talked with him about what he does, and got him excited. The ranger shared his card and offered to take Jarrod on a ride along sometime. Coincidence? I think not!

We can think that these things are by chance, but coincidence is actually Biblical! The word is Greek, and can be translated as a biblical definition of *coincidence* would be “what occurs together by God’s providential arrangement of circumstances.” These may be things that take us by surprise, but God sees a much bigger picture than we can, and if we choose to be a part of God’s promise and providence, then we can expect to be put “in the right place at the right time.” (Remember, God doesn’t cause the bad to happen—God didn’t cause the older gentleman’s prosthetic foot to come off causing him to fall down the mountain. What God does is use that situation to bring about something new. It’s ALWAYS about resurrection!)

Jesus reminds us that God knows when the sparrow hits the ground, and we are told God knows every single hair on our heads. Our human brains can’t comprehend the entire picture, but God created it, and our human limitations chalk it up to chance, to mystery, to coincidence, because we can’t explain it any other way.

Are you sure that “chance” meeting was really by “chance?” I think NOT!

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*



TIME CHANGE

Sunday, May 30
Services will
start at 10:00 a.m.
and will continue at that
time until Labor Day.



Office will be closed May 31
in observance of Memorial Day

FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – April 13, 2021

Property:

Parking lot damage, Seal & Stripe to repair. Roof repair scheduled for late summer

Outreach:

Banner placement will be decided after roof repair.

Spiritual Life:

Coffee Hour after church—need hosts and hostesses.

Christian Education:

VBS theme—Peace Hope and Love. Plans are in place to begin in person SS in the Fall.

Other Business

Constitution changes proposed.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Notes from the Council President

The Spring Attic Shop is back. Social distancing guidelines will be in place. Please plan on baking some tasty treats to sell at the event! Check the sign up sheet to see where help is needed.

Please note in the March Treasurer's report that expenses are higher than giving through the first quarter. This is with transferring \$5,000 from special donations.

Martha Watters —Council President

Treasurer's Report March 2021

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	MAR	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 5,205.00	\$ 18,366.50
OCWM	\$ 156.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 498.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 389.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 1,002.50
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,621.00
Total Giving	\$ 6,830.00	\$ 6,025.00	\$ 21,488.00
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD	
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 5,705.00	\$ 19,987.50
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 59.72	\$ 124.69
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,806.25
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 10,764.72	\$ 26,918.44
Pastor Expense	\$ 6,503.00	\$ 7,040.26	\$ 17,879.82
Employee Expense	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 813.30	\$ 2,439.90
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 320.00	\$ 67.30	\$ 331.50
Office Expense	\$ 426.00	\$ 341.82	\$ 991.76
Property Expense	\$ 1,366.00	\$ 2,870.25	\$ 7,806.64
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,052.00	\$ 11,132.93	\$ 29,449.62
Net General Fund	\$ (3,767.00)	\$ (368.21)	\$ (2,531.18)
Submitted by Martha Watters			

WOMEN'S GROUP

Wednesday evening Women's Group

May 5, 2021

6:30 p.m. at Faith UCC

Cinco de Mayo Celebration!

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun!

Millie Allison turns 100!

You are invited to join
in the celebration

May 16
1:00—4:00
p.m.
at CASI



Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

June Newsletter article deadline is May 16.

June Newsletter will be mailed May 26.

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.

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

We Pray For



We pray for our community, which has endured deep loss due to senseless violence over the last couple of months. We pray for our country, 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 to 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

Gary Hoker
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

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

Our World

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Taji Kistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Angola, Mozambique

Our deepest condolences go to Hazel McBride and her family for the loss of her sister Margie D on Saturday, April 24.

**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.**

Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.



As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking" message. Strengthen the Church offering will be received Pentecost Sunday, **May 23, 2021.**



- 5 Max Holdt
- Valerie Fairbanks
- 7 Verallynn Fox
- 8 Wilma Graden
- Joanna Connors
- 9 Cody McKune
- 10 Todd Ozmon
- 12 Susan Fox
- 16 Millie Allison
- Carol Spies
- Larry Wiese
- 21 Sarah Wheaton
- 23 Deb Sullivan
- 27 Karleen Noteboom



Spring Attic Shop, Craft and Bake Sale Saturday, May 15 8am—1pm

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Check out the times and activities below and decide how you can help.
A signup sheet is posted on the Action Board.

9:00 Monday, May 10

We will set up tables, bring up attic stuff, and put out what we can.

9:00 Tuesday, May 11

We will finish setting up with help from anyone!

Friday, May 14

Someone will be here between
3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to accept bake sale items.
Please be sure they are priced.

Saturday, May 15

We will need helpers for the attic area, the craft area, and the bake sale.
We will also need helpers for cleanup.

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Communion</i>	3 	4	5 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Women's Group 6:30 p.m. Faith UCC Cinco de Mayo Celebration	6	7 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	8 
9 10:30 a.m. Worship 	10	11 6:30 p.m. Council	12 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 	13	14 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	15 Spring Attic Shop/Craft & Baked Goods 8:00 am-1:00 pm
16 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> Millie Allison 100th Birthday CASI 1:00—4:00 p.m.	17	18 	19 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	20 5:30 Basket Class	21 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	22 
23 10:30 a.m. Worship PENTECOST <i>Strengthen the Church Special Offering</i>	24	25	26 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Be Together ZOOM	27	28 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group 	29
30 10:00 a.m. Worship NOTE TIME CHANGE	31 OFFICE CLOSED 					