



# 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

*“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.” ~ Matthew 4:1-2*

Jesus has just been baptized by his cousin in the Jordan River, and out of nowhere, he was picked up by angels, and plopped in the middle of the desert, where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. Seriously? I can hardly go 4 hours without thinking I need something to eat! I can't, in my wildest dreams, imagine fasting for 40 days and nights.

This 40 days and 40 nights is a theme in the Bible. After Noah built the ark and the family gathered 2 of every species onto the floating life raft, the Bible says God made it rain for 40 days and 40 nights. Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights. The Israelites wandered for 40 years before getting to the Promised Land. Goliath taunted Saul's army for 40 days before David arrived to slay him. Even Elijah traveled 40 days and 40 nights to Mt. Horeb to get away from Jezebel. And now, Jesus spends 40 days fasting and praying.

In our tradition, we have set aside the 40 days and nights prior to Easter to observe Lent. This is a time that offers us an opportunity to take a good look at ourselves, to come to grips with the fact that, while we are sinners and need saving, our Good News is that we can repent, that is, to change and go in another direction, preferably the direction of God. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and our minds a little deeper so that we might understand God a little deeper.

Lent gives us time to prepare our minds and hearts for remembering the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. From the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday (this year it is March 3) until Lent ends on Easter Sunday (April 17). In some traditions, Lent is a time of fasting or giving something up, known as abstinence. In our tradition, we aren't strict about giving something up, but many do. In recent years, many progressive churches have encouraged their flocks to study and practice a new spiritual discipline. There are several spiritual disciplines: Solitude, Silence, Prayer, Journaling, Meditation, Fasting, Chastity, Confession, Fellowship, Simplicity, Service, to name a few.

This year, we will focus on praying and studying God's Word both in worship and during our Wednesday evening Soup and Conversations. We hope you will join us as we dig deeper into God's Word, and open our hearts and minds to figuring out how that works in our lives, and how God uses us to work in God's world. Hope to see you all, both Wednesday evenings, as well as Sunday mornings!

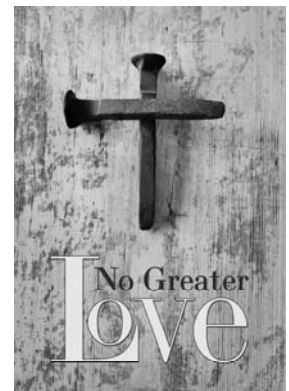
~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

### Easter Lilies



Help us adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning by signing up for an Easter Lily or Spring Flower in memory of a loved one.

Cost is \$10 each. Deadline to order is April 10.



**FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**Church Council Highlights – February 6, 2022**

**Property:**

Snowplow bill was received.

**Outreach:**

Share-A-Meal to be served Monday, February 21.

**Spiritual Life:**

New disposable/recyclable communion cups will be used next month,

**Christian Education:**

Jill continues with Sunday School and children's messages.

**Other Business:**

Lenten suppers will begin again.

**Next Council Meeting: Sunday, March 13, 2022**

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

**April Newsletter article deadline is March 20**

**April Newsletter will be mailed March 30**

**2022 Council Meetings**

Second Sunday of the month at 12:00 p.m.

At this point, we will meet face to face, unless otherwise requested.

	Mar. 13		
April 10	May 8	June 12	
July 10	Aug. 14	Sept. 11	
Oct. 19	Nov. 13	Dec. 11	

***Share-A-Meal***

The next time we are scheduled to serve will be

**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

Treasurer's Report January 2022			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	JAN	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 5,102.50	\$ 5,102.50
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 266.00	\$ 295.00	\$ 295.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 215.00	\$ 215.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 6,692.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,712.50</b>	<b>\$ 5,712.50</b>

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD	
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 5,317.50	\$ 5,317.50
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 34.45	\$ 34.45
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 2,915.98	\$ 2,915.98
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,326.10	\$ 1,326.10
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 6,326.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,594.03</b>	<b>\$ 9,594.03</b>

Pastor Expense	\$ 6,733.00	\$ 5,476.92	\$ 5,476.92
Employee Expense	\$ 1,453.00	\$ 1,453.56	\$ 1,453.56
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 339.00	\$ 245.58	\$ 245.58
Office Expense	\$ 382.00	\$ 420.51	\$ 420.51
Property Expense	\$ 1,528.00	\$ 2,651.00	\$ 2,651.00
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 10,435.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,247.57</b>	<b>\$ 10,247.57</b>

<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (4,109.00)</b>	<b>\$ (653.54)</b>	<b>\$ (653.54)</b>
Submitted by Martha Watters			

**Notes from the Council President**

Thanks to everyone who attended the annual meeting and approved the changes to our by-laws recommended by the New Hope, New Life, New Faith Committee. We now have 4 council members:

Amy Dowell as Vice-President,  
Jan Hannel as Council Secretary,  
Jill Pepper as "At Large" (for the time being)  
and myself, Cheryl Leamer.

During Pastor Heidi's sermon on Feb 6th, I felt God poking me, so during our first Council Meeting following that service, I volunteered to serve as Council President for the next two years.

Since we cut the number of positions on council, we are faced with having to figure out a new way to make sure ministries are covered. We have decided to try to organize more by tasks, and split them out based on each council member's interest and availability. We will reach out to church members when we need help with things, like hosting our Lenten suppers, communion, etc. I'm excited to see how the next two years will go. We will learn what works and what doesn't along the way. Please feel free to provide input, or comments to any of the council members.

For now, Property will be taken care of by a committee—Jim Spies has agreed to be in charge of mowing again this year, Gary Hoker is helping with many, many tasks both inside and out of the church walls.

I will continue leading Share-A-Meal, and Harry will continue to take sandwiches to Humility of Mary. What that means is that when something comes up (or someone thinks of something!) we will ask for someone to lead it. The hope is to find something for everyone, so we can use our gifts and talents joyfully, and look forward to serving God and others, instead of dreading it.

I am also looking forward to having a combined Lenten program this year with First Christian Church. Our discussions will be on the book "Good Enough" by Kate Bowler, which is described as 40-ish daily devotionals on learning to live with imperfection. It will be so rewarding to learn and have fellowship with our building mates and get to know each other better!

Cheryl Leamer — Council President



### We Pray For

*As we grow into a new year, we pray with new-found hope. In this time of continued division, chaos, and power struggles, we pray for strength to continue the fight for peace and justice. We pray for courage to face each new day, no matter what comes our way. Guide us, Creator of All. Shine your light on our path. Light a fire in our core, so that we will feel it's warmth, and ignite in us the passion to do your will. We pray all this, and so much more. Amen.*



#### Our Faith Family

Pam Edmond  
Mick Noteboom  
Hazel McBride  
Sheryl Mortimore  
Barb Bullock  
Jan Johnson  
Karen Risler  
Rev. Barb Koenig

#### Our Homebound

Dorris Adams  
Millie Allison  
Paul Dammeier  
Marlene Long  
John Raap  
Lois Wellendorf  
Helen Wiese

#### Our Family and Friends

Nancy Anderson                      Judy Prideg  
Twin preemies – Smith and Wesson  
Judy Pepper                              Terry Showens  
Nicholas Passcuzzi  
17 year old daughter of a friend of Gloria Kuehl

#### Our World

Ireland: United Kingdom; England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, 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.**

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 27**.



 **DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12!!**

Happy holidays from the Blood Center staff! We wanted to thank you for bringing cookies to our donors all year long—they really love that they are homemade! We hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thanks again.

 Blood Center Staff  
Jackie, Rhonda, Frankie, Crystal, Morgan



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

## Lenten Worship Series



We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we

can post to evermore-likable social media accounts. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do “the right thing.” But life happens, right? Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we’ve just slipped from. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives.

Join us on Sunday mornings  
at 10:30 a.m.

### “GOOD ENOUGH”

#### *40ish Devotionals For A Life Of Imperfection*

By Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie



This is the book that our worship series “Good Enough” is based on. It is also the book we will be using for our Wednesday Evening Lenten Soup and Conversations.

If you are interested in purchasing this book (to be released Feb.15) please contact the office. The book is \$16, and we will get it to you by March 2, Ash Wednesday.



### **WOMEN'S GROUP**

**We will NOT have**

**Women's Group in March or April due to Lent.**

### **WE ARE REGISTERED!**

Watch for details regarding donating to Birdies for Charity to help Faith UCC! *Our number is 2307.*



## LENTEN SCHEDULE

### **“Good Enough”**

#### **Ash Wednesday March 2**

*“Perfectionism is impossible. Transformation isn’t.”*

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Combined Service of Ashes

#### **Sunday, March 6 Communion Sunday**

*“Ordinary Lives Can Be Holy”*

#### **Wednesday, March 9 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Sunday, March 13**

*“So Much is Out of Our Control”*

#### **Wednesday, March 16 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Sunday, March 20**

*“Lots of Things Can Be Medicine”*

#### **Wednesday, March 23 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Sunday, March 27**

*“We Often Believe We Are the Problem”*

#### **Wednesday, March 30 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Sunday, April 3 Communion**

*“We Are Fragile”*

#### **Wednesday, April 6 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Sunday, April 10 Palm Sunday**

*“You Are a Group Project”*

#### **Thursday, April 14 Maundy Thursday**

6:00 p.m. Supper

7:00 p.m. Combined in person worship

*“We Are Blessed, Regardless”*

#### **Friday, April 15**

#### **Good Friday**








7:00 p.m. ONLINE ONLY WORSHIP

*“Even Today, God Is Here Somehow,  
That Is Good Enough”*

#### **Sunday, April 17 EASTER SUNDAY**

**Worship with Communion**  
*“A Good Enough Faith”*

# March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>  6:00-8:00 p.m. Troop 7 Merit Badge	<b>2</b> 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper  7:00 p.m. Combined Ash Wed Worship	<b>3</b>  	<b>4</b>  1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	<b>5</b> Pack 828 Pinewood Derby Race 9am-1pm  First Christian 3p.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m.
<b>6</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Communion</i>	<b>7</b>  6:30-8:00 p.m. Troop 7	<b>8</b>   6:30-8:00 p.m. Pack 828	<b>9</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  6:00 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. Book Study	<b>10</b>  10:30-12:30 Homeschool Group	<b>11</b>  1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	<b>12</b>  First Christian 3p.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Worship
<b>13</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>12:00 p.m.</b> <b>Council</b>	<b>14</b>  6:30-8:00 p.m. Troop 7	<b>15</b>  6:00-8:00 p.m. Troop 7 Merit Badge	<b>16</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. Book Study	<b>17</b>   5:30 p.m. Basket Class	<b>18</b>  1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	<b>19</b>  First Christian 3p.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Worship
<b>20</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Newsletter Articles            Due</i>	<b>21</b>   6:30-8:00 p.m. Troop 7	<b>22</b>  6:30-8:00 p.m. Pack 828	<b>23</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. Book Study	<b>24</b>  10:30-12:30 Homeschool Group	<b>25</b>  1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	<b>26</b>  First Christian 3p.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Worship
<b>27</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>One Great Hour            of            Sharing Special</i>	<b>28</b>  6:30-8:00 p.m. Troop 7	<b>29</b>   Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m.	<b>30</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. Book Study	<b>31</b>  