



# 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

*"He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher'). Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' ~ John 20:15-17*

We are in what the church calls "Eastertide." This is the 50 days between the experience Mary and the other women had at the empty tomb, to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit blew in through the Upper Room and landed as "tongues of fire" on each of the disciples, causing them to speak in different languages. The blowing of the wind changes their lives forever.

The empty tomb, with the linen death cloths folded on the stone where Jesus lifeless body had been laid, changed lives forever. What is interesting in this passage, is that Jesus, while wanting to comfort his friend, tells Mary she can't hold him because he "had not yet ascended to God." She didn't recognize the one she called Rabboni, because he looked different.

Maybe this shouldn't have come as such a surprise to Mary, he "changed" in front of Peter, James, and John on the mountain top when Elijah and Moses appeared in the Transfiguration.

Okay, let's go even further back. Jesus is the ultimate "change." He is the Son of God, come to earth in human form (and yet fully divine). Being born as a human baby, to live and breathe, to feel and taste and smell, to experience life like a "normal" human, Jesus changes from whatever form he was prior to birth, to human—made from dirt—having sinew and bone. He changed from something we "normal" humans couldn't see—or really understand—to something tangible, something that made sense to our brains.

What if that is what *change* is all about? What if the whole reason things change—whether it is how we understand the world as we grow from infancy to adulthood, or making leaps and bounds in technology, or figuring out how to be neighbors—is because we are moving from one state of understanding to another state of understanding? What if we knew deep in our cores that we can't stay the same, life can't stay the same, because there is always something better to be working toward?

What if this is the case when it comes to being church—the Body of Christ? Depending on your age, the world has watched the decline of the church since the 50's. Our sanctuaries are no longer full. Our Women's Groups no longer meet during the day because most of the women are working. Our Men's Groups don't meet for Saturday breakfast because there are games to coach, children to chase around, and chores to be done that can't get done during the week. And don't get me started about children and youth programs!

Again, what if this change is what the church needs? Maybe, like someone with an addiction, the Body of Christ must hit rock bottom before we face the reality that change is inevitable, and the church was never supposed to be tucked away from people in a building in the first place? Before he leaves earth to ascend back to God, he tells the disciples "Go into the world and make disciples." GO INTO THE WORLD.

Faith UCC is at that critical point. We need to decide what our "change" is going to be. We need to be talking about how we will GO INTO THE WORLD and make disciples. We are small in number, but we are HUGE in compassion, care, forgiveness and love, and those are the things we need to be sharing with the world.

In the months and years to come, how can we—Faith UCC—spread God's love and light in the world? How can we be the salt and light we are called to be? We have started, by sharing space with First Christian, by opening our doors to Cub and BSA Scouts, to a homeschool group. But what else can we do? Can we do a neighborhood clean up? Can we worship differently? I know that is a really hard question, and thinking about changing how we worship makes us uneasy. But worshipping like we do now is not how we will survive. So what can we do differently? Let's start talking about these things. If we do, maybe we won't have to hit "rock bottom." Maybe we can show up changed, like Jesus, and be who we were created to be in the first place!

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

**FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**Church Council Highlights – April 10, 2022**

**Property:**

Pews and carpets will be cleaned.

**Outreach:**

Share-A-Meal served 52 on Monday, March 29.

**Spiritual Life:**

Soup and Conversation is every Wednesday evening through Lent.

**Christian Education:**

Nothing to report.

**Other Business:**

Troop 7 needs more meeting space. It's possible we can offer them some space in the lower level after some reorganization.

**Next Council Meeting: Sunday, May 22, 2022**

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

**June Newsletter article deadline is May 15**

**June Newsletter will be mailed May 25**

**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.

	May 22	June 12	
July 10	Aug. 14	Sept. 11	
Oct. 19	Nov. 13	Dec. 11	

**Share-A-Meal**

We are scheduled to serve

**Tuesday, May 31, 2022.**

**Treasurer's Report March 2022**

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	MAR	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 6,590.00	\$ 18,132.50
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 285.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 266.00	\$ 261.00	\$ 736.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,430.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 6,692.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,846.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,583.50</b>

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 7,490.00	\$ 19,562.50
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 155.80	\$ 263.85
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,915.98
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,863.29	\$ 5,008.66
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 6,326.00</b>	<b>\$14,509.09</b>	<b>\$ 32,750.99</b>

Pastor Expense	\$ 6,733.00	\$ 7,330.12	\$ 18,578.28
Employee Expense	\$ 1,453.00	\$ 829.56	\$ 3,112.68
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 339.00	\$ 487.96	\$ 753.54
Office Expense	\$ 382.00	\$ 304.83	\$ 1,030.58
Property Expense	\$ 1,528.00	\$ 3,619.76	\$ 8,395.32
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 10,435.00</b>	<b>\$12,572.23</b>	<b>\$ 31,870.40</b>

<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (4,109.00)</b>	<b>\$ 1,936.86</b>	<b>\$ 880.59</b>
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Submitted by Martha Watters

**Notes from the Council President**

Welcome Spring!

It's so nice to finally have some warmer weather and be able to see the spring flowers starting to bloom. With the warmer weather there has been more activity in the neighborhood surrounding the church. Some of it is helpful, as in the Scouts cleaning up our grounds.

But there have been a few instances caught on our Ring camera that cause some concern. Council is looking into purchasing some extra security lighting and possibly cameras. We will let everyone know, once we find out more information. Until then, enjoy the Spring weather!

Cheryl Leamer —Council President



**WOMEN'S GROUP**

**We will meet at Faith  
On May 4th 6:30 p.m.  
Cinco de Mayo potluck!**

**WE ARE REGISTERED!**

Birdies for Charity pledge forms are available on the Fellowship Hall table. Our number is 2307.



**May  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 Max Holdt
- 7 Veralynn Fox
- 8 Joanna Connors
- 9 Cody McKune
- 10 Todd Ozmon
- 12 Susan Fox
- 15 Scot Bouillon
- 16 Millie Allison
- Carol Spies
- Larry Wiese
- 21 Sarah Wheaton
- 23 Deb Sullivan
- 27 Karleen Noteboom



**We Pray For**

*Listening God, we pray for peace for our world. We pray for those who are facing war, for all those who are suffering or afraid. Watch over them. We continue to pray for the world leaders: that they will show compassion, choose peace, lead with wisdom. Show us how to live and lead in this world where so much feels like it is going wrong. Guide us on your path, show us your will. Amen.*

**Our Faith Family**

Pam Edmond  
Barb Bullock  
Jan Johnson  
Karen Risler  
Rev. Barb Koenig

**Our Homebound**

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

**Our Family and Friends**

Judy Prideg  
Judy Pepper  
Premie – Smith  
Nicholas Passcuzzi  
Erin Cavan  
Terry Showens  
Joe Ripslinger  
17 year old daughter of a friend of Gloria Kuehl

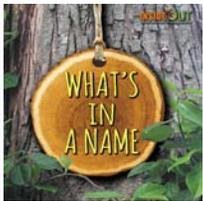
**Our World**

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan  
Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal,  
Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius,  
Seychelles, Angola, Mozambique

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**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.**

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**2022 Pilgrim Heights  
Camp Schedule**

**YOU AND ME CAMP (\$250)**  
K-5th Grades  
June 26-28 and  
July 31-Aug. 2

**PRIMARY CAMP (\$300)**  
K-2nd Grades  
July 10-13

**MID-LEVEL CAMP (\$350)**  
3rd – 5th Grades  
July 17-21

**JR. HIGH CAMP (\$350)**  
6th-8th Grades  
July 24-28

**HIGH SCHOOL CAMP (\$350)**  
9th-12th Grades  
July 24-28

See Pastor Heidi for more  
information, or go to  
[pilgrimheights.org](http://pilgrimheights.org).

**Little Dresses For Africa (L DFA)**  
sewing group is meeting again!  
Fridays from 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Please watch schedule  
for any changes.



Donations or questions may be directed to:  
Arlene Barclay, cell (563) 322-5757



**WE NEED VENDORS!**

If you or someone you know would like to join us for our Vendor/Craft fair, please contact Pastor Heidi, or the office for an application!



**Saturday, June 18, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Faith UCC will have two tables:  
one for baked goods and one for crafts.  
**WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP**  
Watch and listen for further details.

**Brian Barclay**

Thank you for stripping and waxing the floors in the sanctuary, bathrooms, and Fellowship Hall! They look AMAZING!!

*(For those who don't already know this, Brian does this on his vacation, and as volunteer!)*

**Cub Scout Pack 828**

Thank you to all the Cub Scouts and parents who helped clean up the hill on the north side of the church. It looks so much better!



Thank you so much to everyone who sent cards and well wishes to me for my knee replacement. I truly am blessed!

Thanks again! Janelle Hoker

**Cheryl and Dave Leamer**

Thank you so much for replacing our ripped sign out front! The new one is bright and colorful, and looks great!

**Heifer International**

We want to extend our sincere appreciation for Faith UCC's recent contribution of \$350.00 to Heifer. Your compassion makes a permanent difference in so many lives. Because of you, moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children....dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far away.... You are providing nutritious food, education and hope for the next generation. Thank you!

With gratitude,  
Pierre U. Ferrari, President and CEO

**Gary Hoker and Jim Spies**

Thank you so much for cleaning up the church yard, for fixing our Little Library door that fell off, as well as straightening the sign that was bent in the derecho (in 2020!). We are truly blessed by all you do around the church!

**Jeff Spies**

Jeff is Jim Spies' son, owner of **Actually Clean**. He donated the cleaning of all the carpets upstairs, as well as the pews. Thank you for a wonderful job! And thank you to Jim and Carol for helping make this happen!

**Lenten Soup Supper and Conversations**

Once again, we had a wonderful Lenten season filled with great conversation and delicious food! Thank you to everyone who helped make these suppers happen!

Becky Christy: getting everything set up, including putting together instructions for the hosts.

Hosts: Martha Watters, Nancy Duvall, Sharon Perreault, Becky Christy, Katie Linz, Kay Showens, Jan Hannel, Cheryl Leamer

Soup Makers: David Hulme, Harry Stroupe, Martha Watters, Deb Sullivan, Amy Dowell, Becky Christy, Marey Heil

Desserts: Cheryl Leamer, Sharon Perreault, Amy Dowell, Jan Hannel, Deb Sullivan, Becky Christy, Kay Showens, Carol Spies, Connor Bouillon, Martha Watters

I am sorry if I forgot anyone! Thanks to everyone who came to be in fellowship and conversation!

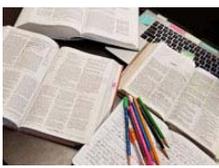
**Faith UCC Female God Squad**

A HUGE thank you to the Female God Squad for leading worship while I was on vacation.

Becky Christy, Jan Hannel, Cheryl Leamer, Karleen Noteboom, Carol Spies.

I know there was a volume issue with the jokes, and I apologize for that. I was so excited about the kids doing them! I am sorry you couldn't hear them.

# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Communion</p> 	<p><b>2</b> 2:00 pm Memorial Service Mick Noteboom</p> <p>6:00-8:30 pm Troop 7</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:00-8:00 p.m. Troop 7 Merit Badge</p>	<p><b>4</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>Women's Group 6:30 p.m. Faith UCC Cinco de Mayo Celebration</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> 	<p><b>6</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p>	<p><b>7</b> First Christian 3:00 p.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Worship</p>
<p><b>8</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:00-8:30 pm Troop 7</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>6:30-8:00 pm Pack 828</p>	<p><b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 pm Davenport Youth Trap Parent Meeting</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>5:30 pm Basket Class</p>	<p><b>13</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p> 	<p><b>14</b> First Christian 3:00 p.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Worship</p>
<p><b>15</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:00-8:30 pm Troop 7</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6:00-8:00 p.m. Troop 7 Merit Badge</p>	<p><b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> 	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>5:30 pm DKG</p>	<p><b>20</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p>	<p><b>21</b> First Christian 3:00 p.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Worship</p>
<p><b>22</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Church Council</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:00-8:30 pm Troop 7</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:30-8:00 pm Pack 828</p>	<p><b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>Mail Newsletter</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p>	<p><b>28</b> First Christian 3:00 p.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Worship</p>
<p><b>29</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>30</b> Office Closed</p> 	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>5:15 pm Share A Meal</p> <p>6:00-8:00 p.m. Troop 7 Merit Badge</p>				<p>Be devoted to one another in love. <small>Romans 12:10, NIV</small></p> 