



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

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. . ~ Hebrews 10:24-25

I had a conversation with a mentor and colleague of mine the other day, and the topic of discussion was what we were planning to do about confirmation this year. Curriculum has changed in the more than a decade since she and I have served together, and she felt it was time for her church to move forward in a new direction. It was a great conversation, and helped clarify my own thoughts on what we, as this particular faith community, need to begin thinking about to grow into Body of Christ that God is calling us to be.

In the history of the UCC, and in most denominations in the United States, the Church as an institution has been declining. This isn't new news. But add to that the fact that once churches re-opened after the worst of the pandemic, many people haven't gone back. Even with people worshipping online, churches across the country are having to face the difficult questions of “Who are we now, given we have half the number of members we had 2 years ago?”, and “How are we going to make it in the next 2 years?”

In this new time, as I have preached several times, we are in a very unique place in history. We are going to be able to rewrite how the Church, as the Body of Christ, will be in our world. But we need to use discernment and move forward with intention.

This means getting back to our roots, beginning from the beginning. In our conversation, my colleague and I decided that there are certain things that an intentional Church community needs to learn and do: love one another, no matter who, no matter where, no matter what—the first and most important commandment; to forgive as we have been forgiven; who God is, and how to have a relationship with Them; same with Jesus and with the Holy Spirit; and to serve one another. Everything else will come.

In light of these things, what we do as a faith community should revolve around these truths, and if they don't, we don't do them. This might mean we are going to do things differently, and sometimes not at all. And that's okay. We will introduce new things, and that is good as well!

One of those new ways happened last Sunday evening. We had our first of three All Ages Messy Church VBS with First Christian. I said if we got 20 people to come, it would be great; and if we got 25 to come, I would be thrilled. We ended up with 33 people from ages 1.5 years to almost 90! We had an amazing time! It was new, but the Holy Spirit was present and playing, and it was exactly what it should have been. A faith community learning about the Love of God together. (We hope you can join us August 14 for the second VBS—Love Your Neighbor.)

One of my favorite camp songs is “It Only Takes a Spark.” What other things can we do differently in order to grow into the Body of Christ in this new time? Do you have ideas? Is the Holy Spirit laying something on your heart? Is there something we are missing currently that would help you, or others, want to see happening within our church? Remember, some of the old familiar things, which we loved and were good in their time, may need to stay in the past, in order to make room for new things to take root. Some will take lots of thought, some will be no-brainers, and others will shove us out of our comfort zones. But that is what we do as a faith community. And if it doesn't work, then we will try something else. What “spark” can Faith UCC be in this post-pandemic world?



In the meantime, be sure to watch the bulletins and announcements to see how you can use your gifts to serve this wonderful Faith community.

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – July 21, 2022

Property: Hoping for more bids on cement projects.

Outreach: Share-A-Meal will be served by Faith UCC on July 29.

Spiritual Life: 200 disposable communion cups have been ordered.

Christian Education: “Messy Church” VBS.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, August 11, 2022

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

September Newsletter article deadline is August 21

September Newsletter will be mailed August 31

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.

Aug. 14 Sept. 11
Oct. 19 Nov. 13 Dec. 11

Share-A-Meal

We are next scheduled to serve
Tuesday, August 30, 2022.

Notes from the Council President

Summer Greetings!

I hope these beautiful summer days are treating you well. I spend as much time outside as I can when it's this nice. Summer goes by so fast. That being said, I just wanted to tell you about some fun events coming up.

We are planning a fundraiser in the next few months with Painting for a Purpose, to raise money for our sandwich program. (We may also do another one later this year.) This is a fun way to explore your creative side, so I hope to see some of you there and bring your friends. We are also planning a second Neighborhood Picnic. Amy Dowell is leading this event, so watch for more info on this from her. Also, there will be one more Vendor Fair on Sept. 24th. If you know of any vendors, please let them know about this event.

Well, I gotta get back outside, so see you all soon!

Cheryl Leamer —Council President



Thank you for continuing to broadcast your services on Facebook!

Barb and Bill Howie



WOMEN'S GROUP

**We will meet
on August 3rd 6:30 p.m.
Faith UCC Fellowship Hall**

Treasurer's Report June 2022

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	JUNE	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 4,155.00	\$ 35,731.50
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 102.00	\$ 607.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 266.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 1,856.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,173.00	\$ 4,060.60
Total Giving	\$ 6,692.00	\$ 5,710.00	\$ 42,255.10

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 5,328.00	\$ 39,792.10
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 40.86	\$ 450.65
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,915.98
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,374.18	\$ 9,289.68
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 6,743.04	\$ 57,448.41

Pastor Expense	\$ 6,733.00	\$ 7,216.05	\$ 39,430.22
Employee Expense	\$ 1,453.00	\$ 829.56	\$ 5,601.36
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 339.00	\$ -	\$ 970.76
Office Expense	\$ 382.00	\$ 718.28	\$ 2,412.12
Property Expense	\$ 1,528.00	\$ 2,516.95	\$ 13,577.83
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,435.00	\$ 11,280.84	\$ 61,992.29

Net General Fund \$ (4,109.00) \$ (4,537.80) \$ (4,543.88)

Submitted by Martha Watters



- 13 Jay Watters
- Dustin Sierra
- 17 Emily Davis
- 22 David Adams
- Sophie Pepper
- 29 Myrene Burton
- Barb Koenig
- Andrea Ohanlon

We Pray For



God, as the heat of summer intensifies, we pray for those without air conditioning or electricity, clean water, and health care. For all of our neighbors in “survival mode”, give them the communities and resources to not only survive, but to thrive this summer. And Lord, remind us to give you a drink when we see you thirsty. Amen.

Our Faith Family

Autumn Dowell
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

Mick Noteboom, Jr.
Anthony Tate
Elizabeth
Judy Prideg
Nicholas Passcuzzi
18 year old daughter of a friend of Gloria Kuehl
Aaron Wellendorf
Jeff Ripslinger
Dinah Lohmeier
Terry Showens

Our World

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritnia, Niger, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

Our deepest condolences go to Larry and Kay Showens on the death of Larry's sister, Mary Thiessen, on July 23, 2022.

**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.**

Dear Friends,
Thank you for being part of the River Bend Food Bank family. Like us, I'm sure you've watched the cost of food and other necessities climb higher—and you're worried about our neighbors facing hunger.



We would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$200. It will make a powerful difference fighting summer hunger for children. Thanks again!

Gratefully, Jenny Brinkmeyer—Colvin



Little Dresses For Africa (LDFA)

**sewing group
is meeting again!**

**Fridays from 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Watch schedule for changes.**



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

FIRST ALL AGES VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

COME ONE! COME ALL! (LITERALLY!)

This year, Vacation Bible School is NOT just for the kids! We are joining generational forces to grow our faith together! Mark your calendar for the following dates!

Each day we will meet from 4-6 p.m. with a meal at 6:00.

***We are once again collecting
backpacks and school
supplies for the
EICC Student Success Store.
We will bless them
during worship on August 7.***



AUGUST 14

“Love Your Neighbor”

**Meal:
Hot dogs/baked beans**



SEPTEMBER 18

“Love Your World”

**Meal:
Sandwiches and chips**



August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Group at Faith UCC	4	5 	6 First Christian Bible Study 3pm Worship 4 pm
7 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion  Blessing of the Backpacks	8	9	10 10 a.m. Bible Study  Join our BIBLE STUDY	11 12:30 p.m. Council Meeting	12 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group 	13 First Christian Bible Study 3pm Worship 4 pm
14 10:00 a.m. Worship ALL AGES VBS 4-6 p.m. Meal served	15	16	17 10 a.m. Bible Study	18 5:30 Baskets	19 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	20 First Christian Bible Study 3pm Worship 4 pm
21 10:00 a.m. Worship Newsletter Articles Due	22	23 Pack 828 6:30-8 p.m.	24 10 a.m. Bible Study 	25	26 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group 	27 First Christian Bible Study 3pm Worship 4 pm
29 10:00 a.m. Worship 	29	30 5:15 Share-A-Meal	31 10 a.m. Bible Study			 Attic Shop Donations Needed Bring to church by Oct 15th