



Focus on Faith Faith United Church of Christ

1630 W. 38th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806
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Email: office@faithuccdavenport.org
Established January 1, 1964

December 2022

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Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

“The Word became flesh and made a home among us.” ~ John 1:1-14

We are officially less than a week away from the first Sunday in Advent. I can’t believe how fast this year has gone!

This year, our Advent/Christmas worship series is called “reflecting the sacred”. When something is described as “sacred”, it is dedicated as “holy” or “set apart”. As we journey together during this season, I invite you to think about what it is that is “sacred” to you. What do you personally set aside as something that is “holy”?

I would like to invite you to take a step back this Advent and Christmas, and begin to look at your life with eyes that see everything as “sacred”. To help you do that, I am inviting each person to participate in a Photo-A-Day Challenge. To the right is a list of items for each day of Advent, ending on Christmas Day. As you move through your day, I invite you to find where that word speaks to you in your life, and then take a picture of it. I then invite you to go to our Facebook page and upload your photo. You can do so with or without an explanation.

If you are unable to post it on our Facebook page, please send it to me, and I will post it, again, with or without an explanation, or even a name if you wish.

If you are tech savvy, there are several filters you can use to make the background blurry (it’s called bokeh). For iOS, there is the Kaleido Lens app, and for Android there is the Kaleidoscope Camera app. You can also look at Soratama Lens for fish-eye bubble lens, or Crystalig-Prism & Photo Editor. If you have trouble, let me know and I will see if I can help you!

Even if you are not interested in sharing your pictures on Faith’s Facebook page, I invite you to do this for yourself, so that you can reflect on what is sacred to you. (And join us on Facebook to see what others are posting!)

However you choose to participate in this daily reflection, I pray that you continue to find what you are seeking as you journey through this season. May God continue to watch over you, and bless you more deeply than you could ever imagine!


~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

November

- 27—Church
- 28—Family
- 29—House
- 30—Tree

December

- 1—Angel
- 2—Infant
- 3—Candle
- 4—Hope
- 5—Donkey
- 6—Gift
- 7—Holly
- 8—Light
- 9—Love
- 10—Dark
- 11—Patience
- 12—Pregnancy
- 13—Star
- 14—Waiting
- 15—Wise Men
- 16—Wreath
- 17—Joy
- 18—Behold
- 19—Stable
- 20—Shepherd
- 21—Journey
- 22—Peace
- 23—Manger
- 24—Mother
- 25—Seeking



May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. God the Creator, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love, The Hulmes

Pastor Heidi, David, Jarrod, Karsten and Puppy Nala



Pastor Heidi will be on vacation from Sunday, December 25-Saturday, December 31.

She will return to the office on Sunday, January 1.

If there is an emergency, please contact Rev. Marcy Heil at 608-863-1313.

FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – November 13, 2022

Property: Parsonage Bathroom remodel beginning soon.

Outreach: Share-A-Meal will be served November 29.

Christian Education: Sunday School attendance is sporadic.

Other Business: Annual Meeting coming in January.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, January 15, 2023

Share-A-Meal
We are next scheduled
to serve
Friday, December 30, 2022.

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.
January Newsletter article deadline is December 18.
January Newsletter will be mailed by Dec. 23rd.

2022 Council Meetings
Second Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m.
We will meet face to face, unless otherwise requested.
Dec. 11

Treasurer's Report October 2022			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	OCTOBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 7,600.00	\$ 62,444.50
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 997.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 266.00	\$ 290.00	\$ 2,971.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 6,950.60
Total Giving	\$ 6,692.00	\$ 9,215.00	\$ 73,363.10
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD	
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 8,825.00	\$ 69,395.10
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 2.62	\$ 872.06
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,915.98
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 818.86	\$ 14,098.55
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 9,646.48	\$ 97,281.69
Pastor Expense	\$ 6,733.00	\$ 7,595.19	\$ 66,014.38
Employee Expense	\$ 1,453.00	\$ 829.56	\$ 8,919.60
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 339.00	\$ 650.04	\$ 2,519.33
Office Expense	\$ 382.00	\$ 346.06	\$ 4,127.54
Property Expense	\$ 1,528.00	\$ 1,113.34	\$ 18,883.79
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,435.00	\$10,534.19	\$ 100,464.64
Net General Fund	\$ (4,109.00)	\$ (887.71)	\$ (3,182.95)

Submitted by Martha Watters

Notes from the Council President

Happy Holidays!

My favorite time of the year, Thanksgiving and celebrating Jesus' birthday. But I would like to remember Karleen's comment during our Thanksgiving service and "try" to be thankful every day of the year! Speaking of that, I extend a warm "Thanks" to all the pledges turned in and also all the unpledged giving throughout the year. It makes the Council's job easier to know that we can depend on all of you.

During this time of year, we can relax a little and look back at what went well and what could use a few tweaks, as we get ready to begin another year. One thing I noticed is that whatever it is Faith UCC decides to do, such as the Spring and Fall Attic Shops/Bazaar, or Painting Parties, everyone steps up to make them successful. And I LOVE how we work so well with First Christian to make things happen (think Trunk or Treat, Bazaar, Share A Meal). I invite everyone to let me or other council members know what activities you would like to see in 2023. Thanks again for all you do!

Cheryl Leamer, Council President



-
- 1 Adam Holdt
 - Don Emde
 - 5 Calvin Ingstad
 - 7 Brad Downing
 - 12 Carsen Gerisher
 - 16 Connie Moreno
 - Pamela Edmond
 - 17 William Disney
 - Brendan Disney
 - 19 James Walck
 - 20 Daniel Adams
 - 21 Linda Martin
 - Becky Christy
 - 27 Chandler Ozmon
 - 30 Carmela McBride
 - 31 Nancy Anderson

We Pray For



God of Goodness, we praise you for the ordinariness of Christmas—that the day comes the same as any other day. We give you praise that there is no sign in the heavens, and no bright star but the light of your presence in the ordinary birth of the child. We give you praise that unobtrusively you are in the center of human affairs, involved in the struggle of life, and sharing human experience. We give you praise that out of compassion you take our part, and open to us a new way of life. We pray that this season we shall be able to see its true glory. Amen.

Our Faith Family

Deb Sullivan
Lois Wellendorf
Karen Risler
Rev. Barb Koenig

Our Homebound

Millie Allison
Paul Dammeier
Marlene Long
Hazel McBride
John Raap
Helen Wiese
Dinah Lohmeier

Our Family and Friends

Earline Henning
Barb Howie
Rosa
Carl Morris
Judy Prideg
Aaron Wellendorf
Lisa
Janell Alger
Don Erickson
Kris
Julie McPhearson
Judy Cummings
Terry Showens
Nicholas Passuczzi Elizabeth

Our World

Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong,
Macau, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan

Our deepest condolences go to Wendy Padavich and family on the death of her father, Jack Lowry, on Saturday, November 5.

**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.**

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed on
December 25—31
in observance of
Christmas, New Years,
and Pastor Heidi's vacation.



Hat/Mitten/Scarf Tree

Once again we are collecting
mittens, hats, and scarves, and this year,
we are adding socks. They will be given
to The EICC Student Success Store. The
tree is set up in the narthex.



"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matthew 2:10

For over 100 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a way to ensure that a light of love and hope will always shine for faithful servants of our church who find themselves facing unforeseen financial need.

We will take this special offering during worship on December 18. Thank you for your generosity!

Annual reports are due to the office by December 31!

WOMEN'S GROUP

December 1, 2022 6:00-8:30 p.m.

**Becky Christy
and Nancy Jones' home**



All women are invited to join us! Everyone is asked to bring a hearty appetizer (for our meal) and a grab bag gift of no more than \$10. If you have questions, ask one of our regular members.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Caroling to our shut-ins will take place **Sunday, December 18**. Anyone wishing to join in the fun is asked to meet at church by **3:30 p.m.** Singers of all ages are welcome. Please join us! Questions can be directed to Becky Christy or Pastor Heidi.

reflecting the sacred

Advent/Christmas 2022

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

*"The Word became flesh and made a home among us."
John 1: 1-14 (CEB)*

The Christmas season is a time when the juxtaposition of the sacred and secular feels sometimes blatantly opposed, and sometimes quite blurred. The word "sacred" points to something dedicated as "holy" and "set apart." This year, you are invited to a spiritual journey of seeing ALL things pregnant with the Holy. What could our experience of the Advent and Christmas season be like if we lived it imagining that everything is reflecting the sacred?



A HOLIDAY BAZAAR

THANK YOU!!!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Holiday Bazaar a tremendous success. There were far too many of you that helped to list you all individually. Many thanks to all who donated baked goods for the bake sale and cookies by the pound; to the group that volunteered throughout the year for attic shop, to those that helped with set up during the week prior and then stayed for clean up on Saturday; to all who donated holiday crafts; and to all of you for giving your time... **THANK YOU!** Thank you, also, to our friends from First Christian who made and donated crafts, as well as volunteered on Saturday! This year we were able to raise \$4,202.45! We couldn't have done it without you all and we look forward to next year.



HOLIDAY



Schedule

Sunday, November 27

"Sacred Time (Hope)"

First Christian Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Joint Sunday School - 10:10 a.m.

Faith UCC Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Blue Christmas Worship - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 1

Women's Group at Christy/Jones' - 6:00 p.m.
\$10 Christmas Gift Exchange / Bring an appetizer

Sunday, December 4

"Sacred People (Love)"

First Christian Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Joint Sunday School - 10:10 a.m.

Faith UCC Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 11

"Sacred Space (Joy)"

First Christian Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Joint Sunday School - 10:10 a.m.

Faith UCC Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 13

Bazaar Celebration Dinner at Mo Brady's
4830 N. Brady Street
Davenport, Iowa 52806
Cocktails - 5:30 p.m. and Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 18

"Sacred Knowing (Peace)"

First Christian Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Joint Sunday School - 10:10 a.m.

Faith UCC Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Fund Special Offering taken

Saturday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

Faith UCC Candlelight Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
First Christian Church Candlelight Worship Service - 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY - NO WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1

"Sacred Doing"

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Christian Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Faith UCC Worship - 11:00 a.m.

"THE VIRGIN WILL
conceive
and
GIVE BIRTH
to a
son,



AND THEY WILL
call him
IMMANUEL"
(which means "God with us").
MATTHEW 1:23, NIV

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Women's Group 6:00-8:30 pm Becky & Nancy	2	3 
4 FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith UCC Worship 11:00 a.m.	5 Troop 89 6:30-8 p.m.	6 Homeschool Theater 10:30 a.m. Troop 89 Merit Badge Class 6-8 p.m.	7 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	8	9 	10
11 FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith UCC Worship 11:00 a.m. Council Meeting 12:30 p.m.	12 Troop 89 6:30-8 p.m.	13 Homeschool Theater 10:30 a.m. Holiday Bazaar Celebration Mo' Bradys 5:30 cocktails 6:00 supper Merit Badge Class 6-8 p.m.	14 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 	15 Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	16	17 
18 FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Joint Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith UCC Worship 11:00 a.m. Caroling 3:30 p.m. Newsletter Articles Due	19  Troop 89 6:30-8 p.m.	20 Homeschool Theater 10:30 a.m. Troop 89 Merit Badge Class 6-8 p.m.	21 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	22 5:30 p.m. Basket Class	23 	24 Christmas Eve Services Faith UCC 5:00 p.m. First Christian 11:00 p.m.
25 NO FCC Worship NO Joint Sunday School No Faith UCC Worship	26 Pastor On Vacation	27 Homeschool Theater 10:30 a.m.	28 NO Bible Study 	29	30 5:15 p.m. Share a Meal	31 

