



Focus on Faith

Faith United Church of Christ

1630 W. 38th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806
563-391-5726

Email: office@faithuccdavenport.org
Established January 1, 1964

February 2023

Vol. 23-2 Issued Monthly

Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

"Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

~ Isaiah 43:16-19

Dearest Friends,

We met with the combined Faith UCC/First Christian DOC committee on Monday, January 16 for the first time. It was a good, and emotional meeting. I expect most of our conversations are going to lean to the emotional side. We thought it would be best for me not to report on the meeting—please see Cheryl Leamer's Notes from the Council Chair on page 2 for those details. Rather, I am going to be your spiritual guide through this process. Sometimes when we let emotion get the better of us, we need someone to center us, get us back on track. That will be my role.

First, what we are doing is called Shared Ministry, which we are already doing. We not only share space, but we have shared our missions and ministries over the last year—Share-A-Meal, Lenten gatherings, Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School, special services, Trunk or Treat, to name a few. What our "shared ministry" will look like in the future, has yet to be determined.

If you haven't already, I invite you to read the scripture above. "Do not remember the former things....I am about to do a new thing...." I honestly believe that what God is telling us is NOT to forget our pasts, but rather, to forget the "way things have always been done." Clearly, those no longer work for us. It is time to honor our past, while not allowing it to get in the way of our future. Easier said than done, I know.

The past can be nostalgic. With nostalgia comes emotion. Throw in some tradition that moves us, or is rooted deeply within us, and when those things are in danger of changing, we begin to get defensive. But God is doing something new. God is taking two churches, who are not able to go it alone much longer, and making a stronger church; a united church; a united people. God is removing the division from two churches of two different denominations and calling us to show the world (at least our little corner of it!) that one by one, it can be done. We can be united. We can, and are called, to be ONE Body in Christ.

How will this look? Again, this question can cause an emotional uprising. Some want it one way, some the other. Some want one thing, some want another. And back and forth, until nothing is settled.

But there is another way. In reality, it is the only way which will work. That is by keeping God at the center at all times. This calls for courage, patience, listening to understand one another, loving one another (even when we don't want to), but most importantly, the way through to that new thing God is creating is for us to remember WHY we are church. We must keep our eyes focused on the mission and ministries we are being called toward—some of which we have never heard of yet!

While we follow God, keeping God at the center, I want us to remember a couple of things:

1) **Shared Ministry** is about innovation, unification, expanding, support, and working together.

2) What **Shared Ministry** is NOT, is survival. If we are doing this for survival purposes—whether for human resources, or (and maybe especially) financial resources, then we might as well stop now. If that is our focus, then shared ministry will not work.

So, I ask you—no, I challenge you—to pray that we keep God at the center at all times; for open ears, eyes, hearts, and minds; for wisdom; for courage; and most of all, for God to continue to be guide in this process. Because with God—EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

CONGREGATIONAL Q and A

Join us **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12** following worship for an update and time for questions and (maybe!) answers!

FROM THE COUNCIL:

Church Council Highlights – January 8, 2023

Property:

Parsonage bathroom remodel is complete

Outreach:

Share-A-Meal served 49 people on December 30

Spiritual Life:

Sanctuary décor has been changed

Christian Education:

Jill would like to utilize Messy Church “Holy Habits”

Other Business:

Inventory has been taken of our collection of dishes in the kitchen

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, February 12, 2023

Share-A-Meal

We are next scheduled to serve
Monday, February 13, 2023.

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

March Newsletter article deadline is February 19.

March Newsletter will be mailed by Feb. 22.

2023 Council Meetings

Second Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m.

We will meet face to face, unless otherwise requested.

	Feb. 12	Mar. 12
Apr. 9	May 14	June 11
July 9	Aug. 13	Sept. 10
Oct. 8	Nov. 12	Dec. 10

Notes from the Council President

Hello Everyone!

The Faith First committee had their first Shared Ministry conversation on January 16th, and I attended as your Council Chair. I want to share with you the details of that conversation. We briefly touched on the bigger topics of interest, such as finances, baptism and communion traditions. While financial health is important, it is not the main reason we would consider options on our sharing ministry. It will, however, be a hot topic with many unknowns that need to be worked out.

The committee members all had a chance to voice their thoughts on continuing down this path. The First Christian DOC has been talking about their options to continue as a church for well over a year, and they are eager for a solution and closure. Faith UCC, on the other hand, has known for a while that we need to do something new, but we haven't been discussing options, so we have some catching up to do. I think we have the right folks from both churches on the committee, and they will undoubtedly deepen relationships while working through some areas that will be emotional at times.

Our next meeting is February 20th, but before that, we'd like to hear your questions, so please either write them down, or come to the Q&A session after worship on Feb 12th.

Cheryl Leamer, Council President

Treasurer's Report December 2022

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	DECEMBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 5,496.50	\$ 73,796.00
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 1,207.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 266.00	\$ 725.00	\$ 3,991.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,130.00	\$ 8,420.60
Total Giving	\$ 6,692.00	\$ 7,461.50	\$ 87,414.60

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 6,626.50	\$ 82,216.60
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 292.20	\$ 1,251.04
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 17,915.98
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,251.16	\$ 16,395.15
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,326.00	\$ 13,169.86	\$ 117,778.77

Pastor Expense	\$ 6,733.00	\$ 8,091.95	\$ 80,006.15
Employee Expense	\$ 1,453.00	\$ 829.56	\$ 10,578.72
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 339.00	\$ -	\$ 2,679.72
Office Expense	\$ 382.00	\$ 257.16	\$ 4,635.62
Property Expense	\$ 1,528.00	\$ 993.75	\$ 20,379.09
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,435.00	\$ 10,172.42	\$ 118,279.30

Net General Fund	\$ (4,109.00)	\$ 2,997.44	\$ (500.53)
-------------------------	----------------------	--------------------	--------------------

Submitted by Martha Watters



2	Cameron Hart
6	Stephanie Fox
9	Stephanie Allen
11	Gloria Kuehl
15	Natalie Walck
17	Hazel McBride
22	Asher Preston



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
Connie Disney
Marlene Long
Hazel McBride
Helen Wiese

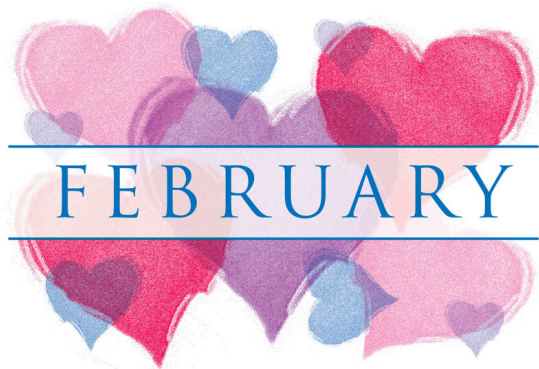
Our Family and Friends

Lynne	Terry Showens
Barb Howie	Earline Henning
Judy Prideg	Janell Alger
Judy Cummings	Don Erickson
Rosa Kris	Aaron Wellendorf
Dinah Lohmeier	Lisa Elizabeth
Nicholas Passcuzzi	

Our World

North Africa, Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, France, Germany, Monaco, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

**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.**



YOU ARE INVITED
to an open house for

**Hazel McBride's
98th Birthday!
Saturday, February 18
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Come and help us celebrate!**

WOMEN'S GROUP

February 2, 2023

6:45–8:30 p.m.

Faith UCC—Jan H Hostess

All women are invited to join us!



Women's Fellowship



**The Little Dresses For
Africa (LDFA)
sewing group
will not meet until
we have warmer weather.**

In 2022 our little group sent 225 dresses and 24 gingerbread dolls to headquarters!

Please contact Arlene Barclay

cell (563) 322-5757

Thank You!

SCOUT SUNDAY

February 5

BREAKFAST

9:45-10:45 a.m.

FREE WILL DONATION



(Funds will go to Troops 828/1828)

**11:00 a.m. Worship
ALL Scouts (of all ages!)
are invited to wear your uniforms.**



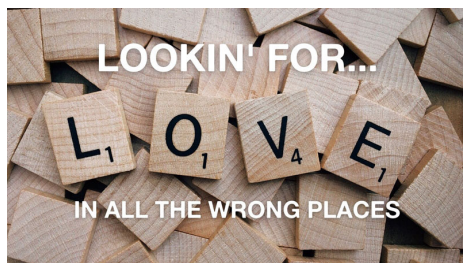
Dearest Faith UCC,
David, the boys, and I want to thank you for the very generous gift of money for Christmas! We are saving it for our 30th Anniversary trip in 2024. We love being a part of this church. God is so good, and we are grateful for all God's blessings – especially all of you!
~Peace – The Hulmes

Faith Family,
Once again, I thank you for your great generosity. I appreciate the card, the note, the money, and whoever it was that organized it all! Sometimes this congregation seems very small, but you continue to do great things as you have always done. Faith is truly faithful! I plan on setting this money aside to be used exclusively for music. It will be very nice to have a music envelope to access!

~ Love, Susan Senn

Dear Faith UCC,
Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Churches United. Your gift helps us keep the doors open at Winnie's Transitional Housing, the only transitional housing in the Illinois Quad Cities for women, and children, who may be survivors of domestic violence. Your gift will keep the shelves of our 22 food pantries filled and food on the tables at 1 free hot meal sights.
Blessings—Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes and Betsy Vanausdelt

2023 Lenten Worship Series



Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places

"Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting...rend your hearts and not your clothing." — Joel 2: 12-13

The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can REALLY be found. And it is not in the "usual" places. Isn't it as true of us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don't we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary "good feelings" and satisfaction? Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We'll move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the "real deal."

LENTEN SCHEDULE

"Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places"

Ash Wednesday
February 22

"Looking for Love"
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Combined Service of Ashes

Sunday, February 26
"Look for the Resister"

Wednesday, March 1
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 5
Communion Sunday
"Look for the Helper"

Wednesday, March 8
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 12
"Look for the Thirst-Quencher"

Wednesday, March 15
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 19
"Look for the Shepherd"

Wednesday, March 22
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 26
"Look for the Liberator"

Wednesday, March 29
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 2
Palm Sunday
"Look for the Unexpected"

Thursday, April 6
Maundy Thursday
6:00 p.m. Supper
7:00 p.m. Combined in person worship
"Love Looks for Us"

Friday, April 7
Good Friday
7:00 p.m. ONLINE ONLY WORSHIP
"Love Looks for Us"

Sunday, April 9
EASTER SUNDAY
Worship with Communion
"Love Wins"





ADMISSION
\$5

Knock Knock! Who's There? Comedy Presents
a Comedy Fundraiser For

TERRY SHOWENS

TERRY HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH MULTIPLE MYELOMA CANCER
AND IS NOW ON A DOUBLE TRANSPLANT LIST FOR HIS HEART & KIDNEY
AT ANY GIVEN DAY & TIME HE MUST BE READY TO RECEIVE THE
TRANSPLANTS WITHIN A 6 HOUR WINDOW

FRIDAY

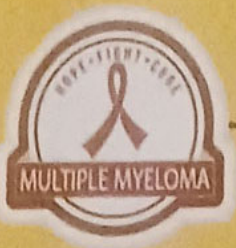
FEBRUARY 10, 2023

DOORS 5:00 PM / SHOW 6:30 PM

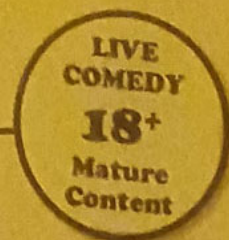


Let's come together to help this amazing family
with medical and living expenses that have
caused financial, physical, emotional hardship.

- Basket Raffle
- Food available
- ATM On Site
- 50/50
- Cash Bar



BUFFALO COMMUNITY CENTER
426 CLARK ST - BUFFALO, IA



FEBRUARY 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 <p>Scout Sunday</p>	<p>CONFIRMATION WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS 4:00-5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> 	<p>2</p>  <p>6:45 p.m. Women's Group Jan H host at FCC</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p>	<p>4</p> 
<p>5</p> <p>SCOUT SUNDAY BREAKFAST 9:45-10:45 FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith Worship 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Scouts 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Merit Badge 6-8 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>DYT Team Mtg 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p> 
<p>12</p> <p>FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith Worship 11:00 a.m. Council Meeting 12:00 p.m. Q & A Following worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m.</p> <p>Scouts 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Merit Badge 6-8 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Basket Class</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p>  <p>18</p> <p>98th Birthday Open House 1 to 3 p.m. Hazel McBride</p>
<p>19</p> <p>FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith Worship 11:00 a.m. Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Scouts 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Merit Badge 6-8 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Ash Wed Service</p> <p>Mail Newsletter</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group</p> 
<p>6</p> <p>FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith Worship 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Scouts 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Merit Badge 6-8 p.m.</p>			