



# Focus on Faith

## Faith United Church of Christ

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*Established January 1, 1964*



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Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

### PASTORAL PONDERINGS

*"Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creating that had been done.."*  
~ Genesis 2:3

Shalom,

There is so much happening here at Faith UCC, and all of it is exciting!

First, our conversations with First Christian are going well. At times it feels like we are ready for the next step, and then there are other times that it feels very overwhelming. Bringing two churches together to be one is hard work, but so exciting. If you are unable to make it to our Q and A sessions following worship (our next one is Sunday, February 26), please feel free to ask anyone on the committee your questions, or just share your thoughts. Committee members include Mark Christy, Amy Dowell, Cheryl Leamer, and Jill Pepper.

Second, the time for my Sabbatical is coming quickly! Just like our conversations with First Christian, this comes with both the stress of making sure everything is in place and covered while I am gone, as well as the excitement of three months to rest my weary body, mind and spirit!

I know many of you have questions around this, and we will talk more over the next couple of months. Here is a brief rundown of what my plans are—albeit there are several things still up in the air!

June 4—The last Sunday before Sabbatical. We will hold a blessing during worship, and a reception following.

June 5—September 4—My Sabbatical

June 5—June 11—State Trap Meet in Cedar Falls, Iowa

June 12—June 28—We hope to be camping at West Lake. This allows us to be close to home for David and Karsten if they need something, but for me to be away from the church. Living right next door creates a unique problem for me, as I can see everything that goes on through my living room window. In order for this to truly be effective, I need to break away for a while.

June 29—July 4—General Synod in Indianapolis, IN (I am an Iowa Conference delegate)

July 5—August 10—I have 3 trips planned, but we are still trying to work out dates with those I am going to see, as well as flight details. I plan to visit my parents and sister and brother-in-law in West Palm Beach, Florida for 2 weeks, visit friends in Elko, NV for 10 days, and vacation with the family in Montana to see Jarrod.

August 11—September 4—I will return home and spend time on projects I would like to finish around the house, along with spending time with a friend on her flower farm!

September 5—I will return to the office.

September 10—My first Sunday back. We will have a lunch following worship, and I will show pictures and talk about what I did, and you will share what you did!

Every day I will spend time in prayer and meditation, as well as journaling. I am nervous about that, because I am not good at it—but that is part of the process! Your job will be to get to know the members of First Christian better by holding conversations, playing, praying, or whatever you come up with! Then when we get back together, we will look to the future! I know this unknown is scary for some, but in the end, the rest that we all take will be rewarded and blessed by God.

June 5—August 5—Jill Pepper will lead worship and be on call. She will be in the office M-TH 9—Noon.

August 6—September 4—I will let you know who will be leading worship and on call.

I will have a list out for volunteering in the next couple of weeks, so please watch for that. Again, I know you have lots of questions, and I will try to address more here next month. Otherwise, please feel free to contact me to ask!

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*

## FROM THE COUNCIL:

### Church Council Highlights – February 12, 2023

**Property:** Will try to sell our largest snow blower as we now have service for sidewalk snow removal.

**Outreach:** Share-A-Meal did not serve in January. Will serve February 13.

**Spiritual Life:** Lenten Soup Suppers and Conversation begin Ash Wednesday, February 22.

**Christian Education:** Trying to hold on Bible Study. Sunday School instead.

**Other Business:** Council elected to return to glass communion cups and cornbread.

### *Share-A-Meal*

We are next scheduled to serve  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2023.**

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

**April Newsletter article deadline is March 19.**

**April Newsletter will be mailed by Mar. 29.**

### 2023 Council Meetings

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

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

### Treasurer's Report January 2023

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	JAN	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 9,089.88	\$ 9,089.88
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 198.00	\$ 202.25	\$ 202.25
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 480.00	\$ 480.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 6,668.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,872.13</b>	<b>\$ 9,872.13</b>
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 9,569.88	\$ 9,569.88
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 68.20	\$ 68.20
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 3,156.13	\$ 3,156.13
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,385.65	\$ 1,385.65
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 6,370.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,179.86</b>	<b>\$ 14,179.86</b>
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,055.08	\$ 5,382.16	\$ 5,382.16
Employee Expense	\$ 908.58	\$ 854.45	\$ 854.45
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 362.50	\$ -	\$ -
Office Expense	\$ 437.08	\$ 303.11	\$ 303.11
Property Expense	\$ 1,839.42	\$ 3,664.79	\$ 3,664.79
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 10,602.67</b>	<b>\$ 10,204.51</b>	<b>\$ 10,204.51</b>
<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (4,232.67)</b>	<b>\$ 3,975.35</b>	<b>\$ 3,975.35</b>
Submitted by Martha Watters			

## Notes from the Council President

Hello Everyone!

With the warmer weather we have had in February, it's hard not to be excited that Spring is right around the corner! As we look forward to the renewal Spring brings, I wanted to let you know that we have had a couple meetings with First Christian on merging. The meetings are going well. We have decided to hold Question and Answer forums on the Sundays following our meetings to keep you informed. The Lenten Soup Supper and Conversation theme this year will be on History/Polity of the UCC and DOC. That may help us think of questions we need to ask.

We will put our Wednesday Bible Study on hold until the fall.

We also need to start thinking about fundraisers and if we want to hold a Spring Bazaar this year. Please let me know your thoughts on this and anything else Council needs to address.

Cheryl Leamer, Council President



**DON'T FORGET  
TO TURN YOUR  
CLOCKS AHEAD  
ON SATURDAY,  
MARCH 11!!**



**MARCH  
BIRTHDAYS**

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



## We Pray For

*"God, you are truly amazing. Not only did You create the entire universe with nothing more than the sound of Your voice, but you truly care about your creation—each and every one of us! You are holy. You are good. You are true. You are love. And you never ever change. Thank You for everything you are, and thank you for loving us." Amen.*

### Our Faith Family

Jan Johnson  
Sue Fox  
Blake Padavich  
Bob Schlotfeldt  
Connie Disney  
Deb Sullivan  
Lois Wellendorf  
Karen Risler  
Rev. Barb Koenig

### Our Homebound

Millie Allison  
Paul Dammeier  
Marlene Long  
Hazel McBride  
Helen Wiese

### Our Family and Friends

Barb Atkinson	Terry Showens
Barb Howie	Judy Prideg
Judy Cummings	Don Erickson
Rosa Kris	Aaron Wellendorf
Dinah Lohmeier	Lisa Elizabeth

### Our World

Ireland; United Kingdom; England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales  
Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia,  
Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

***Our deepest condolences go to Terry Showens, Kay and Larry, and all the family on the unexpected death of Terry's wife (Kay and Larry's daughter-in-law) Sonya Showens on Sunday, February 19.***

***Our deepest condolences go to the Cindy Walton and Doug Cox (First Christian) on the unexpected death of their brother Paul Cox on Saturday, February 18, 2023.***

***Our deepest condolences go to Kay and Larry Showens on the unexpected death of their friend, Ron Kettelsen on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.***

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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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### GAME DAY

Sunday, March 12  
2:00 p.m.

Bring a snack to  
share, games to play, and friends  
to laugh with!

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**



**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!

### IN SEARCH OF



We are looking for donations  
of tea cups and saucers and tea  
pots for a tea party in the near  
future (watch for details!)

If you have one that you would  
be willing to donate, please  
bring it to the office.

*Tea Party*

If you have questions, please  
contact Amy Dowell.

### WOMEN'S GROUP

**We will not meet in  
March or April due to Lent.  
Watch for details for May!**





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 19**.

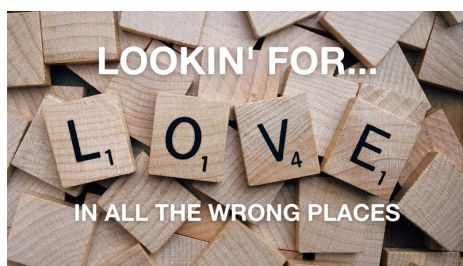
## Easter Lilies

Help us adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning by signing up for an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one. Cost is \$12 each.

**Deadline to order is March 10.**



## 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"*





# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. <i>DOC/UCC History</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group 	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith Worship 11:00 a.m. Communion 4 pm Confirmation	<b>6</b>  Scouts 6:30-8:00 p.m.	<b>7</b>  Merit Badge 6:00-8:00 p.m.	<b>8</b> 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. <i>Polity Part 1</i> <i>Similarities and Differences</i>	<b>9</b>  6:30 p.m. Faith First Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	<b>11</b>  <i>Spring Forward</i>
<b>12</b> FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith Worship 11:00 a.m. <b>Q and A following worship</b> <b>Council following</b> <b>GAME DAY</b> <b>2:00 pm (see pg. 3)</b>	<b>13</b>  Scouts 6:30-8:00 p.m.	<b>14</b>  Merit Badge 6:00-8:00 p.m.	<b>15</b> 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. <i>Polity Part 2</i> <i>Similarities and Differences</i>	<b>16</b>  5:30 p.m. Basket Class	<b>17</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group  	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith Worship 11:00 a.m. 4 pm Confirmation <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering</i> <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	<b>20</b>  Scouts 6:30-8:00 p.m.	<b>21</b>  Merit Badge 6:00-8:00 p.m.	<b>22</b> 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship <i>Similarities and Differences</i>	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	<b>25</b> 
<b>26</b> FCC Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Faith Worship 11:00 a.m.	<b>27</b>  Scouts 6:30-8:00 p.m.	<b>28</b>  Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m.  Merit Badge 6:00-8:00 p.m.	<b>29</b> 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Q and A  Mail Newsletter	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sewing Group	