



September 2023
Vol. 23-9 Issued Monthly
Rev. Heidi Hulme
Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

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



Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."



Blessed with work

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God."

Janna Firestone in her devotional about Ecclesiastes 5:19, wrote... In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

We at Faith and First keep our church running smoothly every single week whether it is getting ready for worship services, council

meetings, the Annual Holiday Bazaar, our Sandwich Program, Share-A-Meal program, keeping our property clean and tidy inside and out, visiting our shut-ins, or just enjoying each other. It takes a lot of people to make everything run smoothly. But, we are truly "blessed with the work of our church"!



Bible Quiz

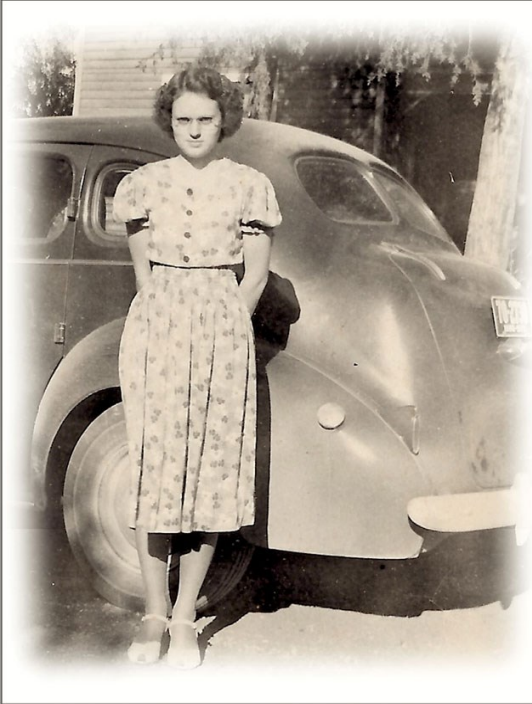
After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Dearest Faith UCC and First Christian,

I cannot tell you the feeling I had when reading the cards from the flowers and plants at Mom's visitation. Thank you for holding us in prayer and for honoring her with this gift. I have brought the plant home and can't decide if I want to bring it to the office when I get back! I know this summer has been hard in so many ways, but it has also been good. Please know how much we all miss you. It won't be long, and we will be together again. In the meantime, thank you! Peace and Love! Pastor Heidi, David, Karsten and Jarrod



Come celebrate with us!

Helen Wiese's 100th Birthday

Faith United Church of Christ
1630 West 38th Street
Davenport, Iowa 52806

Sunday, October 1st
2-4 pm

No gifts, please

*You're welcome to call (563) 639-4649
with your birthday wishes*



If you're not able to attend in person, please feel to send a card to the church or bring one to church and we will make certain Helen gets them at her celebration!

Her children are hosting the event in Fellowship Hall!

1630 W. 38th St
Davenport IA 52806

Holiday Bazaar Preparations!

We are still in need of items for the Bazaar Attic Shop. Drop off items anytime this month and remember that the cutoff date is Sunday, October 1st. If you need items to be picked up, call the church office to make arrangements.



Detailed information about the bazaar will be in the October newsletter.

Our sandwich program has been around since 1991.

We began taking 60 bologna and cheese sandwiches every week to the Miriam House, John Lewis Coffee House and now to Humility Homes —found out they have a shower that the homeless can use and could use toiletry items and bath towels. And, they can always use coffee...

Put any items on the kitchen counter and they will be delivered each Tuesday with the sandwiches.



Dear Faith UCC,

Thank you for your donation of \$195! Your generous gift will help support our program. Please know how very much we value your support of our mission!

Your gift helps us meet families on some of their worst days but also gives them hope that tomorrow can be better. Your gift reminds us all to do what we can, when we can, while we can to care about others, even if you will never meet them or get anything in return from them in return. Terry Hendershott, Friendly House

UnityPoint Health has announced that their Parish Nurse course will be offered in September. This program has been part of the hospital for over 30 years. If you know of an individual that has interest in promoting health and wellness please contact Linda Guebert MS, RN, Parish Nurse Manager at 309 770 5122. The course begins September 26 with 12 evening sessions. There is also a brochure in the church office.



FROM THE COUNCIL



Church Council Highlights – August 13, 2023

Property: Large pine tree near parsonage was removed.

Outreach: Share-A-Meal will be served on August 29.

Spiritual Life: Combined summer worship with First Christian.

Christian Education: Bible Study/Sunday School begins September 17.

Other Business: Pastor Heidi returns to the pulpit September 10.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday September 17, 2023

2023 Council Meetings

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

Sept. 17 Oct. 8 Nov. 12 Dec. 10

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

October Newsletter article deadline is September 17.

October Newsletter will be mailed by September 27.

Share-A-Meal

We are next scheduled to serve
Friday, September 29, 2023.



Treasurer's Report July 2023

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO. PLEDGE	JULY	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 6,821.00	\$ 47,297.63
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 770.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 198.00	\$ 335.50	\$ 2,035.25
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 337.00	\$ 3,924.44
Total Giving	\$ 6,668.00	\$ 7,613.50	\$ 54,027.32

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 7,148.00	\$ 51,212.07
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 32.33	\$ 820.05
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,663.05
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,575.73	\$ 9,958.02
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 8,756.06	\$ 70,653.19

Pastor Expense	\$ 7,055.08	\$ 6,042.87	\$ 47,079.09
Employee Expense	\$ 908.58	\$ 903.62	\$ 6,334.32
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 362.50	\$ 10.69	\$ 623.49
Office Expense	\$ 437.08	\$ 628.69	\$ 2,872.71
Property Expense	\$ 1,839.42	\$ 1,470.41	\$ 13,058.22
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,602.67	\$ 9,056.28	\$ 69,967.83

Net General Fund	\$ (4,232.67)	\$ (300.22)	\$ 685.36
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Submitted by Martha Watters

Hello Everyone!

I am sure you are as happy as I am to have Pastor Heidi back. I want to say a big THANK YOU to Jill Pepper and all the others who filled in during the summer. It was fun trying new things during worship and great to hear and see things from a different perspective.

I also loved having First Christian DOC worship with us, and having communion every week. It helped us get an idea of what it would look like if we combined into one church. The Faith First committee has been working on a way to show the different governing bodies of each church to our congregation. They have also talked about ways the governing body could change to fit a new church. I think we will be able to ask for a congregational vote within the next month or so. I'm looking forward to moving on with this. Please let me or other council members know if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a great month!

Cheryl Leamer

Council President



Council President Notes

WOMEN'S GROUP

Will meet September 7
at the church to do
crafts 6:45 p.m.



Remember!
Time Changes
September 17!

Worship Time Changes To
10:30 a.m.

September 17, 2023
Sunday School/Bible Study
9:00 a.m.



- 1 Matthew Stroupe
- 2 Aaron Wellendorf
- 6 Linda Fox
- 12 Charles Fox
- Harry Stroupe
- Helen Christy
- Connor Bouillon
- 14 Karsten Hulme
- 17 Gregory Kress
- 21 Jim Spies
- 22 Harrison Christy
- 24 Martha Watters

PRAYER list

We Pray For

Spirit of Fire, kindle in our hearts a flame of love for all your children for friend and foe, and kindred all. Teach us to love each other; without malice, without jealousy, without envy, without fear of any under the sun. Bless us during this Sabbatical time. Grant your Spirit to direct us, your power to sustain us, your wisdom to guide us, your vision to light us, your ear to hear us. The guarding of Christ surrounds us, each step of our journey, to aid us and enfold us, each day and night. Amen.

Our Faith First Family

Deb Sullivan
Blake Padavich
Karen Risler
Rev Barb Koenig
Sharon Perreault
Linda Cox
Terri Raines
Jeff McWilliams
Dan Lawler
Doug Cox
Walton's granddaughter

Our Homebound

Millie Allison
Paul Dammeier
Connie Disney
Jan Johnson
Hazel McBride
Lois Wellendorf
Helen Wiese

Our Family and Friends

Wren
Taryn Menning
Megan
Judy Cummings
Aaron Wellendorf
Lisa
Gregory Minnich
Nick
John Farley
Kelly Slagle
Dave in CA
Jeannine
Scott
Terry Showens
Don Erickson
Dinah Lohmeier
Jean Mumm
Riley Bernnuer
Baby Christopher
Rex Grove
Melissa Haynes
Pam's Sister-in-Law

Our World

Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal

**Please Contact the office if you or someone you know is in need of a pastoral visit
563-391-5726 Please note the hospitals no longer notify us.**



Welcome Back to our Choir!

The choir returns September 10th after their summer break. For their first choir hymn, Susan will choose something nice and simple that they all know.

Pastor Heidi

Pastor Heidi returns to the office the first week of this month — Tuesday, September 5th! We will have a potluck after the worship service on Sept. 10th. She plans to share her memories and pictures of her time off.

Finance Committee

The finance committee begins work this month on the budget for 2024! Please have any budget requirements to the committee as soon as possible.

Eastern Iowa Association Annual Meeting

All Eastern Iowa Association churches are encouraged to attend the annual meeting, September 24th at Summit UCC, 2885 JKF RD, Dubuque, IA either in person or by Zoom. Each church is allowed clergy and 2 lay delegates plus one youth delegate. Program begins at 2:00 p.m. with the annual meeting beginning at 3:15 p.m.

Answer to August's puzzle:

Do not withhold food from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs #:27, NIV.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFE DCBA

R G S Z M P N B T L W
V E V I B G R N V R
I V N V N Y V I B L F
R M Z O O N B
K I Z B V I H U L I Z O O
L U B L F R Z O D Z B H
K I Z B D R G S Q I R
K S R O R K K R Z M H

Philippians
1:3-4 NIV

Answers: Next Month

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 
3 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion	4 	5 Pastor Heidi Back In Office Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	6	7 Women's Group 6:45 p.m.	8 	9
10 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Reception for Heidi	11 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	12 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	13	14	15	16 
17 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Council Meeting <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	18 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	19 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	20 	21 5:30 Baskets	22	23 50th Anniversary Open House for Jim and Sharon Perreault Scott County Park Whispering Pines Shelter, Long Grove 1-5 p.m. Please text RSVP to 563 320 1847
24 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship EIA Annual Meeting 2:00 p.m. Summit UCC Dubuque, IA	25 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	26 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	27 <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	28 	29 5:15 p.m. Share-A-Meal	30