



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

"Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him." ~ Luke 8:39

Greetings,

I am still struggling to believe that 13 weeks have come and gone! I had a wonderful rest, but I am grateful to be back home!

There is so much I am still processing, and would like to ask for your patience with me. Sometimes I don't have words for your questions, because, frankly, I just don't have the words yet. But they will come. So, if I have shared a story with you half a dozen times, I apologize. I continue to tell it because I have something to learn yet, and by telling it over and over, I will be able to glean that wisdom. In the meantime, you will probably hear a few stories way more times than you want!

As July turned into August, and I was home a few more days than I had been, I started to relax a little, and get nervous about coming back. Not nervous to be here, but nervous because much of my Sabbatical had turned out differently than expected, and things I told you I was planning to do didn't get done. And at that point, I still didn't have this big AHA moment about why I was on Sabbatical, and what I was learning.

So I worried about what you would say, and how you would feel if I didn't come back with something grandiose. Then, the week before I returned, two things happened.

1) I read this scripture in the Gospel of Luke: "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." That's it. That's my job. To tell you what God did for me while I was away. And when I realized that, things started to open up, and I am processing my time—finally! Friends, there is no way that I can tell you everything that God did for me during this time apart on one page. I'm not even sure I know everything God did for me yet! But I do know this: I know that God was in each and every breath I took, and each place I went, and in each person I re-connected with. God never left my side.

2) I read this quote: *Life is about balance*. This has resonated with me to the point that I had to put it on paper, and canvas, and ceramic!

So I return to you, not with some big new idea, but instead, with many small reminders. Things like:

- 1) God's timing is always perfect
- 2) God's creation is precious—no matter what part of the world you are in
- 3) God places angels in our midst when we need them most
- 4) God allows us the space to learn what we need, whether we want to learn it or not!
- 5) God has placed joy in our hearts, and when we find that joy, there is NOTHING better than that!

I could go on and on, but think I will wait. Balance. Life is about balance.

~ Always Peace, *Pastor Heidi*





JOIN US FOR OUR TRUNK OR TREAT!

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Last year we had good attendance at our Trunk or Treat event so we will be holding it again this year on the night of Davenport's City-wide Trick or Treating. We will accept donations of candy to hand out to the neighborhood kids. Decorate your car trunks - need to be ready for the kids by 5:15 p.m.



The Holiday Bazaar at Faith UCC has been an annual fundraiser for many years. Funds raised support the local missions of the church. These funds are distributed after the Annual Meeting in January.

The Attic Shop will be located in Fellowship Hall. This year everything will be priced. The Bake Sale will have all types of baked goods, candies, and some specialty items. Cookies by the Pound features all kinds of cookies and bars and will be sold by the pound. These two sections will be in the library area. We will have a variety of crafts that will be set up in the Narthex area. Our specialty "candy bars" will again be available!

Breakfast—pancakes, eggs & sausage will be served from 7:30 to 10 a.m. by Scout Troops 828 and 1128. Lunch will be served 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will consist of soups, salads, and desserts. The Bazaar is scheduled from 7:30 to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4th.

Holiday Bazaar Setup Schedule:

Sunday, Oct. 29— Set tables in specific areas
Monday, Oct. 30 — 9 to 11 a.m. Attic Shop and Crafts
Tuesday, Oct. 31 — 9 to 11 a.m. Attic Shop and Crafts
Wednesday, Nov. 1 — 9 to 11 a.m. Attic Shop and Crafts
Thursday, Nov. 2 — Finish Setup and Bake!
Friday, Nov. 3 — 4 to 6 p.m. Drop off baked goods

Volunteers Needed for Day of Bazaar—Nov 4

1. Cashiers—3 needed for each shift—7:30 to 10 & 10 to 1.
2. Cashier Tables — need helpers to bag items for cashiers.
3. Attic Shop — 2 or 3 helpers to help with bagging items, keep traffic moving, and moving table items.
4. Bake Sale — 3 Helpers needed to price baked goods as they come in and manage bake tables.
5. Cookies by the Pound — 2 helpers.
6. Craft Area — Helpers needed to price items as they come in.

NOTE: It is really helpful if craft items are priced when they are dropped off. Baked goods sell best if placed in small packages.

Sign-up Sheet will be in Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to everyone who give donations or help!

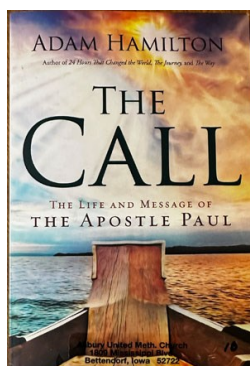
Your Co-Chairs: Becky, Myrene and Martha

Hope at the Brick House Annual Banquet

October 24th—5:30 to 8 p.m.

This event will be held at St. Ambrose Rogalski Center and will include a silent auction and a dinner buffet. The Program includes music by students, testimonies and ministry updates. There will be opportunities to make financial contributions. We have two tables to fill. Doors open at 5:15 p.m.

Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.



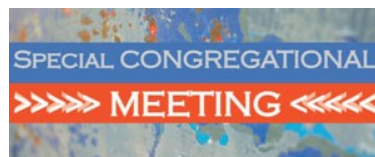
Sunday School/Bible Study

Bible Study began September 17th. They are studying the Life and Message of the Apostle Paul using the book "The Call" by Adam Hamilton. This discussion continues this month meeting at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Cheryl Leamer and Sharon Perreault are the leaders.

Underwear Because we Care



We are collecting underwear this month for "Underwear Because We Care" - a Quad City based organization. They collect underwear, undershirts, underpants, & bras. They distribute the items to the homeless in the area. The group partners with churches, schools & businesses— Bombas Socks gave them 10,000 pair of socks.



The Faith First committee has requested the Church Council to have a Congregational Meeting immediately following the Worship Service (11:30 am) on Sunday, October 1st to discuss the merger of Faith UCC and First Christian and to dis-

FROM THE COUNCIL

Church Council Highlights – September 17, 2023

Property: In contact with the City to dredge the ravine

Outreach: Share-A-Meal will be served on September 29

Spiritual Life: Combined summer worship with First Christian

Christian Education: Bible Study/Sunday School began September 17

Other Business: Special Congregational Meeting October 1

Next Council Meeting: Undetermined

2023 Council Meetings

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

We will meet face to face, unless otherwise requested.

Oct. 8 Nov. 12 Dec. 10

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

November Newsletter article deadline is October 15.

November Newsletter will be mailed by October 27.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Will meet October 4 at
the church to do crafts
6:45 p.m.



Treasurer's Report August 2023

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO. PLEDGE	AUGUST	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 6,319.50	\$ 53,617.13
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 905.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 198.00	\$ 313.00	\$ 2,348.25
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 272.44	\$ 4,196.88
Total Giving	\$ 6,668.00	\$ 7,039.94	\$ 61,067.26
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 6,591.94	\$ 57,804.01
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 31.72	\$ 851.77
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,663.05
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,413.61	\$ 11,371.63
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 8,037.27	\$ 78,690.46
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,055.08	\$ 6,189.82	\$ 53,268.91
Employee Expense	\$ 908.58	\$ 903.62	\$ 7,237.94
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 362.50	\$ 371.12	\$ 994.61
Office Expense	\$ 437.08	\$ 407.82	\$ 3,280.53
Property Expense	\$ 1,839.42	\$ 1,533.67	\$ 14,591.89
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,602.67	\$ 9,406.05	\$ 79,373.88
Net General Fund	\$ (4,232.67)	\$ (1,368.78)	\$ (683.42)

Submitted by Martha Watters

Fall Greetings!

I hope everyone had a good summer. It went by too fast as usual, but I am looking forward to snuggling indoors for a while. If you missed it, I wanted to let you know that Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study/Sunday School has started. It will be every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. I hope to see you there.

Also, the Fall Bazaar is quickly approaching. The last day for donations is October 1st. The bazaar will be held on November 4th. There will be many opportunities to help out, so look for sign-up sheets soon.

Next year's budget preparation and pledge campaign are in the works. I'm not sure of the timeframes yet, as we continue to work through discussions with First Christian. We will keep you up-to-date on any new developments.

Have a great month!

Cheryl Leamer
Council President



Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve
Thursday, October 12, 2023.

Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve
Tuesday, October 31, 2023.



OCTOBER Birthdays

- 3 Helen Wiese
- 5 Joseph Fox
- Jaquin Glines
- 11 Lorann Glines
- 13 Teresa King
- 14 Gloria Power
- 15 Gary Hoker
- 17 Connie Disney
- Cheryl Leamer
- 18 Rob Kress
- 19 Kay Showens
- 22 Jacob Smith
- 26 Mark Christy



We Pray For

Autumn is a time of transition. Earth sheds the abundance of summer. Leaves fall from the trees. Sunlight lessens. Let us enter into the spirit of autumn: I am the sun setting in the west. I am the tree letting go of the leaves. I am the harvest taken from the land. I am the bird winging swiftly southward.

Spirit Keeper, I will enter into the heart of autumn. I will bravely enter my transitions. I will adapt to what needs changing. I will freely let go and not hang on. Come, Spirit of Autumn, and teach me! Amen.

Our Faith First Family	Our Homebound	Our Family and Friends	
Amy Dowell (and Autumn!)	Millie Allison	Debbie	John
Blake Padavich	Paul Dammeier	Pepper Family	Wren
Doug Cox	Connie Disney	Taryn Menning	Jeannine
Linda Cox	Jan Johnson	Megan	Scott
Karen Risler	Hazel McBride	Judy Cummings	Terry Showens
Rev. Barb Koenig	Lois Wellendorf	Aaron Wellendorf	Don Erickson
Terri Raines	Helen Wiese	Lisa	Dinah Lohmeier
Jeff McWilliams		Gregory Minnich	Jean Mumm
Dan Lawler		Nick	Riley Bernnuer
Walton's granddaughter		John Farley	Rex Grove
		Kelly Slagle	Melissa Haynes
		Dave in CA	Pam's Sister-in-Law
Our World			

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

**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.**

Birdies for Charity

For those who donated to Birdies at the John Deere Classic this year: the check distribution date is October 31st. Thanks to all who donated.

Hope at the Brick House

We began a new mission project in September! On the 14th we served our first meal at the Hope at the Brick House and served 38 elementary kids.

We are scheduled to do this every month on the 2nd Thursday. The day of the week may change occasionally and we will announce when it changes in plenty of time. This is similar to our share a meal project as the day of the week can change with that program month to month. Hope at the Brick House could have between 30 and 60 elementary kids present for any given meal. The next meal will be served on October 12th.

Iowa Conference Annual Meeting

The 2023 annual meeting of the Iowa Conference will be held Saturday, October 14th at the Urbandale United Church of Christ, 3530 70th Street, Urbandale, Iowa.

If you are not able to attend in person, you can Zoom for free. Once you register, you will receive the link for the Zoom meeting. Every member church is entitled to 2 voting delegates at the meeting as well as one youth or young adult (ages 13 to 29 years).

Answer to September's puzzle:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.

~Philippians 1:3-4, NIV.

Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover the names of some Old Testament prophets. Then unscramble the circled letters to describe what prophets are.

I was called to preach to the people of Nineveh but ran from God instead. (My book is #32 in the Bible.)

— — — — —

I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. (My book is #37.)

— — — — —

Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. (My book is #28.)

— — — — —

My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises comfort. (It is #23.)

— — — — —

I had dreams and visions. (My book is #27.)

— — — — —

Because of my predictions, I was often in danger and angered officials. (My book is #24.)

— — — — —

I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. (My book is #30.)

— — — — —

My book contains descriptions of strange visions. (It is #26.)

— — — — —

PROPHETS ARE — — — — —

Answers: Next Month

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting Helen Wiese 100th Birthday Celebration 2 to 4 pm <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	2 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	3  Merit Badge 6-8 p.m.	4 6:45 p.m. Women's Group	5	6 	7
8 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship Heidi Vacation	9  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	10 Possible Davenport Primary Election 7am—8pm	11	12 Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	13 	14 Iowa Conference Annual Meeting Urbandale UCC 9:30 am to 2:00 pm
15 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Council Meeting Newsletter Articles Due	16 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	17 Merit Badge 6-8 p.m.	18 	19 5:30 p.m. Basket Class	20	21
22 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	23 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	24 Hope at the Brick House Banquet 5:30 pm Merit Badge 6-8 p.m.	25	26	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship Bazaar Setup	30  Bazaar Setup	31 5:15 p.m. Share-A-Meal Bazaar Setup				