



Focus on Faith

Faith United Church of Christ

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

November 2023
Vol. 23-11 Issued Monthly
Rev. Heidi Hulme
Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the One of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." ~ James 1:17

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Sometimes I don't think I say that enough to each of you. I have certainly gotten behind on sending out thank you cards. But even if you don't get a hand written note from me, please know that I am beyond grateful for everything each and every one of you does!

"But Pastor Heidi, I don't do much for you to be that thankful to me." To which I respond, "Bologna!" I have received words of encouragement, words of challenge, words of compassion from each of you. I have watched you care for one another through cards sent, hugs shared, and food offered. I have watched you shed tears, sit in silence, and clean the church so Brian and Arlene didn't have to when Arlene's mother, Lois, died.

These two churches are amazing, and I am so grateful to be your Shepherd! Thank you!

November 26 we will offer our pledge cards to be blessed during worship. For those from First Christian, I know this isn't a tradition that you are used to, but I feel that it is especially important this year.

When you receive your pledge card and letter this year, it will be for the 2024 budget for the New Church we are creating together. When we make a pledge, we are promising—to the best of our ability—to give that money to the church however we feel we can over the course of the year. By writing that amount down, our finance committee (yet to be named—for now is Martha Watters and the Merging Committee!) will be able to assess whether or not we will need to make adjustments to the proposed budget.

Offering of our first fruits back to God (giving an offering or pledge) is something we are called to do. Many churches ask for a tithe—which is 10% of your annual income. I know for many, that can be really scary. And I pray you know that I am not asking you to give beyond your means. But this year, because we are going to be a New Church together, I would challenge you to move into a zone that might stretch your comfort.

For instance, if you didn't pledge, you would make a pledge this year. If you gave 3% of your annual income, can you do 3.5%, or even 4%? If you were giving 6%, could you give 6.5%, or even 7%? If you didn't give in percentages, and giving a flat amount, say \$20 a month, could you try \$25 a month? If you gave \$1,000 a quarter, could you give \$1,250 a quarter?

I understand that giving to the church can be difficult because we are afraid that we won't have enough. But our God is a God of abundance, always providing what we need, when we need it (notice I didn't say WANT!). All we have to do is trust that. Our faithful giving is one of the ways that we can thank and praise God for our abundant gifts.

Again, THANK YOU
for all you do!

Always Peace,
Pastor Heidi



Pastor Heidi will be on vacation
Monday, November 13—Sunday, November 19.
She will return to the office on Monday, November 20!
Our own Faith's God Squad will lead worship.
If there is an emergency, please contact Rev. Marcy Heil at 608-863-1313.

UnityPoint Health Trinity Rock Island Befrienders Program

The Befrienders program offers Faith/First members the opportunity to consider volunteering their compassion and listening skills for those who are in the hospital as well as using these skills to visit members of our congregation. There is a training session beginning Thursday, October 26th and continues weekly on Thursdays at 1 p.m. through November 16th. Please contact Chaplain Andy Busch for more information—309-779 -2110.

Please check the Action Board for a brochure about the program.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY WORSHIP

We are celebrating the life of our loved ones who died over the last year on **Sunday, November 5**. We will be honoring the following who have passed since All Saints Day 2022 — Idella Anderson, Verona “Nonie

Dubes, Philip Roberts, John Raap, Ruthann Wymore, Esther Halstead, Earline Henning, Ron Kettelsen, Donald Paul Cox, Sonya Showens, Olive Smallwood, Lorraine Sewick, Sue Fox, Kris Jensen, Albert Perreault, Pauline Wharton, Dorothy Curtis, Marlene Long, Judy Prideg, Dorothy Rosenboom, Kay Ann Ohl, Janel Schwenke, Dave Leamer and Lois Wellendorf.

Preparing for the Advent Season!



Help us adorn the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas! Poinsettias cost \$10.

Help us celebrate advent by lighting the Advent wreath. And, plan to

decorate Fellowship Hall after worship on November 26th.

Sign up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall.



ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

*“Like a shepherd you feed your flock,
gathering the lambs and holding them close,
and leading mother ewes with gentleness.”*

— Isaiah 40:11, The Inclusive Bible

Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our spiritual ancestors were also worried — often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And the response of the scriptures is “the Holy Living One is with you.” Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.



CANADIAN PACIFIC HOLIDAY TRAIN

Churches United is the recipient of the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train 2023 and is in need of volunteers to assist in collecting the non-perishable food items as the community attends the event at the Freight House, November 26th from 4pm-6:30pm. If you are interested in helping, please contact Betsy at Churches United—563-370 -9700.



OFFICE CLOSED



The office will be closed **November 23 and November 24** in observance of Thanksgiving.

Wishing you all the gift of faith and the blessing of hope this Thanksgiving Day!

UNDERWEAR BECAUSE WE CARE

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to Underwear Because We Care during October!





Bible Quiz



Fill in the blank:

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give _____ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings



(Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV))

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

December Newsletter article deadline is Nov. 19.

December Newsletter will be mailed by Nov. 28.



WOMEN'S GROUP
Will not meet in
November!



Merger Meeting—October 18

1. Martha Watters presented an updated budget—taking the budget prepared for Faith UCC and included new items known at this time for the new church. The committee approved the proposed budget and will take it to the congregation on October 29th for approval.
2. Pastors Linda and Heidi met with a lawyer to discuss changing the name and how the process will work. The paperwork can be done at a minimal cost.
3. Suggestion box for "new church name" will be put in the Fellowship Hall. The merger committee will present the suggestions to the congregation on Nov. 12.

Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve
Thursday, November 9, 2023.

Share-A-Meal

We are not scheduled to serve
In November.



Treasurer's Report September 2023

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO. PLEDGE	SEPTEMBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 6,028.50	\$ 59,645.63
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 1,040.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 198.00	\$ 266.00	\$ 2,614.25
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 5,786.88
Total Giving	\$ 6,668.00	\$ 8,029.50	\$ 69,086.76
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 7,628.50	\$ 65,432.51
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 51.23	\$ 903.00
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 10,663.05
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,874.33	\$ 13,245.96
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 11,554.06	\$ 90,244.52
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,055.08	\$ 7,396.89	\$ 60,665.80
Employee Expense	\$ 908.58	\$ 903.62	\$ 8,141.56
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 362.50	\$ 293.95	\$ 1,288.56
Office Expense	\$ 437.08	\$ 397.30	\$ 3,677.83
Property Expense	\$ 1,839.42	\$ 1,376.25	\$ 15,968.14
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,602.67	\$ 10,368.01	\$ 89,741.89
Net General Fund	\$ (4,232.67)	\$ 1,186.05	\$ 502.63
Submitted by Martha Watters			



November
BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Adam Christy
- 2 Sandra Holdt
- 3 Matt Gebhardt
- Abbey Edlemon
- 5 Wendy Padavich
- 6 Morgan Barclay
- 11 Andrea Holdt
- 12 Jarrod Hulme
- 14 C. Michael Fox
- 20 Richard McBride
- 21 Ashly Fox Clark
- 23 Warren Holdt
- 24 Samantha Ozmon
- 27 Michelle Holdt
- 28 Brianna DeGraff

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Our Faith First Family

Amy Dowell (and Autumn!)
Blake Padavich
Doug Cox
Linda Cox
Karen Risler
Rev. Barb Koenig
Terri Raines
Jeff McWilliams
Dan Lawler
Bob Schlotfeldt

Our Homebound

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

Our Family and Friends

Debbie
Pepper Family
Taryn Menning
Megan
Judy Cummings
Lisa
Gregory Minnich
John Farley
Kelly Slagle
Harrison Schmitt
John
Wren
Scott
Terry Showens
Don Erickson
Dinah Lohmeier
Jean Mumm
Riley Bernnuer
Rex Grove
Melissa Haynes
Pam's Sister-in-law

Our World

The Caribbean

If you have a prayer joy or concern, please contact pastorheidi@faithuccdavenport.org or
Leave a message at the church - 563-391-5726. Please note the hospitals no longer notify us.

VOTE!!! Tuesday, November 7th
Polls are open from 7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.



Daylight Savings Ends

Don't forget to set your clocks back **one** hour before you go to bed on
Saturday, November 4.

Thanksgiving humor

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

Why did the turkey decline dessert?

Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?

To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?

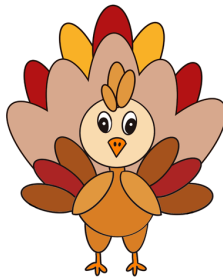
Your nose.

Why didn't the chef season the turkey?

There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?

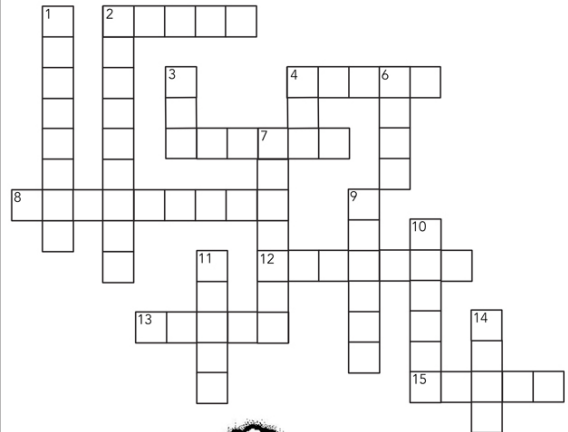
People were fighting over the drumsticks.



Answer to October's puzzle:

*Jonah; Haggai; Hosea, Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Amos;
Ezekiel; Messengers*

Puzzle!



ACROSS

2. cause of Job's trouble
4. twinkling, heavenly lights
6. the Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
8. creature of the deep (41:1)
12. the Temanite, a friend (2:11)
13. sores
15. Job had 7,000

DOWN

1. the One who ever lives (19:25)
2. affliction
3. had seven sons
4. ocean
5. precipitation
7. Job had 500
9. the Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
10. Job had 3,000
11. Job's fourth friend (32:2)
12. Job had 500 yoke



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>ALL SAINTS' DAY</p>			1 Bazaar Setup	2 Bazaar Setup	3 Bazaar Setup	 <p>7:30 am to 1 pm Holiday Bazaar</p>
5 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	6 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	7  <p>Election! Polling hours 7 a.m.-8 p.m.</p>	8	9 Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	10 CASI Chorus Practice In Sanctuary 9 a.m.	11  <p>★ Veterans Day: ★ Thank You for Your Service!</p>
12 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	13 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m. <i>Pastor Heidi Vacation</i>	14	15 Troop Committee Meeting 6:30-8:30 pm	16 5:30 p.m. Basket Class	17	19
19 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Pastor Heidi Vacation</i>	20 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	21	22	23  <p>GIVE THANKS</p>	24 CASI Chorus Practice In Sanctuary 9 a.m.  <p>Office Closed Today</p>	25
26 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Dedicate Pledge Cards Decorate Fellowship Hall</i>	27 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m. <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	28	29	30		