



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

December 2023

Vol. 23-12 Issued Monthly

Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



Mitten Tree

We have a tree set up in the narthex to put mittens, hats, scarves and socks. We will be giving these to either Hope at the Brick House or the EICC Student Success Store. Please drop off items for the tree now until Christmas. If you aren't able to shop, we'll accept cash and someone will shop for you!



The Gift of
Being Present

An Advent/Christmas Worship Series

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.



Sunday, December 3

"Being Present with Hope"

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 7

Women's Group at Deb Sullivans - 6:00 p.m.

\$10 Christmas Gift Exchange / Bring an appetizer

Sunday, December 10

"Being Present with Peace"

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 17

"Being Present with Joy"

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Potluck — 11:30 a.m.

Youth/Children Christmas Program

Christmas Fund Special Offering taken

Tuesday, December 19

Bazaar Celebration Dinner at Mo Brady's

Cocktails - 5:30 p.m. and Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 21

Blue Christmas Service - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 24

"Being Present with Love"

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 31

"Being Present with Assurance"

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Worship – 10:30 a.m.



WOMEN'S GROUP
Thursday, December 7, 2023
6:00-8:30 p.m.
Deb Sullivan's home

All women are invited to join us! Everyone is asked to bring a hearty appetizer (for our meal) and a grab bag gift of no more than \$10. If you have questions, ask one of our regular members.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Holiday Bazaar a tremendous success. To date we have raised \$4,310. This event can't be a success without all the help we get from everyone! We will have a bazaar celebration at Mo Brady's on December 19th. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6.



PASTORAL PONDERINGS



"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." ~ Isaiah 40:28-31

In the most barren of situations, God continues to create something new. Two years ago, First Christian did what every church tries to avoid having to do, and that is sell their precious building. Blood, sweat, and tears went into the planning and creating of that church building. It was beautiful, and so many wonderful and beautiful things happened within (and outside) those walls. Children were born, children, youth, and adults were baptized, people got married, loved ones were put to rest, Christmas programs, Easter programs, Christian Education, worship, fellowship, all of that created a loving, and God-fearing community.

But as it has a tendency to do, life changes. The choice was to leave that beloved building. Without a place to go, Faith UCC invited them to share space until the community could get their bearings straight again. The building was no longer First Christian, but the faithful community of believers still is.

And now, two years later, what once was, First Christian Church and Faith UCC—separate, and yet very much alike—are preparing to create something new: Faith First Community Church. And it is beautiful!!

It is beautiful because, as the leader of both churches right now, I am watching each community work diligently to become one. There is give and take on both sides. Sometimes, those are easy changes, and sometimes—thanks to our emotions—the changes are more difficult.

While we have many things done—a new name, a new constitution, a new way to govern the community, a budget for next year—we still have a long way to go, and many decisions yet to be made. But these decisions are the details, and they will get done, in time.

Safe church policies (for volunteers who will work with our children and youth), bequest policies, building use policies.

Then there will be the decisions around what we keep for furniture from both churches, and what we don't. And how will we go about marketing our new church? Then, down the road, how will we change the sanctuary to make it Faith First Community Church? (Like I said, some of them are a ways down the road!)

The paperwork has been turned into the lawyer to work on the incorporation of Faith First, and the plan is to have an incorporation date of January 1, 2024!! While we wait for that, the Merging Committee continues to move forward, working on coming up with our Core Values (what we believe our church values most), a mission statement, and a vision statement. Once they come up with a few ideas, we will schedule another congregational meeting to decide on those.

Thank you so much to our Merging Committee for all of your hard work and dedication to the new creation. As much as we would like to believe that creating is easy, it really isn't—in fact, it is really difficult at times. It takes patience, and courage, and passion. So, thank you to Cheryl Leamer, Don Walton, Mark Christy, Glenn Perreault, Jill Pepper, Doug Cox, Amy Dowell, Sharon Perreault, Jan Hannel, and Martha Watters—who isn't on the committee, but has been HUGE in helping make this transition work! And thank you to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, ideas, and any other way you are helping.

I can't wait to see where we are one year from now! In the meantime, if you have thoughts and ideas on any of these things, please find a committee member and talk to them!

May you all have a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!
Always Peace, Pastor Heidi





Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve
Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve
Friday, December 29, 2023.



Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

January Newsletter article deadline is Dec. 17.

January Newsletter will be mailed by Dec. 27.



Treasurer's Report October 2023

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO. PLEDGE	OCTOBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 7,129.75	\$ 66,775.38
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 1,150.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 198.00	\$ 334.50	\$ 2,948.75
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 590.00	\$ 6,376.88
Total Giving	\$ 6,668.00	\$ 8,164.25	\$ 77,251.01

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 7,719.75	\$ 73,152.26
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 76.65	\$ 979.65
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,663.05
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 1,651.44	\$ 14,897.40
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 9,447.84	\$ 99,692.36

Pastor Expense	\$ 7,055.08	\$ 8,032.49	\$ 68,698.29
Employee Expense	\$ 908.58	\$ 903.61	\$ 9,045.17
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 362.50	\$ 1,053.17	\$ 2,341.73
Office Expense	\$ 437.08	\$ 624.53	\$ 4,302.36
Property Expense	\$ 1,839.42	\$ 1,389.18	\$ 17,357.32
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 10,602.67	\$ 12,002.98	\$ 101,744.87

Net General Fund	\$ (4,232.67)	\$ (2,555.14)	\$ (2,052.51)
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Submitted by Martha Watters



Merger Meeting—November 1

1. The suggestion box was opened and the committee reviewed the submitted ideas. It was voted to bring two names to the Congregation: Faith First Church and Faith First Community Church.
2. Glenn Perreault will begin as Office Assistant for Faith UCC effective November 1. The offer will be in effect until a new church offer letter is in place after the merger.
3. Our Custodian and Music Coordinator will continue in their positions.

Congregational Meeting—November 12

1. Paper ballot to decide on church name — We will be known as Faith First Community Church.
2. Handout of the new church constitution was re-viewed, discussed, and approved by the congregation.

Advent Meanings

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).



The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Adam Holdt
- Don Emde
- 16 Pamela Edmond
- 19 James Walck
- 21 Becky Christy
- 27 Chandler Ozmon

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Our Faith First Family

Pam Edmond
Brianna DeGraff
Bob Schlotfeldt
Blake Padavich
Linda Cox
Karen Risler
Terri Raines
Jeff McWilliams
Dan Lawler

Our Homebound

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

Our Family and Friends

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

Our World

Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

If you have a prayer joy or concern, please contact pastorheidi@faithuccdaveport.org
or leave a message – 563-391-5726.

Our deepest condolences go to Don and Cindy Walton on the death of their 13 year old niece who was buried on Nov. 4th.



Notes of THANKS

Thank you to all of you from Faith First who came out to support Hope at the Brick House at our recent banquet. We appreciate all the support from you as individuals and your church. ~Joyce Klopp, Director, Hope at the Brick House

To all of our church family — Words cannot express our heart felt gratitude for all of the love and support received from our church family at Mom's passing. You are all a blessing! ~Arlene & Brian and family of Lois Wellendorf
P.S. Special Thanks to all who helped in any way with the luncheon!



Annual reports are due by December 31!
Please drop them off in the church office or email them to office@faithuccdavenport.org.

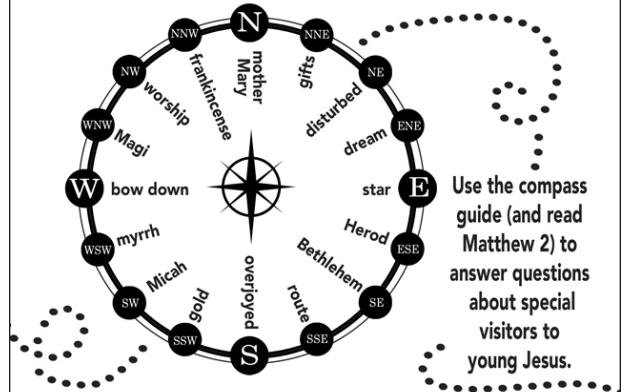
The church office will be closed from December 25 through January 1 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.



Answer to November's puzzle:

Answers: Across 2. Satan, 4. stars, 6 Bildad, 8. Leviathan, 12. Eliphaz, 13. boils, 15. sheep: Down 1. Redeemer, 2. suffering, 3. Job, 4. sea, 5. rain, 7. donkeys, 9. Zophar, 10. camels, 11. Elihu, 12. oxen.

Puzzle!



- Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
- Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
- How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
- Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
- In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
- King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
- What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
- When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
- Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
- Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
- Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
- These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
- What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
- The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)



Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**

1
Isaiah 7:14

2
Isaiah 9:6-7

3
Malachi 3:1

4
Micah 5:2-4

5
Luke 1:5-7

6
Luke 1:10-15

7
Luke 1:18-22

8
Luke 1:24-25

14
Luke 2:15-20

13
Luke 2:8-14

12
Luke 2:6-7

11
Luke 2:1-5

10
Luke 1:30-33

9
Luke 1:26-29

15
Matthew 1:18-21

16
Matthew 1:22-25

17
Matthew 2:1-3

18
Matthew 2:4-6

19
Matthew 2:7-9

20
Matthew 2:10-12

21
Romans 15:13

23
Philippians 2:8-11

22
Galatians 4:4-5

24
James 1:16-18

25
John 3:16

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	4 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	5 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	6 	7 Women's Group Christmas At Deb's 6:00 p.m.	8	9
10 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	11 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	12 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	13	14 Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	15	16 
17 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 Potluck Youth/Children Christmas Program <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	18 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	19 Holiday Bazaar Celebration Mo Brady's 5:30 cocktails 6:00 supper Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	20	21  Blue Christmas Service 5:30 p.m.	22	23
24 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 	25  Office Closed	26	27 <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	28 	29 Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m.	30
31 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship			A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS 			