



Sunday Worship  
10:00 AM

Faith United  
Church of Christ  
3307 Mulberry Avenue  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
Phone: 563-263-5979  
[www.faithuccmuscatine.com](http://www.faithuccmuscatine.com)

Church Office Hours  
10 a.m. — 4 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

Pastor Paris White

[pastor@faithuccmuscatine.com](mailto:pastor@faithuccmuscatine.com)  
Cell Phone: (309) 791-2602

Office Admin. Asst.: Lisa Allen  
[secretary@faithuccmuscatine.com](mailto:secretary@faithuccmuscatine.com)

Cong. Care Coordinator: Pat Mundell  
[pmundell@machlink.com](mailto:pmundell@machlink.com)

## Committee Meetings In April

Friendship Circle  
Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:00 a.m.

ONA Committee  
meeting, Thursday,  
April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Worship Committee  
meeting, Monday,  
April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

Vestry meeting,  
Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 p.m.

Green Team  
Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
at 4:30 p.m.

Christian Edu. Com.  
Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
at 4:30 p.m.

# VOICE OF FAITH

## Congregational meeting Sunday, April 7, 2024

Beloved Community,



On Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
we will have a congregational  
meeting after worship (11 a.m.)  
to vote on the following items:

**Approve up to \$40,000 to be spent on the creation and installation of the new church sign.**

We have the funds in large part because of Barbara Woodstra's benevolent fund. Her children have graciously agreed the sign would be a wonderful use of these funds to honor their mother. Members can also donate to funding the sign or they can redirect their funds to building improvement projects like making our front doors ADA compliant, updating sanctuary technology, new flooring to replace the carpet, etc.

**Approve the use of Endowment funds according to the following motion which was approved by both the Endowment Committee and Vestry:**

The congregation will be voting on: Beginning with December 31, 2023, and continuing each December 31 thereafter the Endowment Fund shall convert into cash 2.5% of the total value of its funds on that date, and further, the Endowment Fund terminate reinvesting dividends and interest from all its account. The funds consisting of 2.5% of total value on December 31 and subsequent dividends and interest shall be paid to Faith United Church of Christ's contingency fund on a quarterly basis.

**Congregational Vote:** The Endowment Committee and Vestry seek appropriate congregational approval so that funds deposited in the contingency fund may be used for the general operations of the church continuingly.

## FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*April Worship Schedule*

- April 7<sup>th</sup> Holy Hilarity Sunday with communion. In this post-Easter worship, we will celebrate the JOY of life! All are invited to dress wacky or silly and bring jokes to share! \*Congregational meeting to follow.
- April 14<sup>th</sup> New Member Sunday with special music by the Bell Quartet.
- April 21<sup>st</sup> Worship with special music Vocalist Elizabeth Cerrito.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> Worship with special music by the String Quartet "Ladies of Note",  
*Later that day we will celebrate with the  
Pastor's installation service at Faith starting at 3:00 pm!*



**Summer Camp Registration: OPEN!**

*Muscatine Christian Day Camp*

Last year a couple local congregations teamed up to provide the ultimate vacation bible school experience for our youth—thus creating *Christian Day Camp*. This is a Community in Christ, bound together by the Holy Spirit across denominational lines. Working with Partners in Muscatine County, Christian Day Camp serves to connect children and youth to God, Nature, and One Another.

This year with MORE congregations joining the effort, Christian Day Camp has expanded to offer programs for both PreK and Middle School youth!

Registration for 2024 is NOW OPEN! Click on this Link to learn more about each group and how to register!

[Christian Day Camp – Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church](#)

**Sign up by April 15th if possible; volunteers also needed!**



**Preschool  
Mini  
Christian Day  
Camp**

**Youth ages 3-5** are invited to register for our 'mini' day camps which will be held from **5:30-7:30 pm @ Discovery Park** **June 17th, July 1st, July 15th**  
*Dinner is included!*  
*\*\$10 total\**



**Elementary  
Christian Day  
Camp**

**Youth who will have completed K-5th grade** are invited to register for elementary day camp which will be held from **9-4 @ the Saulsbury Rec. Area** **June 11-14th**  
*\*June 14th overnight optional\**  
*\*\$10 total\**



**Middle  
School  
Christian Day  
Camp**

**Youth who will have completed 6-8th grade** are invited to register for middle school day camp which will be held from **9-4 @ the Saulsbury Rec. Area** **June 25-27th**  
*\*June 26th overnight optional\**  
*\*\$10 total\**

**\*Camp scholarships are available—Please speak with Pastor Paris!**

**Summer Camp Registration: OPEN!**

*Great Lakes & West Central Regional  
Youth Event - July 17 - 20, 2024*

Calling all Youth who will have **completed 6-12 grades** prior to July 2024! For the first time since 2018, UCC Youth from across the Great Lakes and West Central region of the Midwest will gather for worship, service, learning, advocacy, fellowship and LOTS of FUN! Join us this summer at Augustana College in Rock Island from July 17-20th.



**Registration closes June 15, 2024**

Early Bird through March 31, 2024 \$200 per person

Regular Registration April 1 - May 15, 2024 \$250

Late Registration May 16 - June 15, 2024 \$300

Registration Fee includes programming, t-shirt, 9 meals, double occupancy housing Wednesday night through Friday night, sheets, and towels (participant must bring a pillow and blanket)

Meals provided start with dinner on Wednesday, July 17 and go through lunch on Saturday, July 20.

PDF forms for youth and adults must be submitted via email to event Registrar at [glwcrye2024@gmail.com](mailto:glwcrye2024@gmail.com) by June 20, 2024.

Click here to fill out [EXHIBITOR APPLICATION](#)

SUMMER  
CHURCH CAMP

LIFE IS  
WILD, GOD  
IS GOOD

.....  
**JULY 14 - 18 , 2024**  
FOR CAMPERS FINISHING  
KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADE

**JULY 21 - 25, 2024**  
FOR CAMPERS FINISHING  
7TH - 12TH GRADE  
.....

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Hiking
- Water Activities
- Picnic
- Bible Time
- Outdoor games
- Sing-alongs
- Arts & Crafts
- Water Activities
- Movie
- AND MORE!**

**FOR MORE DETAILS EMAIL:  
PHCHURCHCAMP@GMAIL.COM OR  
CALL (515)570-7736 / (712)870-1753**

*Pilgrim Heights Summer Church Camp*

Can't make the June Christian Day Camp dates? Want a longer camp experience away from home? Pilgrim Heights summer camp comes highly recommended! Cost is around \$400 for this camp, but (as stated below) scholarship ARE available!

Those ages 7-13 also have a day camp option for \$50 per day. To register or check out more information, please visit:  
[https://  
www.pilgrimheights.org/  
events](https://www.pilgrimheights.org/events)

**\*Camp scholarships are available—Please speak with Pastor Paris!**

## CHURCH COMMUNITY IN ACTION

## Open and Affirming News

ONA welcomed Justice and Dani from the Indigenous Coalition of Muscatine to their March meeting. We hope to continue to support and collaborate with our local indigenous community. Allison Castle will provide another Inherent Worth seminar, which has been scheduled for April 27th from 10-Noon. We will also welcome The Quire one Sunday in June, as well as host a booth at the QC and Iowa City Pride Festivals.

### Inherent Worth Seminar

Saturday, April 27th from 10 am-12 pm  
join Allison Castle of *Inherent Worth Connection* for strategies for believing in your inherent worth, recognizing the inherent worth in others, and honoring inherent worth in our communication.

Inherent worth is at the root of creating a world of more kindness and compassion.

This Seminar is open to anyone interested in personal growth, gaining new perspectives on behavior, beliefs, and identity, and compassionate communication. This two-hour seminar will allow you the opportunity for education, introspection, and interaction on the topic of Inherent Worth.

Credit will be offered from Eastern Iowa Community College students for .2 hours of general continuing education credit for those who attend. This is the QR code or link to register for credit through EICC: <https://bit.ly/4aghjog>



## Green Team

Green Team made a motion that moving forward the congregation purchase only materials that are compostable and/or eco-friendly, when practical. The motion carried at the March Vestry meeting. It was noted that eco-friendly coffee cups get too hot. We will look into getting hot sleeves for the cups. Feel free to save yours and bring them in for reuse! Please keep this commitment in mind when purchasing products for the church and for events. When possible, please avoid plastic and Styrofoam. This is just ONE small way we can do our part in loving the Earth!

## Green Team

Earth Day is April 22! You are invited to celebrate Earth Day at a presentation on 3rd floor at 6:00 pm at Musser Public Library. Jon Koch, director of Water and Waste Recovery, will tell about his work to keep our water clean.

A pop-up art display will be on the 1st floor at the Library to bring attention to the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Artist Christine Curry has panels about the Mississippi River. Ms. Curry will be on hand to talk about her art and inspiration on Monday, April 22, at 6:30 at the library.

*Pure Iowa*, the art project, will remain at the library through April 23 after the move to the Discovery Park Education Center and be on display April 24-25.

Spies, Nature Conservancy water specialist, will speak at Discovery Park on April 25 at 10:00.

This traveling educational exhibit is made possible by a \$10,000 grant awarded to the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region (LWV UMRR) by the Mississippi River Network (MRN).

This exhibit also acknowledges the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife & Fish Refuge.

A collaborating sponsor is the Isak Walton League.

## CHURCH COMMUNITY IN ACTION

*Pastor-Parish Committee → Pastor Support Committee*

The UCC has renamed the traditional "Pastor-Parish Committee" as the "Pastor Support Committee." This move was made to help eliminate confusion on the purpose of this committee. The Pastor Support Committee is a standing committee that meets regularly and acts as an advisory group to the Pastor. They support the Pastor's leadership, advocate where appropriate for just and fair work arrangements, promote effective communion between Pastor and Congregation, enhance regular assessments of ministry of both Pastor and Congregation, enhance the effectiveness of the church's ministry and witness, and are present in conflict in such a way that it is productive not divisive.

Current Pastor Support Committee: Janet Sichterman, Mike Johannsen, Deb Hagy, and Tim Stelzner

*Christian Education*

Thank you to everyone who attending the Wednesday night ecumenical Lenten Gatherings at Wesley Life Center!

We will begin gathering here at Faith once again on Wednesdays starting April 3rd. This first session back will be for ALL AGES at 6 pm and include dinner. We will dive deeper into Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

The following week, April 10th, Wednesday evenings go back to normal. The youth will meet at 4:30, followed by Confirmation and Adult Forum at 6 pm.

Adult Forum will begin their new book *Faith After Doubt* by Brian McLaren on April 10th. Books can be purchased through Amazon or in the office for \$20.

***HIRING—New Christian Education Director!***

As you know, Beth Elshoff retired as the Christian Education Director at the end of 2023. We are looking to have a new director hired by June. We would highly prefer the new director be someone who is already part of our Faith congregation and therefore want to offer the job here first. If no one steps up to fill this role, we will begin advertising to the wider community. If you or someone you know is interested, please talk with an Elder: Jan Collinson, Sue Johannsen, Mark Butterworth, Brian Metcalf, or Pastor Paris.

The Director promotes the mission of the Christian Education Committee through curriculum design, collaboration, teaching, and supervision. The Coordinator covers the lifelong learning of the congregation - from birth to death. This position pays \$17.11 per hour, up to 20 hours per month.

FAITH UNITED MEMBER AND FRIENDS

**Birthday Card Shower**

1 - Marcia Carmichael  
4786 McMurry Ave.  
Apt. 344,  
Fort Collins CO 80525

7 - Karren Sharar  
2446 Dewberry Ridge  
Rd Muscatine IA 52761

14 – Jerry Kleindolph  
3118 Tipton Road  
Muscatine IA 52761

22 - Gary Diercks  
2450 Snug Harbor Lane  
Muscatine IA 52761

**Anniversaries**

- 6 Bob & Karren Sharar
- 8 Matt & LeeAnn Weggen
- 11 Duane & Marilyn Wilson
- 20 Abe & Kristin Ales
- 28 Don & Shelley Frost
- 28 Matthew & Elise Mundell

**Congratulations!**

We have some very proud great-grandparents, Judith, and John Jones. A son was born to the parents of Ian and Kaylee Hinkamper, his name is Atlas Edward. He is Jason Jones's Grandson and Enders' little brother. Congratulations!

**Birthdays**

- 1 Marcia Carmichael
- 1 Cindy Rada
- 2 Kimberly Tooman
- 2 Mike Johannsen
- 5 Charles Holland
- 5 Randal Cooper
- 6 Alli Youngbauer
- 7 Matthew Mundell
- 7 Katherine Pierson
- 7 Karren Sharar
- 10 Katie Hanssen
- 11 Jeff Noble
- 12 Iyla Tompos
- 12 Lisa Shea
- 12 Dave Wangberg
- 14 Jerry Kleindolph
- 14 Claire Schumaker
- 14 McKenna Schumaker
- 16 Pollianna Adams
- 17 George Kreitner
- 17 Alexandra Sichterman
- 20 Brook Tompos
- 22 Gary Diercks
- 22 Kathy Metcalf
- 23 Scott Warren
- 24 Leslie Soule
- 27 Abe Ales
- 27 Janet Lewis
- 28 Corina Shoemaker
- 29 Ryan Castle

**Love in Action**

Do you knit, crochet, sew? Pastor Paris is looking to start a stockpile of prayer shawls and blankets that can be given to the newly baptized, confirmed, married, or to even comfort the grieving. If you'd like to contribute, please drop off your gifts to the office. Thank you for contributing in wrapping each other in

**Please Keep in Your Prayers**

To all who are sick or with injuries, Sandra Roth, Myung Sharar, Chad Morgan, Audrey Beckey, Lane Clausen, Nancy Hultquist, Allison Odell, Susan Willis, Joey Merchan, Patricia Fischer, Allen Emerick, Chris Wildasin, Cathy Deters, Bob Murray, Dennis Engel, Julie Kundel, Will Kreuger, Judy Merritt, and Chuck Warren.

**MCSA Room # 5 Shelter Sponsors for April**

- April 7 - Jim & Janet Sichterman & Alan Arkema for spring and renewal
- April 14 - Sandra Roth in celebration of the birthday of Susan Willis
- April 14 - Darlene Vance in honor of family and friends
- April 21 - Scott & Kim Warren in celebration of Scott's Birthday
- April 28 - Donna Reed in loving memory of Maurie



CHURCH COMMUNITY IN ACTION

## Dementia Friends 3 Part Series

Lanette Morgan has arranged for Faith to become a Dementia Friendly Community! April 11th at 1:30 p.m. will kick off a 3-part series on Dementia and Alzheimer's so that we might learn how to better interact with those impacted, the warning signs, and preventative measures.

*Mark your calendars for upcoming presentations here at Faith on Thursdays!*

April 11 @ 1:30 pm "Dementia Friends"  
presenter Chad Carr


April 18 @ 1:30 pm "10 Warning Signs of Dementia"  
presenter Nancy Stockwell

April 25 @ 1:30 pm "Healthy Living for Your Brain" presenter- Nancy Stockwell

**Faith United Church of Christ**  
3307 Mulberry Avenue, Muscatine, IA  
(563) 263-5979

Free will donations accepted at time of event

Please RSVP: [secretary@faithuccmuscatine.com](mailto:secretary@faithuccmuscatine.com)



**2024 Virtual Alzheimer's Education Series**

The Alzheimer's Association Iowa Chapter is offering a free, monthly education series via Zoom in 2024 for caregivers, families and people living with Alzheimer's and dementia to learn about all aspects of the disease.

Visit the Program Events Calendar at [alz.org/iowa](http://alz.org/iowa) to register.  
Contact Jessica Duncan at [jsduncan@alz.org](mailto:jsduncan@alz.org) or 515.325.5287 with questions.

**EDUCATION SERIES SCHEDULE**  
Every 3rd Thursday at 11 a.m. CST

<b>1.18.24</b> — Introduction to Alzheimer's	<b>7.18.24</b> — Introduction to Alzheimer's
<b>2.15.24</b> — 10 Healthy Habits for Your Brain	<b>8.15.24</b> — 10 Healthy Habits for Your Brain
<b>3.21.24</b> — Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia	<b>9.19.23</b> — Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
<b>4.18.24</b> — 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's	<b>10.17.23</b> — 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
<b>5.16.24</b> — Dementia Conversations	<b>11.21.24</b> — Dementia Conversations
<b>6.20.24</b> — Managing Money	*Stay tuned for a month long education series in December*

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

## Outreach Celebration Kits

All April long the Outreach Committee will be collecting items to create "celebration kits" for MCSA. The kits will be assembled in May by our youth before taken to MCSA. There are MANY reasons to celebrate, whether a birthday, anniversary, or a life milestone—celebrations are in order! We believe that everyone deserves to celebrate, not just those who can afford it. Therefore, we've decided to help MCSA make up some celebration kits that can be utilized by those who come to the Food Pantry, stay at MCSA, the DV Shelter, Project RISE Above, and more. These kits provide cake mix, the pan to bake it in, soda (which substitutes for eggs/oil/etc.), frosting and candles.



For April donations, please bring: Disposable cake pans, Boxed cake mixes, Soda: coke, cherry coke, diet coke, sprite, strawberry fanta, Frosting, Candles (We will also take cards! Blank /generic 'celebration' cards would be best)

## Friendship Circle

Meeting on Thursday, April 4th at the church at 10 a.m. Co-hostess are Dee Bocchino and Connie Miller. Alice Huss will give the program and devotions.

## Harmony Guild

The next Meeting will be on June 3, 2024, with Co-hostesses Cindy Rada and Alice Huss. We will have our annual potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share.



## SPRING 2024 CONGREGATIONAL LIFE GRANTS

10 Congregational Life Grants were submitted for Spring, 2024 for a total of \$6,430. One (\$500) was withdrawn because an alternate funding source was available. At the March meeting, Vestry approved \$4,200. The two grants have been resubmitted and approved by the CLG Committee. We hope to have these two grants approved at the April Vestry meeting for a total of \$1,730. That will bring the total CLG funding approved for Spring, 2024 to \$5,930.



### **The following grant requests were awarded and approved by the Vestry in March:**

1. \$200 for Dementia and Alzheimer Awareness. Lanette Morgan has worked hard so that Faith can host community programs on becoming a dementia friendly community, warning signs for alzheimers, and the most up to date research on healthy living for preventative measures. While the presenters do not charge a fee, the \$200 will be a donation to their worthy cause.
2. \$1,000 to be donated to the Diversity Services Center of Iowa which will be used to support immigrants seeking legal documents from immigration service. This was a request by the ONA committee who seeks to love and support all of God's people.
3. \$400 to purchase and plant 3 trees on the property to replace some lost in the past few years. This was a request by the Green Team who seeks to heal our planet and all life that abides here. We hope to involve the congregation in the planting, especially our youth.
4. \$1,300 to have the *Quire of Eastern Iowa* perform at Faith UCC. This Musical performance will be during worship in June thanks to our ONA team!
5. \$500 in Support for Indigenous Coalition of Muscatine (ICM). This grant will support the ICM public event about indigenous people running schools on reservations. We will notify the congregation when the event will be hosted.
6. \$500 was granted to Pastor White for Fellowship Events, such as a block party, Fall Festival, etc. which will not only allow for deepen relationships without our congregation, but also with the wider community.
7. \$300 was granted to Pastor White to create a real Children's Corner in the Sanctuary. We hope to purchase furniture and materials for the play areas in the front of the sanctuary, allowing for a space youth can feel right at home in worship as they listen and begin to learn the rhythm of worship.

### **These grant requests are pending, the Vestry is to vote on April 8th.**

1. \$730 to host another Inherent Worth Seminar. This is a free 3-hour. workshop on mindfulness and inherent worth that is open to our congregation, MCC, and the wider community. We are happy to host and support Allison Castle
2. \$1,000 granted to what was the sign fundraising committee, but has now been redirected as the Church Building Fundraiser. This grant will provide the seed money for us to raffle items for a fundraiser, allowing all proceeds to go toward building improvements.

The tenth application was for \$500 toward Christian Day Camp, but this money was taken instead from a memorial fund which had been designated for camp scholarships. Congratulations to all who received grants! If you have an idea for a grant, watch for fall round of applications!

## GRATITUDE

*Thank You Notes*

- Dear Friends, thank you for directing the recent gift of \$1000 from the CFGM Youth Engaged in Service Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine. The gift will be given to the Ste University of Iowa Foundation to support the Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital Fund. Sincerely Lynette Marshall CEO of the Stat Univ of Iowa Found.
- Dear Friends, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your donation of \$1300 contribution. Sincerely Nik Horn, Resource Dev. Officer MCSA.
- Thank you to Dave Wangberg and Pat Mundell for going and getting Food and Delivering it to the Schools with the Bag of Blessings.
- Thank you to Mark Odell for the gift of a TV for the nursery and for the help from the Trustees and Tim Stelzner for setting it up.
- Thank you to Lisa Shea for all her flower arrangements and creative talents.
- Thank you to Pat Mundell, Frantz Silberger, and all who helped make dinner and desserts outstanding the night Faith hosted during the ecumenical Lenten Midweek Gathering. Thank you for those who came out for a Wednesday (or all!) and for those who lent a helping hand with set up and clean up. It was a wonderful Lenten series that established a strong community connection we hope to continue! – Pastor Paris
- Thank you to everyone who reached out to Liz, Matt, Weston, and Wyatt Busch after losing their house in a fire. Your generosity has not only been extremely helpful, but also an overwhelming show of God's love. We are eternally grateful! – The Busch family

## Lilies & Lily Alternative Giving

### Bag of Blessings

- Jim & Janet Sichterman in celebration of Spring and Renewal
- Sandra Roth in honor of Faith and Family
- Jennifer Rochau in memory of June Funk
- Mary Lynne Cooley in memory of my church schoolteachers:
- Barbara Woodstra, Bernice Hinrichsen, and Betty Schreiber.
- Mary Lynne Cooley in memory of my parents, Werner and Margaret Diercks
- Donna Reed in memory of Maurie
- Larry & Marcy Clausen in celebration of Faith and Family



### MCSA

- Jim & Janet Sichterman in celebration of Faith and Family
- Alan Arkema in celebration of Faith and Family
- Dan & Alice Huss in celebration of Faith and Family
- Darlene Vance in celebration of Faith and Family

### Emmaus Café

- Bill & Kay Creasey in Celebration of Sally Black & her work at Emmaus Café
- Gary & Sheryl Lindley in celebration of Faith and Family
- Larry & Marcy Clausen in celebration of Faith and Family
- Susan Smith in celebration of Faith and Family

### Easter Lilys

- Dave and Margie Kundel in memory of Trace
- Pastor Paris in celebration of resurrection and Renewal
- Donna Reed in memory of Maurie

VESTRY SUMMARY MARCH 11, 2024

**Treasurer:**

Rich Carroll Budget report. Leslie Soule audited our books from 2023 and found them to be in perfect order. We are on track for the 2024 budget year.

**Elders:**

Conducted the Pastor's 6-month check-in. Vestry will be asked to review at 9 months & 1 year. We are looking for a Christian Edu. Director and will look in-house before advertising to the community at large. We hope to hire by June.

**Trustees:**

- A motion passed to put the carpet/pew cleaning on hold until we come up with a comprehensive plan for updates we would like to see (long-term) throughout the building.
- The bell tower needs to be demolished. The Holbrook bell was made in 1848 by Holbrook, an apprentice of Paul Revere. Will discuss the future of the bell at the next meeting.
- A motion passed to go with Kellor & Kellor for Lawn fertilization.
- A motion passed to purchase a 24-inch TV to livestream worship in the nursery because the speaker broke.
- A scissor lift will be rented for \$200 to replace the floodlights in the sanctuary.

**Pastor's Report:**

New Member Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Jim and Shelly Elias, Angie Harris, Ken and Stephanie Gilkerson (daughters: Sydney and Ruby), and Mylo Collins. Cody White was approved in the last round but wasn't able to attend that Sunday, so we will include him on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Continuing Education: Pastor has received her certificate for UCC History and Polity and signed up for two more continuing education opportunities. Updated Wedding and Funeral policies were adopted.

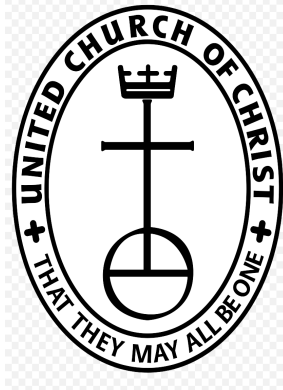
**New Business**

- A motion passed to allocate \$4,200 for Congregational Life Grants, approving the recommendations by the committee.
- Endowment Committee - Audit for 2023 will be done by Bill Creasey. The committee; Bill Creasey, Mark Butterworth, and Mary Wildermuth, met and proposed 50-year retirement plan for the Endowment Fund. A motion was passed that beginning with December 31, 2023, and continuing each December 31 thereafter, the Endowment Fund shall convert into cash 2.5% of the total value of its funds on that date and further, the Endowment Fund terminate reinvesting dividends and interest from all its account. The funds consisting of 2.5% of total value on December 31 and subsequent dividends and interest shall be paid to Faith United Church of Christ's contingency fund on a quarterly basis. The Endowment Fund and Vestry will seek appropriate congregational approval so that funds deposited in the contingency fund may be used for the general operations of the church continuingly.
- Church Sign Fundraising - Mark Butterworth mentioned that Barbara Woodstra's memorial money of \$58,000 was in the Benevolent Fund. He reached out to Barbara's daughter Cyndi Kautz. She and her siblings agreed to use Barbara's memorial money for the sign. We will still receive donations to the sign fund from those who wish to contribute and the Woodstra funds would make up the difference. We will direct future fundraisers for capital improvements. Next Meeting, Monday, 8, 2024



**Faith United**  
**Church of Christ**  
3307 Mulberry Avenue  
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

VOF APRIL 2024



SAVE THE DATE

*Free Day Pass*  
*Pilgrim Heights*  
*May 5th after worship*

ENJOY OUR ACRES OF WOODS, LAKE, FIRE PITS, GRILLS, AND ACTIVITIES LIKE VOLLEYBALL, DISC GOLF, HORSESHOES, KAYAKS, CANOES, AND LIFE JACKETS FOR FREE!

STAY FOR THE BBQ AT 5:00 WITH COMPLIMENTARY HOT DOGS AND LEMONADE. BRING YOUR OWN ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO GRILL AND LAWN CHAIRS TO SIT.

3005 E AVE, MONTGOMERY, IA

LET PASTOR KNOW IF YOU'D LIKE TO CAR POOL AFTER WORSHIP!

**Dementia Information Presentation**



**Thursday, April 11**  
**1:30PM - 2:30 PM**

Faith United Church of Christ | 3307 Mulberry Ave., Muscatine

## Faith United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming Statement

We the members of Faith United Church of Christ declare ourselves to be an open and affirming church.

We affirm all people are individuals of sacred worth created in the image of God.

We embrace and celebrate the diversity of the human family and God's unconditional love for ALL, including but not limited to people of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures, genders, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic conditions, physical, mental and emotional abilities, faith backgrounds, nationalities, marital status, languages, and education levels.

We invite and encourage all persons into full participation by sharing in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of membership in our Faith community.

We welcome all to journey together in faith toward greater understanding, compassion and mutual respect.

We believe that in meeting each other in Christian love, God's spirit frees us all to give, to grow, to be ourselves, because, **"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE."**

- adopted April 7, 2019

## Ways to Continue Supporting the Work of the Church:

The church is more than just a building. We the people are the church, and we will continue to find ways to be a community that shares in the love of Christ together. To help maintain all that we do, your monetary offerings to the church are welcome.

*Our options for giving currently are:*

- Drop off your envelopes to the locked mailbox by the front door, in Box 3307 with a Faith UCC sign on the box used by the church. (Push it to the back of the box after opening with the front handle). If there is mail going out clipped to the front, just slip yours over the mail into the back of the box and we will retrieve it.
- Send in the mail to 3307 Mulberry, Muscatine Iowa 52761.
- Talk with your bank to set up a direct payment to the church.
- Use our website link for the church's PayPal, transfer charges apply..