



# VOICE OF FAITH

Sunday Worship  
10:00 AM

**Faith United Church of Christ**

3307 Mulberry Avenue  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
Phone: 563-263-5979  
Fax: 563-263-0305

[www.faiithuccmuscatine.com](http://www.faiithuccmuscatine.com)

**Church Office Hours**

10 a.m. — 4 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

**FAITH UCC STAFF**

Lisa Allen

Office Coordinator  
[faithsecretary@machlink.com](mailto:faithsecretary@machlink.com)

Pat Mundell

Congregational Life Coordinator  
[pmundell@machlink.com](mailto:pmundell@machlink.com)

Beth Elshoff

Children's Education Coordinator  
[bethelshoff@machlink.com](mailto:bethelshoff@machlink.com)

## Mid - Summer Faith Fun Night



Wednesday, July 19th  
**Cookout & Games**  
Here at Faith!

Please join us from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

We will have a cookout with hotdogs, hamburgers, veggies, chips, and smores. Please sign up and let us know your preferences for the protein choices; Meat/Veggie hotdogs or Hamburgers.

All you will need to bring is your Lawn chairs & drinks! There will be games for the little kids and the young at heart adults.



**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

## Search & Call Committee Update

The Committee worked with Rev. Jonna Jensen (UCC Conference Liaison) to update our Faith UCC profile which was posted on May 23rd.

The Committee subsequently received several new candidate profiles which were reviewed at their June committee meeting.

The Committee had a screening interview for one of the candidates on Zoom, and they plan to move forward with the first face-to-face interview. If the candidate continues to move forward in the interview process, the Committee will engage a broader group from the congregation.

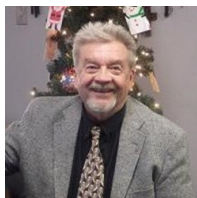
Please keep the Committee in your prayers as they search for a full-time pastor.



## Worship service on Trinity Sunday

Sunday, June 4, the church was blessed with one last sermon, communion, and children's moment from Rev. Barbara Muhs. We also was gifted some special Music from duet Janelle Wilson-DuSavage & Judy Wilson.

## Meet our newest Worship Leader / Pulpit Supply



### Rev. Brice Hughes

Rev. Brice will have a sermon on July 23rd for us titled "Leave Those Weeds Alone?"

Rev. Brice Hughes was raised in Tennessee and found his way to Iowa at the turn of the century. He holds an M. Div. and an MSSW that prepared him for service in a hospice setting. Brice has worked extensively in interim ministry, as a chaplain for fire departments, and for a federal disaster agency. He is currently the Iowa Conf. Disaster Coordinator, Brice recently retired from Zion UCC in Burlington. He lives in Burlington, spending more time painting and playing in the garden. (Brice will serve the Central and S. W. Iowa areas).

JULY PULPIT SUPPLY HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, July 2  
 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
 Jon Merritt with Communion



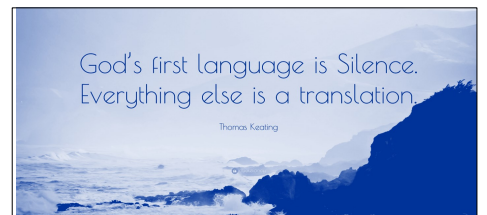
Scriptures: Romans 6:12-23, Psalms 13, and Matthew 10:40-42  
 Reflection: Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." - *John 4:13-14*

Sunday, July 9  
 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
 Rev. Marcy Heil



Scriptures: Ps 145:8-14 and Matt 11:16-19, 25-30  
 Reflection: One of the most comforting words of Jesus in all the four gospels is "Come to me . . . and I will give you rest." Anyone who feels tired, emotionally drained, disappointed, abandoned, or depressed can easily be uplifted by the comforting promise of Jesus that he will give rest. Will we take that wisdom of Jesus?

Sunday, July 16  
 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
 Rev. Marcy Heil



Scriptures: Ps 65: 9-13 and Matt 13:1-9, 18-23  
 Reflection: Many people are not receptive to the Word because they find it irrelevant or that it runs counter to their worldviews and aspirations. Others are prevented from listening by personal factors such as their arrogance. They think they already know a lot and there is nothing more that they need to learn. Is that us sometimes?

Sunday, July 23  
 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
 Rev. Brice Hughes



Scriptures: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43  
 Reflection: Humans have been asking questions about good and evil and our response since we took up language and thought. Author Stephen King said, "The battle between good and evil is endlessly fascinating because we are participants every day." You are invited to read the parable ahead of Sunday morning's service. Ponder for yourself: "How do you decide what is good, what is evil?" Where does evil come from, and what are we to do about it?

Sunday, July 30  
 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
 Tom Emerick



Scriptures: Matt 13:24-30, 36-43.  
 Reflection: Nowhere in the scriptures do we find the mantra. "Love the sinner and hate the sin;" history has shown that it is the "sinner" rather than the sin that is usually ostracized, criticized, and even crucified. The "Least of these" are least not by Jesus' standards but by the standards of the world, and we deceive only ourselves when we say that we are maintaining the purity of the church and its ministry in Jesus' name and for his sake. – *Peter J. Gomes from the book, The scandalous gospel of Jesus.*

VESTRY NOTES FROM JUNE 12, 2023

**Invited Guests:** Sign Task Force Team, Scott offered the committee's recommendations on the new Church Sign proposal, and about branding, lighting, apps, security, and price.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer** – May's Budget Report and Insurance Board Document explained.

**Deacons'** – Fall schedule for Stewardship season. Tom Emerick will get the information.

**Elders'** – Pulpit supply guidelines for additional documented and requested services, is \$30 per hour with travel expense reimbursement. Will review it again in 2024.

**Trustees'** -Dave – will schedule Air Cond. and Furnace replacement with Kelly Inc. The bell tower is deteriorating. Dan Huss will look for the original plans of the church to find out if there is a steel interior. The bell tower had a date 1976 dedication on it.

**Unfinished Business**

Network upgrade to RNS standards – Rich signed the contract, and RNS started the process of updating the church technology, security, and networking operations.

**New Business**

**Action Items:**

- A motion to approve a proposal by the Sign committee, Seconded. **Motion carried.**
- Payment of the new office computer from the general fund. **Motion carried.**
- Air cond. & Furnace was approved for a congregational meeting. **Motion carried.**
- Request from John Elshoff to teach locally a Veterans Yoga Project yoga class for Veterans and First Responders, the class would be FREE at no charge for those attending the event at the church. A motion to approve, Seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Non-Action Items:**

- Discussion centered on potential changes in seating, conversation, discussion, entertainment, and a variety of worship opportunities. Some expressed a desire to get to know each other on a deeper level. Suggested we have a special meeting that would include all members in the discussion.
- A question arose about the departure from pulpit supply with Rev. Barb Muhs. Barb proposed the Vestry to hold office hours once school was over. The vestry reached out to the search & call committee and also the Associate Conference Minister Jonna Jensen. Jonna said having pulpit supply hold office hours was highly unlikely because of liability. The vestry offered Barb options of applying for the position of Interim Pastor or Part-time pastor. Barb Muhs declined both.
- Ways to help and support various committees, and volunteer needs in July and August.
- CE did a survey and decided from the results to change Wednesday night youth classes in the fall to 4:30-5:30 p.m. The church will not serve a meal, just a healthy snack, and then let the families go home to have dinner after class.
- Landmark Solar updated bid. Suggestions of a fundraiser drive be part of the plan, while others said we should finance the project from the Endowment.

**Updates on Committees:**

Search & Call: 6/19 - Updated the profile of the church. Two new profiles!

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Brice has agreed to be part of the team and will start July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Worship team: Sundays scheduled with Mike Morgan 6/18, Jon Merritt 7/2, Tom Emerick 7/30

ONA – Inherent Worth seminar will happen sometime in September.

Sign Task Force: Will need to schedule a congregational meeting for Sign approval.

Green team: Solar company comparable information was shared with vestry.

Christian Education: Camp at Saulsbury. Beth & Deb to fix a meal on June 16th.

Harmony Guild: Rummage sale Aug. 18 & 19. with donated items to be taken to basement.

Friendship Circle: The new women's booklet for next year is to be finalized for fall.

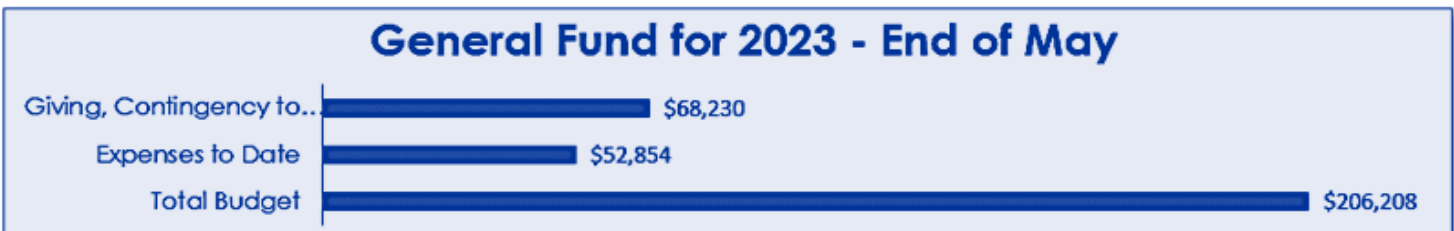
The Youth Group: The Musical Bingo event will be after worship on Sept. 10th.

Cong. Care: Ingstad funeral luncheon on June 12th in memory of Kelly Ingstad.

Outreach: The benevolent funds have been processed with payments to local outreach.

Memorial: Committee purchased new "Reserved Cloths" for draping over the pews.

Next meeting: Monday, July 10th at 6:30 p.m.





FAITH UPCOMING EVENTS

## Musical Bingo!

Dear Congregation,

Our youth group will be hosting a musical bingo event at the church on September 10th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are requesting donations for the included silent auction, such as baskets; including themed items, gift cards, or other fun items you feel would be appropriate.

All proceeds from the event will go to the "Kids First Fund," which provides students with school supplies, instruments, clothing, and more. *Thank you!*

*-The Faith UCC High School Youth Group, Claire Schumaker, McKenna Schumaker, Addie Weggen, Maddox Warren, Brynn Castle, Grace Kreitner, and Lauren Plemmons.*

*The next Youth group meeting will be July 12th from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. at the church.*



## Harmony Guild Church-wide rummage sale



Harmony Guild will once again hold a church-wide rummage sale Friday, August 18th (9:00 am - 6:00 pm) and Saturday, August 19th (8:00 am – 12:00 noon). If you have items that you would like to donate, you may leave them downstairs. If you would like to help with sorting, pricing, set-up/breakdown & / or selling please contact Marcy Clausen or Sue Muir.

## Food Pantry - Thanksgiving in July

Faith will be participating in the community-wide non-perishable food drive until July 14<sup>th</sup>.

No one should ever have to wonder where their next meal will come from. Currently, in Muscatine County, 4,871 people are food insecure, and 1,724 of those are children.

All donations stay in Muscatine! Please consider helping us stock the shelves of the Salvation Army of Muscatine, Senior Resources, and MCSA by collecting donations for Thanksgiving in July.

Nobody should go hungry in Muscatine. When we chose to Live United, we can create a better tomorrow together.



## MCSA Homeless Shelter Sponsors for the month of July

July 2 - Jim & Kathy Trosen  
~ in celebration of Lisa Allen's ministry

July 9 - Rich Carroll & Jan Collinson  
~ in celebration of Summer!

July 16 – Dan and Alice Huss  
~ in honor of our family

July 23 - Michael & Sue Johannsen  
~ to honor our pulpit supply pastors

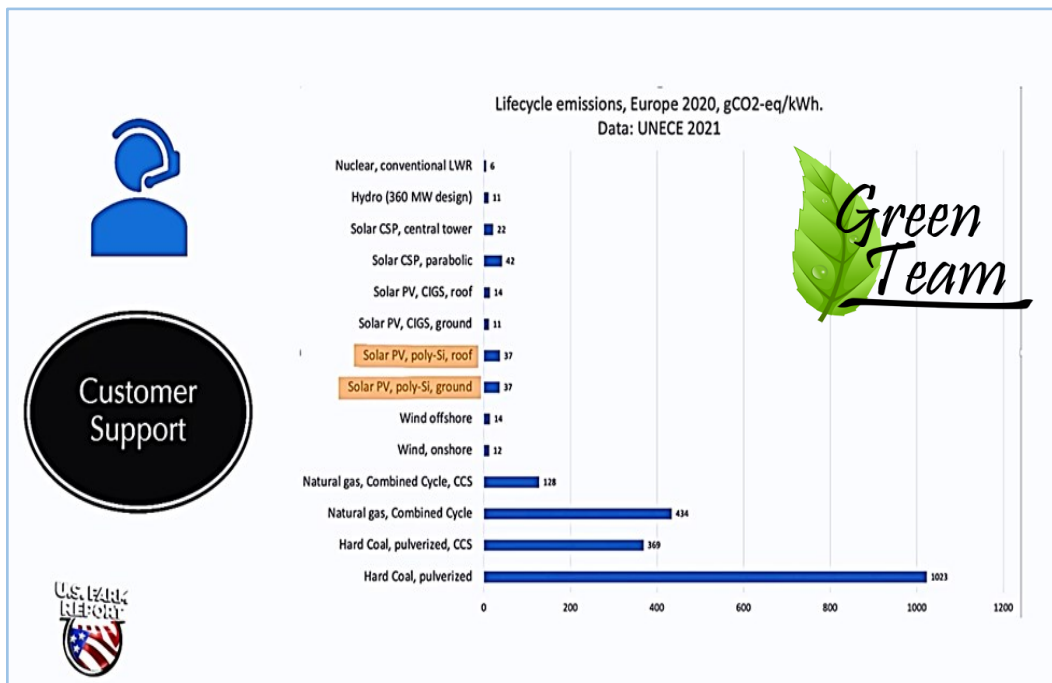
July 30 - Jim & Kathy Trosen  
~ in celebration of Beth Elshoff's ministry



FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TOGETHER

# Solar Energy

The program US Farm Report shared information that shows that solar energy produces less grams of carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour than fossil fuels. By increasing the use of solar energy the reliance on fossil fuels can be reduced therefore reducing the CO2 in the atmosphere.



## CELEBRATE PRIDE!

**Who:** YOU (whether you're LGBTQIA+ or an ally)  
**What:** House party celebrating Pride!  
**When:** June 30th, 6pm  
**Where:** 311 W 3rd, Muscatine  
**Why:** Because we're not going anywhere



**FRI, JUN 30 AT 6 PM**  
**Freethinkers Annual Pride Celebration**  
311 W 3rd St, Muscatine, IA 52761

## ONA News

The Inherent Worth seminar will happen in September on a Saturday morning. Our church membership, staff, and community will be encouraged to attend. Details to follow. Videotaping of the event might be helpful for those who cannot attend in person.

The American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU, has a new commercial called *Let Trans Kids Thrive: Meet Ben*. You can view the commercial here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86ockGOBXRQ>

## I Will

The music is *The Village* by Wrabel. "It is not our differences that divide us, it is our inability to recognize, accept, embrace and celebrate those differences."

You can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YM8UzTadJ7A>. *The Village* on America's Got Talent International.



## The Library of Congress

informs us about the history of Pride Month. Link: <https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/>

NO ONE CAN BE THE 'OTHER',  
BECAUSE IN CHRIST WE  
BELONG TO EACH OTHER.





FAITH UNITED MEMBER AND FRIENDS

**Birthday**

**Card Shower**

July 17

Connie Miller  
2436 Sunflower Ridge  
Muscatine IA 52761

July 17

Donald Johnson  
2120 Fareway Drive  
Muscatine IA 52761

July 31

Judy Merritt  
15209 316th Street W.  
Illinois City, IL 61259

**Anniversaries**

- 7/1 – Jim Butterworth & Jennifer Ancell
- 7/2 – Jim & Janet Sichterman
- 7/7 – Doug & Kimberly Tooman
- 7/21 – Bob & Connie Miller
- 7/24 – Andy & Shawna Trosen
- 7/25 – Michael & Lanette Morgan
- 7/28 – Chris & Brianna Harvey
- 7/28 – Terry & Dawn Youngbauer

**Birthday**

- 1 – Paul Ales
- 1 - Lauren Plemmons
- 3 – Marcy Clausen
- 3 – Amanda Rausch
- 4- Shawna Trosen
- 6 – Kylea Estabrook
- 6 – Deb Hagy
- 7 – Cody Estabrook
- 7 – Madeline Sinnott
- 12 – James Butterworth
- 12 – Lyndsay Welsch
- 13 – Kristin Ales
- 15 – Cathy Deters
- 16 – Brynn Castle
- 16 – Doug Krieger
- 17 – Lena Botkin
- 17 – Don Johnson
- 17 – Connie Miller
- 19 – Phoebe Brant
- 20 – Nolan Brant
- 21 – Erin Rada
- 22 – Mitchell Ganzley
- 25 – Dee Bocchino
- 26 – Nick Sharar
- 28 – John Elshoff
- 28 – John Ritchhart
- 28 – Rhae Duncan
- 31 – Judy Merritt

**Memorial Committee**

The Memorial Committee has recently purchased some "Reserved Cloths" to be draped over the pews for special occasions, also a new handheld mic. and a new microphone for the podium.

**Worship Team**

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the Sunday service, see the sign up sheet in the overflow area at church. Thank you!

**Altar Committee**

Help needed in these months:

- August & September
- October & November

*Thank you Deb Hagy for serving in August & September*

**Sincere Condolences**



- Sympathy to Scott and Jessica Ingstad on the death of their daughter Kelly, and to Olyvia on the death of her mother. Kelly passed away on June 1st in Waukee, Iowa. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Faith United Church of Christ, 3307 Mulberry Ave., Muscatine IA 52761.
- Sympathy to Nancy Harrison and her family on the death of her mother, Mary Lou Sedrel who passed away on June 9th. Mary Lou was from Oskaloosa, Iowa. Notes of sympathy can be sent to Nancy at 11717 315th St. Ct. West Illinois City, IL 61259.
- Sympathy to the family of Ben Hanssen on the death of his brother Richard Hanssen who passed away Saturday, June 10. There will be a graveside funeral on Friday at Oakwood Cemetery in Monticello, Iowa with a Celebration of Life to follow at Congregational United Church of Christ in Monticello. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Ben and Sharon at 2202 Oak Valley Drive, Muscatine, IA 52761.

**Please Keep in Your Prayers**

**PRAYER REQUEST**

To all who are sick or with injuries, and to their caregivers, Sandra Roth, Myung Sharar, Chad Morgan, Cory Tomlin, Audrey Beckey, Lane Clausen, Nancy Hultquist, Allison Odell, Susan (Roth) Willis, Joey Merchan, Paige Bedenbender, and Marlyce Cooklin.

## FAITH UNITED IN GRATITUDE

## Thank You Notes To our Members and Friends



- Dear Faith, thank you for your gift of \$10 to the Laundry Love Charitable Fund. Your generosity supports the programs and services that help our community thrive. - *Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine.*
- Faith United Church of Christ, thank you so much for the gift and support. This support will be so helpful when I go to Iowa State this fall. - *Landon Castle.*
- Dear Faith, Thank you for your generous contribution to the Diversity service center of Iowa. I thank you with all my heart for making a difference in the lives of those we serve! Kind regards, -*Rosa Mendoza at Diversity Services Center of Iowa*
- Dear Friends, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your donation of \$850.00 toward the Room #5 shelter and \$350.00 to the Domestic Violence Shelter. We are pleased to accept your contribution and will use it toward those in need in Muscatine County. Your support also encourages us in our efforts to empower people to work out of poverty. Sincerely, - *Nik Horn, Resource Dev. Officer MCSA.*
- Thanks to those who supplied food and who also helped at the Kelly Ingstad funeral luncheon on Monday, June 12th. It was much appreciated by the Ingstad family.
- We greatly appreciate each member & friend of Faith United who brought food to our home, who made telephone calls, those who contributed to Jason's Memorial, those who stopped by to grieve with us, and the cards & phone calls. Thanks to Pat, Lisa, and the staff for the extra time they spent helping Kaylee, Kendi, Kyra, and Nance with preparations for Jason's Service, and of course getting the church in order following the service. Thank you to all who came to be with us on Saturday. Always, - *John & Judi Jones.*
- Thank you to Deb & Mark Hagy, Pat Mundell, and Beth Elshoff for preparing the 45 Hobo meals for the Christian day camps youth Friday night meal at the Saulsbury campground. Thank you from - *Cindy Axtell pastor at Musserville.*
- Thank you to Rev. Barbara Muhs for all the care in handling the memorial services that we have had in the past year, your kindness to the families are a blessing.
- It was so great to worship with my Faith family in person on June 18th. I just feel so surrounded by love especially when I am in the pews with you rather than watching on line. I am so proud of our church for keeping the sign in front so that the community knows we truly welcome ALL not just those who are like us. - *Marcia Carmichael*
- Thank you to everyone at faith that donated; 42 items were taken to the Food Pantry on June 19th by Pat Mundell.
- A Huge thank you for our worship team, you are the church! Erin Plemmons, Mark Butterworth, Judy Wilson, Deb Hagy, Mike Morgan, Lanette Morgan, Tom Emerick, Mark Odell, Jan Collinson, Tim Stelzner, Pat Mundell, Beth Elshoff, Lauren Plemmons, John Elshoff, and Rev. Marcy Heil.
- Thank you to all of the Search and Call committee members, they are faithfully working to go through the process of finding a candidate that will find Faith their home church.
- Thank you to Rich and Jan, and Mark and Deb for sharing refreshments on Sundays!
- Thank you to everyone for the Birthday cards and well wishes on my B-Day - *Lisa Allen*
- Thank you to Sue Johannsen for all your help with our pulpit Supply essential needs.

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

**VOF JULY 2023**



We embrace and celebrate the diversity of the human family and God's unconditional love for ALL.

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## 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

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## 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.

Thank you for your generosity.