



Faith
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

NOVEMBER 2023

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.faihuccmuscatine.com

Church Office Hours

10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Faith UCC Staff

Rev. Paris White
pastor@faihuccmuscatine.com
Cell Phone: (309) 791-2602

Lisa Allen
Church Office Coordinator
secretary@faihuccmuscatine.com

Pat Mundell
Congregational Life Coordinator
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Beth Elshoff
Children's Education Coordinator
bethelshoff@machlink.com

Stewardship Generosity is rooted in Love.



That's what this is all about—sharing our love of God and making sure it flows through us into the places the world needs it most.

The Blessing of Our Stewardship Pledges for the 2024 year will be on Sunday, Nov. 12th during the Commitment Sunday worship hour. Remember to send in your pledge before then. We are looking forward to a new year with our new pastor, Rev. Paris White. Please fill out and return the time and talents sheets to the church office! Thank you!

Stewardship Packets have been sent, if you did not receive one, stop by the church office to get one.

Congregational Budget Meeting

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, December 3rd. After the worship service, the members are asked to stay to vote on the budget for the 2024 year. This is extremely important, as our budget reflects our priorities, values, and ultimately our mission.

Communion

November 19th
Thanksgiving Sunday

Iowa Thank Offering

The Thanksgiving worship service on Sunday, Nov. 19 will have a special offering for the "Iowa Thank Offering". Grants from these donations are given to help support community service projects which will help further the mission of the congregations within our Iowa UCC Association.

To donate: Write a check to Faith UCC and in the memo add IOWA THANK. Thank you for your generosity.

Remembering Our Saints

During All Saints Day worship on Sunday, November 5th we will be remembering loved ones, friends, and beloved pets who have been commended to God's eternal care this past year. If you have a loved one in mind you'd like to be remembered during a brief Moment of Memory during the worship service, we'd love to have you present with us. We also invite you to bring along a photo for the altar if you wish. All are welcome for this special service of remembrance and honoring of our saints.

Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov. 5th

Remember to set your clocks back or you may just end up an hour early for worship!



Church Clean-up Day

Saturday, Nov. 4th starting at 8:00 a.m. we will gather at the church building to clean up the grounds and do some light cleanup indoors as well. Many hands make for light work, so we'd love to see you there!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Our Youth Group

For October's Youth Group Meeting, our youth participated in the CROP Walk. McKenna sang in the Youth Community Choir and five youths walked the riverfront. We will meet again on Nov. 5th at 6:00 pm to pack care packages for college students.

Our Christian Education Wednesday

Classes have been full of fun and learning. We've talked about Creation, the image of God in all of us, and the covenant God made with Abraham and Sarah. All youth ages 3 – 12 are welcome to join us from 4:30-5:30 pm on Wednesday evenings. In November, we will not have class on the 22nd due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Mark your calendars The youth will put on a Christmas program during worship on Sunday, December 10th!

Our confirmation class

This class has also been hard at work learning all about the Bible, starting with Genesis. This month we are looking forward to our first gathering with our mentors! We will also not have class on the 22nd.

Centering Prayer

Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., the sanctuary will be open for our weekly centering prayer session. Even if you do not practice centering prayer, but you would just like to have some quiet prayer time in the sanctuary, you are welcome to join.



Bible Study with Pastor Paris

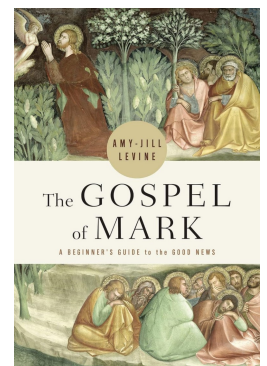
Bible study with Pastor on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. continues! We're starting with the gospel of Matthew, and all are welcome to join us when you can; missing a class is absolutely okay! Extra class handouts can be found on the table by the red clipboard if you'd like to catch up or read up on your own.

Adult Forum Group on Wednesday Nights

We will begin on November 8th with *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News* by author Levine, Amy-Jill.

Topic / Theme: Walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus with scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she examines John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus's most notable stories and parables. The Good News of the gospel message comes alive in this book as readers see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious

Please stop by the church office to get our new book, \$17.00 each.



Sunday Adult Forum

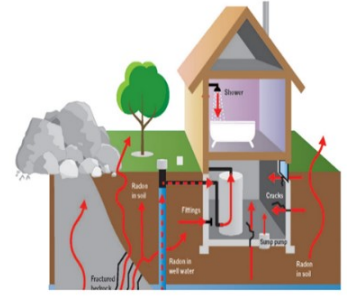
The Adult Forum will be from 11:15-12:00 in the Church's Vestry Room on Sundays. A Zoom link will also be provided for those out of town.



FAITH COMMUNITY

Faith UCC Green Team Radon Testing

A radon testing meeting provided ten participants with information about radon. Liz Orton, Iowa Cancer Consortium, virtually gave facts about radon. Radon is a colorless and odorless gas that builds up in buildings, homes, and schools, and can cause cancer. It is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of cancer in smokers. Iowa Radon Hotline: 1-800-383-5992



Here is the link to a recording of the Oct. 11th presentation, <https://youtu.be/4CeK9yzbjUU>

According to the EPA, the entire state of Iowa is considered at high risk for radon gas in homes. High levels of radon can be found in any type of home, so it is important for everyone to test their home. Just because your neighbor's home has radon, does not mean yours does. Testing will help you to find out.

The Green Team ordered radon tests with funds from a Congregational Life Grant and distributed the tests to participants. Testing is easy. Once the test kit is prepared and hung up on the lower level of your home, leave it for several days. Then use the postpaid mailing envelope to send it to a lab and analyze it. The results will be emailed back to you in about two weeks.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like a test kit, please ask for a kit at the office.

More information can be found: Iowa Health and Human Services website. American Lung Association here: EPA <https://www.epa.gov/radon>

Open and Affirming

On Saturday, September 30th, the ONA committee hosted an Inherent Worth Seminar presented by Allison Castle. Thirty-six members of the church and community attended for a morning of learning and reflection on believing in our own inherent worth, recognizing the inherent worth of others, and honoring inherent worth with our communication. The seminar was very well received with requests that the seminar be presented again in the future. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the seminar.



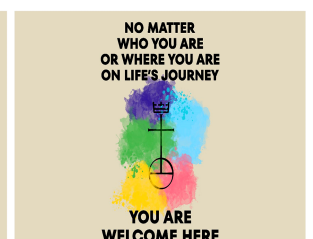
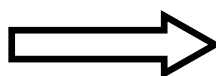
T-shirt Sales!

ONA received a congregational life grant this fall to make T-shirts for our Faith community! They will be using the grant funds to provide our youth with a t-shirt free of charge!

Be on the lookout for more information, so we can get those ordered! T-shirts and other Faith items can be purchased by the congregation soon!

Please consider purchasing a T-shirt to help promote our congregation wherever you go!

(Picture of design)



FAITH UNITED NOVEMBER EVENTS

Harmony Guild

Harmony Guild Holiday Dinner will be held on December 4th at 6 p.m. at the Rendezvous. Mark your calendars for holiday fun! Co-hostesses are Marcy Clausen and Sue Johanssen. All women/friends of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend. Once the menu and costs are confirmed there will be a sign-up sheet posted in the overflow area in the back of the church in mid-November. Be sure to sign up for an evening of good food and fellowship!

(Also, watch for updates in the Tuesday Weekly Newsletter and church bulletins)



College Students

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE If you have a College Student and they have changed their address this year, please email the office and let us know the new address, if you have not already done so. We would like to send them something in the mail soon. Thank you!

Friendship Circle

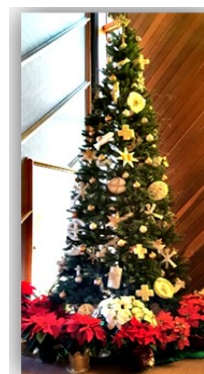
Friendship Circle will meet on Thursday, November 2 at the church at 10 a.m. Co-hosts are Sharon Hanssen and Linda Hardin. Sharon Hanssen will provide the program.



Advent Decorations

Sunday, November 26th will be the day that we decorate for Advent.

Decorating will begin immediately after worship. Please plan on staying & helping. The more people we have help the faster the decorating will go.



Card Sharks

The Card sharks will meet again on Thursday, November 9, from 1-3 at the church. We will continue to make encouragement cards for Mulberry school. All supplies will be available. Come and join in the fun and help the teachers to encourage their students through our cards.



Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to sign up to assist with various duties on Sunday morning. There is a little something for everyone to get involved in! We need greeters, ushers, acolytes, people to provide refreshments and/or host the fellowship time immediately after the service, choir singers, bell ringers, and liturgists to lead with the Pastor.

People of all ages, abilities, and talents are invited to participate in the work of God's Church each Sunday!



Undie Sundays

We will continue to accept undies and/or sweatpants for the children in elementary schools. Sizes 3 - 14 for both boys and girls. These will be distributed among the schools in Muscatine.



November Food Pantry

During the month of November, Faith will have a \$1000 matching grant available to us for the Food Pantry donations that will be collected throughout the month with various food items and monetary donations. Bring your food items in and place them in the container at the church.

If you make a monetary donation, make your check out to Faith United, and in the memo line indicate: Food Pantry. Thank you for supporting this much-needed project.



FAITH UNITED GRATITUDE

Thank You Notes from Faith UCC

October was full of sacred fellowship and time together praising God's goodness!

- Thank you for the donations to the food pantry, we collected 68 items in October
- Thank you to Dave Wangberg, Dan Huss, and Nick Sharar for all the work done taking out the church hedges and landscaping around the perimeter of the parking lot.
- Thank you to Allison Castle for the excellent Seminar on Inherent Worth.
- Thank you to all of the walkers and donations for the CROP Walk, we collected \$1585!
- Thank you for your donations to the Neighbors in Need offering, we collected \$475.
- Thank you to all the wonderful pets and their owners, we praised God's creation at our Pet Blessing on Oct. 8th, we had nearly 20 dogs present, plus a cat and two turtles!
- Thank you to our youth, who led us in worship for the Children's Sabbath and sang in the youth choir, and to Tammy Ales for directing the music on October 15th.
- Thank you to Beth Elshoff, Allison and Brynn Castle, and Addison Weggen for helping to organize the C. E. Supply Room on October 20th.
- Thank you to the Green Team Committee for the health resources about radon in Iowa.
- Thank you to our ONA who funded a Spooky Soiree for our Crossroads friends. Joy filled the room at this Halloween dance party!
- Thank you to Linda Hardin for all the wonderful cards you make and send to everyone.
- Thank you to our newest members at faith who were welcomed on Reformation Sunday! Elizabeth Busch, Courtney Mathias, Kathy Metcalf, Cody White, Corina Shoemaker, Brook Tompos, Ronda White. We welcome you into the Faith Family!

Thank you to the Worship Team in October,

Pastor Paris, Rev. Marcy, Mike Johannsen, Tom Emerick, Gigi & Michael Metcalf, Jen & Brian Metcalf, Mark & Deb Hagy, the Faith Ringers, Julie Kundel, Mary Wildermuth, Beth Elshoff, Mike Morgan, Weston and Wyatt Busch, Mark Odell, Mark Butterworth, Judy Wilson, Margie Kundel, Sue Johannsen, the Youth group, the confirmation youth, Mary Wildasin, Brook Tompos, Bill Creasey, Skyler Plemmons, Lisa Shea, Claire and McKenna Schumaker, Melissa Schumaker, the Faith Singers, Donna Reed, Kristen Brant, and Allison Castle.

Weekly Fall Calendar

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Paris
6:30 p.m.- Faith Ringer rehearsal

Wednesday

4:00 p.m. - Centering Prayer
4:30 p.m. - Youth C.E. Class
6:00 p.m. - Adult Forum
6:00 p.m. - Confirmation Class
7:00 p.m. - Faith Singer rehearsal

Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
11:00 a.m. - Adult Forum

November Events

November 5th

All Saints Sunday
Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 12th

Commitment Sunday
Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall

November 19th

Thanksgiving Sunday with Communion
"Thank Iowa" Special offering

November 26th

Decorate the Church for Advent

Scrip Gift Cards

Need gift cards for the Holidays?

You can order them through the church. We would like to extend an opportunity to do a little fundraising to help you and the church out at the same time.

To see the list of companies, the gift card amounts, and the percent of saving that will go to the church can all be found

here at Raise Right You may pick up an order form in the church office. **Please have your orders in the office by November 13th.** Checks can be made out to Faith UCC, and in the memo write Scrip. Stop by the office to pick up or drop off an order form.



FAITH UNITED MEMBER AND FRIENDS

November Birthday Card Shower

11/6 - Anna Wheeler
3930 Hwy 22
Blue Grass IA 52726

11/8 – Sylvia Trumbull
3406 Clermont Drive
Muscatine IA 52761

11/ 9 – Gary Lindley
1966 Hale Street
Muscatine IA 52761

11/9– Deborah Wainscott-Meyer
323 Aspen Trail
Muscatine IA 52761

11/18 – Ann Reifert
1616 River Chase Trail
Duluth GA 30096

11/19 – Jim Hoopes
2240 Bentwood Drive
Muscatine IA 52761

11/23 – Dede Hoopes
2240 Bentwood Drive
Muscatine IA 52761

November Anniversaries

- 1 – Pat & Caleen Pagel
- 2 – John & Linda Kleffmann
- 3 – Dylan & Kelsey Cooney
- 14 – Brad & Leslie Soule
- 25 – Phil & Cindy Carver
- 26 – Tony & Kristen Brant
- 26 – John & Sue Muir
- 28 – Dave & Margie Kundel

Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Nov. 22, 23, and 24th
the Office will be closed
for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Blessings to you,
and your families.

November Birthdays

- 2 – Pat Pagel
- 4 – Lane Clausen
- 6 – Anna Wheeler
- 7 – Grace Kreitner
- 8 – Sylvia Trumbull
- 9 – Carson Carroll
- 9 – Scott Carver
- 9 – Gary Lindley
- 9 – Deb Wainscott Meyer
- 10 – Pastor Paris White
- 14 – Georgia Gerth
- 14 – Isabelle Hartman
- 16 – Alex Adams
- 16 – Evan Gerth
- 18 – Ann Reifert
- 19 – Jim Hoopes
- 21 – Deb Hueser
- 23 – Dede Hoopes

MCSA Sponsors

- Nov 5 - Donna Reed in memory of Maurie
- Nov12 - Memorial Gift in memory of Margaret Heerd
- Nov19- Marcy, and Lane Clausen
in thankfulness for our many blessings
- Nov26 - The Warren Family
in honor of Stella, and thankful for friends



Altar Committee November Pastor Paris & Family

Thank You Notes from Members and Friends

Thank you for all the birthday cards I received and for the song and candle at the Harmony Guild meeting. What a warm, caring congregation!
– Twyla Woodward.

Sincere Condolences

Carol Marlene Lane of Garretson, South Dakota, passed away on October 13, 2023. Please keep her family in your prayers. Carol was a member of the church and the secretary for many years. Obituary Website: [Here](#).

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Faith United Church of Christ in memory of Carol. Please add "memorial for Carol Lane" in the memo line of the check.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

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 Willis, Joney Merchan, Patricia Fischer, Allen Emerick, Chris Wildasin, Carl Platteter, Norma Stelzner, Ben Hanssen, Cathy Deters, Keith Allchin, and Sylvia Trumbull.

VESTRY NOTES FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023

6. Reports:

A. Treasurer –Rich Carroll gave a written report.

B. Deacons – Stewardship packet handouts on Stewardship Sunday, Oct 15th.

C. Elders – Staff evaluations are continuing, and job descriptions are being updated.

D. Trustees –

- Walked through the grounds, church, and parsonage. The outside workday was rescheduled for Nov. 4.
- Dan Clark fixed the garage door on the parsonage.
- Air cond. & Furnace will get replaced in Fall 2024. Dave will get info on the company that will do it.
- The bell tower repair, Dan Huss update. In August received a bid for a patch and the other was to remove the bell and structure. We don't know how much the bell weighs but possibly 600 lb. Dan Huss suggests we consult with Lewis Brothers for bids to 1) rebuild the structure without the bell or 2) remove the structure, store the bell, and obtain plans for steel support for future use.
- The north door sidewalk needs leveling. Dave Wangberg will get bids.
- Church smoke detectors: Deb contacted Mike Hartman. He agreed to do a walk-through. Smoke detectors are not required by recommended. Vestry members had the following questions: Can the notification go to the fire dept.? Should the fire dept have a key to the church?
- Nick Sharar has a skid steer and stump grinder that the church can borrow to remove stumps.
- Discussion of the technology and when the feed starts for Facebook have occurred. Tim Stelzner is in charge.
- Pastor talked about our technology needs. RNS can provide a camera with an ethernet cord, but cannot do everything we need: IT, camera, security, and sound. DB Acoustics has provided services to Faith UCC in the past. Tom Emerick, Scott Warren, and Tim Stelzner will be asked to form a committee to move this forward.
- New Church Directory with possible new church database. Bill Creasey reported on online directories that can be updated easily and accessed immediately by members. We will pursue this version of the directory.
- Bylaws: A bylaws committee is needed to recommend changes and be ready for the Annual Meeting in January.

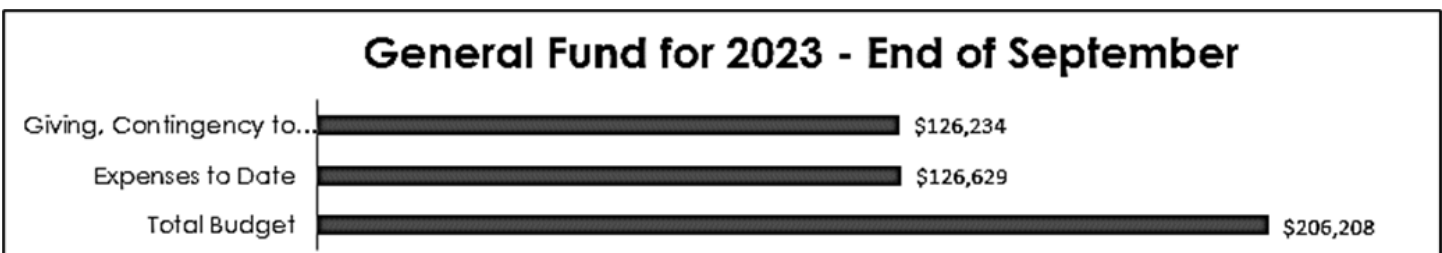
7. Pastor Paris – Unfinished Business

- A motion was made by to sell stained-glass windows for \$100. **Motion carried.**
- The church manual for the whole scope of church life for leaders is still in progress.
- Pastor was interviewed on Muscatine Today, TV, with Megan Francis about the Crossroads Halloween party on Oct. 19.
- Seven youths are in confirmation. Brian Metcalf is assisting.
- Bible study is on Tuesday afternoons with Pastor Paris.
- Pastor will advertise our events with the hope that community members will join in.
- "Jingle and Mingle" downtown December holiday event, we have been invited to participate.
- It was suggested that small UCC churches like Nichols, Lone Tree, and Moscow, as well as New Era, and First Christian Churches, be invited to join Faith UCC for special events like Christmas Eve.
- Pastor Paris asked for a team of 3-4 members to serve on a Pastor-Parish Relations Team as a sounding board, guide, and source of feedback.
- The pet blessing on Oct. 8 was successful with dogs, cats, and turtles.

New Business

Action Items:

- Julie Kundel wrote a Congregational Life Grant to compensate Judy Wilson for extra practice/rehearsal time when special music is part of the service. The Worship Committee encouraged Judy to submit her time to Julie.
- Updated job descriptions are being worked on by Elders as evaluations are being done.
- Bylaw/Constitution Committee members: Deb, Bill, Julie. Bill Creasey reported that Life Grants will be clarified, answering how to join Faith United, and voting with fairness at congregational meetings in-person, by mail, email, and zoom.
- Deb proposed joining a community coalition of those who support LGBTQIA+. The coalition collaborates with One Iowa for training and awareness and includes Stonewall and Progress Muscatine. Sue Johannsen made a motion to join the coalition. Bill Creasey second. **Motion carried.** Sponsorship is requested. It was suggested that the Community Foundation could manage the funds.



COMMUNITY FALL EVENTS



Crop Walk Fundraiser

Currently we have a bit over \$11,000 which is pretty good.—*Judy Brotherton*. Remember that the Muscatine Food Pantry and Bag of Blessings share 25% of what was donated here. Pat Mundell reported that Faith UCC contributed \$1585.00 of it! Thank you everyone that participated and donated to the Crop Walk!

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.

Thank you for your generosity.



VOF NOVEMBER 2023

Faith United
Church of Christ
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