



Faith
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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.faithuccmuscatine.com

Church Office Hours
10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

FAITH UCC STAFF

Lisa Allen

Office Coordinator

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Pat Mundell

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Children's Education Coordinator

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We Need You!

Volunteer for
Worship Service!

Be a Liturgist,
Usher or Greeter

Would you like to be a part
of the worship service?
There are many opportuni-
ties available. Call the
office, sign up on the red
board in the overflow area,
or signup online [Here](#).

EASTER GARDEN

Out Reach Giving

Bring a flower to donate to
the Church Garden or you
may donate monetary gifts
for the Flower Garden
Alternatives.

Check out the
options for Outreach
giving on Page 7.

Please make out your checks
to Faith United Church with
the designation in the
memo line.

APRIL 2022

VOICE OF FAITH

Pulpit Supply Series Join Us During Sunday Worship!

Sunday April 3, Rev. Barb Muhs

Both Isaiah and John address the issue of moving forward. In times when we are pushed into an uncomfortable situation, we do have choices. Jesus was pushed into a critical situation where some would argue he had a choice and yet...he was good enough to allow God to lead him. Are we like Jesus? When we are pushed into the unfamiliar do we take the comfort zone or do we step forward into the unknown and let God lead?

Sunday April 10, Rev. Linda Hunsaker

"The King is Coming! The King is Coming!" Are the cries the people shouted as Jesus entered into Jerusalem that Palm Sunday. But what is he riding? He is supposed to be like a Mighty King triumphantly entering the city -- but instead what is he riding? A donkey?" I guess that's good enough for today."

Sunday April 17, Rev. Marcy Heil

Not one of us had a perfect Lenten season. Why might that be? God didn't design us to be perfect, but we are all good enough. Good enough to call Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God. Good enough to worship God and celebrate the day of Christ's resurrection and our invitation to eternal life! Let's celebrate that!

Sunday April 24, Rev. Marcy Heil

On Easter evening, Jesus visits the disciples once again, but Thomas was not with them. Thomas had the nerve to ask Jesus to play "show and tell". Thomas may have been from Missouri, the Show-me state when he says, "Show me your hands, your side..." Do we also ask God to show us what God can do in our lives, or do we believe that Jesus is Lord?

"RISE" Easter Offering - April 17

Special Offering Ukraine & Afghanistan Refugees

The Ukraine Crisis Response to offer humanitarian assistance to people displaced as a result of the violence and bolster partners in Europe to serve the most vulnerable. The U.S. will welcome many to have a safe haven here. Nearly seven months since the fall of Kabul, communities across the U.S. continue welcoming Afghans to start new lives in safety. If you would like to donate, please write your checks to Faith United, and in the memo add the RISE offering. Thank you.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY THIS MONTH



Celebrating the Earth!



What can I do to celebrate God's creation?

- ✿ Take a walk or ride your bicycle to enjoy the wonder of nature.
- ✿ Plant seeds or a new sprout. Know that you can add to Earth's beauty.
- ✿ Recycle glass, metals, and plastics. Act to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- ✿ Give up all purchases for a day. You can control your consumption.
- ✿ Change a florescent or incandescent light to an LED.
- ✿ The Green Team is changing lights at church.
- ✿ Give thanks.

Read this Prayer of Confession

God of all Creation, we come to you in a moment of personal confession. We are part of a system which exploits and separates humanity from the rest of Creation. By acts of omission and commission we cause harm to others and our Earth. We hear the cries of both our fellow humans, and the cries of all the water, the land, and animals – all of Creation. We know we bear responsibility for the pain, and we know the effects of our ways. We confess our complicity in the plight of all your Creation, and beg your forgiveness and mercy, that we may do better to follow the way of you who creates. Amen.



https://www.globalministries.org/earth_day_worship/

This Little Light of Mine



The Green team changed the fluorescent lights in the nursery and Vestry rooms to LEDs with the help from Pat Pagel. A comparison of LEDs and fluorescent lights shows that LEDs contain less mercury, are less fragile, and LEDs provide more light. Check out the lighting and let the Green Team know what you think. Our plan is to proceed to change out the lighting in other rooms if there is a positive response.

Spring is Here! Spring Cleaning at Faith!

We will have a "Cleaning Day" at the church Friday, April 29th from 10 am. - 2 p.m.

For the Inside the church cleaning with Pat: if you cannot attend on this day and would like to volunteer at your convenience, please let me know - Pat Mundell.

Outside cleanup with John: please bring your own tools and help work on the lawn and gardens - John Jones

Lunch will be provided!

Please sign up on the board in the overflow area at the back of the sanctuary if you will be able to attend, or you may call the Church office.

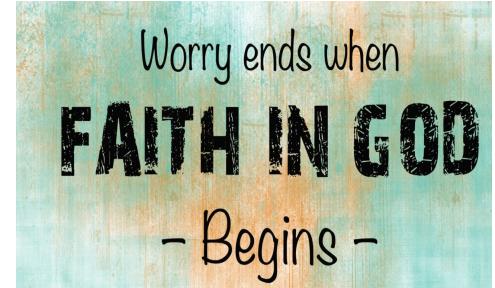


FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Search and Call Committee Update

The Search and Call Committee led by Chair Mark Odell has been meeting since January. They have completed the first step in the search process by developing a Faith United Church profile and job posting. This profile is now posted on the UCC Ministry Search site where candidates can begin applying for the position.

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones from the UCC Conference is supporting the Committee in the search for a new Pastor. It is expected the search process will take many months and likely into the fall. The Committee is also working with Sue Johannsen to identify the longer-term plan for interim Pulpit coverage.



Open and Affirming Committee News

The Book

Members of the Open and Affirming Committee attended a school board meeting in February to advocate for allowing books to remain on the library shelves. There was no opposition at that February meeting. The book, *All Boys Aren't Blue*, was reviewed according to the school's policies and will remain in the library. There is a copy to loan if you would like to check out the book to read.

The Banner

The banner was repaired and stabilized. The committee met with a church member to discuss the banner. The committee was able to express their commitment to our ONA policy.

Two Great Stories

The church office relayed two stories from Mid-March about how our rainbow banner is making a difference. First, a woman arrived at the door in tears. She was distraught and needed help. The sign to her meant that she found a safe haven and support. A call was made, and she received help.

Another woman came to the church door and asked if African Americans were welcome to come to our church. Of course, the answer was "Yes," the service would start on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Then the visitor said she would like to join us for a service.

One Not So Great

The ONA committee learned that some members are concerned about public criticism of our banner and church. We regret this and suggest that anyone facing criticism or condemnation respond by saying with a smile, "God doesn't leave anyone out and neither does my church. There is room at the table for everyone."

We believe the banner gives hope
and shows our love and acceptance
of all people.

The banner is a sign of support for anyone
and especially for those who feel left out.

We are proud to offer a banner welcome
to anyone, even if they are just passing by.

- ONA Committee



Vestry Summary from March 22, 2022

Present Vestry members: Allison Castle, Tom Emerick, Deb Hagy, Julie Kundel, Melissa Schumaker, Lisa Shea, Tim Stelzner, and Scott Warren.

Not present: Mark Butterworth, Bill Creasey, Mike Morgan, Dave Wangberg, and Richard Carroll

Guest - Mark Odell.

Treasurer Report: Rich Carroll's Budget report for February, items to note: 2021 surplus has been transferred back to the contingency fund. Furnace cost of \$2,728.50 will be paid from Wendell Day fund.

Trustees' Report:

- Carpet stairs project - the stair treads are on order for carpet, it might be a month. Trustees are still deciding what to do for landings.
- Wi-Fi network upgrade - Plan to replace the old system, RNS is doing the setup.
- Furnace - Kelly Heating has fixed the furnace on March 16th.
- Church parking lot - the restriping and fixing is the next item on the trustees list.

Action Items for Old Business:

- Personnel & Safe Church manual was reviewed: will update and finalize soon.

Action Items for New Business:

- Congregational Life Grant remaining balances: Melissa Schumaker reached out to outstanding grants (only CE supplies and Confirmation still plan to use funds). A Motion to put unused money back into the General Grant fund, motion passed.
- Congregational Life Grant Requests for Spring 2022: Presented 2 grants for spring 2022. Motion passed.
 - \$1,000 for food for shut-ins from the congregational care team.
 - \$2,100 for upgrading the church wi-fi from the trustees.

(For future grants, a time limit of 1 year from the date the grant is approved unless otherwise noted in the grant application).

- Easter RISE offering: Collecting for Ukraine Crisis & Afghanistan Refugees. Motion passed.

Updates/Quick Items for New Business:

- Green Team update: LED bulbs have been replaced in the upstairs class room area, the replacement is being done slowly to create the proper ambiance. Feedback of the lighting is needed. The disposal of older replaced bulbs will be a future item to discuss.
- The out front welcoming sign / ONA Team update: The members of the committee are happy to talk with anyone who would like to have a conversation.
- Communion servers for April 3rd will be Tom Emerick & Deb Hagy, and for April 17th, Tim Stelzner & Tom Emerick.

Search and Call Update:

- Mark Odell: patience and trust in the hands of God with potential for an interim pastor.
- The pulpit supply is filled up through to the first Sunday in June.
- The church profile has been posted (great work team!!)
- A good relationship has developed with Sarah Retzel-Jones from the UCC conference.
- A protocol has been developed to vet applicants through the call process.

Choir update: The choir is practicing and working on the best way to sing during worship.

No Services for Lent and Easter Events:

- No Good Friday Service
- No Easter Breakfast
- No Maundy Thursday Service this year.

The Next Meeting will be on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

General Fund for 2022 - End of February



Faith United Calendar of Events

Weekly Calendar

Tuesdays

6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir rehearsals

Wednesdays

4:15 p. m. - Centering Prayer

6:00 p. m. - Youth C. E. Class at church

6:00 p. m. - Adult Forum Class on zoom

7:00 p. m. - Vocal Choir rehearsal

Sundays

10:00 a. m. - Sunday morning worship

11:15 a. m. - Confirmation class at church

11:15 a. m. - Adult Forum on zoom

Friendship Circle

We will plan to have our April meeting at the church on April 7th at 10:00 a.m. Sharon Hanssen will Host and offer the program Easter Reflections: *How to Honor Christ Throughout the Year*. Co-Host for this day is Cynthia Maeglin. All women are welcome to attend and enjoy the morning of fellowship.

MCSA Support A Room in 2022

For a \$25.00 donation you can sponsor a room for someone at the local shelter. You may pick a Sunday of your choice. Talk to Lisa in the Church office for available Sundays in 2022. Please write the check out to Faith UCC, and in the memo you may add MCSA donation.

Thank you for helping with this Outreach fund while honoring someone you love, celebrate, or for in memory of. We will include your name and your reason to honor a special person or event in the weekly update on the Sunday of your choice.



To sign up for **2022** Go [Here](#).

Wednesday Adult Forum

Michael Johannsen, leader.

On Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., the Wednesday Adult Forum group meets via Zoom to discuss books. The current book is by Amy Jill Levine called *Difficult Words of Jesus*. This book examines the most difficult teaching of Jesus. Jesus provided his disciples with teaching for how to follow Torah, God's word. He told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature, and he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. We have a few more books in the office for purchase, \$15.00 each.

Sunday Adult Forum

Sue Johannsen, leader.

April 3, 2022

No Class.

Sue and Mike will be out of town, but this is the scripture: Gracious Ministries. To explore both the receiving and giving of extravagant love. Focus scripture John 12:1-8. Additional scriptures Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14

April 10, 2022

Palm, Passion Sunday

To explore together the stories of Holy Week. Focus scripture Luke 22:14—23:56. Additional scriptures Liturgy of the Palms. Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Luke 19:28-40. Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 23:1-49

April 17, 2022

No Class.

Easter Sunday.

April 24, 2022

Resurrection Witness

To grow in confidence to witness to our experiences of God, and openness in listening to the witness of others. Focus scripture Acts 5:27-32. Additional scriptures Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31.

FAITH UNITED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Please Keep in Your Prayers

To all who are sick or with injuries, and all of their caregivers.

Margaret Heerd
 Kelly Ingstad
 Robert Meyer
 Keith & Nancy Stych
 Sandra Roth
 Myung Sharar
 Phil Carver
 Carla Roozing
 Chad Morgan
 Cory Tomlin
 Audrey Beckey
 Sarah Conrad
 Elnora Arp
 Jan Collinson

Please email or call the office if you wish to send a card and need an address for one of our friends or Members on this list.

April Birthday Card Shower

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

22 - Gary Diercks
 2450 Snug Harbor Lane
 Muscatine IA 52761

29 - Cynthia Maeglin
 3352 Spinning Wheel Ct.
 Muscatine IA 52761

April Birthdays

4-1 Marcia Carmichael
 4-1 Cassie Hendrix
 4-1 Cindy Rada
 4-2 Kimberly Tooman
 4-2 Mike Johannsen
 4-5 Charles Holland
 4-5 Randal Cooper
 4-6 Alli Youngbauer
 4-7 Matthew Mundell
 4-7 Katherine Pierson (Noble)
 4-7 Karren Sharar
 4-10 Jim Burr
 4-10 Katie Hanssen
 4-11 Jeff Noble
 4-12 Lisa Shea
 4-12 Dave Wangberg
 4-14 Jerry Kleindolph
 4-16 Pollianna Adams
 4-17 Alexandra Sichterman
 4-22 Gary Diercks
 4-23 Scott Warren
 4-24 Alice Ganzley
 4-24 Leslie Soule
 4-27 Abe Ales
 4-27 Janet Lewis
 4-29 Ryan Castle
 4-29 Cynthia Maeglin

April Anniversaries

4-6 Bob & Karren Sharar
 4-8 Matt & LeeAnn Weggen
 4-11 Duane & Marilyn Wilson
 4-20 Abe & Kristin Ales
 4-28 Don & Shelley Frost
 4-28 Matthew & Elise Mundell

Thanks to the Confirmation Students & Congregational Care!

On Sunday, Brynn Castle, Clare and McKenna Schumaker, and Grace Kreitner helped with baking meal items for our care team. On Monday, March 28th members of the Care team delivered the "spring surprise" to 54 members/friends of our congregation. The Shut ins received a meal and others received a "bag of sweets". Thank you to the confirmation students and to Nancy Wangberg, Sylvia Trumbull, Jim Burr, and Pat Mundell for volunteering your time and talents in serving our Faith United members and friends.



Photos courtesy of Allison Castle

MCSA Sponsors for April 2022

April 3 - Mike & Sue Johannsen Celebrating Michael, Luke and Olivia!

April 10 - **Available for Sponsorship**

April 17 - Sylvia Trumbull, in Celebration of Rebirth

April 24 - The Warren family in celebration of Scott's birthday

April 24 - Donna Reed in Loving Memory of Maurie



Faith United Church Community

Thank You Notes to Our Members and Friends

- Thank you all, for your prayers, thoughts, and Love. Missed you all. - Tim Stelzner
- Faith United, Thank you so much for the care pack! It was such an awesome surprise to wake up to! I have already used most of the sticky notes for school. Again, Thank You!! - Kylea Estabrook
- Dear Faith United Church family, Thank you very much for all the cards, prayers, meals and gifts you showered our family with during my Covid illness in December and January. I am thankful to report my healing is going well and I look forward to even better days ahead. We are most grateful for the Lord's healing hand and for our wonderful Faith United family who helped carry us through some tough days and weeks. Many blessings to each of you! In the Lord's love, Chris, Joy, Josh, Carson & Jayden Lary.
- Thank you to Nancy Wangberg, Jim Burr, and Crissy Miller for serving at Emmaus Café.
- Thank you for all the love and support to our family during Bernard's illness and passing. We are so blessed to have Faith United for their words of encouragement to me. Our family will be forever thankful to each and every one of you. - Sandra Roth.
- Thank you to my many Faith Friends for all the birthday cards and wishes. They were so bright and spring-like. They filled my heart with happiness! Thanks again. - Sheryl Lindley
- Thanks to Cindy Carver and Pat Mundell for the roaster of soup that was donated to the Habitat for Humanity Soup Luncheon on March 27th at Wesley Methodist Church.
- Thank you to Nancy Wangberg, Sylvia Trumbull, Jim Burr, and Pat Mundell for preparing and delivering the meals to many of our members and friends at Faith.
- Thank you to the confirmation class and Care Team for the cute package of 'goodies'. We enjoyed the sweets with coffee on a cool blustery day. Thanks for your thoughtfulness! - Gary and Sheryl Lindley
- Thank you to the Confirmation Students and the Congregational Care Committee for the bag of treats!! - Bob and Connie Miller
- Thank you to everyone that volunteered to help during worship in March.

EASTER GIVING GARDENS

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

A spring flower garden will be displayed this Easter on the altar. If you would like to donate a flower, please bring it to the church no sooner than April 14th.



I am sharing an Easter Flower with the Church . Gift to the Church Garden.

Your Name: _____

I would like to give an alternative gift instead of a flower. I added the amount to the ministry I want to be allocated to below.

Youth Camperships	\$ _____
Emmaus Café	\$ _____
Habitat for Humanity	\$ _____
Bag of Blessings	\$ _____
Other Local Outreach	\$ _____

Ministry: _____

Total Gift Enclosed: \$ _____ Pledging Unit # _____

Please return this form to the church office with your gift by April 10th. For alternative giving, please write the ministry you selected in the memo of your check.

Thank you for your thoughtful gift to God's work in this world.

Faith United Christian Education Class Fun



In Christian Education on March 23rd, we talked about and participated in the Last Supper with bread, cheese, fruit and juice. The kids then made their own communion cups to use later. - Beth Elshoff





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

APRIL 2022



Do You Have a Used or Unused Sewing Machine in your Closet?

World Relief of the Quad-Cities is looking for used (or new!) sewing machines for immigrant women in our area. If you have a machine you'd like to donate, please contact Pat Mundell or Tom Emerick.

Thank you!

Daily Devotions

*“These Days”
and the
“Upper Room”*

Stop by the church
and pick up one of
the booklets!

Office hours
10 am - 4 pm.

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.”

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.