



Faith
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

FEBRUARY 2022

VOICE OF FAITH

Sunday Worship
10:00 AM

Faith United Church of Christ

3307 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, IA 52761
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www.faithuccmuscatine.com

FAITH UCC STAFF

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A Service of Farewell and Release for Pastor Ryan

Sunday, February 6, will be Pastor Ryan's last Sunday with us here at Faith United. The service will include a time of farewell and release. Pastor Ryan's last day in the office will be Thursday, February 10th.

Special Offering Funding Future Leaders

A special offering supported by the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ will be taken on February 6 to fund scholarships.

The scholarships are for Members in Discernment who are from Iowa. Please make your check to your church and write "Funding Future Leaders" or simply "FFL" on the memo line.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VESTRY ON PASTOR TRANSITION

On behalf of the current Vestry and Search Committee for a new pastor, I would like to update the congregation on plans and efforts for the transition.

We have been in touch multiple times with Rev. Sarah Reutzel Jones who is our assigned conference minister. She will be working with our congregation as we search for a new settled minister.

We have a pulpit supply calendar that Sue Johannsen will be in charge of and has started to fill weekly slots.

Mike Johannsen and Tom Emerick are members who are agreeing to participate and Barb Muhs will be covering for the monthly communion service and will be available for funerals. We are exploring other possible options to cover Sunday services until we have an interim or settled minister. Hopefully, the Congregational Care Committee will be able to lead with pastoral care needs.

We have a search committee with the following members: Allison Castle, Janet Sichterman, Julie Kundel, Deb Hagy, Brad Soule, Melissa Schumaker, Lynette Morgan, and Mark Odell. We will be tasked with working with the conference to secure applications, vet, interview, and eventually select a candidate for a new settled minister. This is likely to take at least 6 months and possibly up to a year or more. Suggestions and help are welcome.

We have work ahead, but plans are in motion and a core group of people is involved with leading. Search and Call Committee leader - *Mark Odell*

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 30, 2022

The meeting will begin immediately after the Sunday worship service. The agenda will include voting for 2022 Vestry and committee members and using endowment funds to install new flooring in the stairwells. The agenda will also include a proposed constitutional amendment regarding the Congregational Life Grant Fund.

Congregational Life Grant Fund amendment link [HERE](#).
Copies are also available from the church office.
Congregational Life Grant request Form [HERE](#).
Grants are due Feb. 28.

The annual Booklet will be emailed to the members of the church. If you are a friend of the church and would like a copy of the digital booklet, please email the church office.

UCC DEPARTURE GUIDELINES

Ethical Departure Guidelines for Pastors and Churches *From the UCC Resource “A Sure Foundation”*

Every ministry has a beginning and an end. Moses and Elijah concluded their earthly ministries, entrusting their authority to others and believing that God would provide other leaders who could carry on the work of ministry and leadership to that community. Jesus ministered as an itinerant, always moving from place to place; in Mark 1:38 he says, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came to do.” Paul planted many churches and empowered other leaders to shepherd those communities after his departure; while his letters to those communities were filled with teaching, they also contained encouragement for those churches to listen to their current leaders. Even Jesus endowed the Church with the power to act in his name when he left earth following his ascension. Similarly, when pastors conclude their ministry in a setting, they depart in faith that Jesus’ words at the end of the Gospel of Matthew are true for them and for the congregations they depart: “Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” This allows departing pastors to take their leave, trusting that God will continue to take care of those whom the pastor has served. This trust in God is especially essential at the time of departure, when the reality of the new boundaries becomes real and the temptations to cross those boundaries increase.

These departure guidelines are meant to facilitate a faithful leave-taking on the part of the pastor, freeing everyone to live into a new future as ministries move in new directions separate from each other.

Boundaries and Best Practices

It is the expectation that, upon departure, a pastor will not return to serve that congregation or its congregants in a pastoral capacity. For a minimum of one to three years, a departing pastor will observe a no-contact boundary with congregants, thus helping congregants observe the same. This boundary enables the pastor to fulfill the UCC Ministerial Code in support of their former church’s relationship-building with a new pastor. Re-establishing contact is only appropriate after negotiation with the new pastor, potentially in dialogue with a wider church representative. A departing pastor develops an overall departure plan that is ethically aligned with the UCC Ministerial Code and fulfills Committee on Ministry requirements, and by which they covenant to abide. This plan is detailed to include the pastor’s boundaries with the congregation, with the community, and in social media. It is communicated clearly to the congregation prior to departure.

EXPECTATIONS FOR CHURCH PASTORS

Boundaries with the congregation:

- The departing pastor will leave with grace, expressing gratitude for the time of shared ministry and encouraging the congregation to bond with its next pastor.
- The pastor will state clearly that they will no longer be available to the congregation or affiliated persons for weddings, baptisms, funerals, church activities, pastoral care, etc., and then the pastor will keep this commitment.
- The pastor will say “goodbye” – through an exit interview, through worship – and then practice saying “hello” to their new ministry setting or to their new reality of retirement.

Boundaries with social media:

- Prior to departure, the pastor will transfer administrator duties for church-related social media spaces and accounts, remove their own administrator status, and share password information to someone else in the congregation who in turn changes the passwords and takes over administrator duties.
- Though difficult, it is recommended as a best practice for the departing pastor to unfriend/unfollow all congregants and others with whom they’ve had a pastoral relationship, although there may be situations where using restricted lists is appropriate. In making this change to limit their online interactions with former congregants, pastors prioritize the needs of the congregation and incoming ministerial leadership over their own desires to maintain relationships (or the desires of congregants to stay in contact). Pastors must be consistent with all congregants – either unfriend/unfollow everyone from the congregation or move everyone to a restricted list – and they should convey this policy to their congregation as part of their departure plan so there is no confusion.
- Following a period of 1-3 years, pastors may discern whether they will begin to accept friend requests of former congregants and/or choose to change their privacy settings. They should not initiate friend/follow requests with former congregants, and they must continue to refrain from providing pastoral care to former congregants. Following the end date of their contract, call, or covenant with the congregation, pastors must refrain from providing pastoral care through digital communication. Continuing to provide pastoral care through social media interferes with the ministry of one’s successor and is a violation of the UCC Ministerial Code.

Vestry Minutes from Monday, January 10, 2022

Present: Attending: Mark Butterworth, Bill Creasey, Alice Ganzley, Deb Hagy, Sue Johannsen, Julie Kundel, Jon Merritt, Mark Odell, Melissa Schumaker, Tim Stelzner, Rich Carroll, Scott Warren, and Pastor Ryan

Treasurer’s Report – Rich Carroll’s Budget report & Year-end totals. \$82,285 end of month total. The Wendell Day Fund was reimbursed \$1731. The roof replacement was paid \$26,877. The surplus for the year is \$5269. The report will be filed for audit.

Endowment Report - Sue Johannsen gave an Endowment Fund report. Alice Ganzley completed the audit and found the books to be in order. The treasurer’s materials will be transferred to Jim Reynolds.

Deacons’ Report - Jon Merritt talked to Carriage House Carpet One for \$7591.13. Carpet One will install safety rubber treads. Mark Butterworth made a motion to recommend to the congregation improvements to the stairs to be funded by the Endowment Fund. The motion failed for lack of a second. Bill Creasey raised a question about following the Bylaws. Our Bylaws require the Endowment Committee to recommend to the Vestry projects to be funded with Endowment Funds. The Endowment Committee will meet and make a recommendation to the Vestry. Once the recommendation is made, a virtual vote by the Vestry will be taken.

Elders’ Report - We continue to work on Safe Church and Employment Policies.

Trustees’ Report – Snow removal, The salt spreader was not functioning on Sunday. Freers and Sons apologized for Sunday. Mike Harrison said he has a new router he is willing to donate to the church. Pastor Ryan will call Mike. Scott Warren is working on volunteers to clear the sidewalks.

Pastor’s Report

- Pastor Ryan’s last day is Feb. 10 / Sunday, Feb. 6. A separation and farewell will be built into the Feb. 6 service. Kim Warren will take the confirmands and their projects. Tim Stelzner and Pat Mundell will learn about live-streaming. We would like to expand this group. Chris Lary is back at home after being hospitalized. Volunteers will be recruited for deep cleaning. Lisa will have surgery on Feb. 3. She will be on medical leave for a few weeks and will work from home until released from the doctor to work in the office. Jan Collinson, Pat Mundell, and Beth Elshoff will help at the church with daily needs. The pastor thanked the Vestry for their work in the past year.

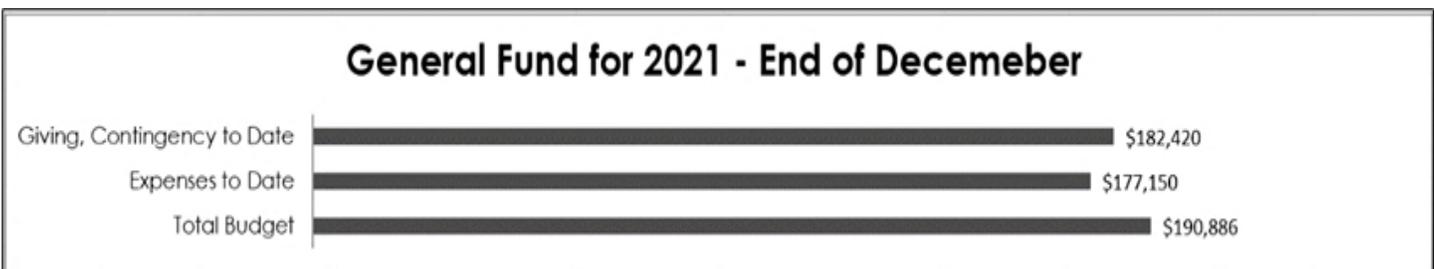
Unfinished Business

- Capital Improvement Planning Committee - on hold except for the stairs
- Annual meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2022. Items that will need to be added will be using Endowment Funds for the stairs (\$7591.13) and pastoral transition expenses (\$5000)/moving expenses (\$10,000). The congregation will have a chance to vote on the Amendment to the Constitution Re. Life Grants.

New Business

- Proposal to Amend Constitution Re. Life Grants. Motion carried.
- Congregational Life Grants – requests are due by the end of February 2022.
- February 6, 2022, servers needed for Communion. Mark Odell and Tim Stelzner.
- February 26, 2022, Harmony Guild request a potluck at their meeting. Motion carried.
- Gilda’s Club is looking for a Location for workshops. The vestry decided not at this time.
- Resignation of John Elshoff from Vestry. Motion carried.
- Vestry nominations & 2022 Deacons, Elders, Trustee positions; Mark Odell (Trustee), Sue Johannsen (Elder) Jon Merritt (Deacon), Alice Ganzley (Deacon) will be leaving the Vestry.
- Pastoral Transition Updates. We will need a full-time settled minister. We will have to find pulpit supply starting in Feb. Compensation for Sunday sermons will need to be determined. If we look for a diverse age range or chair-persons *Mark Odell, Allison Castle, Deb Hagy, Sue Johannsen, Julie Kundel, Melissa Schumaker**. (**Search Committee for a settled pastor.*)
 - o Members who might be willing to serve on the Search Committee /Vestry will be contacted.
 - o The Interim Search Committee will act to find pulpit supply.
 - o The profile completion continues with the work of Rich Carroll, Pat Mundell, and Lisa Allen.
 - o The parsonage’s contract with the Lary’s is up for renewal each March.
 - o Mark Odell asked that Vestry members make contact in the next few days
 - o Mark Odell, Scott Warren, and Tim Stelzner will participate in the Feb. 6th separation service.
- Pastor search committee expenses and new pastor moving expenses. Since the last time, the IRS has changed the tax rules and moving expenses are taxed as income at 15%.

Next Meeting on February 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.



Faith United Events

Weekly Church Calendar

Wednesdays

- 4:15 p. m. - Centering Prayer
- 6:00 p. m. - Youth Christian Education Class
- 7:00 p. m. - Adult Forum Class

Thursday Feb 3rd

- 6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir - practice

Sundays

- 10:00 a. m. – Sunday morning worship
- 11:15 a. m. - Confirmation class
- 11:15 a. m. - Sunday Morning Adult Forum

Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle will meet Thursday, February 3rd at 10 a.m. at the Church.

Program and refreshments by Sylvia Trumbull and Pat Mundell.

For the Program, we ask that each person come to share a special remembrance of a Valentine's Day. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

Harmony Guild

"Come In from the Cold"

Harmony Guild will host its Brunch on Saturday, February 26th, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The brunch is open to ALL ladies and friends of Faith United.

Attendees are asked to sign-up (the signup sheet is in the back of the sanctuary on the red board), bring a donation and a dish to share. We will be holding our collection of "white"/ church supplies.

Please consider bringing one or more items to donate:

- facial tissue (Kleenex)
- liquid hand soap
- hand sanitizer
- paper towels
- stamps
- #10 white envelopes
- 8 1/2 x 11 white copy paper
- 13-gallon tall kitchen trash bags

The topic of sharing for the brunch will be "What I like about living in Iowa." Consider joining us for a morning of good food and friendship. Hope to see you there!

Youth Christian Education

Wednesday night CE classes at 6 p.m., will be by zoom for a few weeks - not sure how many - but for at least 3-4 weeks.

Hopefully, we can be back together again in person by March at the latest - if everyone stays well and the weather gets better.

Your lesson will be delivered to your mailbox or door beforehand. The zoom link will be the same each week - but will be sent out to each family every Wednesday am from the church office.

Please reach out if you are not getting the emails or getting the lessons or if you have any questions.

- Beth and all the CE teachers

Harmony Guild

"Love Meeting"

Harmony Guild will hold it's regular quarterly business meeting/ Senior Resources Love Meeting, Monday, March 7th at 6:30 pm at the church.

Hostesses for the evening are Cindy Rada and Marcy Clausen. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend for an evening of fellowship.

A list of items we will be collecting in February and early March for Senior Resources Adult Day program.

Please consider bringing one or more items to donate:

- Children's and/or Adult coloring books
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Craft paints
- Paintable crafts
- Chocolate and strawberry powdered milk
- Decaffeinated coffee
- Dish soap
- Sugar free candy
- AA and AAA batteries
- 100 calorie packs of cookies
- 100 calorie packs of crackers
- Small containers of fruit
- Baby or adult wipes

Faith United Church Community Thank You Notes

- Dear Faith Friends, Thank you for your prayers and the cards of encouragement and healing during my recovery from hip replacement in August, and after the death of my dad, Paul Zimmerman, in Cedar Falls. His celebration of life service can be viewed on Dahlfuneralhoe.com. I really appreciate all your care and concern. - *Sincerely, Carla Reynolds.*
- I wish you God's richest blessings in your new calling. From my perspective, your ministry here brought a renewed calmness and unity to our congregation. Your style of ministry was a great blessing. God bless you richly in your future ministry. - *Alan Arkema*
- Thanks to our many church friends during the past year for the many prayers, cards, remembrances, food, and other acts of kindness as a result of the illness and passing of my wife, Sharon, and now the passing of my mother-in-law "Tee" Beckey. It will always be remembered. - *Mark A. Butterworth and family*
- Faith Family, We really appreciate your continued support of Dalton and Alexandra. We are proud both of them will graduate from college in May. Faith UCC will always be their faith family. - *Janet Sichterman*
- Thank you so much for the lovely gift pack! In the midst of a stressful semester, a parcel of goodies was a surprising but welcome gift. The snacks helped me bring my energy whilst studying, and the supplies saved me a run to the store. Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness. - *Alexandra Sichterman*
- Thank you to Faith UCC for the school supplies, I appreciate the gift. - *Dalton Sichterman*
- Dear Friends, on behalf of the Muscatine CROP Hunger Walk, it's my privilege to share with you a check for \$97.75. the committee has indicated its desire to earmark a portion of its income for your work. Thank you and God bless you for all you are doing in your community to help those in need. - *Rick Santos, Church World Service.*
- Thank you to our team effort in keeping the sidewalks safe during the snow and ice season, Dave Wangberg, Brenden Schumaker, Mark Odell, Scott Warren. - *Faith UCC*
- Thank you to our Communion servers: Tim Stelzner & Mark Butterworth Liturgists: Tim Stelzner and Tom Emerick. Ushers and greeters Tom Emerick and Mark Odell.
- Thank you to our Vestry members that have fulfilled their terms, Mark Odell, Sue Johannsen, Alice Ganzley, and Jon Merritt. Also, for John Elshoff for his year on the vestry.
- Thank you to Pastor Ryan, for blessing us with leadership and guidance throughout the time you served as Pastor at Faith. I wish for blessings to you and your family. - *Lisa Allen.*
- Dear members, of Faith UCC, we have received your gifts for Nov. and Dec. And we want to thank you for your continued giving. Each dollar makes a difference in our shared ministry and cares for the poor through the neighbors in Need fund, and OCS+WM. Thank you very much for your generosity. OCWM \$500.00 monthly donations, \$330.00 Thank Offering, and \$735.00 Neighbors in Need Offering - *Kendy Miller, ACM*
- Dear Faith United, Thank you, your dedication to making sure children are fed during life's unexpected challenges is inspiring. You're part of a community-wide effort that strengthens nearly 55,000 children who experience hunger each year in our 23-county service area. Thank you for your recent monthly gift of \$410.88 to support the Bags of Blessings Backpack program with us. With gratitude, Leslie Corlett, Director of Corporate and Foundation Giving. Fiver Bend Food Bank.
- Dear friends, thank you for your recent donation to Emmaus Café "Grab and Go." Because of Covid, we are unable to give a sit-down hot meal on Sunday noon, as we have done for 21 years. You have been faithful supporters of Emmaus Café', and many have been blessed. Sincerely, Shirley Dillon.
- Thanks to everyone for their cards, notes, and expressions of sympathy at the death of my father on Dec. 20th. It helps to know there are so many who care. Beth Elshoff

FAITH UNITED MEMBER AND FRIENDS

Birthdays

- 1 – Dalton Sichterman
- 3 – John Muir
- 4 – Mary Odell
- 7 – Norma Harris
- 7 – Cindi Kautz
- 9 – Tammy Ales
- 11 – Scott Ingstad
- 16 – Brad Soule
- 16 – Sunny Hubner
- 18 – Sarah Harvey
- 19 – Tyler Hagy
- 19 – Haley Trueg
- 21 – John Weaver
- 22 – Ben Hanssen
- 22 – Dan Huss
- 22 – Larry Clausen
- 23 – Rick Smith
- 23 – Cindy Taylor
- 23 – Doug Tooman
- 23 – Doug Littrel
- 26 – Nancy Stych
- 26 – Lauren Kundel

Anniversaries

- 14 – Todd & Nealene Schneider
- 19 - Lisa & William Shea
- 23 – Paul & Tammy Ales
- 25 – John & Pam Ritchhart

Birthday Card Shower

February 7
Norma Harris
519 Leroy Street
Muscatine IA 52761

February 21
John Weaver
2674 Huck Finn Dr.
Muscatine IA 52761

February 22
Ben Hanssen
2202 Oak Valley Drive
Muscatine IA 52761

February 22
Dan Huss
1730 Timberline Drive
Muscatine IA 52761

Congratulations

Luke Ales Baptism ceremony was on January 23, with his parents Abe & Kristin Ales, and brother Cason.

Grandparents are Paul and Tammy Ales and Steve and Star Evans.

Sincere Condolences

Please keep Sandy, Randy, Sue, and Connie in your prayers. Bernard C. Roth, 86, of Muscatine, passed away on Sunday, January 16, 2022, at Addington Place of Muscatine, due to complications of ALS. A small graveside service has taken place, and a larger memorial service will be held later in the year. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Bernard's name to Faith United Church of Christ, First Presbyterian Church, or Research ALS. The Ralph J. Wittich-Riley-Freers Funeral Home will be in charge of arrangements. Cards for condolences can be sent to Sandra Roth & family, Apt. 207 Addington Place, 3515 Diana Queen Dr., Muscatine IA 52761

Please keep Carla Reynolds and her family in your prayers, on the death of her father, Paul A. Zimmerman, 91, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, Thursday, January 6. Memorials may be directed to Christian Crusaders or Nazareth Lutheran Church, both at 7401 University Avenue in Cedar Falls, IA 50613. Jim & Carla's address to send cards to is 2501 Mulberry Ave. Muscatine, IA 52761.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

All who are sick or with injuries, and all their caregivers. Lane Clausen, Alan Arkema, Margaret Heerd, Kelly Ingstad, Robert Meyer, Keith & Nancy Stych, Sandra Roth, Myung Sharar, Mary Downing, Jim Elshoff, Cory Tomlin, Carla Roozing, Chad Morgan, Phil Carver, Mary Sherer, Julie Emerick Kundel, Chris Lary.

MCSA Sponsors for February 2022

- Feb 6 - Sylvia Trumbull in honor of the love we share with one another
- Feb 6 - Faith office in honor of Pastor Ryan and his Ministry
- Feb 13 - Cynthia Kautz in celebration of Joseph's Birthday
- Feb 13 - Barbara Woodstra in Celebration of Great Grandson
- Feb 20 - Cynthia Kautz in celebration of Max's Birthday
- Feb 20 - Barbara Woodstra in Celebration of Great Grandson
- Feb 27 - Alice Ganzley in memory of loved ones

FAITH UNITED CHURCH

Faith United Worship Service Calendar

Feb 6 th	Pastor Ryan's Farewell Service, join us on his last Sunday at Faith.
Feb 13 th	Barb Muhs - Sunday Worship Service
Feb 20 th	Linda Hunsaker - Sunday Worship Service
Feb 27 th	Marcy Heil - Sunday Worship Service

Church Office in February

Lisa will be on a leave for part of February and will be working from home.

If you are in need of anything, please email the church at secretary@faithuccmuscatine.com or call the office. Jan Collinson will be helping in the mornings, and Pat Mundell and Beth Elshoff will cover the afternoons for Church needs.

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.

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

ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS
YOU CAN GIVE SOMEONE IS
THANKING THEM FOR BEING
PART OF YOUR LIFE.

Pastor Ryan's Farewell Service

Join us on his last Sunday at Faith on February 6th, we will have a reception after the service so everyone has a chance to say farewell and wish him well in his new ministry.

MCSA Support A Room



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](#).

Special Offering February 6th

Seminarians are taking big financial risks, so they can serve the needs of the church. We as a church can help them. If you would like to give, please make your check out to Faith U. C. C with FFLS in the memo. Mail or drop it off at the office at 3307 Mulberry Ave. Muscatine IA 52761. Thank you.

A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR EDUCATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FUTURE MINISTERS

FUNDING FUTURE LEADERSHIP



FEBRUARY 2022

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