



# 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.faihuccmuscatine.com](http://www.faihuccmuscatine.com)

### FAITH U.C.C STAFF

Ryan Downing  
Church Pastor

[pastorryan@faihuccmuscatine.com](mailto:pastorryan@faihuccmuscatine.com)  
Phone: 319-594-2671

Lisa Allen

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

## Pastoral Fund Brings Christmas Joy & Hope

Back in the spring when it became evident that the pandemic was going to cause a great deal of hardship for people in various ways, the Vestry approved the creation of a Pastoral Emergency Aid Fund through a Congregational Life Grant. Since then, the Fund has disbursed additional support to those groups who are on the front lines of helping the most vulnerable people in our community: MCSA, Food Pantry, Domestic Abuse Shelter, and the Community Diaper Bank.

In December, as Christmas drew near, our own Deb Hagy, a social worker and supervisor for Families First, spoke with Pastor Ryan about the idea of helping some of their client families. From those discussions came a donation of \$2,100.00 from the Pastoral Emergency Aid Fund to make sure those families had toys and a good meal for Christmas. (see Deb's letter).

To date, \$8,300.00 from the fund has been used to help those who are helping others in our community (Including the donation for Family First).

JANUARY 2021

# VOICE OF FAITH

## Youth Project Helps to Spread Christmas Joy!



The Youth Groups at Faith UCC helped to spread some Christmas joy this year by filling Secret Santa stockings with little gifts. Pictured is Sylvia Trumbull finding her stocking!

December found the Christian Education families making Secret Santa stockings for other members of the congregation. The families made the stockings from a kit and then filled them with treats, ornaments, and all kinds of other goodies.

Beth Elshoff, Pat Mundell, and Pastor Ryan then took those stockings and shared them with other members of the church family the second week of December. Over 30 stockings were made and shared.

Kudos to the kids and their families for the GREAT job at spreading Christmas JOY, which did just happen to be our December theme for our Christian Ed. lessons!!!

- Beth Elshoff

## A Letter of Thanks

Faith Family,

I would like to thank everyone for the amazing donation of funds to provide Christmas gifts and a Christmas meal for 14 Families First families and their 35 children this Christmas Season.



Your generosity is truly shining Christ's light into these family homes and making the lives of these children brighter. Without this donation, many of these families would have gone without the ability to provide Christmas for their children. Your Christian outreach truly displays the "Love of Neighbor" Pastor Ryan often speaks of and fulfills an unmet need in our community during these trying times.

My staff also wants to say a personal thank you for brightening their Christmas Season by allowing them to shop for the kiddos on their caseloads and to surprise families with unexpected food and gifts that demonstrate the true meaning behind Christmas and Christ's love. Your donation was an uplifting gift to my workers as well as the families they serve and greatly appreciated.

- Deb Hagy

## MONTHLY MUSINGS FROM PASTOR RYAN

"I want to know Christ.... Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."  
*– Philippians 3:10-14*

Sometimes when I read Paul's letters and those that are attributed to him, I cannot help but think what an over-achiever he was! And then I think, does he really have to set the bar so high!?

Sure, we all want to "know Christ," but "forgetting what lies behind" and straining forward to what lies ahead" all seems so admirably daunting. Paul then speaks of goals and prizes, and that is where I sometimes get stuck.

When I was a boy, I played basketball, baseball, football, and ran track. I received all the participation trophies and a few times a team I was on even won the championship. However, never did I win the prize for MVP or for greatest individual performance. It was not until my senior year in High School that I received a real prize for individual performance and that was the prize for "Excellence in the Field of Social Studies." I received an engraved watch. It stopped working a few months after graduation.

The prize that Paul speaks of, however, is a much more meaningful and longer lasting (if not mysterious) than the kinds of prizes we tend to strive for. Paul speaks of "the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Forget about trophies, medals, and cash prizes here. This isn't a pep talk from *Rudy* or *Hoosiers*, and this isn't a prize that anyone earns because they are somehow better or even holier than everyone else.

"The heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus," is just that. It is a calling. It is a gift, that we, to paraphrase Jesus himself, must have eyes to see and ears to hear. While the heavenly call certainly has cosmic meaning to it, the heavenly call of Jesus is also very earthy. God in Christ Jesus calls us to love one another now in this life. To know Christ, in the way that Paul writes about, is to know suffering, both our own and the suffering of others, and to transcend that suffering with loving hope. Or maybe it is hopeful loving. Either way, the prize comes in all the ways we join with Christ in the healing of the world around us.

So, yes, it is a high and sometimes challenging bar that Paul sets for us, but it is also a reminder that to "know Christ" is not some one-and-done kind of affair. God's love is not achieved. It is not a trophy we hold high. God's love is a gift that has been shared with us so that we might share that same love with others in ways that might help everyone come out a little more ahead. What might that look like? For a few examples just look at the "Thank You" section in our newsletter.

### **The nomination of Officers for the year 2021 and Committee Volunteers**

YOU ARE THE CHURCH! If you are interested in being a part of the church through the vestry or one of our many committees, please contact Pastor Ryan by January 11.

[Nominating Committee Listing](#)

### **Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 31, 2021**

Our annual meeting to elect new Vestry members will be at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2021. This will be on Zoom. A link will be emailed to everyone closer to January 31.

### **Annual Meeting Booklet**

This year we will be emailing the booklet. If you want a hardcopy, please email or call the office and leave a message for us to contact you so we can make arrangements for you to pick one up. They should be ready and available January 25<sup>th</sup>. When you receive the Annual Booklet, please check your contact information in the back of the book (Members). If it is not correct, please call or email the office with corrections by January 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

### **Church Building Reminder**

All in-person church gatherings are suspended until such time that we and public health agencies deem it safe to gather again. Only essential church staff will have scheduled access to the building. If you need something from the building, please contact Pastor Ryan, Lisa, or Pat to make arrangements before stopping by at the church. We are working to accommodate your needs & safety.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE U.C.C.

**Congregational Budget Approval Meeting January 20, 2020**

Pastor Ryan called the Zoom meeting to order at 11:32. A requirement of ten percent of membership is needed for quorum, so quorum is twenty-four members and more than twenty-four attended.

Rich Carroll, treasurer, explained that the current year's spending is estimated to be \$167,000; spending was down due the pandemic. There is an anticipated surplus, but the contingency fund was spent. For 2021, the budget is \$191,000. At this time, members pledged \$148,500 with an additional \$15,000 anticipated, as well as \$6000 plate and miscellaneous offering. The contingency fund will be \$22,000 if needed. Sharon Hanssen made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Second by Jon Merritt. Motion carried.

Tom Emerick motion to approve up to \$22,000 as a contingency fund from the Endowment Fund. John Elshoff second. The motion carried.

**Special Offering – Blanket Sunday January 10, 2021**

We can be our strongest, our kindest and our most Christ-like when we are connected. Think of the CWS Blanket that the children pass around the church every year on Blanket Sunday. Think of all the individual pieces of thread and wool being pulled together to cover someone with warmth! Without any one of those pieces - without you! - the story would not be the same. The blankets we help to purchase are distributed throughout the world helping families who are going through hard times. Help cover those in need again this year.



**Note:** Please have your check written out to Faith UCC and in the memo write Blanket Sunday. You may mail the check to 3307 Mulberry, or you may also drop it off at the church. Just ring the bell at the front door or drop it in the mailbox with the Faith sign on it (open the front of the box and push your envelope to the back).

**Statement of Solidarity with Temple Emanuel in Davenport**

*At its December meeting, the Vestry approved this statement of solidarity with Temple Emanuel in Davenport after it was vandalized. The statement was shared publicly on our Facebook page and was also shared in a letter to Rabbi Linda Bertenthal of Temple Emanuel.*

Faith United Church of Christ in Muscatine, Iowa, stands in solidarity with Temple Emanuel in Davenport, and we strongly condemn that act of vandalism and religious bigotry that was perpetrated on them on Thursday, December 10, the first day of Hanukkah. In this season of peace and goodwill, we once again celebrate the power of love over hate, and we commit ourselves, along with other faith traditions and spiritual paths, to being a light of hope, peace, joy, and love in our world today.

- Vestry of Faith United Church of Christ, December 14, 2020

**White Privilege: Let's Talk**

On January 13, the Wednesday Night Adult Forum will begin a seven-week conversation about race. Using the UCC's curriculum *White Privilege: Let's Talk - A Resource for Transformational Dialogue*, we will engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race. In a time when race relations, both systematic and local, are once again on the front burner, we invite everyone to participate, explore, learn, share and listen. The Forum meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. If you plan on participating, please inform Pastor Ryan or Lisa in the church office so we know how much material we need to prepare.



## Vestry Minutes from Monday, December 14, 2020

**Attending:** Pastor Ryan Downing, Jon Merritt, Mark Butterworth, Rich Carroll, Mark Odell, Cindy Rada, Tim Stelzner, Linda Harden, Melissa Schumaker, and Scott Warren.

**Absent:** Alice Ganzley and Sue Johannsen.

**Trustees' Report:** Scott Warren reported they fixed the outdoor light. Mark Odell talked to Chris about snow removal expectations. Dave Wangberg did some maintenance work on the furnace.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Pastor Ryan shared thoughts on dealing with Covid during the Advent season and seeing hope on the horizon with a vaccine on the way. Members who have had Covid are doing well.
- We lost Gwen Hansen to Covid, and a small, private service (8 people) was held at the church. Masks were worn and social distance was observed.
- Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> will bring our church service with a Christmas program, the Congregational meeting, as well as "The Longest Night" service for those who are having a hard time with the season.
- A traditional Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:00 pm on YouTube.
- Wednesday Night Adult Forum will be a curriculum on White privilege.
- Pastor Ryan will be working on putting together a Zoom friendly, curriculum for our youth.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Building usage/in-person gatherings during a pandemic– We will maintain our current policy and revisit it in March.
- Downstairs Restroom Remodel- Tim has contacted Rivo for an estimate.
- New carpet estimates – Vestry members need to come in and vote for one of three samples so estimates can be finalized.
- Sanctuary Space: If we were to replace the carpet in the sanctuary, what other modifications might we want to consider? We would like to use the next few months to come up with a portfolio of layouts and concepts of other churches.
- Virtual Christmas Program- Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Ryan is collecting videos from members and looking for readers to read the Christmas story.
- Stewardship – Update on Pledging Totals- Currently pledges are a little down for next year, with 20-30 possible pledges still out.

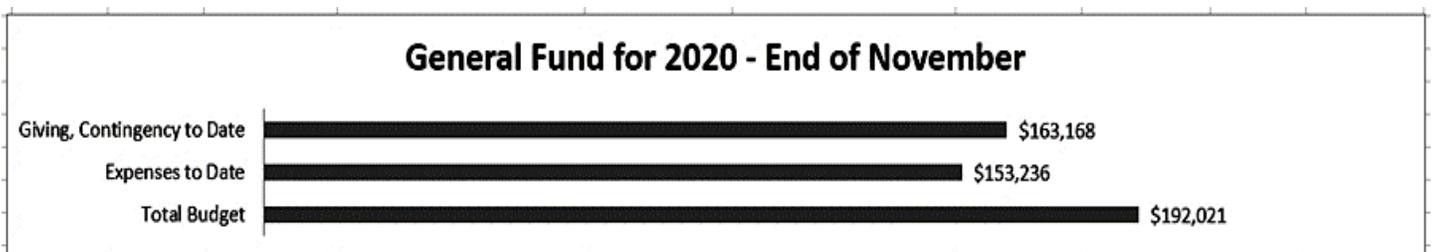
**New Business**

- Finalizing 2021 Budget- A motion was made by Mark Odell to move forward with the budget that has been prepared by Rich Carroll. The motion was seconded by John Merritt.
- Vestry nominations & 2021 Deacons, Elders, Trustee positions (Carla, Linda, and Cindy will be going off the Vestry). Deb Hagy has volunteered, and we are looking for more members to fill those seats.
- Annual Reports need to be turned into the office before December 18<sup>th</sup>, unless it requires a bank statement, then extended to Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Parsonage flooring repairs- Phelps installed flooring last Fall and the job was not done well. The flooring has gaps and needs repairs. Mark Odell will follow up.

**Coming Events:**

- Christmas Eve Service Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. on YouTube.
- Blanket Sunday Special offering January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Annual Meeting Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Sue Johannsen has proposed that we invite UCC Tri-Conference General Minister, Bridget Stevens, to talk with members of the congregation about racism after the adult forum works through the white privilege curriculum. Vestry supports this invitation.
- Deb Hagy has requested \$2,100, of assistance for her agency, Families First, to provide a Christmas dinner for 14 families and toys for 35 children. Vestry unanimously approved.
- The Vestry would like to send a letter of support to Temple Emanuel, in Davenport, in response to the recent vandalism that occurred. Pastor Ryan will be putting together a statement for Vestry to approve.
- Pat Mundell has stepped up to fill the role of financial secretary. Jon Merritt made a motion to appoint Pat, and Melissa Schumaker seconded. It will be voted on at the Congregational meeting.

Next Meeting on January 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.



Faith United Church Community

Weekly Church Event Calendar

**Tuesday**

12:00 p.m. - NO Bible Study with Pastor Ryan. Bible Study will begin again on January 12, 2021

**Wednesday**

- 12:15 p.m. - Tai Chi with Caleen Pagel on our [Facebook page](#)
- 4:15 p. m. - Centering Prayer on the [Facebook page](#)
- 5:30 p. m. - Early Elementary C.E. Class on Zoom
- 6:00 p. m. - Middle Elementary C.E. Class on Zoom
- 6:30 p. m. - Older Elementary C.E. Class on Zoom
- 7:00 p. m. - Adult Forum Class on Zoom

Email the office if you would like to receive weekly email reminders to join one of these events.

**Sunday**

- 10:00 a.m. - Sunday morning worship on [Facebook page](#) & [YouTube](#)
- 10:45 a.m. - Sunday morning Adult Forum on Zoom

**Do You Remember?**

This year we hope to have a picture in each newsletter from an event that happened at our church in the past. If you have a picture you would like to submit, please send it to Pat Mundell at [pmundell@machlink.com](mailto:pmundell@machlink.com) with a brief description of what was taking place and we'll try to get it in a newsletter. Any questions, please contact Pat. *We may not get your picture in the same month you submit it, but we will eventually get it in.*

**COME IN FROM THE COLD**

has always been a favorite Saturday morning gathering of the women of our church (members and friends). In 2014 we had a program on APRONS. Each person was asked to wear their favorite apron to the event, and we probably talked about it too? We do know that this picture was submitted to the Quad City Times, but unfortunately it never appeared in the paper. It was a fun morning for all who attended. Good food, good fellowship, and good conversation!



**Christmas Giving 2020—Keeping Our Light Burning Bright.**

The outreach committee would like to extend a warm thank you for your donations to the many local missions you supported this Christmas season.

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Food Pantry November Challenge & Christmas Advent Giving total: \$3,410.00 |                                |
| MCSA Giving: \$ 875.00   | Muskie Locker: \$110.00        |
| Veterans: \$165.00   | Emmaus Café Giving: \$190.00   |
| Domestic Abuse Shelter: \$470.00   | Church World Services: \$40.00 |

For a total of \$ 5,260.00. Thanks to ALL who contributed to the Local Outreach. *Thank you for supporting these incredibly special projects during the Christmas season.*

**Christmas Outreach Giving Garden**

- Dave & Margie Kundel in memory of Trace Kundel
- Gary & Sheryl Lindley in memory of Pam Nienhueser
- Larry & Marcy Clausen in honor of Faith UCC
- Sue Muir in celebration of family
- Steve & Cindy Rada in memory of our parents
- Alice Ganzley in memory of family
- Virginia Cooper in honor of family
- Ben & Sharon Hanssen in honor of family
- Bernard & Sandra Roth in honor of the true meaning of Christmas
- Donna Reed in celebration of Faith UCC
- Sylvia Trumbull in memory of dear departed loved ones
- Dan & Alice Huss in honor of our children & grandchildren
- Richard & Mary Downing in honor of Pastor Ryan Downing
- Frantz & Mary Silberger in honor of the Faith family
- Mike & Lanette Morgan in honor of health care & front-line essential workers
- Wendy Welsch in honor of Rev. Jim & Kathy Trosen
- Bill & Kay Creasey in honor of Faith United Church of Christ in Muscatine



**Thank you!**

## Thank You Notes to Our Members & Friends

- Thanks to Sylvia Trumbull for the beautiful outside wreath, it's worth a drive to the church to see it.
- Thank you for the college care package! It means a lot to have such a wonderful family thinking of me. I can't wait to read the book in my free time and enjoy the snacks. - *Erin Elshoff*
- Thank you to Chris & Carson Lary, and Pat Mundell for decorating the Sanctuary.
- Thank you for contributing to the November 22nd special offering for the Thank Offering that helps community service projects of the local churches that are members of the association of the UCC of the Iowa Conference. We collected \$105.00 for this ministry. - *Faith United*
- From Our House to Yours = Christmas program! Thank you to everyone that participated and make us all feel a little closer to our church family after a year of social distancing ourselves in 2020.
- Special Christmas Offering for Veterans of the cross. On behalf of the hundreds of clergy and lay employees and their families whose lives were touched by your support of last year's Christmas Fund Offering, we collected \$155.00.
- Dear Faith Family, Pastor Ryan and Faith Vestry, Thank you so much for the lovely basket of goodies. It arrived at the perfect time when I was really stressing out over the election. The care package was exactly what I needed. I appreciate all the support you have all given me during my years as Auditor. I look forward to seeing everyone once we can return to our normal church activities. - *Leslie Soule*.
- Dear Faith, thank you for such a kind and thoughtful cards, I am so grateful for my connection with our church family back home. I hope to see everyone soon, until then stay safe & healthy. - *Tia Hagy*.
- Thank you for all the great Birthday Wishes, they make my day, - *Darlene Vance*.
- Dear Friends, Thank you for your \$810.00 donation to the MCSA Domestic Violence Shelter. We are pleased to accept your contribution and will use it toward sheltering and providing support for women and children who find themselves in domestic violence situations. This contribution will assist in enabling them to start a new life free of violence. - *Sincerely, Jennifer Leirness*.
- Dear Friends, Thank you for your \$800.00 contribution to the Food Pantry. This we will use toward food for those in need in Muscatine County. - *Jennifer Leirness*.
- Dear Friends, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your donation of \$800.00 to the Family Shelter Room #5. We will accept your contribution and will use this gift wisely in support of those staying at MCSA, providing housing, basic health care, educational and support services for those in need in Muscatine County. - *Sincerely, Jennifer Leirness*.
- Thank you for your gift to our church's wider mission, you are helping the entire UCC BE Church and be best able to support our congregations, pastors, and ministry areas. I look forward to being in ministry in 2021 & would love to hear how I can best support you! , Rev. Ellis, Associate Conf. Minister.
- Thank you to Beth Elshoff, Pat Mundell, and Pastor Ryan for delivering all the stockings that the children made for our members and friends of the church.
- Thank you to everyone that bought gift cards through Scrip. The fundraiser collected \$184.10!
- Thank you for all the Birthday cards and happy wishes for my Dec. 1 Birthday. The planned "big bash" for this banner year didn't happen, but your thoughts made it a special day. Alice Huss.
- On behalf of the Muscatine CROP Hunger Walk, it's my privilege to share with you the additional amount of \$58.50 for Bag of Blessings. The CROP committee has indicated its desire to earmark a portion of its income for your work with Bag of Blessings. Thank you and God bless you for all you are doing in your community to help those in need. Yours in Partnership Rev. John L. McCullough.
- We are so blessed at the MCSA Domestic Abuse Shelter to have the continued support from your Church. We can't thank you enough for the air mattresses and batteries to give to our clients when they move out to start a life free of violence. Thank you so much for your support, Judy Yates.
- Dear Children of Faith United, thank you so very much for the delightful Christmas stocking filled with surprises. I know how much I will enjoy the hot chocolate, the cookies, and candy while thinking of all of you. May God bless you, have a Happy Christmas and a great 2021. With love, Shirley Johnson.
- Thank you for your generous support of the Neighbors in Need special offering. One-third of the funds raised go to support of the council for American Indian Ministry & makes a significant difference within our conferences. Thank you for helping us all Be the Church. Rev. Ellis Arnold, Associate Conf. Minister.
- Thank you for the Christmas program, It displayed the versatility, creativeness and passion of our church members and to our youth. Special thanks to Pastor Ryan and his tech support for putting together this special and unique service. Thank You, *John & Judi Jones*.
- Thank you to all the vestry members for all the leadership you showed during this past year, and with learning new ways to Be the Church. - *Faith UCC*.
- Thank you to all of you for such a kind Christmas gift this year! - *Pastor Ryan, Jen, Althea, and Naomi*.
- Thank you for the many gifts that were given to the staff at Faith, we are grateful for your kindness.
- Thank you to everyone that shared their musical talents on the Christmas Eve Service. Bill Creasey, Addison Weggen, Lauren Kundel, Julie Kundel, Tammy Ales, Judy Wilson, Janelle Wilson-DuSavage, Connie Miller, John Jones, and Pastor Ryan for all the work behind the scenes with recording/editing.
- Dear Faith, we are pleased to accept your MCSA Food Pantry contribution and will use it toward food for those in need in Muscatine County. Your support of \$3000.00 also encourages us in our efforts to empower people to work out of poverty. Sincerely, Jennifer Leirness, Resource Development Officer.
- Thank you for all the wonderful Birthday cards that I received. I am especially grateful this year since we are unable to gather and see one another in person because of the Covid Crisis. - *Donna Reed*.

FAITH UNITED MEMBERS & FRIENDS

January Birthday Card Shower

January 17th  
Sandra Roth  
5 Geneva Drive  
Muscatine IA 52761

January 20th  
Sharon Hanssen  
2202 Oak Valley Drive  
Muscatine IA 52761

January Anniversaries

18 – Justin & Lena Botkin

Congratulations

Jaxon Ryan was born to Alicia Hardin and Dan Baker of Marion on November 28 at 7:54 pm. Weighing in at 8 lbs. and 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Bryan and Aimee of North Liberty and great grandparents are Bernie and Mary and Linda Hardin. We thank God for bringing this bundle of joy to us in 2020!

January Birthdays

- 3 – Matt Weggen
- 4 – Pat Burnette
- 10 – Marcie Hanssen
- 12 – Windy Welsch
- 13 – Chris Rada
- 14 – Rich Carroll
- 14 – Tory Hunt
- 15 – Carla Reynolds
- 16 – Bernie Hardin
- 17 – Dustin Plemmons
- 17 – Sandra Roth
- 18 – Sue Smith
- 20 – Sharon Hanssen
- 23 – Tonya Estabrook
- 23 – Don Frost
- 23 – Mike Harrison
- 23 – Gary Lewis
- 23 – Steve Rada
- 24 – Alec Chartier
- 26 – Todd Schneider
- 29 – Sharon Butterworth
- 30 – Diane Littrel

Condolences

Sympathy to the family of Gloria Hart who passed away on December 7th in Muscatine at the age of 80 years. Gloria is survived by her husband Ron, daughter Amanda and son Travis and three grandsons. Gloria was a member of the Faith United Church.

Please Keep In Your Prayers

All who are sick or ill and all their caregivers. Grace Dugleby, Marletta Warren, Kathy Harris, Bob & Louise Harrison, Becky McCaw, Sandra Roth, Lane Clausen, Arnott family, Carol Schlagenhauser, Margaret Heerd, Kelly Ingstad, Alan Arkema, Bob Sharar, Neal Kleindolph, Bernard Roth, Mike Crahan, Sharon Butterworth, Shirley Johnson, Curtis Muntz, and Tory Hunt.

MCSA Sponsors for January 2021

- January 3 - Susan And Doug Krieger for a new year of Hope for our weary world!
- January 10 - Jeff and Barbara Noble in honor of Kate and Nick Pierson
- January 10 - Jeff and Barbara Noble in honor of Sarah, Tom, E, and LW Hagerty
- January 17 - Bill & Kay Creasey in memory of Daryl & Alice Wenger and William C Creasey
- January 24 - Christmas gift in honor of Pastor Ryan and his ministry
- January 24 - Mike & Lanette Morgan in honor of health care and front line essential workers
- January 31 - Janet & Jim Sichterman in honor of the children
- January 31- Donna Reed in honor of Sharon Butterworth for her dedication as our Financial Secretary through the many years of service.

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

## MCSA Support A Room

For a \$25.00 donation you can sponsor room #5 for someone at the local shelter. You may pick a Sunday of your choice.



See Lisa in the Church office for available Sundays in 2020

or check out this weblink to the list of choices on the "Signup Genius" [Website](#).

Please write the check out to Faith UCC, and in the memo you may add MCSA donation.

Thank you for helping with this Outreach ministry 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.

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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



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

JANUARY 2021



### Special Offering in February

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**