



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

FAITH U.C.C STAFF

Ryan Downing
Church Pastor
pastorryan@faihuccmuscatine.com
Phone: 319-594-2671

Lisa Allen
Office Coordinator
faihuccsecretary@machlink.com

Pat Mundell
Congregational Life Coordinator
pmundell@machlink.com

Beth Elshoff
Children's Education Coordinator
bethelshoff@machlink.com



WORSHIP OUTDOORS!

On Sunday, June 20, we will take our worship outdoors in the church parking lot. Just bring a lawn chair, and we'll gather together under open skies and in fresh air. The service will also be livestreamed on the church's Facebook page. If the forecast calls for rain, we will move the service indoors and communicate that to everyone via a email at least 24 hours in advance.



CHURCH SUMMER CAMPS
See options on page 6.

VOICE OF FAITH



Faith United will be hosting its own VBS this summer. The "Rocky Railroad" is open to all children from preschool to fifth grade. Through Bible stories, crafts, games, and food we'll learn how Jesus' power pulls us through life.

The train will board every Wednesday from June 16 – July 14 at 5:30 p.m. Each evening will begin with a simple meal, and then we'll pull back into the station and end at 7:30 p.m. All our activities will be in the church yard (weather permitting). Masks will be required whenever indoors.

Signup for the VBS attendance [Here](#). For a copy of the Christian Education Registration form look [Here](#).

Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact C.E. Director Beth Elshoff.



VBS Supplies Needed

- **Empty spools of thread** (for smokestacks & train wheels)
- **Small boxes** to use for train cars (tea bag, aspirin, Mac and cheese, rice, Girl Scout cookie, sandwich bag, Velveeta cheese ones would be perfect, checkbook boxes. Kleenex boxes if they aren't too big) Please leave all the flaps on if possible - Or save the flaps and we'll tape back together. (If in doubt about size - drop it in and I'll recycle if it's too big.)
- **TP and paper towel tubes**
- **Clean paint sticks or yardsticks** for train tracks
- **Large Pringle cans** (for tanker cars) with lids or any other plastic container about that size like frozen juice containers with lids.
- **Pop/Water bottle caps** (smaller than milk jug caps)

Items can be dropped off at the church, or you can contact Beth Elshoff about picking them up.

Monthly Musings From Pastor Ryan

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of God's glory" (Isaiah 6:3), the prophet Isaiah hears in a vision in which God's glory fills all the earth, not just the temple space in which he stands. God's glory touches everything from the smallest of creatures to the heavens above. God's glory becomes the new normal, should anyone have the eyes and ears to notice it.

What an amazing vision and revelation! Indeed, only a poet like Isaiah could do it any justice. So, what if it really were true? What if God's glory truly does fill all the earth? Imagine every morning waking up and seeing everything and everyone you encounter as being touched by God's grace. The sky above our heads that brings us wind and rain and the passing of the seasons would be holy. The sun in the sky that gives us light and warmth would be holy. Friends and family who care for and about us would be holy. Strangers who make things, create art, grow our foods, and make their way in life just as we all do, would be holy. All these things would be holy not in and of themselves but because they had been touched and even blessed by God and God's glory and God's holiness.

What if? What if we could see everything in this life as being touched by God's holy hand? Maybe we wouldn't take so much for granted. Maybe we, as a society and a world, would take better care of our natural resources and the earth. Maybe we would really begin to see everyone as neighbors and children of a loving God, regardless of skin color, religion, sexuality, or borders. Maybe we might find little joys and even a little holiness in everyday experiences like sitting with a friend, greeting a stranger, or just watching the sky be transformed like the canvas of a fine artist, creating one masterpiece after another, day after day.

So often, we can easily miss such small, holy moments. Whether we get distracted by worries or our smartphones, it can be easy to miss that God is with us always, and God is always calling out to us, just as God did with Isaiah. We go to church, we worship, maybe we get recharged for the week ahead, and then once we're back at home, school, or work, we might think we're attuned to God and doing God's will, but we miss out on God's presence. We don't hear God's voice amid all the noise. We see the brokenness and the busyness of life, and we miss the glory and the holiness.

Oftentimes, we equate holiness and glory with what we might call the otherness, mystery, and transcendence of God. Holiness is always beyond us. Holiness is up there, just out of reach. Glory and holiness, we all too often assume, is what we get but brief tastes of here in this life but will be our eternal reward in the next.

Isaiah's vision, however, invites us to look for God's glory and holiness not just up there but all around us and in the lives of others. All of which again begs the question, "What if it is true that the whole earth, including all people, are full of God's glory?" What if we were to see everyone as being touched by God's holy hand? Might we not be so quick to judge others? Might we be a little more inclined to think of others first? Might we feel a need to understand others a little better? Might we go a little easier on our own selves and not get trapped into thinking that our own value and worth are dependent on performance, efficiency, and accomplishment? If anything, perhaps we might come to see that God's glory and holiness doesn't put God way up in heaven and beyond our reach. Instead, God's holiness is all around us. God is present in every minute and every second of our days. And God, as God did with the prophet Isaiah, calls out to each of us to see, honor, and promote that holiness wherever it is found.

Sometimes, in God's eyes, the new normal is really not that much different from the old normal. Sometimes the new normal is just another opportunity to live more fully into the holiness that God has already blessed us with. Sometimes, if we begin to more fully live as though the truth were true, what becomes normal is the fact that we are to treat one another and all creation as holy.

Centering Prayer - On Wednesday, at 4:15 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, come on over! Face coverings will be required. The centering prayer session will also continue to be live-streamed on the church's Facebook page.

News From Around The U.C.C

JAM 2021 Joint Annual Meeting

(JAM) 2021 is just around the corner! Registration opens on June 1st and will close on June 24th. From June 1st to June 18th, you can register for only \$20 a person. After the 18th, it will be \$25 a person to register.

JAM 2021 is happening this year on June 25th and 26th on a completely virtual platform. The event will include wonderful speakers, updates on the Conference, trivia and a dance party, time for worship, business meetings, an article study, and more!

Learn more about JAM 2021 [HERE](#).

Faith UCC
Green Team
Mission Statement

Caring for God's creation is a key part of Christianity; we are called to be stewards of the earth with all its beauty and bounty. In response to this calling, we as members of Faith UCC and the Faith UCC Green Team strive to care for God's creation through education and awareness, action, and advocacy.

Education and Awareness:

Cultivate a love of Creation through worship experience and engaging with nature to more fully appreciate Creation as a blessing. Educate the congregation and wider community to develop an awareness of the effects of climate change and to encourage the adoption of greener practices, individually and collectively.

Action:

Pattern our daily lives as caretakers of Creation by taking action to minimize the environmental footprint of our church by instituting more environmentally friendly practices and making appropriate changes to our buildings and grounds.

Advocacy:

Broaden our perspective by joining with others in shared advocacy and work to protect and renew the earth.



Harmony Guild

Harmony Guild is planning to get back together on June 7th at 6:30 pm in-person and downstairs at the church to plan for the coming year. Sue Muir and Marcy Clausen will be the hostesses for the evening. We will have a short business meeting to coordinate hostesses/programs for October, December 2021, March, and June 2022. The June 7th program will include a discussion of "The positive side of the pandemic/lessons learned". All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Green Team Update

After being on hiatus because of the pandemic, the Green Team has started meeting again. The Team is currently studying ways for the church to be certified as a "Cool Congregation" by Interfaith Power and Light. "Cool Congregations" are churches that have successfully lowered their carbon footprint. The Team hopes to have a set of recommendations to share with the Vestry sometime this summer. If you would like to be a part of the Green Team, please contact the church office. See our mission statement on the side!

Summer Worship Music Series

Summer Music: Would you like to share your musical talent for summer worship music? If so, please contact Pastor Ryan, Connie Miller, or John Jones. Thank you!

Our New Faith UCC Website is Now Live!

faithuccmuscatine.com

Vestry Minutes from Monday, May 10, 2021

Present: Mark Butterworth, Bill Creasey, John Elshoff, Alice Ganzley, Deb Hagy, Sue Johannsen, Jon Merritt, Mark Odell, Melissa Schumaker, Tim Stelzner, Scott Warren, Rich Carroll, and Pastor Ryan. Not in attendance: Julie Kundel,

Treasurer’s Report: A financial report was given and will be filed for audit. Taxes for the parsonage do not match the rules of the Dept of Revenue. After inquiring, Rich received a response from the Dept of Revenue to start an appeal at the county level in April 2022.

Deacons’ Report: Deacons serve as ushers during the in-person services.

Elders’ Report: A meeting date needs to be determined to plan performance reviews. The pastor also sent out a manual for Pastor Parish Relations to the Elders.

Trustees’ Report: Mark Odell obtained an estimate on roof replacement from the PolyVinyl Roofing of Mt Vernon for under \$25,000. To move forward, information will need to be shared with the congregation followed by a congregational vote. Mark Odell will contact Polyvinyl to find out their availability.

Pastor Ryan’s Report:

- In-person services started on May 2, with an average of 30 attendees and more online.
- The church could benefit from a mic system that will work when someone joins a Zoom meeting remotely.
- New members: Lisa Shea, Bev & Eric Knoernschild
- Pastor’s father-in-law passed away. Pastor Ryan wants to take bereavement leave for the funeral the weekend of May 15-16. Tom Emerick will cover on May 16.
- The pastor will schedule time off for June 14-18 and other dates to be determined.
- Pentecost will be the first Communion Sunday. Pastor plans on having pre-cut bread. He will wear gloves and social distance.

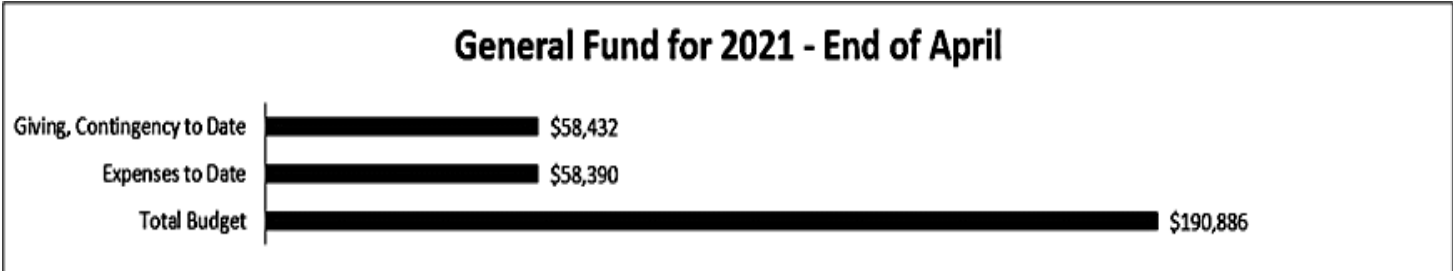
Unfinished Business

- Capital Improvement Planning Committee Updates
- Carpeting/flooring – The plan includes carpet for the main floor with planking for the lower level, landing, and steps.
- Downstairs restrooms – A bid was received from Scott Carver for \$16,825.
- Solar – A second bid from Moxie will be requested.
- Roof – PolyVinyl from Mt. Vernon is considered.
- Ways to fund the capital improvements have been discussed. One possible scenario is a 50-50 match from Endowment.

New Business

- Update on building and in-person gathering policies. The pastor was asked how long he might wear his mask. He is comfortable wearing his mask because it reduces aerosols.
- Pastor asked permission to purchase for the church an iPad and case, Multimedia iRig, and supercharger for the camera. Mark Butterworth made a motion to purchase the equipment. Mark Odell second. Motion carried.
- Outdoor worship on June 20 will be held at Faith UCC. Pastor tested the WiFi at Discovery Park and found that WIFI is not available at the shelter.
- MCSA/First Presbyterian Housing Campaign will match donations up to \$30,000. How could Faith raise funds to help? Pastor Ryan will schedule Scott to come and speak.
- Summer VBS is being led by Beth Elshoff, Christian Ed Director. We may be collaborating with First Christian.
- Proposal to add new front yard church sign to capital improvement planning. Any sign would be pleasing to the eye, include the message of open and affirming, and reconfigure the name so the United Church of Christ is on one line. One board member encouraged the use of an electronic sign. Sue made a motion to add the front-yard sign to the capital improvement plan. Second by Alice Ganzley. Motion carried.

Next Meeting June 14, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.



Faith United Church Community

Welcoming New Members At Faith

Bev and Eric Knoernschild

Bev and Eric have lived in Muscatine for over 40 years raising their two sons Andy and Nate here. They are both retired, Eric from the practice of law and Bev from teaching psychology at Muscatine Community College. They were long-time Lutherans who are attracted to Faith United because of the warm, friendly congregation, the core beliefs of the UCC, and the many ways the church reaches out to help others. They spend half the year at their lakeside cabin in Hayward, Wisconsin fishing, kayaking, and trying to keep up with their five grandchildren.

Lisa Shea

Lisa spent almost all of her adult life living in Arizona. She and her husband relocated to Muscatine with 2 dogs and 2 cats to be with family in July of last year --Ann and Tom Emerick. Ann is Lisa's sister and Julie Kundel is her niece). We finally got to move into our house in September. She says she feels like she is already a member of this church because she would attend services whenever she was visiting from Arizona. Lisa worked forty years as a registered nurse. Her hobbies include sewing, reading and horseback riding, and now gardening! She says you all have something I'm not used to calling rain! I'm looking forward to engaging and participating in fellowship here at Faith United.

Jack Hovland

Jack is almost retired; he is still working at HON Company in the Product Engineering department. Whenever his family get together, wife Annette, Daughter Kerstin who lives in LA, and Son Niles who lives in Portland OR, they like to prepare meals together and hike or bike on off road trails. They also enjoy a variety of board games in the evening. He said what attracts me to Faith UCC is the small community fellowship and your progressive agenda of care and help for our entire world community. Being somewhat introverted I feel comfortable in your midst. Also, pastor Ryan is a tremendous leader.

Do You Remember?

November Food Pantry Events

There were many Novembers in the life of our church where the middle school and high school youth would take a Sunday afternoon to go on a Scavenger Hunt for the local Food Pantry.

The youth broke into teams of two or three with a driver. Each team was given a list of items to try to collect with a point value assigned to each item. A neighborhood was assigned to each team and off they went for 2 hours. When the teams returned to church they found an empty spot in the building to unload their donations and calculate how many points they had received.

Prizes were usually candy bars of various sizes. Of course, the members of the winning team each got a Large candy bar while the other teams received various smaller sizes. After prizes were awarded, a pizza party with delicious cookies and bars was enjoyed by all. We always had a large donation for the food pantry.



Faith UCC Community

Thank You Notes to Our Members & Friends

- To all of the people at Faith that remembered me by sending cards on my Birthday, it made my day, thank you! - *Lanette Morgan*.
- Dear Friends, thank you for your \$150.00 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. Sincerely - *Jennifer Leirness, Resource Development Officer*.
- Dear Friends in Faith, thank you for the outpouring of cards and prayers after the passing of Jen's father, Joel Sherer. As Joel would regularly preach from his pulpit, we make community because "we need each other." Thank you for being our community of prayer and support over these past couple of weeks. - *Jen, Ryan, Althea, and Naomi*
- Thank you! From all of us at the Community Diaper Bank, we greatly appreciate your donation. - *Whitney Howell*.

Congratulations

- Donna Reed has a new Great Granddaughter Viola Leigh Reed, born Saturday, May 15th. Viola's parents are Jake and Katie Reed and they are living in Cedar Falls, IA.
- Cassie Hendrix, daughter of Jennifer Hendrix. She received the Purple and Old Gold Meritorious Award for the Textiles and Apparel at the University of Northern Iowa and the prestigious Lux Service Award from the Office of the Dean of Students. She graduated with degrees in Marketing: Digital Media and Advertising and Textiles & Apparel. Cassie will be heading to NYC to start her career with Ross Stores, Inc as an Assistant Buyer. Congratulations cards can be sent to Cassie in the care of Ron & Joyce Nichols, 846 Leroy St., Muscatine.

Christian Education

Great night had by all, enjoying the last get together of the 20-21 church school year. A beautiful evening for sidewalk chalk, music, games, and some ice cream.



Summer Camp for Christian Youth

Both Pilgrim Heights and the Christian Conference Center are planning to hold camps this summer with covid protocols in place. If anyone is interested in going to summer camp, they can use these websites to find information and register online or for camp brochures. The church will help pay for your registrations, so please let us know if you are planning on going.

Pilgrim Heights camp Montour, Iowa: [Website](#)

Christian Conference Center - Newton, Iowa: [Website](#)



Faith United Members & Friends

JUNE BIRTHDAY
CARD SHOWER

6/13 Marlyce Cooklin
14 Forest Rd.
Rock Island, IL 61201

6/15 Karen Diercks
2450 Snug Harbor Lane
Muscatine, IA 52761

6/17 Barbara Woodstra
10 Colony Drive Muscatine

6/28 Paul Burnette
222 Dillaway, Muscatine

6/28 Janet Rauch,
Keystone, Apt. 1009
1275 W. Forever Green Rd.
North Liberty, IA 52317

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6-2 Scott & Sarah Harvey
6-4 Rebecca & Derek Koebrick
6-6 Scott & Kiffany Carver
6-6 Gary & Sheryl Lindley
6-14 Denny & Cindy Taylor
6-15 Curt & Sue Muntz
6-15 Harvey & Darlene Vance
6-18 Steve & Cindy Rada
6-20 Larry & Marcy Clausen
6-20 Gary & Janet Lewis
6-21 Tom & Sarah Noble Hagerty
6-21 Barry & Jayne Manley
6-24 Kirby & Isaac Ales
6-26 Cary & Sunny Hubner
6-27 Rich Carroll & Jan Collinson
6-28 Chris & Erin Rada
6-29 Brandon & Lyndsay Welsch

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6-4 Pat Mundell
6-6 Sue Muntz
6-11 Andy Sharar
6-12 Isaac Ales
6-13 Marlyce Cooklin
6-13 David Creasey
6-13 Susan Krieger
6-13 Landon Castle
6-15 Karen Diercks
6-16 Tony Brant
6-17 Barbara Woodstra
6-19 Alex Kindred
6-20 Phil Carver
6-23 Jennifer Metcalf
6-26 Tony Matkovich
6-28 Paul Burnette
6-28 Janet Rauch
6-29 Steve Kundel

MCSA Sponsors for Room #5 for June

June 6 - Julie Emerick-Kundel in honor of our graduates
June 6 - Sylvia Trumbull in honor of our Church
June 13 - Virginia Cooper in honor of Virginia Lindle
June 20 - Donna Reed in honor of the family
June 20 - Larry & Marcy Clausen In Celebration of our 40th Ann.
June 27 - Jim Trosen in celebration of the ministry of Lisa Allen
June 27 - Bill and Kay Creasey in celebration of Will Erkan's Birthday



If you would like to sponsor a Sunday, please follow this link to the [MCSA Signup](#).
We still have these dates available for 2021: Sept. 19 - Oct. 10 & 24 - Nov. 14

Condolences

- Mike & Nancy Harrison on the death of his father, Robert Harrison on May 20, 2021. Robert was a member of our congregation at Faith United. Cards can be sent to Mike and Nancy at 11717 315th St. Ct. West, Illinois City, IL 61259. The memorials may be made to Faith United Church of Christ, 3307 Mulberry Ave. Muscatine IA 52761.
- Rev. Joel Sherer, Jen Sherer's father, and Pastor Ryan's father-in-law passed away early Tuesday morning. Cards can be sent to Jen and Ryan at 3019 Pinecrest Rd., Iowa City, IA 52245 and will be shared with the rest of the family.
- Caleen Pagel and family, on the passing of her brother Kevin Krohn on May 22, 2021. Cards can be sent to Pat and Caleen Pagel, 2130 4th Avenue, Muscatine IA 52761.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

All who are sick or ill and all their caregivers. Grace Duggleby, Marletta Warren, Kathy Harris, Becky McCaw, Sandra Roth, Lane Clausen, Carol Schlagenhauser, Margaret Heerd, Kelly Ingstad, Alan Arkema, Bob Sharar, Neal Kleindolph, Bernard Roth, Mike Crahan, Shirley Johnson, Murry Estabrook, Barb Noble, Robert Meyer, Keith and Nancy Stych, Marcia Wofford, Mike and Nancy Harrison, Caleen Pagel and family, and Harold Wilson.



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

VOF JUNE 2021



A SPECIAL VIRTUAL GENERAL SYNOD 33

This Special Edition General Synod presents a unique opportunity for people from across the nation to attend without the burden of travel expenses or time away from family and work. The event is packed full of activities, worship, and workshops that are designed to give you a glimpse into the UCC and allow you to access information and educational resources that will help you and your local congregation in leadership, growth, and giving. Registration is now open. Explore this site to learn more and register today! We believe it's possible for a member from every congregation in the UCC to attend, and we would like to invite you. Join us July 11 – 18, 2021

[Registration Website](#)

[Click Here](#)



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. 3307-with a Faith UCC sign on the box used by the church).
- Send your envelopes in the mail to 3307 Mulberry, Muscatine Iowa 52761.
- Talk with your bank about options to set up a direct payment account.
- Use our website link to your PayPal, charge taken out for the transfer.



*The 6 month pledging statements will be mailed out the first week of July.
Call the office if you do not receive yours, and we will send one to you.*