



Sunday Worship
10:00 AM

Faith United Church of Christ

3307 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, IA 52761
Phone: 563-263-5979
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www.faithuccmuscatine.com

FAITH U.C.C STAFF

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Beth Elshoff
Children's Education Coordinator
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Church Office Hours

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Get Vaccinated!

Anyone who is 65+ can now receive the COVID19 vaccine. Hallelujah! Several church members have already received their vaccination and are reporting that, if you are willing to travel out of town (Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Wapello, etc.) vaccine appointments are available at different HyVee locations. For more information, please see [Vaccine Consent | Hy-Vee Pharmacy \(hy-vee.com\)](#).

Holy Week Services

Please look for announcements regarding this year's Maundy Thursday (April 1) and Good Friday (April 2) services after the February 8 Vestry meeting.

BE MY VALENTINE

In February, our Faith UCC youth struck again and made over 40 Valentine crafts that were distributed to some older members of the congregation and those just off Vestry. Our talented little cupids made valentine wreaths, painted rocks, coaster tiles, magnets, and many other creations!



Thank you to our Faith UCC youth classes for all the love you have shown our many adult members of the congregation!

LOVE WAS GIVEN TO OUR SENIORS IN THE COMMUNITY IN FEBRUARY



Harmony Guild would like to thank everyone that donated to the church-wide 'love' collection for the Adult Day program at Senior Resources. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause! Stay safe and healthy! Marcy Clausen and Sue Muir.

One Great Hour of Sharing Let Love Flow: Sunday, March 14, 2021

"Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

God is most tangibly present in this world where people hunger, thirst, lack adequate clothing and shelter and are sick or imprisoned. Christ claims people who suffer as family members. Christ is so present in them that when you feed the hungry, care for the sick, welcome the stranger – you feed, and care for, and welcome Christ. When you give through OGHS to those who suffer from natural disasters, war, or systemic poverty, you let them know: You are here. Thank you for your partnership and for your generosity. If you would like to donate, please write your check out to Faith UCC and in the memo add One Great Hour.



MONTHLY MUSINGS FROM PASTOR RYAN

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”
- *Psalms 19:14*

In a saying that has become the inspiration of countless internet memes, the Buddhist author Lori Deschene writes, “Practice the pause. Pause before judging. Pause before assuming. Pause before accusing. Pause whenever you’re about to react harshly, and you’ll avoid doing and saying things you’ll later regret.”

Our Christian tradition of Lent invites us into 40 days in which we get to “practice the pause.” We pause to remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We pause to remember the wilderness places in our own lives. We pause to reflect on the ways our own hearts have been hardened and the ways that God softens them. We pause to take stock of how we shine our own lights of goodness and hope in our everyday lives. We pause to consider just what it means that Jesus walked this earth as a human, just like the rest of us. We pause to remember and to be astounded that we are being transformed, like seeds buried deep in the earth, by the nurturing power of God’s love.

This Lent, like this past year, has been like no other. For a year now, in various ways, we have all been practicing the pause. We have paused many of our usual routines and social activities. We have paused meeting up with friends and loved ones. We have paused the ways we usually (and prefer) to gather for something like worship.

In time, however, our pause will come to an end, perhaps slowly and in stages, but the time is coming. Like our individual Lenten experiences, we will all come out of our COVID pauses differently. Some of us will be eager to get back to “normal.” Some of us will still be struggling or grieving. Some of us will be asking how do we take what we have learned over these past many months and apply them for the common good? Some of us might just be a little uneasy.

The Psalmist reminds us that one good reason to continue “practicing the pause,” is to make sure that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts might be acceptable to God, our rock and our redeemer. That is to say, everything we do and say is in some sense a sacred act. We are always in God’s presence, and God’s presence is always with us.

Lent will end come Easter Sunday. Likewise, the pandemic will also one day come to end. Practicing the pause, whether it be the Lenten or the pandemic pause, is about more than just getting through or enduring. It is also about learning something about ourselves, others, and our faith so that whatever we do and say we might do and say as if God were right there next to us, listening to our every word, feeling what we feel, breathing the same air, and calling us into a kinder, more forgiving, and loving way of being.

IF YOU OFFER YOUR FOOD TO THE
HUNGRY AND SATISFY THE NEEDS
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ISAIAH 58:10, NRSV



NEWS FROM AROUND THE U.C.C.

TV series explores abiding power of Black church

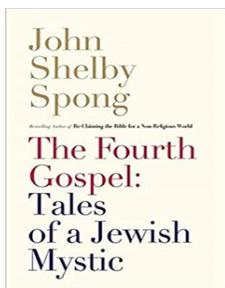
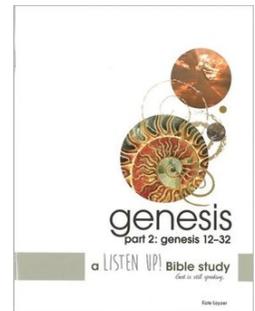
The United Church of Christ is in "The Black Church." The TV special, that is. The four-hour documentary, airing this month on PBS, features several UCC ministers. [To continue reading go to: [TV series explores abiding power of Black church - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](https://www.ucc.org/2021/03/01/tv-series-explores-abiding-power-of-black-church-united-church-of-christ)]

Though hit hard, Texas churches meet community needs in rare winter storm

No power for 32 hours. Rolling blackouts with no warning amid record-low temperatures. Snow and ice making roads impassable. An exploding sprinkler system that flooded the church sanctuary, kitchen, classrooms and narthex. Despite all that, the Rev. Dan DeLeon feels he is "one of the lucky ones" living through this week's deadly winter storm in Texas. [To continue reading go to: [Though hit hard, Texas churches meet community needs in rare winter storm - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](https://www.ucc.org/2021/03/01/though-hit-hard-texas-churches-meet-community-needs-in-rare-winter-storm-united-church-of-christ)]

Tuesday Noon Bible Study

Join Pastor Ryan and others as we make our way through the Book of Genesis! Gardens, talking snakes, high drama, sibling rivalries, love stories, forgiving parents—it has it all! Just contact the church office to receive the materials we are using.



Spring Adult Forum Book Read

We'll begin reading a new book the first week of March--The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic by John Shelby Spong. The Adult Forum meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Contact the church office for more information.

The Weekly Church Event Calendar



Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Noon - Bible Study with Pastor Ryan,
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86528611562>.

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 Christian Education Class on zoom
6:00 p. m. - Middle Elementary Christian Education Class on zoom
6:30 p. m. - Older Elementary Christian Education Class on zoom
7:00 p. m. - Adult Forum Class on zoom

Thursday

9:00 a.m. - Coffee hour, zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88232955057>

Sunday

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

Vestry Minutes from Monday, February 8, 2021

Attending: 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.

Absent: Mark Butterworth, Julie Kundel

Call to Order - President Mark Odell

Opening Devotions – Jon Merritt shared a daily devotional.

Announcements: Welcome new vestry members: Deb Hagy, Julie Kundel, Bill Creasey, and John Elshoff. Deb Hagy thanked the group for the assistance given at Christmas.

Approval of January 2021 Minutes: To be filed as is.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Rich Carroll’s Budget report. OCWM will be paid on a monthly basis. Contingency fund from 2020 will be transferred to 2021. A motion was made by Mark Odell to carry the Contingency Fund into 2021. Second by Scott Warren. Motion carried. The treasurer’s report will be filed for audit.
- The property tax on the parsonage increased by an estimated \$1200-1500 because it was reclassified from residential to commercial. An appeal process exists. Since the church is a 501c3 the reclassification maybe wrong. The treasurer suggested to turn this over to the Deacons to review and determine if we need an attorney. Forms need to be completed and one goes to the Board of Review.

Deacons’ Report: no report

Elders’ Report: no report

Trustees’ Report: Fire Dept Inspection updates & Chris Lary, Phelps/ parsonage flooring.

Pastor’s Report:

- Louis Harrison and Sharon Butterworth passed away.
- Older Youth with Kim and LeeAnn will start meeting on zoom every other week.
- Valentine’s bags were assembled for members by all youth.
- The Lenten service will be Wed., Feb. 17, available on our YouTube channel.
- Adult Forum will read *The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic*.
- White Privilege is being covered in Adult Forum over 6 weeks.
- Now is the time to plan and write Congregational Life Grants.
- New members will be welcomed when we can be together. There are people who are waiting to join once we can gather at the church.
- Thanks for Beth, Pat, Lisa, & Rich for all the work at the church and all who serve others.
- There is no evidence that OCWM funds go to abortion providers. The UCC has a position of reproductive justice.

Unfinished Business

- Review building usage/COVID policies. A discussion will continue in March. Deb Hagy sees evidence that doesn’t match the local numbers. Scott Warren shared that Mulberry School students observe mandatory mask wearing and it seems to work. Melissa Schumaker shared that junior high and high school students will go back to school and class sizes will double. This may impact the community.
- Establish Committee to Organize Capitol Improvement Plans (Downstairs Restroom Remodel, New carpet estimates, Sanctuary Space options, Solar Panels). Estimates for carpet replacement. Green Team and solar power. Sanctuary space options. Restrooms on lower level. Tim Stelzner, Sue Johannsen, and Jon Merritt will formalize a presentation of projects with estimated costs.

New Business

Vestry assignments:

- Deacon positions : Alice Ganzley, Mark Butterworth, Jon Merritt, John Elshoff, Julie Kundel
- Elders Positions: Melissa Schumaker, Sue Johannsen, Bill Creasey, Deb Hagy
- Trustee positions: Mark Odell, Tim Stelzner, Scott Warren
- Vice President: Scott Warren is considering, Secretary: Sue Johannsen

Adjourn with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Meeting March 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

General Fund for 2021 - End of January



Faith United Church Community

ANNUAL MEETING Minutes

January 31, 2021



The Annual Meeting was held virtually on Zoom on January 31, 2021. Annual meeting materials were made available both on paper and electronically. An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Ryan. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Ryan, filling in for Scott Ingstad. An End of Year Review and Comments were shared by outgoing Vestry President Jon Merritt. The slate of nominees for Vestry and Committee Members was presented. Beth Elshoff nominated John Elshoff for an open Vestry seat. Nominations for the Vestry were John Elshoff, Deb Hagy, Julie Kundel, Bill Creasy. Mark Butterworth made a motion to approve the slate of nominations with a second by Margie Kundel. The motion carried. Deb Hagy volunteered to fill the vacancy to attend the Iowa Conference Annual Meeting. Sharon Hansson asked that the Vestry look into the validity of a statement about whether or not the United Church of Christ funds abortion clinics. Pastor Ryan said that there was nothing to his knowledge that would support such an assertion, but that he would look into it. He also pointed out that there are many sides to the overall topic, many of which are rooted in moral and faith traditions. A motion was made by Margie Kundel and seconded by Jon Merritt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meet the Vestry of 2021



Top: Deb Hagy, Pastor Ryan, and Jon Merritt
 Second Row: Rich Carroll, Bill Creasey, and Sue Johannsen
 Third Row: Alice Ganzley, John Elshoff, and Mark Odell
 Bottom Row: Tim Stelzner, Melissa Schumaker, and Scott Warren.
 Not shown: Mark Butterworth and Julie Kundel.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

REMEMBER WHEN? A group of members went quite regularly on weekends to Pilgrim Heights Camp in Montour, Iowa when Our Sacred Space building was built.

This group included:

Front Row: Jim Trosen, Judy Merritt, Nancy Wangberg

Back Row: Brad Soule, Paul Burnette, Tom Emerick, Jon Merritt, Bob Holland, Jeff Noble, Steve Kundel, Don Johnson



Thank You Notes to Our Members & Friends

- Dear Faith United Church of Christ, this time of year, we're reminded of those we care about - and of those who care about us. So, we thought we'd take a moment to let you know how much you mean to us. Through your Bag of Blessings support of River Bend Foodbank, you helped us feed 159,848 neighbors facing hunger in 2020. You helped them even though you will probably never meet them, and they will never be able to tell you how much they appreciate you. On behalf of the children, seniors, and families your donations fed, thank you. I hope you feel their heartfelt love and appreciation on Valentine's Day. Warmly, - **Jenny Brinkmeyer**.
- Everyone that donated to the Blanket Sunday Fund, we were able to raise \$625.00 for this wonderful ministry. - **Faith UCC**
- Thank you to Beth Elshoff for coming out in the cold to deliver the Youth Valentines and Lent in a Bag. That was over and beyond. Thank you! - **Sharon Hanssen**.
- Everyone that donated to the Funding Future Leader offering, we collected \$315.00 for this mission. - **Faith UCC**
- Thank you to Beth Elshoff for braving the cold (and our snowy sidewalk) and delivering the Valentine bags that were made by the youth along with the Lenten bags. Loved the crackers and the painted rock found a place in our cactus plant. Thanks again Faith UCC! - **Gary and Sheryl Lindley**.
- Faith Family, thank you for all the birthday cards and well wishes, they made my day! **Diane Littrel**.
- I am grateful for Pat who always delivers necessary items from church. I appreciate the "Lent in a Bag" What a unique way for us to remember Jesus' life, ministry, and death. Thank you to the children for the lovely Valentine wreath. I have it hanging in a very special place. - **Donna Reed**.
- Faith United, Thank you so much for your care package! It meant a lot to me. I love getting mail, it really brightened my day! It is so considerate you guys send one every year to college students. I believe I speak for us all when I say it is very appreciated!! - **Kylea Estabrook**.
- Thank you for your generous gift to the CWS Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of unprecedented challenges, you are standing with them. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for your generous support. **Rev. John L. McCullough, Church World Service**.
- Dear Friends, thank you for your partnership in 2020 through your financial support through the Iowa UCC Conference! Ministry is a team sport! Your conference staff is honored to work with you to help us all live into God's extravagant welcome and advocate for justice. So that all know love, safety, belonging, and dignity. It is a high and daunting calling, especially in times like these, when we are stretched way outside of our comfort zones by the layered pandemics of Covid-19, racial injustice, and climate crisis this year. However, together we are practicing our discipleship of Jesus Christ. In our congregations, in our conference, and throughout the wider United Church of Christ, we are choosing each day to seek out opportunities to love, comfort, feed, support, advocate for all of humanity and Creation. May 2021 be a year full of continued growth in Christ together. Thank you! **Rev. Brigit F. Stevens, Executive Conf. Minister**.
- Thank you for thinking of me on my birthday. I enjoyed reading all of the cards. Appreciated it and nice to go back and read them again. - **Ben Hanssen**.
- Thank you for donating to the Almoner Fund during Ash Wednesday. - **Faith UCC**

Joint Annual Meeting of the Tri-Conference (IA, NE, SD) of the UCC

Join us for Joint Annual Meeting 2021 on June 25th and 26th! Like last year, the event will be held on a completely virtual platform. Curious about last year's virtual meeting? Visit our [Vimeo channel](#) to view some of the programming.



FAITH UNITED MEMBERS & FRIENDS

March Birthday Card Shower

March 20 - Sheryl Lindley
1966 Hale
Muscatine IA 52761

March 28 - Ron Hart
2317 University Drive,
Apt. 2
Muscatine IA 52761

March Anniversaries

3/20 – Don & Shirley Johnson

Faith Family & Friends Contact Information

If you have changed your contact information, please let the office know. secretary@faithuccmuscatine.com

March Birthdays

- 3/2 – Caleen Pagel
- 3/2 – Adam Muntz
- 3/2 – Tristian Schneider
- 3/4 – Duane Wilson
- 3/4 – Mary Trueg
- 3/4 – Nathan Mundell
- 3/6 – Mike Hartman
- 3/6 – Becca Muntz-Koebrick
- 3/7 – Sue Johannsen
- 3/9 – Tierney Schneider
- 3/11 – Jan Collinson
- 3/11 – Sarah Noble-Hagerty
- 3/14 – Andy Kundel
- 3/16 – Brenden Schumaker
- 3/18 – Sue Muir
- 3/20 – Sheryl Lindley
- 3/22 – Tim Stelzner
- 3/23 – Nathan Sharar
- 3/24 – Kathy Trosen
- 3/27 – Janet Sichterman
- 3/28 – Ron Hart
- 3/30 – Jeff Bohling

Keep In Prayer

For all who are sick or ill, and to all their caregivers.
Grace Duggleby
Marletta Warren
Kathy Harris
Becky McCaw
Sandra Roth
Lane Clausen
Arnott family
Carol Schlagenhauser
Margaret Heerd
Kelly Ingstad
Alan Arkema
Bob Sharar
Neal Kleindolph
Bernard Roth
Mike Crahan
Shirley Johnson
Curtis Muntz
Tory Hunt
Bob Harrison
Murry Estabrook
Judi Jones.

Condolences

- ◆ Sympathy to Mark, Jimmy, Lyne, and all of Sharon's family in your prayers. Sharon Butterworth died Sunday, February 7, 2021. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for memorials to be sent to the Muscatine Humane Society Animal Shelter or to Faith United. Cards and condolences can be sent to:
Mark Butterworth and family, 1715 Pearlview Court, Muscatine IA 52761
Therese Beckey, Sunnybrook #503, 3515 Diana Queen Drive, Muscatine
Dr. Jimmy Butterworth, 5715 Constance Street, Shawnee, KS 66216
Lyne Butterworth, 2942 Ashland Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34741
Tom Beckey, 3719 N. Lincoln Ave., Davenport, IA 52806
- ◆ Sympathy to John Littrel and his family on the death of his brother Paul. Paul passed away on February 8th at the age of 71 years. Cards and condolences can be sent to: The Littrel family, 2446 Lucas Road, Muscatine Iowa 52761.
- ◆ Sympathy to Marcy, Larry & Lane Clausen on the death of their brother-in-law and uncle, Walter Endsley. Walt is married to Marcy's oldest sister. He passed away on February 19 at the age of 90. Funeral Services will be in Freeburg, IL and burial with full military honors at Jefferson Barracks Cemetery in St. Louis. Cards and condolences can be sent to the Clausen family, 2517 Forest Parkway, Muscatine IA 52761.

MCSA Sponsors for March 2021

- 3/7/2021 - Twyla Woodward in Gratitude
- 3/14/2021- Gift in honor of Rich Carroll & Jan Collinson
- 3/21/2021- Donna Reed In loving memory of Maurie
- 3/28/2021- Michael and Sue Johannsen-Happy birthday Luke and Olivia!



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.



Ways to Continue Supporting the Work of the Church

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

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.

MARCH 2021



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.



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

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. 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 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.

Spring forward



**Daylight Saving Time Starts:
Sunday, March 14, 2021**

Daylight Saving Time starts on the second Sunday of March for the United States. Clocks are turned forward one hour from 2 am to 3 am.