



Faith

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

Sunday Worship
10:00 AM

Faith United Church of Christ

3307 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, IA 52761
Phone: 563-263-5979
Fax: 563-263-0305

www.faithuccmuscatine.com

Church Office Hours

10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

FAITH UCC STAFF

Lisa Allen

Office Coordinator
faithsecretary@machlink.com

Pat Mundell

Congregational Life Coordinator
pmundell@machlink.com

Beth Elshoff

Children's Education Coordinator
bethelshoff@machlink.com



SPREAD THE LOVE

Special Offering

May 28, 2023

Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC.

Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

Please make checks payable to Faith with STC offering in the memo. Thanks!

VOICE OF FAITH

BIG Kid's Day Camp for K-6th



June 13-17th (four days of camp with an overnigher on the 16th into the 17th) as their VBS. There are about 60 kids already signed up with about 20 spots left. K-6th graders.

Register as soon as possible as spots are filling up fast. The Letter and registration form for Parents can be found [HERE](#), please contact Beth Elshoff for more information.



Preschool & Kindergarteners VBS



Those who wouldn't go to the all-day day camp will have an opportunity to join Grace Lutheran on June 13-16th (four days) from 10-11:30 for 3-6-year-olds (that don't go to the above camp).

The theme is Creation and will include singing, story/lesson, games, crafts, and snacks. Preschool parents can watch for more information soon.

FREE Summer Music Camp

July 10-14, 2023 for students who have completed K-6th grade. Registration is required and is available online by going: [Here](https://wesleyonline.org/music/). You may also find registration info at <https://wesleyonline.org/music/>. Register by June 15 to guarantee a camp t-shirt. Registration closes July 3.



Summertime Church Camps!

Click on the links below to go to the websites for more information. Faith will help with half of the cost to go camping. Let the office or Beth Elshoff know if your youth is going.



Pilgrim Heights Camp

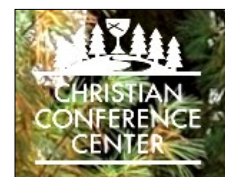
<https://www.pilgrimheights.org/>
[Pilgrim Heights Camp & Retreat Center](https://www.pilgrimheights.org/)

Christian Conference Center

5064 Lincoln St, Newton, IA 50208

<https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/>

[The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest](https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/)

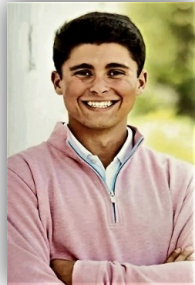




HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Landon Castle

Landon will be going to Iowa State next year. He plans to study animal science with a pre-veterinary track.



Nathan Sharar

Nathan will be attending the University of Iowa next year. He plans to study communications and political science with an emphasis in pre-law.



COLLEGE GRADUATES



Lauren Kundel

Lauren graduates from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance on May 13th. She will return to the University in the fall as a graduate student to begin the Master of the Arts in Vocal Performance degree program.



Alli Youngbauer

Alli graduates May 12th and 13th from Iowa State with degrees in ag education and studies. She has accepted the job of Ag teacher at Susan Clark Junior High to start in the fall.



Christian Education Recognition Sunday, May 14th

Sunday, May 14th We will honor our Faith Education teachers and volunteer helpers and recognize our members that are this years High School Graduates.

Christian Education Leaders and Helpers:

Tammy Ales, Allison Castle, Beth Elshoff, Tom Emerick, Julie Emerick-Kundel, Michael & Sue Johannsen, Frantz & Mary Silberger, LeeAnn Weggen, and Kim Warren.

Wednesday, May 17th Fun Night – Last C. E. Youth Classes until Fall!

We will have a pizza party at the church and outdoor games on this night!

Wednesday Adult Forum: This will be the last night for the Adult Forum until Fall.

Sunday Adult Forum

Have you ever listened to the Sunday scripture or sermon and wanted to add your thoughts? If so, the Sunday Adult Forum might be for you. The group meets right after church from 11:00 until noon. It offers people a chance to weigh in, ask questions, and delve a little deeper. The Sunday Adult Forum uses a curriculum that provides historical background, asks questions, and connects to our everyday lives. Interested? Give it a try at around 11:00 on Sundays. Zoom links are in the Tuesday update or you can contact Sue Johannsen (563-554-0300) for more information. The last class will be on May 14th until Fall.

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Easter Garden & Alternatives

In Memory of:

Lisa Shea in memory of a friend, Richard Craft
 Deb Wainscott Meyer in memory of Robert Meyer
 Sylvia Trumbull in memory of my son Monte
 Donna Reed in memory of Maurie
 Twyla Woodward in memory of Garry
 David & Mary Lynne Cooley in memory of Norma King,
 Molly Krueger, Betty Kleindolph, Werner & Margaret Diercks.

In Honor of:

Michael & Sue Johannsen in honor of Faith
 Dan & Alice Huss in honor of our family & the church family
 Dave & Margie Kundel in honor of family
 Jim & Janet Sichterman in honor of Alan Arkema
 Gary & Sheryl Lindley in honor of Faith

In Celebration of:

Sue & John Muir of family

Alternative Giving Collection Totals

Diversity Services	\$75.00
Domestic Abuse	\$350.00
Emmaus Café	\$75.00
Laundry Love	\$10.00
MCSA Shelter	\$225.00
Grand Total	\$735.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Worship With Us - May Pulpit Supply

Summer Music

As Rev. Marcy and Rev Barb begin preparations for our summer worship time, they would like you, the members to share with them some of your favorite hymns. Think back to some "oldies but goodies" you'd like to hear, you are free to suggest a few new ones as well. They will do their best to select hymns from you each week. Just write the hymns down on paper and add them to the offering plate. No need to sign your name if you do not want to. Thank you for assisting in their worship planning. - Rev. Barb & Rev. Marcy.

May 7th Rev. Barb Communion

Scripture: John 14:1-14

As we gather for worship and Holy Communion, we will also seek to define the "dwelling place", in the present world in which we live. At the same time we will look for the "greater works" the disciples will do.

May 14th Rev. Marcy Teacher/Grad Recognition

Scripture: Psalm 66:8-20 and Acts 17:22-31

We will lift up our High School graduates, Landon Castle and Nathan Sharar, and honor our Faith Education teachers and volunteers. We know Paul as a good guy and a bad guy. By the time we read about him in Acts, he has reformed and stands up for Jesus, instead of tearing him down. How do we stand up for Jesus? How do we share our experiences of the risen Christ?

May 21st Rev. Barb Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 17:1-11

God is a God of Welcome. Where in our daily life do we experience God's welcome? To be one with God also means that the church is to be a more compelling witness to God's invitation.

May 28th Rev. Marcy Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 and Acts 2:1-21

Happy Birthday to the Church! It is tradition to recognize the birth of the church and the coming of the holy spirit onto all God's people. The coming of the holy spirit in our scripture today is mistaken for a large group of people who had been drinking a little too early in the day. The holy spirit gives us so many gifts that we could never achieve on our own. It's up to us to use those gifts to God's glory.

Potluck after worship on May 28th. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship.

VESTRY SUMMARY FROM MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023, AT 6:30 P.M.

Vestry members – Richard Carroll, Jan Collinson, Bill Creasey, Tom Emerick, Deb Hagy, Dan Huss, Sue Johannsen, Julie Kundel, Mike Morgan, Frantz Silberger, Dave Wangberg, and Mary Wildermuth, Not in Attendance: Allison Castle

Guests: Kerry Keller made a presentation about a solar installation at the church. The Green Team is anticipating a bid from Jerry Dvorak, Red Lion Solar. More information will be coming in the future. Rev. Barb Muhs said she is done with school in mid-May and is willing to visit with members and those living in facilities and can serve communion to them when requested.

Reports:

Treasurer – Request to receive a quarterly report from the Endowment Committee.

Deacons' – Committee wants to help increase participation with the potlucks and liturgy.

Elders' – The personnel manual was sent to each vestry member, and they are to turn in the last page with signature. Staff evaluations will be scheduled, will review members list.

Trustees' – Dave Wangberg will go to Plumb Supply and replace a condenser.

Unfinished Business

- \$500 Transformational Ministry Grant – to install Wireless Thermostats soon.
- Sunday school room ceiling and wall to be repaired/painted – There is a plan.
- Lights: The back door (east) outside and the back door by parking (North) Network upgrade on computers to RNS standards. Scott contacted RNS and received a bid of \$238/month with a 3-year contract. Motion carried.

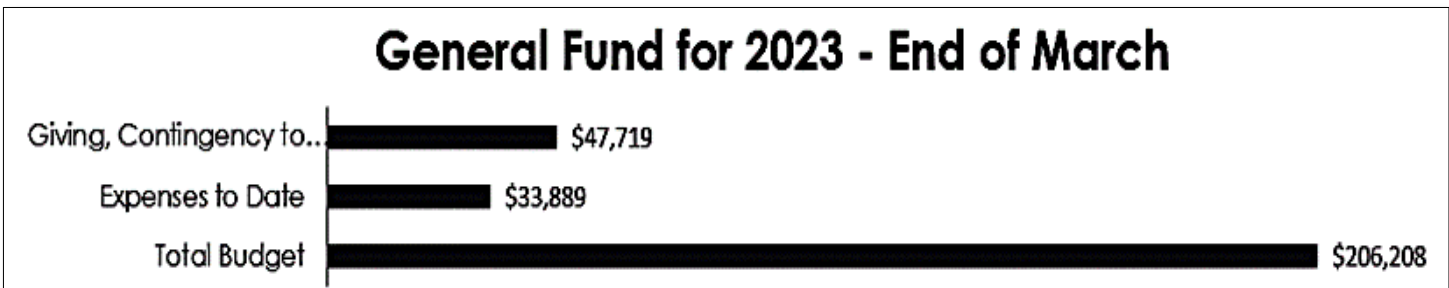
New Business

1. **Action Items:**

- Mowing: Lincoln Lawncare offered \$124 respectively. Motion carried.
- Freers & Sons to move the parking curbs back onto lot. Motion carried.
- Lincoln Lawncare to take out hedges; \$1200 plus stump killer cost. Motion carried.
- Is there a need for compensation from the church for officiants beyond the family's gifts with memorial services at the church? Will research more.

2. **Updates:**

- Sign Task Force - Need buy-in on a time/date before scheduling a meeting.
- Search and Call/ Pulpit – New Conference support liaison Jonna Jensen.
- Green team update – Solar Energy presentation by Kerry Keller with Landmark Solar. Terry Dvorak, Red Lion Solar, will also submit a bid soon.
- Live Stream videos with Worship Services, need a reliable source to capture the video if something goes wrong with the Facebook feed. We currently have anywhere from 50 to 150 views of our worship services on Sundays, watched after the live viewing. Frantz talked with Mark Doubet from DB Acoustics from Marion Iowa about options for audio needs. Tom Emerick reported on review of the iPad and camera for the Facebook feed. A guard may be added to protect the Internet system. Mark Hagy would be willing to help with the technology. Deb will look into Streaming Labs.
- Bag of Blessings – Mary Wildermuth talked to Dr. Kandy Steel at Jefferson. It's a communication issue. Teachers may not be sending out the application form and the parents are not filling out the application forms. Alisha Eggers, food service MCSD, has been contacted and summer lunches will be served. Resource navigators are in every building and can meet with families who need assistance. SPARK will be in Jefferson this summer. Back to school nights might be an opportunity to get the forms signed.
- Frantz Silberger reported that new podium and hand-held mics are ordered.



FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Search and Call Committee

The Search and Call Committee met in April and spoke with our new conference liaison, Rev. Jonna Jensen. Jonna had worked with the prior search committee that found Pastor Ryan and has a vast experience helping committees find new settled pastors. Jonna recommended we refresh our job posting, which the committee will do with her guidance. Jonna also gave the committee some great suggestions for advancing our church goals even before a pastor is placed. The Committee was energized by the meeting with Rev. Jensen.



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The next Search and Call meeting is on May 15th at 7 p.m.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Green Team

The Three R's

Reduce, reuse, and recycle are three approaches to be kind to the environment.

Reduce water usage

1. Taking a shower instead of a bath
2. If you take a bath, close the drain before you start the water.
3. Turn off the water when shaving your face or brushing teeth.
4. Eliminate leaks.

Reduce

1. Buy only what you need.
2. Buy products that are not heavily packaged.
3. Sign up for paperless billing or banking.
4. Repair and refresh what you own.

Recycle & Reuse

1. Donate your stuff
2. Repurpose boxes, plastics, and glass objects.
3. Carry a reusable shopping bag.
4. Buy refillable products and refill them.
5. Buy second-hand goods.

Next meeting for the Green Team May 2nd at 4:30 p.m.

Open & Affirming Committee

The Open and Affirming Committee featured The Quire of Eastern Iowa, an LGBTQ choral group to celebrate our anniversary of becoming ONA. The chorus sang excerpts from the oratorio Considering Matthew Shepard. We, as a faith community, celebrated our 4th anniversary of our congregational vote to be open and affirming.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A \$500 Congregational Life Grant was donated to the Diversity Services Center of Iowa by the ONA committee. Rosa Mendoza, Director of Diversity Services Center of Iowa, thanked all those at Faith UCC. She pointed out that immigrants who obtain their documents can work and live legally in the USA. Families gain financial stability and secure peace of mind with immigration documents. In 2022, 291 families received assistance with their immigration process and 165 received approved cases with the help of the Diversity Services Center of Iowa. It is a joyful day to help immigrants obtain documents be part of this great land.

The next ONA meeting is on May 4th at 6:00 p.m.



Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle will meet Thursday, May 4th at **The Family Diner** at 10:00 a.m. Co-hostess are Sylvia Trumbull and Alice Huss. All women and friends are welcome.

Harmony Guild

Harmony Guild will meet on Monday, June 5th at 6 pm. **We will have a potluck** followed by our regular meeting and program. Please bring a dish to share. Dessert and drinks will be provided! Co-hostesses are Alice Huss and Cindy Rada. All women of the church are invited to attend. Please join us!

FAITH UNITED COMMUNITY

MCSA Sponsors

May 7 - Memorial Gift in memory of Margaret Heerd

May 14 - The Warren Family in honor of Maddox's Birthday

May 21 - The Warren Family in honor of Stella's Birthday

May 28 - Twyla Woodward in memory of Dick Maeglin

Available Sundays in 2023:

July 9, 16, and 23, September 3, 10, 24, October 8, 15, 22, and December 31.

For sponsorship, please fill out the MCSA Form, if you would like to honor, celebrate, or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$25.00 per Sunday, please make checks out to Faith,

Food Pantry

We will collect for May: laundry detergent and laundry softener.

Pat Mundell took down 47 items to the Food Pantry on April 17th.

Thank You Notes to Faith UCC members

- Dear Faith UCC, I want to thank you for your generous grant support to the Diversity Service Center of Iowa. It is through your partnership that helps us fulfill our mission as we assist immigrant families with their immigration process and advocate for senior citizens ages 60 plus. During 2022 we assisted 291 families, thus impacting 871 individuals and received 165 approved cases. Through their immigration documents the families gained financial stability, security, and peace of mind. We also provided counseling to 104 senior citizens aged 60 plus by obtaining additional benefits. The seniors' standard of living and well-being improved. Thank you with all my heart for impacting the lives of these we serve! May our Lord continue to bless you and Faith United Church of Christ congregation. - *Blessings, Rosa Mendoza at Diversity Services Center of Iowa*
- Thanks to Rev. Barb & Jon Muhs, Nancy Wangberg & Pat Mundell for serving at Emmaus.

Thank You Notes from Members and Friends

- I am very thankful for the birthday cards I received. - *Darla Hays*
- Thanks for all the birthday wishes. They really brightened my day. - *Bev Knoernschild*
- Thanks to all who sent cards or wishes on Facebook. Much appreciated. And I am so sorry I didn't get to witness the wave or singing of "Happy Birthday" to me. I might get to witness the second "Happy Birthday", thanks to someone capturing it on my phone. Again, my thanks to all. I miss all of Faith but am so thankful for the internet and zoom. - *Marcia Carmichael*

Rebuilding Together Muscatine April 29

Volunteers 14 years and older are needed to help with home repair projects around Muscatine County on Saturday, April 29th from 7 am-12 pm.

Volunteers will meet at the Rebuilding Together Office located at 1424B Houser Street between 6:30-7:00 am for coffee and donuts, and then groups will head out to project sites. Volunteers will receive a t-shirt, and pizza will be served at noon.

Questions? Contact: prayzhimtoday@hotmail.com

To register as a volunteer: https://unitedwaymuscatine.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=797697. Look for a blue rectangle "Respond" in the upper right corner.

FAITH UNITED MEMBER AND FRIENDS

Birthdays
Shower

May 1
Ron Nichols
846 Leroy
Muscatine IA 52761

May 9
Lanette Morgan
3301 Anastasia PL.
Muscatine IA 52761

May 16
Lorna Hartman
5424 S. Pyrite Circle
Gold Canyon AZ 85219

Anniversaries

18 – Kate and Nick Pierson
20 – Jeff & Marcie Hanssen
25 – Doug & Barb Littrel

DEVOTIONS
for Spiritual Growth

Devotional Booklets

We have *These Days*
Booklets for April-May-June

We have May-June of the
The Upper room Booklets

Birthdays
May Birthdays

1 – Ron Nichols
6 – Kim Warren
7 – Cheryl Weaver
8 – Erin Elshoff
9 – Linda Hardin
9 – Lanette Morgan
9 – Allison Hartman
10 – Abbianna Adams
11- Maddox Warren
11 – Mark Odell
16 – Gabrielle Hartman
16 – Allison Odell
22 – Jayne Manley
24 – Leigh Ann Matkovich
25 – Mary Wildermuth
27 – Kathy Hiyane-Brown
28 – Cory Wangberg

Congratulations

Ian Matthew Elshoff was born at 7:52 pm on Sunday, April 9th. He weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz and was 19 inches long. Welcoming him home are proud parents Jordan and Nicole Elshoff, big sister Adelaide, proud Grandparents John and Beth Elshoff, and Aunt Erin.



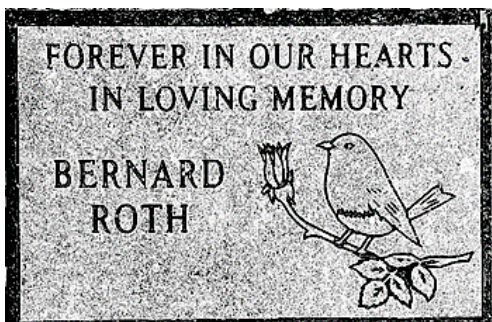
Condolences

Sympathy to the family of Douglas Trueg, 55, of Bondurant passed away on April 9, 2023, at UnityPoint Health/Iowa Lutheran Hospital of Des Moines. The obituary is posted here: [Obituary | Douglas Eugene Trueg of Bondurant, Iowa | Dahl - Van Hove - Schoof Funeral Home & Cremation Service \(dahlfuneralhome.com\)](#) Condolences may be sent to Mary and Harley Trueg at 913 36th Street SW, Bondurant, IA 50035.

Sympathy to the family of Nancy Stych, 74, of Muscatine, Nancy passed away on Monday, April 17, 2023, at Lutheran Living Senior Campus.

The obituary is posted here: [Nancy Stych Obituary | Nancy Stych Obituary | \(wittichfuneralhome.com\)](#)

Condolences may be sent to her husband, Keith and family at 1503 Houser St. #604, Muscatine, IA 52761.



Bernard Roth Memorial

A stone was placed by the Bernard Roth memorial bench outside of the church. Bernard's daughters designed the stone.

Please stop and admire it when you are at church.



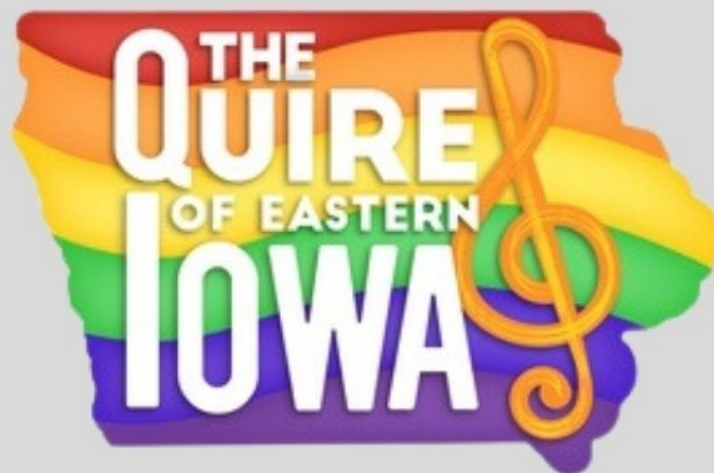
LIVE MUSIC!

SUNDAY, APRIL, 23

10AM

Faith United Church of Christ

3307 Mulberry Ave.



Featuring The Quire of
Eastern Iowa - performing
excerpts from "Considering
Matthew Shepard."



Faith

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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

VOF MAY 2023



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, 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.