



# Faith

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

Sunday Worship  
10:00 AM

## Faith United Church of Christ

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## FAITH U.C.C STAFF

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## November Events

### Communion

November 1st

### Commitment Sunday

November 15th

### Thanksgiving Sunday

November 22nd

### Communion

Sunday, November 22nd

### Special Offering

Thank offering Sunday,  
November 22nd.

## Church Holiday

The church will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday November 26th & 27th.

NOVEMBER 2020

# VOICE OF FAITH

## Stewardship Season is a Season of Sharing

We here at Faith UCC love in expansive ways that help to create a beloved community, both within our own faith community and the community beyond us. The work of our church happens because of the generous financial and volunteer support of all of you. Because of you, our congregation shares God's love. While there are many ways to support our congregation, our annual stewardship campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church. Without your commitments to the annual pledge campaign, we would not be able to engage in all the programs, projects, ministries, and worship experiences that define our community life. **Please remember to return your pledge card by Sunday, November 15.** On that Sunday we will bless all our pledges as we look forward to another year. **The congregational meeting to approve the proposed budget for next year will be on Sunday, December 20.**

Beloved,

LOVE

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

## The Lord's Prayer:

### A Five Part Sermon Series in November

We say it every Sunday. Some of us say it when we can't think of any other prayer to say. When we visit other churches, we stumble over different translations and versions of it. Jesus teaches us to "pray this way." What is it? The Lord's Prayer. Over five Sundays in November, join us for Sunday worship as we explore the meanings, different interpretations of, and questions raised by this prayer that is so central to our faith and yet is oftentimes said without much contemplation.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

## Thanksgiving Sunday

November 22 We will have a special offering for Iowa Thank offering. Grants from these donations are given to help support community service projects which further the ministry of the local churches that are members of the Iowa Conference of the UCC. To donate: Write check to Faith UCC and in the memo add IOWA THANK OFFERING and mail it to the office.

## MONTHLY MUSINGS FROM PASTOR RYAN

With November comes Thanksgiving. Like many people this year, our family Thanksgiving will be different because of the pandemic. We will not all be gathering and will instead connect with grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins over Zoom or Facetime.

Though I'm not a full-blown Luddite, I've always been slow to embrace technology. I held out as long as I could around the turn of the century before the union I was a representative of finally made me get a cell phone. These past few months, however, have helped me to recognize the many good sides, dare I even say, blessings, of modern information technology. Still, as wonderful as it is to be able to connect through technology, nothing can ever replace being with live, in the flesh, real people, especially on a day like Thanksgiving.

All these days away from others and knowing that we have more days ahead of us before we can safely gather again has been a good reminder of just how precious those times can be. So, if I give thanks for anything this year, it would be for both the technologies that keep us connected in ways that were unimaginable not long ago and those times that I have shared and will share again with others, in person. Life is such a mix of contradictions, and yet it is in these very contradictions that we find meaning, purpose, and understanding. At our October 29 General Service of Remembrance when we remembered and celebrated the lives of loved ones we have lost since the start of the pandemic, we ended the service on Zoom with the song "Give Thanks for Life." Set to the tune of "For all the Saints," the song begins:

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,  
Mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,  
Yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

The song continues as a beautiful reflection on the fragility and blessedness of our existence and how we are always living in between these two contradictions. At least that's how I used to hear the song. Now, after several months into the pandemic and having to let go of numerous habits and routines for the sake of preserving the wellbeing and even lives of others, I now hear that message of fragility and blessedness a little differently. Rather than being contradictions, the two go hand and hand. We are fragile in our blessedness, and we are blessed to be fragile. Or, put another way, it's in our weakness that we see just how much we need God's love and the love of one another, and it is those two great loves that carry us from one day to the next, through times as difficult as those of a pandemic and times as wonderful as those when we gather with friends and loved ones and simply enjoy having close companions in this one, crazy, beautiful, and unpredictable life.

"Give thanks for hope," the last verse of the song goes,

That like the wheat, the grain  
Lying in darkness does its life retain,  
In resurrection to grow green again,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

As we move towards winter and into the holiday season, I also give thanks for all of you, my church family. I miss seeing you face to face and singing our hymns together, among so many other things. However, while it is not the same, I also give thanks for the ways we are able to now still stay connected, and I also give thanks for the Holy Spirit through whom I trust we are all still held together. And also, as the song goes, I give thanks for hope, specifically the hope that we can all find in Christ who reminds us that like the seed that waits in the darkness, Resurrection is sure to come. A time will come when it will be safe to gather again inside our sanctuary, and on that day I for one will be even more aware and thankful for just how blessedly fragile we all are and how much we are all truly in this together.

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### Pastoral Emergency Grant Funds

The vestry have approved that Faith United will be granting funds to the following organizations: MCSA, Food Pantry, Domestic Abuse Shelter, Community Diaper Bank. These local missions will be given support in the amount of \$800.00 to each.

## Vestry Minutes from Monday, October 12, 2020

**Attending:**

Pastor Ryan Downing, Sue Johannsen, Jon Merritt, Mark Butterworth, Carla Reynolds, Rich Carroll, Mark Odell, Cindy Rada, Tim Stelzner, Linda Harden, Melissa Schumaker, and Alice Ganzley

**Trustees' Report**

- Windows in the office. Mark Odell suggested a patch to repair it.
- The Front door is complete We are waiting on the camera install.
- The floors in the downstairs bathrooms can be replaced.
- The carpet in the church was discussed. The carpet is glued down. An estimated cost is \$40-50, 000 for upstairs and downstairs. The project could be completed in sections.
- Pastor Ryan asked if people would be interested in having a deeper conversation about the design of the sanctuary. Ryan will send an email to introduce other layouts.
- Mark brought up the lighting of the school signs with a LED light, and be lit at night.

**Pastor's Report**

- Service of Remembrance will be held on Oct. 29. In response to the pandemic and the inability to gather and mourn the loss of loved ones, Pastor will offer a time of remembrance. People are asked to write up a memorial about their loved ones.
- League of Women Voters and LULAC had a March to the Polls. Sue Johannsen spoke at the rally about the 19th Amendment. Leslie Soule spoke about voting.
- At the beginning of the pandemic, Pastor Ryan created the Emergency Relief Fund, (\$10,000). We distributed \$3000 to the food bank and diaper bank. The pastor suggested moving the remainder of the funds to other agencies. Mark Butterworth suggested holding some funds back for an emergency. Cindy suggested heating assistance.
- Melissa Schumaker asked about the Christmas stars and angels. The Outreach Committee will meet and make decisions.

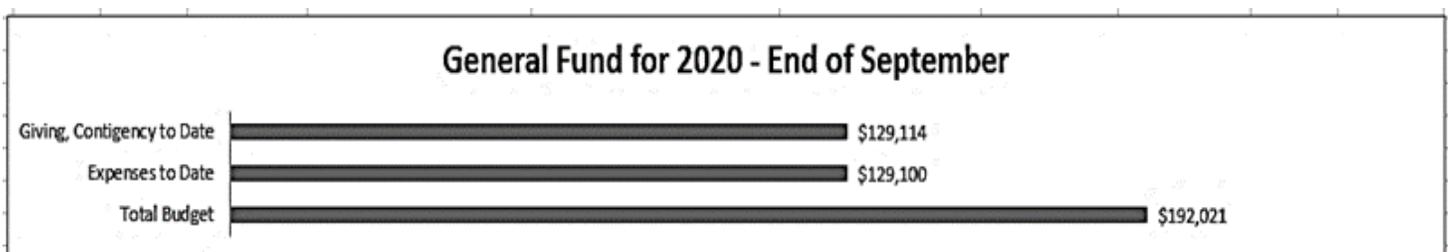
**Unfinished Business**

- Downstairs Restrooms remodel – Tim Stelzner, Cindy Rada, and Sue Johannsen looked at the restrooms. Tim called Jeff Hackett and another contractor.
- Stewardship Campaign, and Volunteers for Stewardship – Ryan will preach on stewardship this Sunday, Oct. 18. Lisa will mail out stewardship materials to members. Commitment Sunday is Nov.15. The theme is Love of Children, Neighbor, and Creation. Jon will take the love of neighbor. Alice will take creation. Melissa will take the love of children.
- Fall plan for building usage/in-person gatherings – Based on the criteria previously set forth by the Vestry, a determination will be made if the church can safely be reopened for in-person services at the November Vestry meeting. The parking lot service turned out to include 52 people. People liked it. There were a few things that can be worked on for the future like distancing and masking. In the spring, when people were surveyed, people were satisfied and wanted to watch from home if others started gathering at church again.
- Financial Secretary position is open. Vestry are asked to suggested names to Ryan.

**New Business**

- Review the 2021 budget as recommended by Deacons. Guidance from the UCC IA Conference suggests a 2% increase in salaries and for Pastor's experience. The Deacons looked at the budget prayerfully and thoughtfully. The Deacons feel the budget is sustainable. Melissa made a motion to accept the proposed budget. Linda Hardin second. The motion carried.
- Everyone agreed to Communion on November 1st.
- Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22nd - Communion & Special - Thank offering.
- November Three Great Loves – Annual Food Pantry food drive (monetary donations per request of food pantry) Food Pantry can purchase at the best price.
- A rent increase on the parsonage will go out to Chris Leary this week.
- Leslie Soule retirement as Auditor recognition. A gift basket will be given to her.
- Schedule Congregational meeting on December 20 for the 2021 Budget.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer at 8:09 p.m.  
 Next Meeting on November 9, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE U.C.C.

**New York church bell tolling for each US life lost to COVID-19**

How does one make tangible the lives lost to COVID-19? The deaths of more than 200,000 Americans can be hard to grasp. Now, and for the next two weeks, a United Church of Christ congregation on Long Island is using the toll of a bell to mark each one. [To continue reading go to [https://www.ucc.org/news\\_new\\_york\\_church\\_bell\\_tolling\\_for\\_each\\_us\\_life\\_lost\\_to\\_covid\\_19\\_10212020](https://www.ucc.org/news_new_york_church_bell_tolling_for_each_us_life_lost_to_covid_19_10212020)]

**Children give frightening testimonies, UCC offers support during border march to save asylum**

More than 90 migrant children and their families, seeking asylum in the United States, marched to the border wall in Nogales, Mexico on Oct. 21, accompanied by immigration advocates, where they were greeted by allies of faith on the American side. [To continue reading go to [https://www.ucc.org/news\\_children\\_give\\_frightening\\_testimonies\\_ucc\\_offers\\_support\\_during\\_border\\_march\\_to\\_save\\_asylum\\_10212020](https://www.ucc.org/news_children_give_frightening_testimonies_ucc_offers_support_during_border_march_to_save_asylum_10212020)]

**Tri Conference Annual Meeting on October 17, 2020**

I signed up in January to be a delegate to the Conference meeting not realizing it would be a 7-hour zoom meeting. But the day went faster than I expected, and a lot of information was delivered.

Conference minister Brigit Stevens opened the meeting followed by The Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister, and President of the United Church of Christ. There were 188 participants at this Zoom meeting.

Rev Naomi Washington-Leapheart, Director of Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs for the City of Philadelphia, was the guest speaker. She presented a thought-provoking and inspiring message.

Rev. Stevens reminded us that "We are the Conference." We are members and friends of a local UCC congregation, then association, then conference. There are 165 churches in Iowa, 77 churches in Nebraska, and 73 churches in South Dakota.

The Tri-Conference is an experiment, and we are learning as we go. Our mission is to serve the mission and purposes of the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences. This is a result of years of conversations, prayers, and meetings.

The Board of Directors cast a vision: "We are called to be the UCC in this time and place to live out God's extravagant welcome and advocate for justice so that all may know love, safety, belonging in dignity."

In 2020, all three conferences confirmed themselves to be Open and Affirming. Also, Anti-Racist Commitments were affirmed by ALL three of our boards of directors. There are 11 staff members and our Conference Minister for the Tri-Conference staff.

We saw videos and reports about Global Ministry, heard updates on the support that the UCC has given over the years, viewed Placerville Camp in South Dakota, and received messages from Chicago Theological Seminary, Eden Seminary, and the UCC Insurance Board.

We then had the Iowa Conference meeting with a quorum of 94. We learned we are down to two ACM's with the leaving of Rev. Jonna Jensen and Rev. Darrell Goodwin. Two new ACM's will be hired. 34% of OCWM received goes to the National UCC. Iowa is one of the lower compensating conferences.

- Pat Mundell

- Those attending from Faith United were Rev. Ryan Downing, Sue Johannsen, Pat Mundell.

**Ways to Continue Supporting the Work of the Church**

The church is more than just a building. We the people are the church, and we will continue to find ways to be a community that shares in the love of Christ together. To help maintain all that we do, your monetary offerings to the church are welcome.

Our options for giving currently are:

- Drop off your envelopes to the locked mailbox by the front door, in Box 3307 with a Faith UCC sign on the box used by the church. (push it to the back of the box after opening with the front handle). If there is mail going out clipped to the front, just slip yours over the mail into the back of the box and we will retrieve it.
- Send in the mail to 3307 Mulberry, Muscatine Iowa 52761.
- Talk with your bank to set up a direct payment to the church.
- Use our website link for the church's PayPal, transfer charges apply.

Thank you for your generosity.

FAITH EVENTS

Weekly Church Event Calendar

**Tuesday**

12:00 p.m. - Bible Study with Pastor Ryan on zoom

**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

**Sunday**

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

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Morning Adult Forum Class on zoom

You're invited to  
**Join Us**

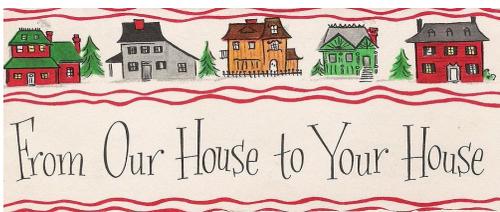


Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, November 1, 2020, at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, set your clocks back one hour (i.e., gaining one hour) to "fall back."  
Good time to change the batteries in fire alarm / smoke detectors.

Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 25, was Bible Sunday at Faith United. Earlier in the week Pastor Ryan and CE Director Beth Elshoff delivered Bibles to our four third graders--George Kreitner, Parker Welsch, Stella Warren, and Keaton Sharar. The four of them were featured in our online worship service. Keep them in your prayers as they continue to grow in their explorations of faith and life.



**From Our House to Yours**  
**WE want YOU to be a part**  
**of this year's virtual Christmas program!**

Children, families, anyone who wants to participate, you are invited to share a 1 to 4-minute video of something your family does at Christmas. Sing a song! Tell a story! Show off your favorite decorations! Record on your phone or other device and send it by email to Ryan at the church and we will put together a Christmas program like no other this year! If you need help with the video just let us know and we will figure something out to help YOU be a part of this special 2020 Christmas. This is NOT limited to families with kids. This is open to ANYONE who would like to have a part. Contact Beth Elshoff for more information.

SCRIP Gift Card Orders will be Due November 13th

*Make sure you get your Gift Cards before Christmas!*

It's easy! Just look online at the options here: <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse#?saved>

Then make out a check to Faith United with scrip in the memo and send it along with a note on what cards you need and the amount you would like, then mail them to the church. We will order them for you! You will be notified when the cards have been received. (Approx. one week from the 15th).



FAITH UNITED MEMBERS & FRIENDS

November  
Birthday  
Card Shower

11/8 – Sylvia Trumbull  
3406 Clermont Drive  
Muscatine IA 52761

11/19 – Jim Hoopes  
2240 Bentwood Drive  
Muscatine IA 52761

11/23 – Dede Hoopes  
2240 Bentwood Drive  
Muscatine IA 52761

November  
Birthdays

- 2 – Pat Pagel
- 4 – Lane Clausen
- 6 – Anna Wheeler
- 8 – Sylvia Trumbull
- 9 – Carson Carroll
- 9 – Scott Carver
- 9 – Gary Lindley
- 9 – Deb Wainscott Meyer
- 14 – Georgia Gerth
- 14 – Isabelle Hartman
- 16 – Evan Gerth
- 19 – Jim Hoopes
- 21 – Deb Hueser
- 23 – Dede Hoopes

November  
Anniversaries

- 1 – Pat & Caleen Pagel
- 2 – John & Linda Kleffmann
- 3 – Dylan & Kelsey Cooney
- 14 – Brad & Leslie Soule
- 14 – Doug & Mary Trueg
- 23 – Jeff & Barb Bohling
- 25 – Phil & Cindy Carver
- 26 – Tony & Kristen Brant
- 26 – Doug & Sue Krieger
- 26 – John & Sue Muir
- 28 – Dave & Margie Kundel

Altar Flowers for November

November 1<sup>st</sup> Donna Reed in memory of Maurie  
 November 8<sup>th</sup> The Johannsen's in memory of Loved ones  
 November 29 David & Margie Kundel in memory of Trace



MCSA Room #5 Sponsors for November

- Nov 1 - Cooper family in honor of our parents, George, Virginia, Barbara, and George.
- Nov1 - Donna Reed in loving memory of Maurie.
- Nov 8 - Sylvia Trumbull in honor of our Faith family.
- Nov 15 - Barbara Woodstra in celebration of Lina Folster, Barbara's Great Granddaughter.
- Nov 22 - Mark & Sharon Butterworth in memory of Darrell Beckey.
- Nov 29 - Barbara & Jeffrey Bohling in honor of Jeff & Barb, and Bob & Phyllis Anniversaries.
- Nov 29 - The Warren family in memory of Francis Pumilia, Kim's Nana.

Our Deepest Sympathy to Our Members and Friends

- It is with sadness and hope in the Resurrection that I share with you that Barbara Bublitz, our fellow church member, and sister in Christ died Thursday, October 8th. Please hold her and her family in your prayers. Sympathy cards for the Bublitz family can be sent to Ann Bublitz at 34396 Edgewater Circle, Cumming, IA, 50061
- It is with sadness and hope in the Resurrection that I share with you that Dick Maeglin, a dear friend of our church and brother in faith, died yesterday. Please hold him, Cynthia, Twyla, and all their family in your prayers.
- Sympathy to our former pastor Teresa Clark and her family on the death of her husband John on October 10, 2020. John was 80 years of age. Words of sympathy can be sent to the church to be forwarded to the family.
- Sympathy to Marcy Clausen on the death of her sister Carol Beisiegel, age 61, who passed away on October 7th. Carol was born with significant developmental delays. It was through Carol and her development that led Marcy into special education. "Carol taught us patience, acceptance, and learning to appreciate small steps toward success, and how to find joy in the little things in life". Words of sympathy can be sent to Marcy Clausen, 2517 Forest Parkway, Muscatine, IA 52761
- Sympathy to Carol Lane and her family on the death of her brother, Sam Lane who passed away on October 8th in Winnsboro, Texas. Sam was 82 years young. Words of sympathy can be sent to Carol Lane, 47965 252nd St, Garretson, SD 57030

# FAITH COMMUNITY



## Let's Show Our Love of Neighbors by Helping to Fill the Food Pantry

The Three Great Loves is a denomination-wide initiative of the UCC that inspires churches to show their love for neighbor, creation, and children in real and concrete ways.

Mark & Sharon Butterworth have given Faith UCC another Food Pantry challenge. This has become a tradition here at Faith. The challenge is to help fill the Food Pantry for families in need before the holiday season. Food insecurity is real, and it is especially so in these difficult economic times.

**Currently, the Food Pantry is ordering all food items from River Bend.** As a result, they can make monetary donations go further than the usual donations of can goods, etc. **So this year, at their request, we're asking everyone to make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry through the church.**

**Please write the check to Faith UCC and in the memo line add Food Pantry.** Thank you for supporting this important local community mission.

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## Thank You Notes to Our Members & Friends

- Thank you to our Faith friends for the kind words and sympathy cards at the recent passing of our sister, Carol Beisiegel. Your prayers and thoughtfulness were greatly appreciated by all of our family. - Marcy & Larry Clausen
- A big thank you to all my Church member friends for acknowledging my birthday. All the cards and greetings were greatly appreciated. - John Jones.
- Thank everybody for remembering me and another milestone in my life. The cards are very much appreciated. - Bernard Roth
- To our wonderful Faith family, made my Birthday special with all the delightful greetings. Thank you for making "older than dirt" not bad at all. - Shirley Johnson.
- Thank you for all the birthday cards that I received from my friends in Muscatine. I enjoyed all of them. - Myung Sharar
- Thank you very much to all who sent me birthday cards for my 85th birthday! I appreciate it very much. - Carol Lane
- Faith United Church of Christ, thank you for your generous gift of \$285.00 to the UCC's *Strength the Church* Fund. This fund supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations as they work to create a just world for all. Thank you for helping us all Be the Church. With gratitude, Rev. Ellis, Associate Conference Minister
- Faith UCC, how good it is to write another note of thanks and be in prayer for you and your ministry. Thank you for your \$1,500.00 quarterly contribution and support of our *Church's Wider Mission*. You play a vital role in ensuring the Wider Church can support clergy, resource churches all in advocacy, and help raise a new generation. Thank you for helping the UCC Be the Church. With thanks, Rev. Ellis Arnold. ACM.
- Thank you to everyone that donated to the October Three Great Loves Project to help grow trees to replace the damage done around Iowa after the derecho storm that swept through on August 10. Trees Forever will receive \$100.00 from our collection.
- Thank you for the donations to United Way, *Coats for Kids*, we collected \$55.00 for this mission.
- Thank you for the special offering donations for Neighbors in Need. We collected \$575.00 for this special mission that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

<p><b>FOR CHURCH RECORDS</b> Envelope # _____ (for office use)</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>I plan to give \$ _____ each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month beginning _____ (date and year)</p> <p>for an annual total of \$ _____ .</p> <p>I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>  <p><b>Beloved,</b></p>	<p><b>FOR YOUR RECORDS</b></p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p><b>With others in my congregation, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.</b></p> <p>I plan to give \$ _____ beginning _____ (date and year)</p> <p>Each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month</p> <p>Annual Total \$ _____</p> 
<p><b>LOVE</b></p> <p><b>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7</b></p>	
<p><b>Please remember to turn in your pledge card for our Commitment Sunday, November 15th.</b></p>	

## 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



NOVEMBER 2020

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

