SEPTEMBER 2024



Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Faith United Church of Christ 3307 Mulberry Avenue Muscatine, IA 52761 Phone: 563-263-5979 www.faithuccmuscatine.com

Church Office Hours

10 a.m. — 4 p.m. Monday - Friday

Pastor Paris White

pastor@faithuccmuscatine.com Cell Phone: (309) 791-2602

Church Office: Lisa Allen secretary@faithuccmuscatine.com

Congregational Care: Pat Mundell pmundell@machlink.com

Christian Education : Lisa Shea christianed@faithuccmuscatine.com

Instant Church Directory

"Stay connected with your church community like never before! We are excited to introduce our new instant church directory, available for download on your mobile device. Downloading can be easy, just follow the steps below:

For Apple devices click here: <u>https://</u> itunes.apple.com/us/app/ instant-church-directory/ id589542221?ls=1&mt=8

For Android Devices click here: <u>https://</u> play.google.com/store/ apps/details? id=com.instantchurchdirec tory.members

You can change your information and upload photos! An easy way to stay connected to the Church.

VOICE OF FAITH

Building Projects Update News

In the spirit of Wendell Day, who loved to pose matched-gift challenges to the congregation and who has blessed us with a contingency fund – the Vestry would like to challenge the congregation to raise \$30,000 for our building projects to be matched 100% by the Wendell Day Fund!

This year the Vestry named five top priorities projects to pose to the congregation. The Building Improvement Fund has been started to fund these projects as the congregation sees fit:

- ADA Compliance automatic front doors—FUNDED!
- ADA Compliance Restrooms accommodating all needs
- Technology Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall sound/video system
- New flooring Replace carpeting throughout building
- Sanctuary Pew chairs Multipurpose & flexible space



House Divided — Iowa Loves!

Iowa Hawkeye vs. Iowa State Raffle - Show your team spirit!

This is a slightly different kind of raffle; we will have a Battle Raffle and Duel Prize Winners. **Are you a Herky or a Cyclone Fan?** Each team's bundle includes a handmade quilt and a reusable bag by Lisa Shea, and a 'House Unitd' print by Jim Elias and are hanging in the overflow area of the church for you to see. Pick your team to buy your raffle tickets. Tickets are one for \$5 or a wingspan of 30 tickets for \$100. **We will have a competition to see which school will win!** A goal meter like our big raffle gauge will be used for each team to keep track of the scores until we draw October 27th. LET'S GO TEAM! Remember to share on FB with friends and family - they may want in on the team fun too! Not into raffles, but want to donate to the building improvement funds? That works too! Just make sure to put "building improvement fund" in the memo line of your check!



Hawkeyes and Cyclones Unite for the Kinnick Wave during the Cy-Hawk Rivalry Game. One Iowa showing support for sick kids at the U of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

HOUSEUNITED

VOICE OF FAITH

CELEBRATE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rally Day Sunday!

Be sure to come back after Labor Day, because we have a full day planned for you! Sunday, September 8th will be Rally Sunday to kick start our Christian Education year! This will be incorporated into worship and after worship, you can expect some fun and fellowship! This will also be the time to add your handprint to our 'family tree' in the newly updated Nursery! Lastly, we offer a chance to get your professional portrait taken by Brad Soule (read on for more info!)

=====-Get your Free Portrait at Faith! -

You are invited to come to the church on Sunday, September 8th and get a free portrait! Brad Soule was kind enough to offer his professional skills to help with the new Church Directory. Please add your name to the sign up sheet at the church or <u>Here</u>.

Christian Youth Education Year Begins!

September 11, 2024, our youth of all ages are invited to join in Christian Education this year on Wednesdays. Dinner will be provided for all at 5:15 pm, we will have time for music, and then a lesson, ending at 6:30 pm. Students who are in 5th grade and above will break off at 6:00 pm to have a Confirmation class with Pastor until 7 pm.

- Confirmation Class -

Pastor will host a Confirmation orientation with parents and students on Wednesday, September 4th at 6 pm to talk about the year and expectations. If your student plans to be in Confirmation, but neither parent, student, or another guardian can make orientation, please talk with the Pastor directly. Class will be from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The Adult Forum -

This forum will *change* from Wednesday evenings to <u>Thursdays at 6 pm</u>_starting September 12th. Our first book will be Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The new Zoom Link: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83603744207</u> Meeting ID: 836 0374 4207 <u>Note:</u> We will no longer offer a Sunday morning adult forum class after the worship hour.

-Bible Study with the Pastor -

The pastor will once again hold Tuesday **Bible Study at 1 pm starting on September 10th.**

Pub Theology @ Proof Social -

The summer is over, but we so enjoyed gathering for food and drinks each month to hear one another's take on God and faith! Therefore, we will continue to offer Wine and Cheesus once a month, but we will give TUESDAYS a try!

Tuesday, September 24th at 6:30 p.m. Pastor warmly invites everyone to join her at Proof Social, in the room to the left as you walk inside, for a night of Pub Theology! Pub Theology is centered around individuals bringing questions or topics to the table to be discussed and to receive a diverse perspective from the Pastor and one another. This is <u>not</u> a space for fixed answers, nor is this a space for condemnation, judgment, or hatred. This **is** a safe space to be compassionately curious and open to the Divine and how God manifests differently in all of our experiences. (<u>Note:</u> At this location you do not have to be twentyone, there are non-alcoholic options available, AND you can order amazing pizza from Wine Nutz, anything on the menu from Skinny's BBQ, and even places like Boonies will take your order and deliver it to you! All are welcome!)

-Centering Prayer-

Centering Prayer will be back on a new day/time. Join us each Thursday, starting Sept. <u>12th, from 5:15-5:45</u> pm for a moment of peace and connection with God. Centering Prayer is a time for reflection, prayer, and silence. We hope that this new time might allow for those of you getting off work the chance to also have a moment of silence and centering on God before you finish out your week.

FAITH & COMMUNITY

-Worship this Fall with Us-

As we transition from the summer of healing, hope, and joy – we move to our fall theme of **ABUNDANCE!** Our readings will come from the books James and Mark.

<u>Sept 1</u> – Holy Communion Sunday for this Labor Day weekend Holiday.

<u>Sept 8</u> – Rally Day Sunday with special music; Stick around after to add your handprint to the 'family tree' in the nursery and get your directory photo taken by Brad Soule!

<u>Sept 15</u> – Special Speaker Jon Koch from Muscatine's Water and Resource Recovery, MORC, and Pollinator's Club will be with us to share about how composting is one way we can create for creation.

<u>Sept 22</u> – After worship the Pastor will be off to the S.E. Iowa Synod for the Fall Rostered Minister Gathering. She will be there all day Monday as well and back in office Tuesday.

<u>Sept 29</u> – Pulpit Supply is Rev. Brice Hughes, as we give Pastor one Sunday off when a month has 5 Sundays in order to honor sabbath rest. The Pastor & Deb Hagy will be taking time to join in the Jam Conference for the Tri-State Annual Conference on Sept. 27 & 28th.

--Braver Angels-

The ONA committee welcomes you to join in conversation with Braver Angels at a new date. Dr. Chris Peters from Braver Angels will be with us on Thursday, October 3rd at 6 pm. Braver Angels is leading the nation's largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to bridge the partisan divide for the good of our democratic republic. As we head into the election, we're bringing together "We the People" to find a hopeful alternative to toxic politics. The American Hope campaign is equipping Americans across the political spectrum to work together and demand the same of politicians from both parties. Braver Angels information @ braverangels.org

-- Support Groups-

<u>ACA/DF:</u> Our childhood experiences have a lot to do with how we think about ourselves and how we relate to others in our adult lives. Unfortunately, too many people grow up in unstable and unsafe environments with not a lot of support or guidance towards healthy, whole, and full lives. Therefore, Faith is happy to be partnering with a local mental health professional to host a weekly support group for adults who were raised in dysfunctional homes – be it from substance, sexual, physical, or emotional abuse, or guardians who struggled with behavior / emotional disorders, or militaristic / perfectionist guardians, etc. All are welcome to join us Sundays @ 4 pm at Faith United Church of Christ.

Community Mental Health-

The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine is excited to share that global visionary and Muscatine High School graduate, Dr. Jim Yong Kim, will be back in our community on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Location: Muscatine High School Auditorium with a focus on mental health. This is a free event bringing together leading experts in the field to explore the current state of mental health and insights into how individuals and communities can better support mental well-being. This event is sponsored by KENT Corporation. Register at this Link: <u>https://cfgm.booktix.com/dept/main/e/MHPanel</u>

MCSA Homeless Shelter Sponsors-

9/1 - Pat Mundell in honor of our Faith United Church of Christ staff

9/8 - Pastor Paris in memory of those lost to suicide

9/15 - Jim & Janet Sichterman in celebration of Alan Arkema's Birthday

9/22 - Jim & Kathy Trosen in honor of Lisa Shea, the Christian Ed. Coordinator

9/29 - Bill & Kay Creasey in celebration of Faith UCC Family

"MAKE A GATE" BY AUTHOR ALAN ARKEMA

All of us humans have fences. These fences vary. There are moral fences. Such a fence determines how far we will go in our actions. Some people have narrow fence lines; others have broad ones. For some the posts are still standing, but, the fences are broken down.

Our moral fences include the religious, contemplative side of our lives. It is especially in this are that our fence lines are determined largely by our past experiences. Our reaction to our past, consciously or unconsciously, tells us where to set our fence lines and how strong, how high, or low we make them. We have social, or relational, fences. We set up these fences to determine whom we will invite into our lives as friends or companions or bosom buddies. These fences also help us determine with whom we will cohabit, where we will live, build our homes and raise our families.

These are only a few examples. I'm sure you will be thinking of other fences. We live behind our fences. They provide our feeling of protection. When our fences are threatened, we react. We protect our fences with every ounce of our being and strength. We are sure our fences are in the right place for the right reasons. Truly, of all the fences in the world, each of us feels their fences are morally justified.

The question is why do we feel this way? It's difficult to answer that question. Difficult because there are many reasons for those feelings. Please be aware, I am not suggesting or hinting, or implying that feelings are not good. Our feelings are part of who we are, and, to us, they are important. However, if we allow our feelings to control us, if these fences rule our emotional selves, we're liable to slide down a destructive path. This is true not only of our emotional selves but any aspect of our lives. I'm thinking of our 'left-brain' selves; the hardheadedness that leaves all decision-making to hard facts. This is also true of our belief system. If we are guided only by our left brain, we often become hair-brained. If we are guided only by personal beliefs, we run the same danger. Beliefs, feelings, and facts are all essential to living a fulfilled life. The goal is to create a balance among all three.

The history of humankind is replete with examples of what occurs when one of the three is allowed to dominate. The wars (both political and religious), bloodshed, mayhem, and cruelty of individuals or groups to others, is all too often the result of allowing decision-making to be dominated by one aspect of our being. Unfortunately, this is too often the feeling or emotional side.

The question arises. What do we do about our fences? Do we try to destroy them? Not in my opinion. However, I do have some suggestions. Take a tour around your fences. Be humbly honest about what you see. Ask yourself what are your fences made of. Has a bad experience made you put up your fence? For example, perhaps you were hurt at a church you attended. As a result, you said, 'I'll never step foot in a church again!' Hurt can come from a person, business, or institution. The response is the same.

Be honest. Response to hurts is often to raise an emotional fence. It's a defense and likely a fence without a gate. Such fences are likely to have big twists and holes. It's a harmful fence. A hurt-giving fence. Your friends will be hurt. They may wonder what happened, or if any one of them is responsible for your actions that made you become so distant.

I don't need to dwell on this point. Remember. Emotions have a way of changing. The edge comes off in time. Now, you have to save face to keep up your fence. Another emotion is taking over to stop you from making a gate.

If you have a fence with no gate, you're the one losing the most by it. It will take a lot of humility to admit your own error. You will feel vulnerable, exposed, and afraid. Once you do make that gate, you'll begin to realize having a gate is more mature and satisfying. Your friends will respect you. A gate says I'm open to you. You may come in or I'll come out to you, listen to you, and communicate with you. I'll try my best to learn from you. I may disagree with you, but I'll respect you and your difference of opinion.

A gate also says you are willing to go out to meet your enemies and listen to them instead of putting them in your mental box. Perhaps you'll only need to stand in your open gate until your foe asks you what you're doing. Use the opening to calmly tell them you'd like to talk over your differences. Perhaps only to agree to disagree, but to live in peace with your differences. They might even become your friends.

We'll never get rid of our fences, but at least put a gate in them. Don't lock the gate. A simple latch is quite enough.

- Alan A. Arkema 02/24/2022, revised 08/20/2023



SEPTEMBER GATHERINGS

-Blood Drive with Impact Life-

September 4th, 2-5 p.m. We are hosting another Blood Drive this September through Impact Life. If you're eligible, please consider donating and saving a life! A sign-up sheet can be found on the red-board in the overflow area or you can sign up online here: <u>https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/134669</u>

-Friendship Circle

We will meet at the church on Thursday, September 5th at 10 a.m. The hostess is Karren Sharar and Margie Kundel will give us the program. All women, members and friends are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pat Mundell.

-Faith UCC Green Team-

Next meeting: **September 3rd @ 4:30 p.m.** Join with the new Zoom Meeting link at: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87995593330</u> Meeting ID: 879 9559 3330



Composting can be a benefit in many ways. Those who collect and compost their food waste and scraps reduce the landfill and add organic recycling. Pictured here is a drop-off spot at the Transfer Station. It is helpful if you collect your scraps and food waste in a bucket, and when you are out and about, deliver it to the bin shown. Recycling and composting are one way you can protect God's creation.

Open and Affirming-

The Next ONA meeting will be **September 5th at 6:00 p.m.** The New Zoom link: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89822452836</u> Meeting ID: 898 2245 2836

September is Hispanic Heritage Month

In Muscatine, there is a beautiful mix of people. Most people in the city of Muscatine speak English, 84% and 14% speak Spanish. The US Census shows 4557 Hispanic people in the city of Muscatine. <u>https://data.census.gov/profile/Muscatine_city, Iowa?</u> g=160XX00US1955110#race-and-ethnicity

Exerted from: NPR, Yes, We're Calling It Hispanic Heritage Month And We Know It Makes Some Of You Cringe by Vanessa Romo UPDATED SEPTEMBER 17, 202111:54 AM

Hispanic Heritage Month initially began as a weeklong celebration in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson who, at the time said, "The people of Hispanic descent are the heirs of missionaries, captains, soldiers, and farmers who were motivated by a young spirit of adventure, and a desire to settle freely in a free land." "This heritage is ours," he proclaimed. It wasn't until 1988 that President Ronald Reagan extended the week to a full 31 days — through Oct. 15 — keeping the Sept. 15 start date because it coincides with the national Independence Day of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Similarly,



Mexico celebrates on the 16th, Chile on the 18th, and Belize on the 21st. Mario T. Garcia, professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, tells NPR, "Because the historic struggles of Chicanos, Mexican Americans, other Latinos are happy stories ... because only through those struggles have we been able to achieve more social justice in this country, more education."

FAITH UNITED MEMBER AND FRIENDS

Birthday Card Shower Listing

September 3 Tom Emerick 1224 Northwood Lane Muscatine IA 52761

September 15

Alan Arkema Apt. 514 3515 Diana Queen Dr. Muscatine IA 52761

September 24

Myung Sharar 13421 S. Fairfield, 55 G, Seal Beach, CA 90740

Anniversaries

- 1 John & Judi Jones
- 3 Liz & Matt Busch
- 4 Glenn & Ashley Scott
- 6 Jim & Pat Fischer
- 9 John & Diane Littrel
- 29 Cody & Hannah Estabrook

Muscatine Center For Social Action

'Unmentionables'

Outreach would like to collect Briefs/Boxers, Underpants, Bras/Sport Bras, and Socks in September! All sizes for men, women and children.

Donations may be placed in the tub in the overflow area, thank you for your generosity!

106 items were taken to the shelter om August. Thank you!

Birthdays

- 1 Cameron Rada
- 1- John Littrel
- 2 Robert Brown
- 3 Tom Emerick
- 4 Jeff Hanssen
- 4 Norma Stelzner
- 5 Kylene Blanchard
- 6 Michael Metcalf
- 6 Erin Plemmons
- 7 Shelley Frost
- 7 Trisha Littrel
- 11 Jack Hovland
- 14 Mark Diercks
- 15 Alan Arkema
- 16 Jim Reynolds
- 17 Emmett Metcalf
- 18 Nathan Diercks
- 18 Ashley Scott
- 22 Jessica Ingstad
- 24- Hunter Weggen
- 24 Myung Sharar
- 25 Anna Sharar
- 26 Easton Ales
- 27 Karen Hartman
- 28 Eric Pagel
- 30 Glenn Scott

-Faith UCC Community Prayer List-

Please keep in your prayers and their caretakers as they face challenging situations. Myung Sharar, Chad Morgan, Audrey Beckey, Lane Clausen, Nancy Hultquist, Allison Odell, Susan Willis, Joey Merchan, Patricia Fischer, Allen Emerick, Chris Wildasin, Bob Murray, Dennis Engel, Will Kreuger, Judy Merritt, Sandra Roth, Tom Emerick, and Gina Huss.

-Please update the church office-

Members that have had changes with their names, addresses, emails, phone numbers, etc. Please help us update the church records. Also send in your photo for the Directory. Just reply <u>Here</u>. Thank you!

-Thank You Notes-

- I want to thank everyone for all the Birthday cards and wishes, I am delighted to receive all the loving and thoughtful words from everyone at Faith. Judy Merritt.
- Thank you to each one of you for the pretty, funny, and kind cards. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and your kindness, always. Judi Jones
- A big thank you for all the updates around the church, the nursery (Lisa Shea & Jim
- Elias), the Christian Education office (Lisa Shea, Tim Stelzner, and Jim Elias)
- Thank you to Mary Wildermuth for all her time and effort on updating the Church Library.
- Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers during worship in August!
- Thank you to our special music, McKenna Schumaker, Three Guys and Soule, the Hartland Harmony group, guest accompanist Sheryl Ringen.
- Thank you to Alan Arkema for sharing your testimony/sermon on Aug 25th.
- Thank you to Pat Pagel for all the work on the new sign, along with the sign team.

VESTRY AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY

- We debriefed the action plan made in July and the 'We Believe' meeting we hosted.
- <u>The Deacons</u> reported plans to meet before the September Vestry meeting to discuss the upcoming Stewardship and budget plans.
- <u>The Elders</u> mailed membership letters to those who met the criteria outlined in the Constitution. Some replies have been received. A more detailed report will be ready for the September meeting. The Elders updated the Office Manager job description. Motion carried. A Music Director is needed for the Choir and handbells. Elders writing a job description/ad.
- <u>The Trustees</u> reported the white vacuum needs to be repaired or replaced, as well as the carpet cleaner downstairs (NOT the rug doctor, the one that can go between pews). Pagel will go to Neals to see if the vacuum should be repaired or replaced. For the HVAC Dave talked to Kelly, but still no ETA. For the sign will be trenching electrical out to sign. Scott is busy so Pagel will take over supervision of the sign. Will ask about taking the old sign down and saving the masonry. Will ask if they can trench the gutters out to solve that problem too. For the Advent wreath Pagel will work on this to get done by Nov. 24 in time for Advent. Discussion for taking it off the wall or on a pulley so it could be lowered. Pasel to decide.
- <u>Pastor</u> reported on the End-of-Life workshop, Wine and Cheesus, worship at Addington Place, Blood Drive, Almoner Fund, and Solidarity Circles.
- <u>Strategic Planning</u>: Building improvements –Discussion of using Wendall Day funds for matching. Morgan moved: Challenge congregation to raise \$30,000 for Building Improvement Projects which will be matched by Wendal Day fund. Pagel seconded. Motion carried. Front Door automatic opener approved at Congregational meeting on July 28th. JJ is scheduling out to September. JJ also gave us suggestions for DIYing the upstairs bathroom door to make it ADA. Odell will take charge of the front door project. Downstairs Bathrooms update on compliance with ADA. Discussion: two quotes in the packet (Rivo, Carver). Need more
- details from Carver to compare quotes. Johannsen is the person who approached Carver, so we will ask her to get the details. Quotes for technology in the sanctuary & fellowship hall One has come in so far. committee will meet, (Tim, Brad, Tom, Scott). Padded chairs will help with sound problems if we go with hard flooring. One company says don't remove carpeting for sound. Another company will test sound using a computer model. \$52/chair maybe everyone purchases their own chair and use the \$5,000 donation for pew chairs to make up the rest. Chairs vs. Pews will be a controversial topic among the congregation. A possibility of a mixture of pews /chairs idea was mentioned. Wildermuth will ask Carriage House for a quote on floors. Downstairs could be finished concrete or vinyl. Upstairs rooms maybe vinyl, Sanctuary quotes for both carpet squares and vinyl plank. Town Hall meeting Aug 25 Canceled and encouraged a trip to Church of Christ to view pew chairs.

Congregational Life Grant Reports-

ICM Event Grant Report: Betty Collins, also an ICM board member took attendance at the event and said 54 people attended in person. 4 individuals attended via zoom. The attendees included educators, members of the Indigenous population, community members, and people of various political affiliations. Everyone who attended the event was very interested and respectful in the conversation. Everyone learned a lot about Indigenous history, culture, and the education system in Canada. Let me know if you would like any further information. A few members of our church also attended. – *Kim Warren*

The Quire Congregational Life: We celebrated on June 23rd our Open and Affirming status. The music performed was composed by Mari Esabe Valverde, Conner Warren Smith, and Reginald Unterseher. Those who attended found love, laughter, and joy in the voices of those in The Quire. They sang: "Courage to Be Who We Are" by Ruth Huber, "Singing for Our Lives" by Holly Near, "Still Holding My Hand" by Tim Minchin, "A Song of Life" by Connor Warren Smith, "Keep On Moving Forward" by Pat Humphries, "Ashokan Farewell" arr. Carole Stephens, "A Little Song of Life" by Reginald Unterseher. Three members of The Quire answered questions about their faith during sermon time, so we learned more about the personal stories. They talked about their journeys of faith from childhood to the present,. Many members of The Quire stayed and shared a meal and time with us. We chatted and made friends with members of The Quire! - Sue Johannsen. Faith United Church of Christ 3307 Mulberry Avenue Muscatine, Iowa 52761

VOF SEPTEMBER 2024



Mission statement:

Faith United Church of Christ exists to provide a safe place for people to worship, explore their faith, gain a sense of community, and improve the world around them.

Annual Crop Walk Event

We will be collecting for this outreach event on Sunday October 6th, mark your calendars! More information will be in the October monthly newsletter!



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Please make checks payable to Faith UCC and in the memo add (NIN).



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.
- Zelle® Payments, check with your bank or Credit card to see if that is an option for you.
 - Thank you for your generosity.

STOP

HUNGER