



# Focus on Faith

## Faith First Community Church

1630 W. 38th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806  
563-391-5726

Email: [office@faithuccdavenport.org](mailto:office@faithuccdavenport.org)



February 2024  
Vol. 24-2 Issued Monthly  
Rev. Heidi Hulme  
Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

Wednesday  
Evening Discussions  
Starting at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning Schedule  
Faith Formation 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.



*Ash Wednesday*

**Ash Wednesday**  
February 14  
Service of Ashes  
"Store Up"

**February 21**  
"Come Up"

**February 28**  
"Take Up"

**March 6**  
"Raise Up"

**March 13**  
"Light Up"

**March 20**  
"Lift Up and Sit Up"

WEDNESDAYS DURING  
*Lent*

*Lenten*  
Worship  
Schedule

**February 18**  
"Come Up"  
*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

**February 25**  
"Take Up"  
*Mark 1:9-15*

**March 3**  
"Raise Up"  
*John 2:13-22*

**March 10**  
"Light Up"  
*John 3:14-21*

**March 17**  
"Lift Up"  
*John 12:20-33*

**March 24**  
Palm/Passion Sunday  
"Sit Up"  
*John 12:12-16*

**March 31**  
EASTER  
"Look Up"  
*Mark 16:1-8*

**March 24**  
Palm/Passion Sunday  
10:30 a.m.

**March 28**  
Maundy Thursday

**March 29**  
Good Friday  
5:00 p.m.

**March 31**  
EASTER SUNDAY

Youth  
After-Sunrise  
Service  
8:30 a.m.

**Easter Breakfast**  
9:15 — 10:15 a.m.

**Worship with Communion**  
10:30 a.m.



THANKS  
FROM THE  
HEART

Dear Faith First Community,

Thank you so much for the very generous Christmas Gift! We are saving the money for some furniture upgrades later this year! I am honored and humbled, and so grateful to be your pastor. I look forward to who we will become together!

Always Peace, Pastor Heidi (and family!)

## PASTORAL PONDERINGS

*But the LORD says, "Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already—you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there.—Isaiah 43:18-19*

Life continues to move forward, even when we don't feel like we are ready. Raising our children so that as they grow, they move on with their lives; ending relationships that weren't meant to be; losing someone we loved; all of these are bittersweet.

The Merger Committee met last night for, what we believe, is the last time as this Committee. This group of 9 faithful people gathered to work through some of the most difficult discussions around this merger, and I am so proud of all of the hard work they put into these meetings and discussions. If you ever wonder how much these two-already/but not yet—churches are loved, these 9 people prove it. And not only do they love these churches, they absolutely love God, and have come to love one another. These relationships are the purpose of our merging. The stronger our bonds, the harder we will work together to follow God's path.

While their time is coming to an end, the next group of people (yet to be named!) will pick up the mantle and move forward. This will be our Board—the governing body of Faith First Community Church. The Board will be made up of 5 people (President/Secretary/+ 3), and will be nominated and elected at our Annual Meeting on January 28 following worship and our potluck.

The Board has some very big shoes to fill, but I know that whomever sits on this board, will do so because they love God, love this new church, and look forward to growing new relationships.

The Board will be responsible for negotiating the Letter of Call with Pastor Heidi, planning Anniversary Celebrations for Faith UCC (60 years!) and First Christian (185 years!);

a hard opening (community) celebration for Faith First Community Church; signs and other ways to get our name into the community; policies (Safe Church/building use/ etc.); to name a few.

But these things will not lie on the shoulders of the Board alone. The Board will seek people to help. If you want to be hands on in the creation of what Faith First Community Church will look like and be, here is your opportunity! If you find yourself drawn to any of the areas mentioned above, OR you believe there is an area that needs to be made aware of, please let me know! You do NOT have to be an artist (although we do need at least one of those!), or know about architecture, or be able to lift or climb ladders to be a part of this growing process. In the same way that God called those who didn't seem to naturally fit for the position, we are calling on you for your ideas and God-given gifts and talents.

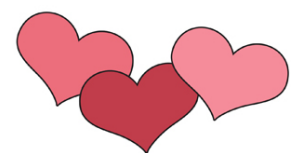
So whether you like to plan parties; have great marketing ideas; know about construction; or have a passion for writing policies and procedures, your talents are needed!

We will have more discussion on this at our Annual Meeting following worship and the potluck on Sunday, January 28.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas, please feel free to contact myself, or anyone on the Merger Committee. (Don Walton, Cheryl Leamer, Jan Hannel, Glenn Perreault, Sharon Perreault, Doug Cox, Amy Dowell, Mark Christy, or Jill Pepper.)

OH! I almost forgot! The Article of Incorporation papers have been signed and are turned into the lawyer! Now we wait for the State of Iowa. Once those come back—we become "OFFICIAL!"

Always Peace,  
Pastor Heidi



# LENT What Is Lent?

Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter, not including Sundays.

Our observance of Lent will include a soup and sandwich meal served at **6:00 p.m. each Wednesday**, followed by discussions that go along with our Lent/Easter worship series. A free-will offering will be accepted each week which will be given to a local mission.



## Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve Thursday, February 8, 2024.

## Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve Tuesday, February 27, 2024.



Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

March Newsletter article deadline is Feb. 18.

February Newsletter will be mailed by Feb. 28.



## Merger Meeting—January 16

1. It was decided to begin the accounting year as one church in the church software and that the Articles of Incorporation would be backdated to 1/1/2024.
2. The Wells Fargo lawyer indicates that our merger will not affect the trust from First Christian. Paperwork continues to be undertaken to finalize the merger.
3. Letter of Call for Pastor Heidi to Faith First was discussed and approved by the committee.
4. The Board for Faith First will be elected at the annual meeting on January 28th.



- 6 Stephanie Fox
- 11 Gloria Kuehl
- 15 Natalie Walck
- 17 Hazel McBride
- 22 Asher Preston



Treasurer's Report December 2023			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	DECEMBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 6,644.13	\$ 79,911.01
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 1,410.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 198.00	\$ 278.75	\$ 4,040.50
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 515.00	\$ 7,924.88
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 6,668.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,572.88</b>	<b>\$ 93,286.39</b>

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 87,835.89
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 1,876.88
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 11,964.42
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 21,211.03
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 6,370.00</b>	<b>\$ 122,888.22</b>

Pastor Expense	\$ 7,055.08	\$ 8,158.84	\$ 83,202.30
Employee Expense	\$ 908.58	\$ 1,099.54	\$ 11,199.04
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 362.50	\$ 245.57	\$ 2,927.42
Office Expense	\$ 437.08	\$ 495.84	\$ 5,195.73
Property Expense	\$ 1,839.42	\$ 1,461.21	\$ 19,863.20
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 10,602.67</b>	<b>\$ 11,461.00</b>	<b>\$ 122,387.69</b>

<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (4,232.67)</b>	<b>\$ 744.49</b>	<b>\$ 500.53</b>
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Submitted by Martha Watters

## BIBLE QUIZ

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage: "Dear friends, let us \_\_\_ one another, for \_\_\_ comes from God. Everyone who \_\_\_ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not \_\_\_ does not know God, because God is \_\_\_."

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive

Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7-8, NIV.)





## What r u up 2?



*"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." — Mark 8: 31-38*

Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name.

Instead of bemoaning what we can't do, or used to do, in a culture where "measuring up" to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things that we can do right now to respond to God's call in our place, for our time.

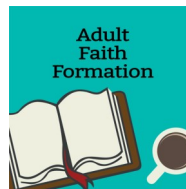


## Notes of THANKS

### DEAR FAITH FIRST,

Once again, I thank you for the card and very generous gift. You always make me feel appreciated! Last year, I chose to put all the money in a fund for music for me, and it worked out great! It was wonderful to have that available for me and came in handy when it was time to tune the piano. This year I'm planning on moving my piano from one floor to another so will use funds to hire a professional mover. So, again, all the money will be used for music!

— Susan Senn



### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Starting this month, we will be studying the Gospel of Matthew.

Join us at 9am on Sunday mornings!

**REMEMBER** that we are able to accept donations online. Go to our website [faithuccdavenport.org](http://faithuccdavenport.org) and select the Donate menu, follow the steps to create an account.



Please choose either the 1st, 15th or 25th for the date of your giving. You can give to any of our pledge funds as well as any of our special offerings.

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

### Our Faith First Family

Don Walton  
Jim Perreault  
Nancy Jones  
Autumn Dowell  
Brianna DeGraff  
Sheryl Mortimore  
Pam Edmond  
Blake Padavich  
Linda Cox  
Karen Risler  
Rev. Barb Koenig  
Jeff McWilliams

### Our Homebound

Millie Allison  
Paul Dammeier  
Connie Disney  
Jan Johnson  
Hazel McBride

### Our Family and Friends

Terry Showens  
Harrison Schmitt  
Taryn Menning  
Judy Cummings  
Gregory Minnich  
Dinah Lohmeier  
Melissa Haynes

### Our World

Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia

If you have a prayer joy or concern, please contact [pastorheidi@faithuccdavenport.org](mailto:pastorheidi@faithuccdavenport.org) or leave a message – 536-391-5726.

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Women's Group At Church 6:45 p.m.  Pastor Heidi on	<b>2</b>  GROUNDHOG DAY Vacation →	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>  9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship	<b>5</b>  Troop 828/1828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>6</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	<b>9</b>   HEART SOUL MIND STRENGTH	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>  9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship	<b>12</b>  Troop 828/1828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>13</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>14</b>  Ash Wednesday  6:00 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. "Store Up"	<b>15</b>  Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  
<b>18</b> 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>SO - Week of Compassion</i> 12:00 Board Mtg. Newsletter Articles Due	<b>19</b>  Presidents Day  Troop 828/1828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>20</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>21</b>  6:00 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. "Come Up"	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>  9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship	<b>26</b>  Troop 828/1828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>27</b>  Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m. Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>28</b>  6 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. "Take Up"  Mail Newsletter	<b>29</b>  		