



January 2024

Vol. 24-1 Issued Monthly

Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

**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)



### NAME THE NEWSLETTER

Since our church name is becoming Faith First Community Church, maybe the newsletter needs a new name, too! We will put up a suggestion box in Fellowship Hall in January. Please submit your choice for a newsletter name. We will select one and begin using the new name in February or March!

### RESOLVE TO GO MICRO

Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why "micro-resolution" is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.



Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!



### OUR SOURCE OF LIGHT

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!

—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City





*May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. God the Creator, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



## PASTORAL PONDERINGS



*In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.”*

As we begin a new year, we also begin a new chapter in the lives of two churches. 2024 marks the 60th Anniversary of Faith United Church of Christ, and the 185th Anniversary of First Christian Church. These are huge milestones in the life of a church. Each has deep rooted traditions—both in their respective denominations, as well as their individual congregations. Both have been a beacon of light to their communities.

While they are everything they have needed to be individually, together they will be stronger. Together, these churches will shine brighter, love more, and will be better able to serve God and their community.

We are always sad when one era ends, but the end of an era brings new life, and our God is in the business of New Life, especially when and where we least expect it.

Two years ago, neither Faith nor First knew where the future would lead us. We were still dealing with a global pandemic, so our sights were not on creating a new church. But two years later, here we are, two separate churches from two different denominations growing into one church who will hold roots in both denominations. Two beacons becoming one.

As a pastor, this wasn't even on my radar—for any time in my life. But then again, very little of what I have done has been what I pictured or expected. And here's the surprise—every single moment has been better than anything I could have planned on my own. God's plans for our lives, if we remain open to them, are amazing and

wonderful, albeit really hard at times.

Dissolving these two loving congregations will be difficult. We are each losing a part of our history, or story, our heart. But, just as God has promised, the new life that springs forth from the old will be even better than we can begin to imagine!

Faith First Community Church is a blessing, and it is a result of everyone's hard, faithful, and holy work. After the first of the year, we will hold a vigil of dissolution, allowing us space to mourn and grieve. Then, we will hold a celebration of the beginning of Faith First Community Church. Please watch for details after the first of the year. (And if you are interested in helping plan either of those events, I would be very grateful! Just let me know.)

For now, pray for our new church; pray for us, her people; and pray for the community in which she is part.

Soon we will call ourselves by our new name, and yes, I am a little nervous. But even more than that, I am very excited, and beyond grateful. Thank you to everyone for all you have done so far. We have a long way to go, but we are taking one step at a time, and before we know it, God's new creation will be celebrating milestones of her own!

Happy New Year!

Always Peace,  
Pastor Heidi





### Merger Meeting—December 6

1. The committee has developed choices for our new church's mission and vision statements.
2. Heidi reported that she has been in discussion with the lawyer about our legal documents.
3. The current bylaws from both churches were reviewed and combined into a new document to present to the congregation on December 17.
4. The congregation will need to elect a 5 person board at the Annual Meeting.

### Congregational Meeting—December 17

1. The congregation voted to approve the Core Values, Vision Statement, and Mission Statement.
2. Handout of the new church Bylaws was reviewed, discussed, and approved by the congregation.
3. Church School/Sunday School/Adult Education will now be known as Faith Formation.

### Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve Thursday, January 11, 2024.

### Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve Tuesday, January 30, 2024.



### Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

February Newsletter article deadline is Jan. 21.

February Newsletter will be mailed by Jan. 31.

### BIBLE QUIZ

In the book of Judges, the warrior Barak would go to battle only if a certain female leader went with him. Who was she?

- A. Rebekah
- B. Jael
- C. Michal
- D. Deborah



Answer: See Judges 4:1-10.



Treasurer's Report November 2023			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	NOVEMBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 6,491.50	\$ 73,266.88
OCWM	\$ 100.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,275.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 198.00	\$ 813.00	\$ 3,761.75
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,033.00	\$ 7,409.88
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 6,668.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,462.50</b>	<b>\$ 85,713.51</b>
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,370.00	\$ 7,524.50	\$ 80,676.76
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 551.48	\$ 1,531.13
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,663.05
Shared Space Inc	\$ -	\$ 2,914.39	\$ 17,811.79
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 6,370.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,990.37</b>	<b>\$ 110,682.73</b>
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,055.08	\$ 6,345.17	\$ 75,043.46
Employee Expense	\$ 908.58	\$ 1,054.33	\$ 10,099.50
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 362.50	\$ 340.12	\$ 2,681.85
Office Expense	\$ 437.08	\$ 397.53	\$ 4,699.89
Property Expense	\$ 1,839.42	\$ 1,044.67	\$ 18,401.99
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 10,602.67</b>	<b>\$ 9,181.82</b>	<b>\$ 110,926.69</b>
<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (4,232.67)</b>	<b>\$ 1,808.55</b>	<b>\$ (243.96)</b>

Submitted by Martha Watters



- 8 Jeffrey Banks
- 10 Nancy Jones
- Arlene Barclay
- 16 Michelle Holdt
- 22 Shara Rangel
- Kathy Edlemon
- Vanessa Banks
- 30 Eli Ozmon



IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**Our Faith First Family**

Sheryl Mortimore  
Pam Edmond  
Brianna DeGraff  
Bob Schlotfeldt  
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**

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran Iraq, Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Cyprus, Greece, Turkiye, Algeria

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

*Our deepest condolences go to Larry, WC, and Allyn Weise and families, on the death their mother, Helen Weise, on Tuesday, December 12, 2024.*



Troops 828 and 1828  
**SCOUT NIGHT TRIVIA**

*Proceeds will go to help the Scouts in their  
adventure to Philmont Scout Ranch  
summer of 2025.*



Table of 8 for \$80  
OR \$10 each

Faith United Church of Christ  
1630 W. 38th Street  
Davenport, IA 52806  
**Saturday, January 13**

Bring snacks and drinks.  
There will be raffles,  
gift baskets, and fun!

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Trivia begins at 6:30 p.m.

Call or text to reserve your table  
Heidi Hulme 309-737-4349

**BREAD, BATH & BEYOND**



**BREAD, BATH & BEYOND**

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! — 2 Corinthians 5:17*

The new year always brings opportunity to move beyond our limitations...to find new beginnings and be better than we were before. We use this cultural word-play in our series title to remember that the most basic transforming experiences of our faith — communion and baptism — are the starting points for life “beyond” our limitations.

Let's make this year one of amazing transformations — for our lives, for our community, for our world!

# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pastor Heidi Returns	<b>4</b> Women's Group At Church 6:45 p.m.	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b>  EPIPHANY
<b>7</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	<b>8</b> Troop 828/1828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>9</b> Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Scout Trivia Night Doors Open 6 pm Trivia Begins 6:30 p.m.
<b>14</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 1:00 p.m. Helen Wiese Celebration of Life	<b>15</b>  Troop 828/1828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>16</b> Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship FFL Special Offering Newsletter Articles Due	<b>22</b> Troop 828/1828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>23</b> Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship Annual Meeting (Tentative)	<b>29</b> Troop 828/1828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>30</b> Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m. Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>31</b> Mail Newsletter			