



Focus on Faith

Faith First Community Church

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

Email: office@faithuccdavenport.org



March 2024

Vol. 24-3 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.



WEDNESDAYS DURING

Lent

March 6
"Raise Up"

March 13
"Light Up"

March 20
"Lift Up and Sit Up"



Lenten
Worship
Schedule

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

Hosanna!



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

March 28
Maundy Thursday

March 29
Good Friday
6:00 p.m.
Soup Supper
7:00 p.m.
Worship

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.









THE BUTTERFLY symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

EASTER LILIES

Help us adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning by signing up for an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one.



Cost is \$13 each.
Deadline to order is March 10.



PASTORAL PONDERINGS



“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. — Joshua 1:9

Last month I reported that our Merger Committee met for the last time. On January 25, we held our combined Annual Meetings, and we officially elected our first Board for Faith First Community Church! Your Board consists of: Martha Watters—President; Jan Hannel—Secretary; Doug Cox—Director; Jill Pepper—Director; and Jim Sullivan—Director. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any one of these faithful people.

I also reported that our Article of Incorporation papers had been turned into the State of Iowa for review and approval. Unfortunately, today, I received another paper that needed to be signed and sent in. I will let you know as soon as I hear anything! SO, we are still waiting for this to happen.

We continue to move forward with whatever we can, however!

Starting the week of March 3, we will have put together an official Faith First Membership count. It has taken us a while because we still have people we want to send information to, but aren't members, so that is a different category. We also have those who are members but are not

able to participate with activities due to health or distance. Of course we have our homebound. Thank you for your patience as we continue to get all of our ducks in a row!

Before we celebrate our opening of Faith First Community Church, I feel that we need to recognize that First Christian Church turns 185 years young this year, and Faith United Church of Christ turns 60. These are wonderful milestones and I don't want us to overlook them!

While we don't have everything planned for that celebration, we are planning a Trivia Night to help fund it! Please join us on April 6 for a night of fun! We will have more details out next week. Please watch for this information.

We are headlong into the season of Lent. Please see the schedule for Wednesday evenings, as well as Sunday mornings on page one!

I am so very grateful for everything each one of you does for this Body of Christ. We are blessed to have you, and have one another, to journey through life with.

Always Peace, Pastor Heidi



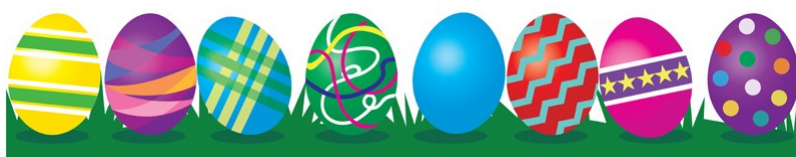
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
(OGHS) - March 10, 2024

This special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.



EASTER OFFERINGS given during March will be divided up as follows. If the envelope from the

pledge envelopes is used, the offering will go to a mission decided by the Board at the March board meeting. If the DOC special offering envelope is used, the offering will go to the Upper Midwest conference. Any cash put in the offering basket on Easter Sunday, will be divided between the two.



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 not scheduled to serve in March. The kids are on spring break.

Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve Friday, March 29, 2024.



Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

April Newsletter article deadline is **Mar. 17.**

April Newsletter will be mailed by **Mar. 28.**

Treasurer's Report January 2024

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	JAN	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 6,441.54	\$ 6,441.54
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 390.00	\$ 390.00
OCWM	\$ 165.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00
DOCM	\$ 410.00	\$ 810.00	\$ 810.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 380.00	\$ 763.75	\$ 763.75
Total Giving	\$ 8,013.00	\$ 8,595.29	\$ 8,595.29

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 6,831.54
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 858.00
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 2,571.34
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 10,260.88

Pastor Expense	\$ 7,261.00	\$ 5,619.80	\$ 5,619.80
Employee Expense	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 1,083.97	\$ 1,083.97
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 447.00	\$ 66.98	\$ 66.98
Office Expense	\$ 599.00	\$ 533.03	\$ 533.03
Property Expense	\$ 2,057.00	\$ 2,667.93	\$ 2,667.93
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 11,699.00	\$ 9,971.71	\$ 9,971.71

Net General Fund \$ (4,641.00) \$ 289.17 \$ 289.17

Submitted by Martha Watters



Board Notes

Board Meeting—February 18

1. Martha Watters agreed to be Board Chair and Jan Hannel will be Secretary — each for one year.
2. Doug Cox, Jim Perreault, and Jim Sullivan will share the property duties.
3. Checking into getting a maintenance contract for the boiler through Johnson Heating and A/C.
4. The board will share the responsibilities for Spiritual Life, Personnel and Finance. Martha will be Treasurer.
5. Plans are underway to celebrate the 60th and 185th anniversaries of our two churches.



- 2 Bonnie Byrum
- 3 Ashton van der Merwe
- 4 Olivia Wright
- 8 Nicole Smith
- 10 Dr. Robert Byrum
- 11 Michelle Minnich
- 16 Amy Dowell
- 18 Bela Wiley
- 19 Sheryl Mortimore
- 20 Jacob van der Merwe
- 23 Reva Young
- 24 Jackson Holdt
- 26 Barry Smith
- 27 Gillian Preston
- 28 Larry Showens Sr.
- 28 Heidi Hulme
- 29 Kristen Walck
- 30 Ethan Walck
- 31 Paul Dammeier

WHAT DOES THE NEWLY RISEN JESUS tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"

Answer: (See John 20:19, 21.)



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.



THE YOUTH met after church on Sunday, February 18. They enjoyed lunch together and played board games.

They also practiced for the play they will be performing Palm Sunday.

We all enjoyed their performance at Christmas to the song “Mary, Did You Know?” —Words and Music by Mark Lowry.

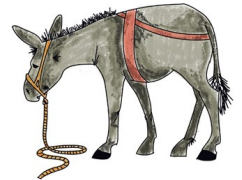
On Palm Sunday they will be performing to the song “Watch the Lamb” — Words and Music by Ray Boltz.



BE THE DONKEY

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.”



Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?

Our Faith First Family

Bob Cobb
Don Walton
Jim Perreault
Nancy Jones
Brianna DeGraff
Sid and Ardella Boots
Sheryl Mortimore
Pam Edmond
Blake Padavich
Linda Cox
Dan Lawler
Deb Lobdell
Jeff McWilliams
Rev. Barb Koenig
Karen Risler

Our Homebound

Millie Allison
Darlene Carlin
Paul Dammeier
Connie Disney
Ella Frahm
Nancy Giles
Dennis Jacobson
Jan Johnson
Hazel Jones
Virginia Lemons
Hazel McBride
Harriet Meyer

Our Family and Friends

Bob Cox and Family
Terry Showens
Judy Cummings
Gregory Minnich
Fran Frutiger
Harrison Schmitt
Taryn Menning



Our World

Ireland: United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

If you have a prayer joy or concern, please contact pastorheidi@faithuccdavenport.org or leave a message – 536-391-5726.

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship	4 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	5 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	6 6:00 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. "Raise Up"	7	8	9 
10 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Board Meeting SO—OGHS	11 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	12 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	13 6:00 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. "Light Up"	14 	15	16
17 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship Newsletter Articles Due	18 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	19  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	20 6:00 p.m. Soup 7:00 p.m. "Lift Up and Sit Up"	21 Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship SO—Easter	25 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	26 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	27 	28 Maundy Thursday Troop Committee Mtg 6:30-8:30pm	29 Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m. Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m.	30 
31 Youth After Sunrise Service—8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:15-10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Worship	<i>He is Risen</i>					