

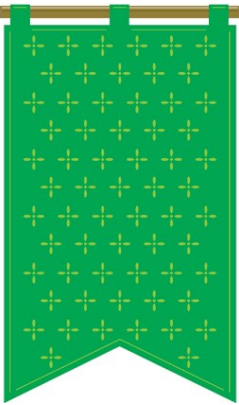


**Focus on Faith**  
**Faith First Community Church**  
 1630 W. 38th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806  
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 Email: office@faithfirst2024.org



May 2024  
 Vol. 24-5 Issued Monthly  
 Rev. Heidi Hulme  
 Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

**GREEN IS THE TRADITIONAL LITURGICAL COLOR** for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.



**LITURGICAL SCHOLAR BALTHASAR FISCHER (1912-2001)** shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.



When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”

**BIBLE QUIZ:** What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile B. Yangtze C. Jordan D. Tigris E. Ganges  
 F. Euphrates

*Answer: (See Genesis 2:10-14.)*



Ali will graduate from West High School on June 2nd. After graduation, she plans to enter the working world. Ali has been singing in our choir the last few months.

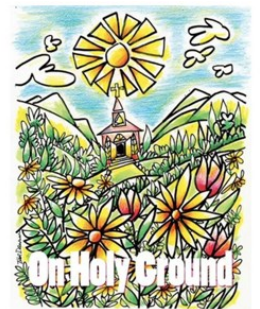
**WE HAVE TWO SPECIAL OFFERINGS THIS MONTH: THE DOC PENTECOST OFFERING MAY 12 AND MAY 19 and STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH ON MAY 19.**



**THE PENTECOST OFFERING** supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregations is part of the Disciples’ vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs.

Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they’re given and the New Church Ministry.

**THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH (STC) OFFERING** reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC.



Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.



**IT'S THAT TIME, AGAIN!** The attic shop ladies want to remind everyone to bring items to the church for them to sort and price. Our annual holiday bazaar is November 2nd.

## Become a Red Cross Volunteer Today!

Positions in need of filling are: assisting those affected by tornadoes by working at a shelter, providing medical or emotional assistance to those in shelters (licensed health care and mental health professionals), and providing support for individuals who have suffered such a disaster. If you are interested call Kathi Fluck, Lead Recruitment Volunteer at 309-945-8990.



*"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine." — Proverbs 3:9-10*

Supporting a church, any church, is a community effort. Few people like to talk about giving, or tithing, to a church. More people leave over giving to a church than leave for political reasons. In fact, many people believe that a church should never ask for money.

As a community who has intentionally chosen to gather to worship God, to support one another, and to shine God's light and love on a shadowed world, we are called to share our gifts with the community, and there are as many ways to share our gifts as there are people in the world.

Traditionally, when we discuss stewardship, people jump to giving money. That is wonderful, and we certainly need to offer money—because like it or not—there are bills and expenses that the church incurs every day. But offering our money is not the only way to give.

We can offer our talent of time. Believe it or not, not everyone has time, or at least a decent amount of time, to offer the church, for a variety of reasons. Many of our ministries require the time people can offer. Cleaning the kitchen, planning Anniversary parties, working with youth and children, teaching Faith Formation, decorating the Fellowship Hall, planning, cooking, serving, etc. for Share-A-Meal and Hope at the Brick House, serving on the Board, to name just a few.

These things would not happen without the support of all of your gifts. But again, there is another way to thank God by being a good steward, and that is through your physical donations. These include the meat and cheese for sandwiches, for diapers and backpacks, cookies and desserts, oil and gas for the mowers and snow blowers.

It is amazing how much is donated to Faith First Community Church in terms of non-monetary gifts!

Many years ago, we decided that we wanted a more accurate picture of how much was being donated to the various ministries of the church. We wanted to figure out what it actually cost for us to support our missions financially, in the event that, one day, we would have to add them to the budget because we couldn't get donations.

So we asked people to turn in receipts for what they donated. If someone bought paper plates for the kitchen, they turned a receipt into Martha with their name and the words "In kind".

The purpose for this is twofold. First, it gives us a more accurate picture on what is being given back to God. Second, when Martha gets these receipts, she records them so they show up on your giving statements, and you can claim them on your taxes, if you so choose.

This is what we are asking each of you to do. If you give something physical—that is an item or items rather than money—then please bring the receipt to Martha for her to record. It doesn't matter how much or how little, we want to know what you have lovingly donated to this church community.

Just to let you know, for the first quarter of the year, In Kind giving totaled \$687.74.

Always Peace, Pastor Heidi



# Board Notes

## Board Meeting—April 14

1. The water company marked the outside shutoff valve—the leak inside the parsonage can now be fixed.
2. A committee has been formed for the Faith First 2024 Celebration.
3. The basement organization will be completed in stages beginning with the nursery items—the nursery will move back to the main floor.
4. A new projector was approved to purchase and it should be installed before the end of April.



- 5 Max Holdt
- 7 Veralynn Fox
- 10 Todd Ozmon
- 13 Nancy Stamp
- 17 Nora Daily
- 18 Anthony Cox
- 21 Terry Halstead

## Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve Thursday, May 9, 2024.

### Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve Friday, May 31, 2024.



Women's Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish for our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. May 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.



**GREAT LAKES & WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT** will be held July 17-20, 2024 at AUGUSTANA COLLEGE in Rock Island. Cost is \$250 April 1—May 15. There are Scholarships available! \$67 from Eastern Iowa Association \$67 from Faith First Community Church. See Pastor Heidi for more details.

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

May Newsletter article deadline is May 19.

May Newsletter will be mailed by May 31.



## SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENED MARCH 1ST!

For more information on the camps and to register, go to the Christian Conference Center Summer Camp Sessions web page:

<http://www.newtonccc.org/scsessions>

Early bird registration ends on May 6. Camps are an additional \$25 after 5/6. Camp scholarships are available. See Pastor Heidi for more details.



### Treasurer's Report March 2024

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	MAR	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 7,980.51	\$ 20,480.02
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 520.00	\$ 1,585.00
OCWM	\$ 165.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 555.00
DOCM	\$ 410.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,620.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 380.00	\$ 237.50	\$ 1,796.25
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 8,013.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,313.01</b>	<b>\$ 26,036.27</b>
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD	
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 8,500.51	\$ 21,621.01
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 158.93	\$ 1,483.66
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 8,049.84	\$ 10,621.18
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 7,058.00</b>	<b>\$16,709.28</b>	<b>\$ 33,725.85</b>
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,261.00	\$ 9,654.42	\$ 21,563.18
Employee Expense	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 1,388.84	\$ 3,612.98
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 447.00	\$ 240.43	\$ 607.56
Office Expense	\$ 599.00	\$ 686.78	\$ 1,701.54
Property Expense	\$ 2,057.00	\$ 1,840.23	\$ 6,580.94
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 11,699.00</b>	<b>\$13,810.70</b>	<b>\$ 34,066.20</b>
<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (4,641.00)</b>	<b>\$ 2,898.58</b>	<b>\$ (340.35)</b>

Submitted by Martha Watters





## Resurrection Stories

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." — John 11: 25-26, NRSVUE*

**THE EASTER SEASON** is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. We can be in need of rising out of the depth of imprisonment, addiction, poverty, illness, and oppression — not just physically and literally, but also spiritually.

What keeps us locked up inside? What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be?

Join us for powerful testimonies of courage, kindness, strength, and overcoming — Resurrection Stories — from those who have found “resurrection” in their lives. It might just inspire you to unlock your own rising up!

### Our Faith First Family

Don Walton  
 Jim Perreault  
 Sid and Ardella Boots  
 Pam Edmond  
 Linda Cox  
 Jeff McWilliams  
 Blake Padavich  
 Karen Risler  
 Dan Lawler  
 Deb Lobdell  
 Rev. Barb Koenig  
 Blake Padavich

### Our Homebound

Millie Allison  
 Darlene Carlin  
 Paul Dammeier  
 Connie Disney  
 Ella Frahm  
 Nancy Giles  
 Dennis Jacobson  
 Jan Johnson  
 Hazel Jones  
 Virginia Lemons  
 Harriet Meye  
 Colleen Skinner  
 Harry Stroupe

### Our Family and Friends

Allison Byers	Morgan Frazer
Bob Cox and family	Alberto
Terry Showens	Fran Frutiger
Judy Cummings	Harrison Schmitt
Gregory Minnich	Melissa Haynes
	Taryn Menning



### Our World

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Angola, Mozambique

**On Sunday, April 21, Faith First** celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Faith United Church of Christ and the 185th Anniversary of First Christian Church.



The committee—Amy Dowell, Sharon Perreault, Linda Cox and Pastor Heidi — perused the files of both churches to gather photo albums, historical documents and other items to display for all to view.

There was a fantastic dessert bar following worship— thanks to all who brought desserts for everyone to enjoy! And thanks to the committee for their work in getting the celebration together.

### May Special Dates

- May Day, *May 1, 2024*
- National Day of Prayer, *May 2, 2024*
- Cinco de Mayo, *May 5, 2024*
- Ascension Day, *May 9, 2024*
- Mother’s Day, *May 12, 2024*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 18, 2024*
- Pentecost, *May 19, 2024*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 20, 2024*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 26, 2024*
- Memorial Day, *May 27, 2024*



# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Women's Group 6:00 p.m.	3 	4
5 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship	6 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	7 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	8	9 Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship	13 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	14 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	15 Board Meeting 5:45 p.m.	16 Baskets 5:30 p.m.	17 	18
19 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship  <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	20 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	21 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	22	23 Delta Kappa Gamma 3:30 to 6:00pm	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship	27 Memorial Day 	28 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	29	30	31 Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m.	