



**Focus on Faith**  
**Faith First Community Church**  
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August 2024  
 Vol. 24-8 Issued Monthly  
 Rev. Heidi Hulme  
 Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



## THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

Oklahoma pastor Ricky Jones tackles the meaning of church membership, or being part of Christ’s body. “Leaving the church is not simply leaving a club,” he writes at the Gospel Coalition website. “When you walk away, you dismember yourself from the body. Jesus and the rest of the body sorely miss you, and bleed after your departure. You cut yourself off from your only source of life and nourishment. Like an amputated hand, you will slowly bleed out, wither, and die.”

Jones contends that “being a part of the universal church without submitting to a local church is not possible, biblical or healthy.” It’s impossible because you need to be part of a smaller community before you can be considered part of a greater community. It’s unbiblical because the New Testament epistles are addressed to specific local churches. And it’s unhealthy because wanting to independently make your own choices is “at the heart of sin,” the pastor writes.

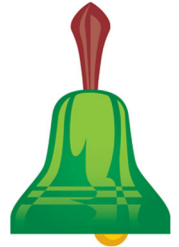
“You need to know we’re all in this life together, and we won’t walk away from you just because you let us down or we disagree,” says Jones. “Together we build each other up into the image of Christ; no one can make it alone.”

**FAITH FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH** began our first year (2024) with 96 members combining the members from our two previous congregations. Worship attendance has increased throughout the year.



## CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

**BELL** — A bell symbolizes the call to worship, reflected in the ringing of bells in many churches to announce or open a service.



A bell also symbolizes the proclamation of the Gospel to the world: hence, the ringing of church bells at the close of some services as worshipers depart to spread Christ’s good news in their daily lives.

## GOD’S GIFT OF MUSIC



Thanks to all who have shared with us your musical gifts during worship so far this Summer!

We greatly appreciate you! Special thanks to Susan Senn for coordinating the Special Music and playing for us each Sunday!

Mark Christy, Becky Christy, Jan Hannel, Karleen Noteboon, and Don Walton will sing for us in August. Choir returns September 8.

## BIBLE QUIZ

What kind of birds does God use to supply Elijah with food at the Kerith Ravine?

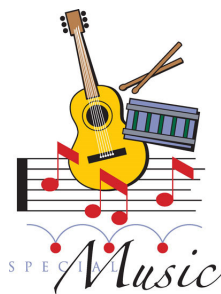
- A. quails
- B. ravens
- C. eagles
- D. doves



Answer: (See 1 Kings 17:2-6.)


**PASTOR HEIDI** has decided the best way to get her updates is through a CaringBridge page. This is a free website and it will notify you when she posts any updates. She will also keep you updated through her weekly letter — for anyone who doesn't like to be on the computer! You will need to create a profile to login to CaringBridge.

<https://new.caringbridge.org/site/ed675ed6-309d-11ef-97eb-878f36e8bc3f?from=%2Fsearch&fname=Heidi>



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SUSAN SENN** have invited us to join them for a special jazz music Sunday, August 11th to listen to the Manny Lopez quartet. The service is at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited!

Please note: we will still have our 10 a.m. worship at Faith First.



## FROM THE PASTOR

A surgery date has been set—August 30. I plan to enjoy this month of not having to run to Iowa City every week—multiple times a week—but I feel like it is time to get this over with, so I can move on to the next phase.

I am very much not looking forward to this surgery, but know it is a necessary step in my healing process. And I know that I am in the right hands. Hands that are being guided by God.

I know what it is like being the one who has to trust that the medical team will do what they are supposed to do, and take care of you.

But, I wonder how the staff must feel. Being trusted to remove the bad parts within a person's body, while the person is sleeping and helpless. What an immense amount of responsibility! My vision is that the surgeon allows himself to be handed over to the Holy Spirit who then guides his every move: intentional and deliberate, so that healing is allowed, and the person can be whole—in a new way—once again.

I have said before that this type of cancer has no cure, at this point in time. After I heal from surgery, I will go once every 28 days to get a hormone shot, and back every 6 months to monitor the growth. The shots will not dissolve the rest of the tumors left behind following surgery. The shot is meant to help slow the growth, and to help any side effects from the disease to be tolerated. Once the shots no longer slow the growth, we will move to another treatment. The good news is the potential for needing the next step quite honestly could be years away.

I am very blessed to be where I am right now. This cancer was caught by a doctor who cares very much for her patients, and passed along to some of the most knowledgeable people in the world. I am leader of a church who loves my family and I, and one another, so much, that I know their prayers make a difference. But what amazes me more than anything, is that God loves me so much, that God would put me exactly where I need to be.

Once again, God's hand holds me tight. And once again, God is good, all the time. And all the time, God is good!

Always Peace, Pastor Heidi



Don't forget to follow my Caring Bridge for updates on my health status. I will still keep you updated through my weekly letter, for anyone who doesn't like to be on the computer!





# Board Notes

## Board Meeting—July 14

1. General Fund—the operating account is at a negative balance through June 30, 2024. (\$9,439.96)
2. Property — The American Flag in front of the building needs replacing. A new one will be purchased using the funds from the Maurie Tinnes Memorial account.
3. It was decided to postpone the Faith First 2024 Celebration in September.
4. Next meeting - August 25th at 11:30 a.m.



# August BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Jay Watters
- 17 Jeff McWilliams  
Janet Gregg
- 19 Lee Jensen
- 20 Linda Jensen
- 21 Chris Lobdell
- 22 Sophie Pepper
- 29 Myrene Burton

## Hope at the Brick House

We will not be serving meals at the after school program during the summer.

### Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve Friday, August 30 5:15 p.m.



Women's Group  
We will meet August 1st  
At Faith First  
6:45 p.m.



**Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.  
September Newsletter article deadline is August 18.  
September Newsletter will be mailed by August 31.**

## A HUGE THANK YOU

to everyone who helped with the Tag Sale in any way, shape or form. We took in \$2,573.

And now that we have more room, the Scouts will move their equipment to the basement storage area. The nursery will be moved to the Fellowship Hall and we will organize the Fellowship Hall storage room. It's a process.



## Blessing of the Backpacks

### Backpacks and School Supplies

We collected lots of school supplies and backpacks during the month of July.

Thanks to everyone who donated \$\$, shopped for others or brought items in.

We will bless the backpacks during the August 11 service.

### Treasurer's Report June 2024

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	JUNE	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 6,898.82	\$ 40,456.04
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 335.00	\$ 2,875.00
OCWM	\$ 165.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 1,115.00
DOCM	\$ 410.00	\$ 410.00	\$ 2,460.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 380.00	\$ 315.00	\$ 2,761.25
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 8,013.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,148.82</b>	<b>\$ 49,667.29</b>
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD	
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 7,233.82	\$ 42,867.03
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 112.62	\$ 2,117.37
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,621.18
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 7,058.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,346.44</b>	<b>\$ 55,605.58</b>
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,261.00	\$ 7,475.97	\$ 41,716.93
Employee Expense	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 1,175.02	\$ 7,106.00
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 447.00	\$ 161.76	\$ 1,048.54
Office Expense	\$ 599.00	\$ 411.84	\$ 3,242.92
Property Expense	\$ 2,057.00	\$ 1,396.33	\$ 11,931.15
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 11,699.00</b>	<b>\$10,620.92</b>	<b>\$ 65,045.54</b>
<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (4,641.00)</b>	<b>\$ (3,274.48)</b>	<b>\$ (9,439.96)</b>

Submitted by Martha Watters



**Next  
Month**



**FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**  
resume on September 15th  
at 9 a.m.

Jill Pepper will lead the Youth  
and Sharon Perreault and

Cheryl Leamer will lead the Adult Classes.



**Summer  
Worship Hours**

WORSHIP AT 10 A.M.

We will continue summer  
hours through September 1st.  
Worship will change to 10:30  
a.m. on September 8th.

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS GET READY TO HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL**



Classes resume Friday, August 23rd  
for Davenport and Bettendorf  
schools. Pray for our teachers and  
students as they begin the 2024-  
2025 school year.

**DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR FUNDRAISING PROJECTS**

We have trail mix for sale in the church office! \$11.00  
Visit our webstore at <https://faithucc.terrylynn.com/>  
for a variety of products. We also have a webstore  
with Rada Cutlery. That webstore address is  
<https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=3322254.0f0d5e/>

**Our Faith First Family**

- Bob Cobb
- Glenn Perreault
- Pam Edmond
- Pastor Heidi
- Don Walton
- Sid and Ardella Boots
- Linda Cox
- Jeff McWilliams
- Karen Risler
- Deb Lobdell
- Rev Barb Koenig
- Blake Padavich

**Our Homebound**

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

**Our Family and Friends**

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Fran Leamer   | Morgan Frazer    |
| Roger Laster  | Alberto          |
| Allison Byers | Fran Frutiger    |
| Terry Showens | Harrison Schmitt |
| Judy Cummings | Melissa Haynes   |
| Taryn Menning |                  |



**Our World**

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe



**PLEASE PRAY FOR KARSTEN HULME** while he is in  
Kenya Africa through Fishers of Men Ministries and West  
High School Engineering and Robotics. They left July 27  
and will return on August 14. They will be fixing one water  
filtration system, and installing another, do some construc-  
tion on a couple of schools, but most importantly, they will  
work to build relationships with those who live in the vil-  
lages.

When he returns, we will have a potluck and invite the  
team members to come and share their experiences and  
photos! Watch for further details.

**SABBATH SIGHT**

Miners used to use mules underground to pull the loaded  
carts. Spending so much time in the darkness, some mules  
eventually went blind. But one old miner found a solution:  
He simply let the mules spend one day a week outside the  
mines.

In a very real sense, God gave us the Sabbath to keep us  
from going spiritually blind. The Sabbath, as Jesus said,  
was made for humankind, but to use in sacred ways. It's  
our responsibility as followers of Jesus to decide how to  
best keep the intent of this commandment.

How might observing Sabbath improve your ability to  
"see" clearly? —from The Wired Word

# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>  Women's Group 6:45 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  
<b>4</b> Summer Hours  Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	<b>5</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>6</b>    Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>  Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Bless Backpacks	<b>12</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>13</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>    Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	<b>19</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>20</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>21</b>  Senior Citizens Day	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>  Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	<b>26</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>27</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>28</b>    <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m.	<b>31</b>