



**Focus on Faith**  
**Faith First Community Church**  
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October 2024  
 Vol. 24-10 Issued Monthly  
 Rev. Heidi Hulme  
 Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



The Holiday Bazaar at Faith First has been an annual fundraiser for many years. Funds raised support the local missions of the church. These funds are distributed after the Annual Meeting in January.

The Attic Shop will be located in Fellowship Hall. This year everything will be priced. The Bake Sale will have all types of baked goods, candies, and some specialty items. Cookies by the Pound features all kinds of cookies and bars and will be sold by the pound. These two sections will be in the library area. We will have a variety of crafts that will be set up in the Narthex area. Our specialty “candy bars” will again be available!

Breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 10 a.m. by Scout Troop 828. Lunch will be served 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will consist of soups, salads, and desserts. The Bazaar is scheduled from 7:30 to 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 2nd.

**Holiday Bazaar Setup Schedule:**

- Sunday, Oct. 27— Set tables in specific areas
- Monday, Oct. 28 — 9 to 11 a.m. Attic Shop and Crafts
- Tuesday, Oct. 29 — 9 to 11 a.m. Attic Shop and Crafts
- Wednesday, Oct. 30 — 9 to 11 a.m. Attic Shop and Crafts
- Thursday, Oct. 31 — Finish Setup and Bake!
- Friday, Nov. 1 — 4 to 6 p.m. Drop off baked goods

**Volunteers Needed for Day of Bazaar—Nov 2**

1. Cashiers—3 needed for each shift—7:30 to 10 & 10 to 1.
2. Cashier Tables — need helpers to bag items for cashiers.
3. Attic Shop — 2 or 3 helpers to help with bagging items, keep traffic moving, and moving table items.
4. Bake Sale — 3 Helpers needed to price baked goods and manage bake tables.
5. Cookies by the Pound — 2 helpers.
6. Craft Area — Helpers needed to price items.

**NOTE:** *It is really helpful if craft items are priced when they are dropped off. Baked goods sell best if placed in small packages.*

**Sign-up Sheet will be in Fellowship Hall.  
 Thanks to everyone who give donations or help!**

**ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**

Per our new constitution, the board selected the date for the annual budget meeting — it will be October 13 immediately after worship. We will also have board elections — need two new members for 2025/2026 term.



**BIBLE QUIZ**

When Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink, at which site related to the ancient Israelites is he resting?

- A. the edge of the Jordan River
- B. beside the Red Sea
- C. Jacob’s well
- D. the Pool of Bethesda

Answer: (See John 4:6.)



*With this Ring...* **CONGRATULATIONS TO LUCAS AND TIFFANY SMITH!**

Lucas Smith and Tiffany Lamp were married July 20 in Newton, Iowa. Lucas is the grandson of Sandra Holdt.

## TROOP 828 FUNDRAISING

Troop 828 would like to invite you to join us for one—or all—of the following events. The money raised from these events will help the Scout Troop in their scouting adventures, including going to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico in July of 2025.

**Sunday, October 6** – Pancake Breakfast – Faith First Community Church serving 9-10 a.m. Free will donation.

**Thursday, October 10** – Dine and Donation at **Red Robin!**

ALL DAY – tell them you are there for Troop 828 and 20% from food sales will go to the Troop.

**Saturday, October 12** – UNO Tournament – Doors open at 5 p.m. – Tournament begins at 6 p.m. \$10/person – teams of 2. There will be raffles, a silent auction, and more!

See Pastor Heidi to reserve your spot!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A BASKET,  
PLEASE SEE PASTOR HEIDI.

## THANK YOU!

I want to express my deepest thanks for everything you have done, and continue to do for me throughout this health journey. I am grateful for the thoughts and prayers, for the cards and flowers, the abundant amount of food, and the fact that you worry about me enough to encourage me to continue making sure I am allowing enough time for healing.

You have no idea how much I appreciate all of you, and how blessed I continue to feel. I love you all so much, and am so grateful to be your pastor. I have come a long way, and still have a ways to go, but with your help, I will heal.

Thank you!! ~Pastor Heidi



*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand."*  
~ Isaiah 41:10

The above scripture is my mantra right now. Since before my August 30 surgery, when I find myself feeling most anxious, I repeat those words. And when I can't, my head says, "DO NOT FEAR. I'VE GOT YOU."

There were many times throughout my week in Iowa City where I needed to say them. In the morning on the way to the hospital; when David and Kirsten had to leave so I could get my epidural and prepare for surgery (which did NOT go well!); when I was in pain; when I was frustrated with my roommate situation; when I just wanted to go home.

Fear shows up like a thief in the night—totally surprising you. It brings with it its dearest friends—Anxiety, Anxiousness, and Anger. And when they all get together, creating the perfect storm of worst case scenarios within your head, it is hard to fight them off. Especially when you are facing unknown things.

But, not really to my surprise at all, I am learning a lot during this journey. First, that the unknown, while scary at times, is usually way less intimidating than Fear wants us to believe. Second, time continues to move, and suddenly, you find yourself just about 4 weeks post op, receiving your treatment already, and healing well—despite the fact that you didn't ever think you would get to this place.

But maybe the biggest lesson that has been reiterated to me, is that God has me. God carries me when I can't walk. God places exactly the right people at my bedside, or in front of me—my angels—at exactly the perfect time. (Remember, I said perfect. And perfect isn't always MY time! In fact, there were many times I would have preferred they show up sooner than they did, but God is in charge, not me!)

I am not alone. I am surrounded by love. Not just from all of you, but from churches who have added me to their prayer list across the state and nation; from people I love, to people I have never, and probably will never, meet. They, you, continue to be my prayer warriors. I cannot express how humbling that is, and how grateful I am. (I mean, seriously, I am the one who is supposed to be at the bedside praying over someone, right? I am the pastor!)

But God has a different plan for me, one that includes good. One that will prosper how I live my life, and how I share the love and light of God with others. I am receiving new understanding and insight on so many things. I am growing my compassion for others like wildfire, and I feel my heart grow each day with new love and new life that God continues to gift to me.

I don't wish this journey upon anyone—it isn't easy. But then, I am a warrior for Christ, and I am being prepared for something new—something big. Something that has yet to be revealed to me. We—both you and I—will know it when it comes. So keep watch.

In the meantime, words will never be enough for all the love and gratitude I have for each one of you! THANK YOU!

Always Peace, Pastor Heidi

## Eastern Iowa Association Annual Meeting

All Eastern Iowa Association churches are encouraged to attend the annual meeting, October 13 at First Congregational Church of DeWitt.

All are welcome either in person or by Zoom. Each church is allowed clergy and 2 lay delegates plus one youth delegate. Program begins at 2:00 p.m. with the annual meeting beginning at 3:15 p.m.

### Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve at 3:30 p.m.  
October 10th.

### Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve at  
5:15 p.m. October 29th.



Women's Group  
We will meet October 3rd  
at Cheryl Leamer's home  
6:45 p.m.



- 4 Mary Beth Hawley
- 13 Teresa King
- 14 Gloria Power
- 15 Gary Hoker
- 17 Connie Disney  
Cheryl Leamer
- 18 Rob Kress
- 19 Kay Showens
- 20 Autumn Dowell
- 22 Jacob Smith
- 26 Mark Christy
- 30 Dan Lawler



## COMMON GROUND

"Christianity was never intended to be a solo walk with God," says pastor Jeremy Basset. "A conversion to Christianity is also incorporation in the body of Christ, the church."

That's a fitting reminder as we observe World Communion Sunday October 6th. Christians don't take Holy Communion alone; the very name of this sacrament refers to unity with God and others. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't learn Scripture or Christian theology and history alone. We can't have Christian fellowship by ourselves.



The New Testament is clear that one cannot be a solitary Christian. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30) and "belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10, NIV). As you gather for worship and receive Holy Communion, thank God for "our common salvation" (Jude 3, ESV) granted to all followers of Jesus.

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

November Newsletter article deadline is Oct. 20.

November Newsletter will be mailed by Oct. 30.

### Treasurer's Report August 2024

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	AUGUST	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 6,269.38	\$ 52,937.80
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 604.00	\$ 3,988.00
OCWM	\$ 165.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 1,470.00
DOCM	\$ 410.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 3,280.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 380.00	\$ 320.00	\$ 3,351.25
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 8,013.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,368.38</b>	<b>\$ 65,027.05</b>

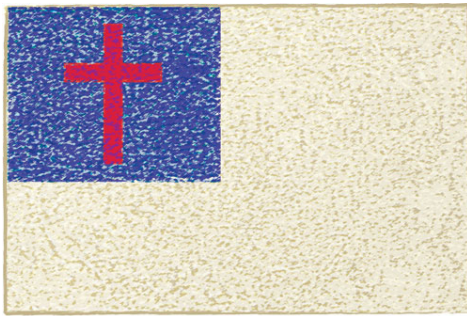
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 6,873.38	\$ 56,461.79
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 105.82	\$ 5,076.89
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,621.18
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 7,058.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,979.20</b>	<b>\$ 72,159.86</b>

Pastor Expense	\$ 7,261.00	\$ 6,547.65	\$ 54,548.14
Employee Expense	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 1,034.67	\$ 9,220.56
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 447.00	\$ 111.25	\$ 1,590.50
Office Expense	\$ 599.00	\$ 617.70	\$ 4,359.28
Property Expense	\$ 2,057.00	\$ 1,612.54	\$ 15,046.56
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 11,699.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,923.81</b>	<b>\$ 84,765.04</b>

**Net General Fund**      **\$ (4,641.00)**    **\$ (2,944.61)**    **\$ (12,605.18)**

Submitted by Martha Watters





## CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

**CHRISTIAN FLAG** — Dating to the early 20th century, the Christian flag represents all of Christianity, though it's been used primarily in the Americas and Africa. The red Latin cross symbolizes Jesus' blood shed on Calvary to grant us eternal life. The blue background represents Christ's faithfulness even unto death, as well as our baptism into Christ. The white field signifies Jesus' purity, nonviolence and surrender to God's



# JOIN US FOR OUR TRUNK OR TREAT!

**Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.**

Decorate your car trunks — Costume Contest— Pumpkin Painting  
We will accept donations of candy to hand out to the neighborhood kids.

### Our Faith First Family

Bob Cobb  
Pam Edmond  
Pastor Heidi  
Don Walton  
Linda Cox  
Sid and Ardella Boots  
Jeff McWilliams  
Karen Risler  
Deb Lobdell  
Rev. Barb Koenig

### Our Homebound

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

### Our Family and Friends

Jake Folcik  
Fran Leamer  
Allison Byers  
Judy Cummings  
Terry Showens  
Morgan Frazer  
Fran Frutiger  
Melissa Haynes



### Our World

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico,  
The Caribbean, Canada, United States of America

## DO UNTO OTHERS WORSHIP SERIES

**October 6** – World Communion Sunday / Scout Sunday –  
(Pancake breakfast served by Scouts)

**October 13** – Listen More, Speak Less: Humility

**October 20** – Living Together on Uncommon Ground:  
Respect (Pastor Heidi Gone)

**October 27** – Malice Toward None: Love

### DO UNTO OTHERS

*Just as water reflects the face, so one human heart reflects another. – Proverbs 27:19*

**OUR WORLD** seems to be consumed with division—often typified in the colors red and blue. Rather than stay in our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the “other side” politically and ideologically. As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either



one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place.

**THE “PURPLE SPACE” IS WHERE WE CULTIVATE KINDNESS, COMPASSION, HUMILITY, RESPECT, AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND FOR THE GOOD OF ALL THE WORLD, NO MATTER WHAT.**

# October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Women's Group 6:45 p.m. Cheryl Leamer	<b>4</b>  	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Reconciliation/NIN Special Offering World Communion Board Mtg Noon	<b>7</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>8</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>9</b>  	<b>10</b>  Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Scout UNO Tournament 6:30 p.m.
<b>13</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Budget Meeting 11:30 a.m.	<b>14</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>15</b>  Columbus Day  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	<b>21</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>22</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Trunk or Treat 3:00 p.m.  Bazaar Setup	<b>28</b>  Bazaar Setup	<b>29</b>  Share A Meal 5:15 p.m.  Bazaar Setup	<b>30</b>  Bazaar Setup	<b>31</b>    Bazaar Setup		