



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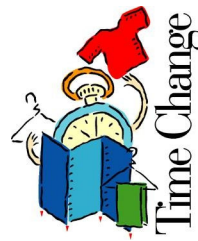
September 2024
 Vol. 24-9 Issued Monthly
 Rev. Heidi Hulme
 Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



FOOD PANTRY TIPS

Some tips and guidance if you donate to food pantries - for instance, our new Food Box out front of the church - derived from feedback by those who use them:

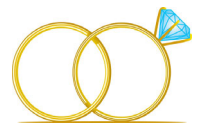
1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice A Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mixes and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dish soap/dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury, and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.



**WORSHIP TIME CHANGES TO
 10:30 a.m.
 September 8, 2024**

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL — WEDDING RINGS

The exchange of wedding rings isn't found in Scripture. It came into practice among Christians in the late ninth century. The unending circle profoundly symbolizes a couple's mutual promises of ongoing love and commitment, as well as God's promise of eternal love that surrounds all — including each couple and marriage.



THANK YOU **MCANTHONY WINDOW** - Thank you for your Lenten offering of \$121.62. With the help of the community we are able to provide a hot meal, a bag of groceries and basic clothing items to those in need. In Christ's Service, Tim Wagschal, Office Admin. **RIVER BEND FOOD BANK** - Thank you for bringing people together to support River Bend Food Bank through your collective gift of \$121.61. Because of you, when a family faces a crisis, they're able to keep food on the table... Jenny Colvin, Chief Development Officer.

BIBLE QUIZ

Who helped Samuel understand that it was the Lord calling him in the night?

- A. his mother, Hannah
- B. Moses
- C. his father, Elkanah
- D. Eli

Answer: (See 1 Samuel 3:1-10.)



FIRST CHRISTIAN SOUND SYSTEM

The sound system that was used at First Christian Church has found a new home. We donated it to Butch at BOS Electrics (He installed and maintains our sound system). He in turn gave them to two churches in Bettendorf who couldn't afford a system. We are so happy they are being used in other churches!

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 — we will need two new members for 2025/2026 term.



"These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." ~ Matthew 10:5-8

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America...." How do those words make you feel? Do you stand behind them? Or do they make your hair standing on end? I can imagine there are a few who are a little wary about what words you are about to read. That makes me sad. Because where we are in this society right now, even those words are enough to set some people off.

For some, it is the words "one nation under God..." which upset them most — that whole separation of church and state, you know. For others, it is the beginning: "I pledge allegiance to the flag...". We are given the Commandment "You shall have no other Gods before me," so some feel that when we "pledge our allegiance to the flag" we are placing the flag, and the country, before God. But I don't believe that is what it was meant to say.

Simply put, a pledge is a promise. In terms of the flag, we are promising to stay true to our country, and its ideals, to the best of our ability.

Within the church, we have "stewardship pledges." Much like hearing those words in the Pledge of Allegiance, many people's hair stands on end when this conversation comes up. But a "stewardship pledge" is simply a promise you make that you will give a certain amount of money to the church each year — this is the "offering" we take every Sunday. This pledge helps the church fulfill its mission of serving in the world by paying bills, mending the church/parsonage/property, paying salaries, and the many missions we give to within our community, the wider Church, and the world. (As of July 31, our general fund is short (\$9,439.86). If you have pledged, and have been gone for the summer, I encourage you to catch up. Contact Martha if you have a question about your pledge.)

God gives to us in abundance, and we are called to share that with those who need it. While many churches teach the practice of tithing (giving 10% of your gross income) there is no "right" way to give. We are, however, called to give of our first fruits, meaning offering to the church first, instead of last.

When you make a pledge, please understand that it is a promise — to do your best, with the help of God. But life happens. Sometimes things come up which makes it impossible to fulfill that promise. These pledges are made in good faith, they are not contracts, and therefore we will not come after you if you don't fulfill them.

While as pastor I am not privy to the amount you pledge, I am told if someone isn't giving, so that I can follow up to make sure things are okay, because most of the time, when an active giver stops giving, they are either upset with something in the church, or have an issue in life, either of which the pastor may be able to help with.

As we worship together, during the month of August, we talked about the awesome generosity of God, and move into the Season of Creation in September, and our Season of Stewardship in October and November. You will hear more about pledging, and hear testimonies from people in the church. I challenge you to think about how you pledge your allegiance to this country, and how you will choose to pledge to the church in November.

Always Peace, Pastor Heidi



Go to <https://www.caringbridge.org>, login and search for Heidi's Caring Bridge to read her updates.



Board Notes

Board Meeting—August 25, 2024

1. General Fund ended with a negative through July 31, 2024 (\$9,429.96).
2. Sign committee has secured a quote for a new sign in front of church that will fit in the existing brick structure. Will install once a logo is determined.
3. Annual Budget meeting will be October 13th following worship.
4. Board elections: Need two persons to be on board for 2024. Jan Hannel and Martha Watters going off.
5. Next meeting: October 6, 2024 11:30 a.m.

Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve at 3:30 p.m.
September 12th.

Share-A-Meal

We are not scheduled to serve
in September.



Women's Group
We will meet September 5th
at Faith First
6:45 p.m.



- 1 Matthew Stroupe
- 8 Abby Daily
Harrison Schmidt
- 9 Karl Jensen
Hazel Jones
- 12 Charles Fox
Harry Stroupe
Helen Christy
- 13 Sharon Perreault
- 14 Karsten Hulme
- 16 Laura Perreault
- 17 Gregory Kress
- 21 Jim Spies
- 22 Harrison Christy
- 24 Martha Watters

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

October Newsletter article deadline is Sept. 22.

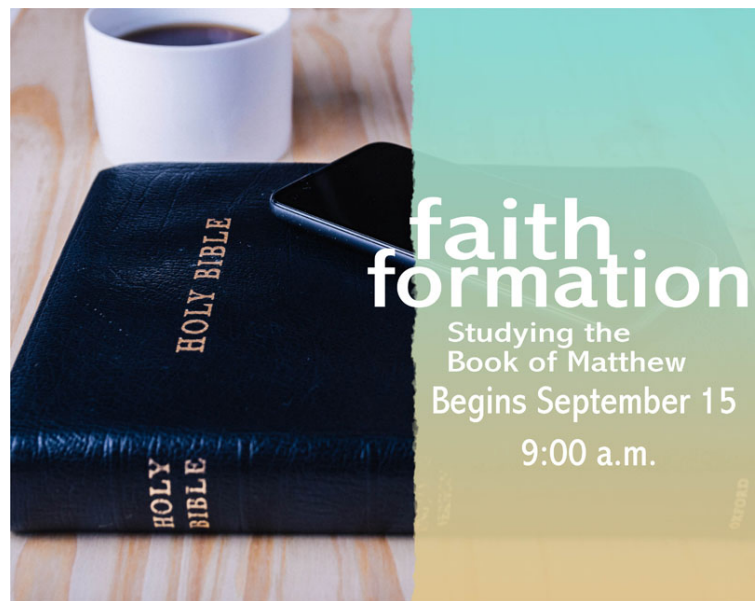
October Newsletter will be mailed by Sept. 30.



Treasurer's Report July 2024

| PLEDGE ACCOUNT | MO.PLEDGE | JULY | GIVEN YTD |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 7,058.00 | \$ 6,212.38 | \$ 46,668.42 |
| Non-Pledge Gen Fund | \$ - | \$ 509.00 | \$ 3,384.00 |
| OCWM | \$ 165.00 | \$ 190.00 | \$ 1,305.00 |
| DCM | \$ 410.00 | \$ 810.00 | \$ 3,270.00 |
| Maintenance Reserve | \$ 380.00 | \$ 270.00 | \$ 3,031.25 |
| Total Giving | \$ 8,013.00 | \$ 7,991.38 | \$ 57,658.67 |
| GENERAL FUND | MO BUDGET | TOTAL YTD | |
| Pledged & NP Giving | \$ 7,058.00 | \$ 6,721.38 | \$ 49,588.41 |
| Misc Gen Fund Giving | \$ - | \$ 2,861.70 | \$ 4,971.07 |
| Transfers In | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 10,621.18 |
| Total Gen Fund Inc | \$ 7,058.00 | \$ 9,583.08 | \$ 65,180.66 |
| Pastor Expense | \$ 7,261.00 | \$ 6,283.56 | \$ 48,000.49 |
| Employee Expense | \$ 1,335.00 | \$ 1,079.89 | \$ 8,185.89 |
| Church Ministry Exp | \$ 447.00 | \$ 430.71 | \$ 1,479.25 |
| Office Expense | \$ 599.00 | \$ 498.66 | \$ 3,741.58 |
| Property Expense | \$ 2,057.00 | \$ 1,502.87 | \$ 13,434.02 |
| Total Gen Fun Exp | \$ 11,699.00 | \$ 9,795.69 | \$ 74,841.23 |
| Net General Fund | \$ (4,641.00) | \$ (212.61) | \$ (9,660.57) |

Submitted by Martha Watters



Sunday morning adult Faith Formation class will be led by Sharon Perreault and Cheryl Leamer. Join them each Sunday at 9 a.m. beginning September 15th.

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 Meye
 Colleen Skinner
 Harry Stroupe

Our Family and Friends

Jake Folcik
 Fran Leamer
 Roger Laster
 Allison Byers
 Judy Cummings
 Taryn Menning
 Terry Showens
 Morgan Frazer
 Alberto
 Fran Frutiger
 Melissa Haynes



Our World

Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

SEASONS OF CREATION

September 1 – HUMANITY SUNDAY

To Dominate or to Serve - Genesis 1:26-28/Genesis 2:15
 Serve as Christ Served – Mark 10:41-45
 Kinship with Creation – Genesis 2:5-15

September 8 – SKY SUNDAY

Good News From Sky – Psalm 19:1-6
 Sympathy of Sky – Jeremiah 4:23-28 / Mark 15:33-38
 Christ Unites Sky/Heaven/Earth – Ephesians 1:9-10, 23

September 15 – MOUNTAIN SUNDAY

Peace Mountain – Isaiah 65:17-25
 More than Conquerors – Romans 8:35-39
 Good News for All Creation – Mark 16:14-18



DO UNTO OTHERS WORSHIP SERIES

September 22 – Red and Blue Make Purple: Kindness

September 29 – The Polarization Within: Compassion

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.



September 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|--|-----------|--|
| 1 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 Women's Group 6:45 p.m. | 6 | 7  |
| 8 Worship Service 10:30 a.m. | 9 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m. | 10 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m. | 11  | 12 HTBH 3:30 p.m. | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. | 16 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m. | 17 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m. | 18 | 19 Basket Class 5:30 p.m. | 20 | 21  |
| 22 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Newsletter Articles Due | 23 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m. | 24 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m. | 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. | 30 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m. | | |  | | |