

Faith First Community Church

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Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

Focus on Faith



IN AWE OF EVERYDAY JOYS

Maybe you've heard of making micro-resolutions for the new year. Similarly, health experts recommend becoming aware of — and thankful for — micro-joys we experience and encounter.

In *The Power of Awe*, Jake Eagle and Michael Amster describe the benefits of taking several brief A.W.E. breaks throughout the day:

A is for Attention, as you focus on something that amazes you or seems valuable.

W is for Waiting, as you pause to take a deep breath.

E is for Exhaling, as you breathe out and feel joy and gratitude.

This simple practice reveals how profound the “ordinary” can be, thanks to the generosity of our extraordinary God.

BIBLE QUIZ

Shortly after the birth of the church at Pentecost, which apostle(s) taught an Ethiopian official about Jesus and then baptized him?

- A. Philip
- B. Peter and Andrew
- C. James
- D. Paul and Silas

Answer: (See Acts 8:26-40.)



BOUNTY OF THANKS

We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.

And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

—Robert Louis Stevenson



A SAINTLY PRAYER

Seminary professor Thomas S. Kepler (1897-1963) was known for his spiritual depth and total dedication to God. At Kepler's funeral, Oberlin College president Robert Carr read these words that the professor had once penned while traveling: “This night ... I pledge myself, O God, to take upon myself all saintly disciplines with renewed vigor and purity of intent. May every thought, word and action from here on portray in my life thy joyous fruits in my Christian living and example! My great desire and goal is to be a real saint in the world — an example of Christ in all that I do. May thy grace, power and wisdom uphold, guide and support me in this renewed dedication.



“Only thou, O God, art my witness of this pledge. Others will know of this pledge between thee and me as my life shows the fruits of this pledge. So help me God. Your child, Tom Kepler”



HELP US ADORN THE SANCTUARY FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS!

Poinsettias cost \$10 each and will be placed in the sanctuary by December 1.

You may order one by signing up on the list in the Fellowship Hall or contacting the office by November 20.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY WORSHIP

We are celebrating the life of our loved ones who died over the last year on Sunday, November 3. We will be honoring the following who have passed since All Saints Day 2023 - Helen Wiese, Hazel McBride, Ella Frahm, and Darlene Carlin.



FROM THE PASTOR

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

In my clergy group, we talked about spiritual disciplines. A spiritual discipline is a practice that helps us grow in our faith, like prayer, Bible study, worship, journaling, and evangelism.

We decided that most of us who were there, think of spiritual discipline as chore, instead of something that grows our faith. Our facilitator suggested a shift in our thinking. Instead of "discipline," we were invited to think about it as a "pattern." A pattern is a form or model that is imitated. XOXOXOXO is a pattern. How you drive to school, or work, or church could be a pattern.

I thought about it in terms of my recovery. I am a person who has a "pattern" when I get up and get ready for the day, as well as a "pattern" for getting ready for bed. After surgery, for several weeks, I couldn't follow those patterns. Now that I am doing them again, I have found that they bring me comfort—a sense of being "normal" again.

Stewardship is another form of spiritual pattern. When we give back to God of our first fruits, instead of what is left over, and we do it in a pattern, or on a regular basis, we can create a sense of trust that God will lead us to those places which will take care of our needs, while helping others.

Giving to God first—before our bills are paid, before we put into our savings or 401K or pensions, or whatever we do—can be scary, especially when we don't have much to begin with.

But this is the funny thing—by creating a pattern of giving, we create a way for God to bless us with more, so that we can share more, so we can be blessed with more, so we can share more, and so on. Do you see the pattern?

During the month of November, our theme is Stewardship. I know it is hard to talk about money in church, but to be good stewards of all God has given us, includes being good stewards of our money.

We currently have a deficit of more that \$17,000 in our budget, and will likely end the year with a deficit between \$25,000 and \$30,000. Last Sunday, we unanimously approved a budget with a 3% increase, which means we will most likely face the same reality next year.

Yes, because of the merger, we have the funds to cover this deficit. But the money will run out if we do that too many years in a row. There are other ways to deal with this without dipping into that money. (Stay tuned in November for some of these ideas!)

In the end, God calls us to give with a joyful heart. When we decide to make giving a pattern in our lives, we can begin to find hope and comfort, and each time we give, we begin to feel thankful, which brings us joy and makes us feel good, which moves us to give, which brings us joy and makes us feel good.....

Well, you get the picture!

Always Peace, Pastor Heidi

P.S. I almost forgot my Health Update!
I am doing well. I have received 2 monthly injections. These are given once every 28 days, and will be for the rest of my life, at least at this point. My pain comes mostly from the inside—which makes sense, and occurs fairly infrequently. I do get tired more quickly than I like, but that, too, is getting better. There are some things I need to work out yet—like which foods my body likes and which ones are....well.....disposed of more quickly. But that will come in time, when I am ready to be more strict.

Otherwise, life seems to be returning to somewhat of a "new normal." I'm so grateful to all of you for continuing to pray for me, as well as my family, and for all of the cards and gifts of food. I feel so blessed to be surrounded by this church family. Thank you!



Daylight Savings Ends
 Don't forget to set your clocks back **one** hour before you go to bed on **Saturday, November 2.**

POLLING LOCATION

Faith First is a polling location. Doors open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



Board Notes

**Board Meeting
 October 6, 2024**

1. Martha provided us a 2025 proposed budget with a narrative budget that gave detail for each line item. It was approved after review and discussion.
2. The Safe Church Policy was reviewed and updated using the new name of the church with contacts from DOC and UCC. The policy was approved as amended.
3. The annual budget meeting agenda was reviewed.
4. Pastor Heidi has joined the Clergy Community of Practice that meets monthly.
5. Four storage cabinets were purchased and were placed in the basement. The scouts have relocated their belongings from the upstairs storage to the area provided for them in the basement.
6. The logo committee presented a logo for approval—we will vote on it at the Oct. 13th congregational meeting.

Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve at 3:30 p.m. November 14th.

Share-A-Meal

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



Women's Group
 We will not meet in November

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

December Newsletter article deadline is Nov. 17.

December Newsletter will be mailed by Nov. 28.

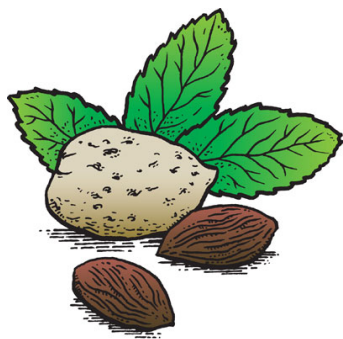
Treasurer's Report September 2024

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	SEPTEMBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 7,921.51	\$ 60,859.31
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 367.00	\$ 4,355.00
OCWM	\$ 165.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 1,635.00
DOCM	\$ 410.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 3,290.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 380.00	\$ 302.50	\$ 3,653.75
Total Giving	\$ 8,013.00	\$ 8,766.01	\$ 73,793.06
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 8,288.51	\$ 64,750.30
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 269.81	\$ 5,346.70
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,621.18
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 8,558.32	\$ 80,718.18
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,261.00	\$ 9,228.22	\$ 63,776.36
Employee Expense	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 1,313.49	\$ 10,534.05
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 447.00	\$ 275.93	\$ 1,866.43
Office Expense	\$ 599.00	\$ 977.17	\$ 5,336.45
Property Expense	\$ 2,057.00	\$ 1,660.58	\$ 16,707.14
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 11,699.00	\$13,455.39	\$ 98,220.43
Net General Fund	\$ (4,641.00)	\$ (4,897.07)	\$ (17,502.25)

Submitted by Martha Watters



- 1 Adam Christy
- 2 Sandra Holdt
- 6 Morgan Barclay
- 11 Andrea Holdt
- 12 Jarrod Hulme
- 23 Warren Holdt
- 24 Samantha Ozmon
- 27 Michelle Holdt
- 28 Brianna DeGraff



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

ALMOND — In Numbers 17:1-8, God settles a dispute among the Israelites by directing Moses to obtain a staff from each of Israel's 12 tribes and to place the staffs in the Tent of Meeting. The one representing the tribe God chose would sprout. The next day, not only had the staff of Aaron, representing the tribe of Levi, sprouted; it had blossomed and borne ripe almonds. Thus, the almond came to symbolize God's approval. By extension, it also represents the Virgin Mary, who found divine favor and was chosen to bear God's Son.

AS WE APPROACH WINTER, please be aware of the weather. If you question whether to be in church, chances are, you shouldn't be in worship! We will announce on Facebook, as well as the television news stations (WQAD and KWQC) if we have to cancel worship. But even if we don't choose to cancel worship, if you don't think it is safe outside, then please stay home and watch us online. Be safe!



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
Glenn Perreault

Our Homebound

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

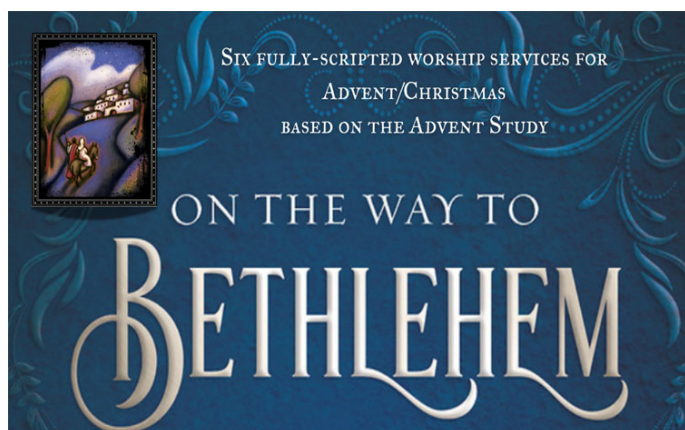
Our Family and Friends

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



Our World

Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu



'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' — Luke 7:27b NRSVUE

We are so often focused on the destination in our travels. "Where are you going?" is the most common question upon hearing that someone is heading out of town. While

the destination is perhaps the impetus for deciding to "go," it is often the journey itself that offers the most memorable moments—frustrating or delightful. This Advent season, we will pay attention not just to the destination of Christmas, but also to the places where events occurred that led to a starry night on which a child was born who would change the world. And we will ponder our own milestones—the progress and the potholes "on the way."

- Rome: A Place of Longing (Hope)**
- Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting (Peace)**
- Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity (Joy)**
- Bethlehem: A Place of Humility (Love)**
- The Manger: A Place of Care**
- Persia: A Place of Return**

A worship series by Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio, inspired by the book On the Way to Bethlehem: An Advent Study by Rob Fuquay

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 All Saints Day 	2 Holiday Bazaar 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Change Your Clocks Back One Hour!
3 All Saints Sunday Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i>	4 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	5  Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	6	7 	8	9
10 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting 12:00 p.m.	11  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	12 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	13	14 Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	15	16 
17 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. <i>Bless Pledge Cards</i> <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	18 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	19 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	20 	21 Baskets 5:30 p.m.	22	23
24 Thanksgiving Offering Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	25 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	26 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	27 <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	28 	29  Share A Meal 5:15 p.m.	30