

Faith First Community Church

1630 W. 38th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806

563-391-5726

Email: office@faithfirst2024.org

Established January 1, 2024

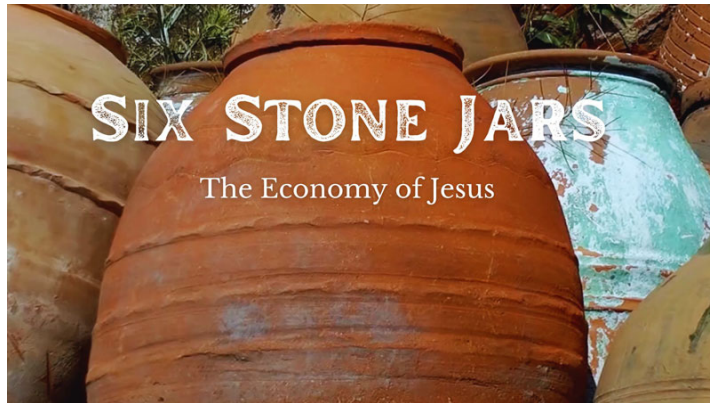
January 2025

Vol. 2-1 Issued Monthly

Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

Focus on Faith



SIX STONE JARS

The Economy of Jesus

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."
— Luke 4:18*

A miscalculation has occurred. The wedding guests have drunk all the wine before the party is over. At times, life can feel like we're "running out" of so much, and scarcity is shutting down the party.

In these moments, we are invited to turn to the currency and economy of Jesus.

In his economy, the true measure of abundance is fullness for the whole community, not just for some. Let us build the Kin-dom of God by drawing from jars of Hope, Purpose, Healing, Meaning, Vision, and Grace for all people.

- Week 1 **"Fill My House with Hoping"**
- Week 2 **"Fill My Plans with Purpose"**
- Week 3 **"Fill My Wounds with Healing"**
- Week 4 **"Fill My Days with Meaning"**
- Week 5 **"Fill My Future with Vision"**
- Week 6 **"Fill My Cup with Grace"**

*A worship series by Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio,
A six-week fully-scripted worship series based on the Gospel readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C In the weeks after Epiphany.*

NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

The eighth day of Christmas,
the eighth day of Creation,
the Next New Day,
New Year's Day.

May every day be a new year's day for you:
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,
to start again.


May you take courage to begin anew. ...

As you let go of the year past,
may you ... in your free fall find yourself held
by an eternal love that has come ages to be with you,
and will carry you all the way to the end. ...

Every day may you trust your belovedness,
your freedom from having to prove yourself,
and receive the grace that is given to you.

May this year be a year of grace and hope.

—Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net

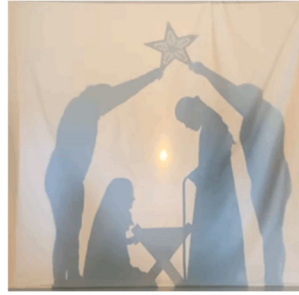
O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to 
follow you
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.

PASTOR HEIDI will be back in the office on Monday, January 6. Jill Pepper is on call in case of emergencies. You may contact her at 563-370-1359.



Nineteen attended the Bazaar Celebration dinner on December 10th at Mo Brady's. It was a wonderful evening of good food, great networking and fellowship.

OUR YOUTH played bells during worship on December 15th.



After worship we enjoyed a potluck dinner. Then the youth performed a shadow program to the music "Christmas Hallelujah".

Thanks to Sharon Perreault for coordinating all the practices!

FROM THE PASTOR

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." ~ John 1:5

When I was young, I didn't like the dark. I was afraid. It's natural for humans to be wary in the dark. It's because we weren't created to be nocturnal. We were meant to rest between the time the sun sets and when it rises. We can't see what surrounds us. In a dark room, we have to be careful when we walk so we don't trip over things, or stub our toes—which I seem to do an awful lot!

But, what happens when you are in a dark room and one small candle is lit? Or one tiny light is turned on? All of a sudden, you can see, and the things you once thought of as monsters, are just things like your coat hanging over your chair; or your lamp shade standing tall in the corner.

Most of you know, but three years ago our oldest son found himself in this situation. He was hunting in the wilderness of Montana, and shot his first mule deer. In the excitement, he realized he forgot one of the tools necessary for him to carry the deer back to his truck—which was 2 miles away. He had to walk back to it, then return to the deer. In the meantime, his cell phone died, and it was getting colder. As he reached the deer with the tools he needed, he looked up to see the sun setting over the mountain. And if you know anything about Montana, or Colorado, or Wyoming, or any place that doesn't have cities scatters across the land, you know that when it gets dark, it gets DARK. And that night, the moon was new, so there wasn't even light from the heavens.

As he prepared to head back to the truck, after walking longer than he thought he should have been, he realized he was lost. Once he was able to calm himself down, he prayed for a light. When he opened his eyes, he looked across the valley to the mountain side, and saw the tiniest of lights. He spent the next 16 hours walking toward that light, which brought him to safety and warmth.

Jesus was born to be the light in our darkness. Jesus said, "Come to me, you who are weary and tired, and I will bring you rest."

After Jesus was born, men (Magi) from far away noticed a new light in the sky. (Side note—although there are many differing views about who the Magi were, how many, and from where, the consensus is that generally they would have been wise men who probably "dabbled" in astrology and magical arts, and were revered for their knowledge, and often consulted by the ancient kings.)

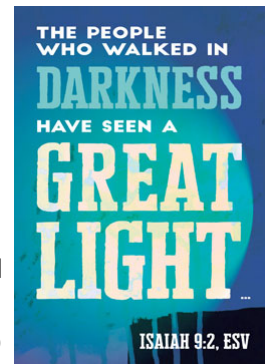
They were curious so they followed this new light, and what they found was new life—both in the literal and spiritual sense. They found a baby (actually, a toddler) who would change the world. A child who would grow up and light the way for all people to return to right relationship with God.

This is what we are called to do. As the shadows grow and surround us, we must shine our light so that others can find their way. Sometimes our lights are so bright, they tend to blind people. And other times, they seem so dim we think nobody will see them.

But remember that dark room void of light? All it takes is a tiny light to make a difference. In a world that feels like the shadows are pushing in we must open our eyes and seek the Light.

No matter how bright you feel—shine with all your might. When we all shine together—even just a little—we will light up the world! The Light will shine in the darkness, and the darkness has not, [and will not] overcome it! May it be so!

Always Peace,
Pastor Heidi



BIBLE QUIZ

When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?

- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days
- D. 7 days



Answer: (See Luke 2:46.)

Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve at
3:30 p.m. January 9th.

Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve at
5:15 p.m. January 31st.



**Women's Group
Will NOT
Meet in January!**

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

February Newsletter article deadline is Jan. 19.

February Newsletter will be mailed by Jan. 30.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. God the Creator, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*



*Love, The Hulmes
Pastor Heidi, David,
Jarrod, Karsten
and Nala*



Board Notes

**Board Meeting
December 8, 2024**

1. A new dishwasher was installed in the parsonage.
2. We are applying for a Homeland Security Grant to update the security for the church and parsonage.
3. Special Christmas offerings will go to UCC CUE, DOC Upper Midwest, and the Veterans of the Cross. And cash received on Christmas Eve will be split between CUE and Upper Midwest.
4. The annual meeting and potluck date was decided to be held on January 26th after worship.
5. Next meeting is January 12th at noon.

Treasurer's Report November 2024

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	NOVEMBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 6,406.98	\$ 74,669.67
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 681.00	\$ 10,589.00
OCWM	\$ 165.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 1,915.00
DOCM	\$ 410.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 3,310.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 380.00	\$ 320.00	\$ 4,243.75
Total Giving	\$ 8,013.00	\$ 7,532.98	\$ 94,727.42

GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 7,087.98	\$ 84,794.66
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 203.05	\$ 5,670.96
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,621.18
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 7,291.03	\$ 116,086.80
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,261.00	\$ 6,561.89	\$ 76,877.31
Employee Expense	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 1,215.53	\$ 12,912.36
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 447.00	\$ 149.50	\$ 3,115.93
Office Expense	\$ 599.00	\$ 406.98	\$ 6,476.63
Property Expense	\$ 2,057.00	\$ 1,115.19	\$ 19,604.78
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 11,699.00	\$ 9,449.09	\$ 118,987.01
Net General Fund	\$ (4,641.00)	\$ (2,158.06)	\$ (2,900.21)

Submitted by Martha Watters



- 10 Nancy Jones
- Arlene Barclay
- 13 Camdyn Daily
- 16 Michelle Holdt
- 19 Doug Cox
- 22 Shara Rangel
- 30 Zoe Marvin
- Eli Ozmon
- 31 Colleen Skinner

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



NOAH'S ARK — The image of an ark, or boat — often shown with pairs of animals — recalls the story of Noah and the “Great Flood” in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God’s judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: “And baptism, which [God’s rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you ...” (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV).

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

Jim Sullivan
Bob Cobb
Glenn Perreault
Pam Edmond
Pastor Heidi
Don Walton
Sid and Ardella Boots
Karen Risler
Deb Lobdell
Rev. Barb Koenig

Our Homebound

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

Our Family and Friends

Lorie House
Nancy
Fran Frutiger
Kim Rigg
Jake Folcik
Fran Leamer
Allison Byers
Kathy Stiles
Nilofar Basti
Heather
Bruce
Terry Showens
Melissa Haynes
Judy Cummings



Our World

Stateless people, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Cypress, Greece, Turkiye



LIKE THE MAGI, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ’s tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person. Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone

MLK ON WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Exactly two months before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. preached his final sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On February 4, 1968, the civil-rights icon spoke about how he wanted to be remembered at his funeral. He preferred that people recall not his education or achievements but that he “tried to give his life serving others” and “tried to love somebody.”

Adapting a 1952 homily by J. Wallace Hamilton, King decried the “drum major instinct — a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade.” Humans often want to be great and first, as evidenced by the disciples James and John requesting prime seats in paradise. But King urged listeners to focus on the “reordered priorities” of Jesus, who wants us to “be first in love.”

As Jesus showed, “everybody can serve,” King said. Your background or status doesn’t matter, as long as you have “a heart full of grace” and “a soul generated by love.”



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4 
5 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	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 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting 12:00 p.m.	13 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	14 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	15 	16	17	18
19 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. FFL Special Offering <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	20 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	21 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	22	23	24 	25
26 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting Potluck	27 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m. Minister Institute	28 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m. Minister Institute	29	30 <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	31	