

# Faith First Community Church

1630 W. 38th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806

563-391-5726

Email: [office@faithfirst2024.org](mailto:office@faithfirst2024.org)

Established January 1, 2024

## Focus on Faith



March 2025

Vol. 2-3 Issued Monthly

Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH



**Wednesday**  
**Evening Discussions**  
Starting at 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
Faith Formation 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.



**Ash Wednesday**  
**March 5**  
Service of Ashes  
"Beauty"



**March 12**  
"Jesus and Wonder"

**March 19**  
"Jesus and Meaning"

**March 26**  
"Jesus and Curiosity"

**April 2**  
"Jesus and Delight"

**April 9**  
"Jesus and Connection"  
"Jesus and Self Giving"



**March 9**  
"Wonder"  
*Psalm 107 / 139*

**March 16**  
"Meaning"  
*Psalm 19*

**March 23**  
"Curiosity"  
*Proverbs 2*

**March 30**  
"Delight"  
*Psalm 36*

**April 6**  
"Connection"  
*Psalm 149*

**April 13**  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**  
"Self Giving"  
"Psalm 118"

**April 20**  
Easter



**April 13**  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Neighborhood**  
**Easter Egg Hunt 2:00 p.m.**

**April 18**  
**Good Friday**  
Soup 6:00 p.m.  
Worship 7:00 p.m.



**April 20**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**Easter Breakfast**  
9:00-10:00 a.m.  
**Youth Program 10:15 a.m.**  
**Worship with Communion**  
10:30 a.m.





**LENT** is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter, not including Sundays.

Our observance of Lent will include a soup and sandwich meal served at **6:00 p.m. each Wednesday**, (free-will offerings accepted), followed by discussions about being a “Purveyor of Awe”, by being intentional about curating a life of spiritual depth.

**FASTING AND FEASTING** During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.  
Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.  
Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.  
Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.  
Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.  
Fast from pride, and feast on humility.  
Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.  
Fast from fear, and feast on faith.



## FROM THE PASTOR

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” ~ Philipians 4:6-7*

I wanted to start out by saying, “we are living in uncertain times,” but as I think back on what I have learned, and more importantly, what I have experienced over my life, I understand we have always lived in “uncertain times.”

The simple reason is that we cannot predict the future with any more accuracy than we can predict the weather.

So, more accurately, we are living in a time of change. But wait..... We have always lived in a state of change. Nothing around us, not even we as humans, were created to stay the same. Seasons change, weather changes, the sun and moon are always changing, our human bodies change—think of everything inside that never stops changing!

If this is true, that everything changes, then why can’t we find comfort in change?

I believe it is because we are not spending enough time seeking the presence of God, and when we don’t seek the presence of God, we begin to look away, we begin trusting less in God and more in ourselves. And when we trust more in ourselves than in God, the change we experience leans into fear—fear of not having or being enough. Fear of having our power or privilege (real or perceived) taken away. Fear of the “other” and what they are doing. And when each of us as individual humans begin to fear like that—well, we can clearly see what happens—just look around you for 30 seconds. It is not pretty!

March 5 begins our 40 day journey of reflection on Jesus and the cross. Traditionally, it has been viewed as a time of sacrifice—giving something up, or more recently, adding a spiritual discipline.

This year, I want to challenge you to just open yourself to what is happening around you. Open your eyes and purposefully and intentionally seek God in creation as well as those humans you encounter—family, friend, stranger, or enemy—where God is shining through them. And if you say you can’t see God shining through, I want you to remember that they, too, are a child of God, just like you, and God works through ALL of us, not just a few. Then Pray for God to reveal themselves through that/those people.

And if you can’t see, then close your eyes and listen. Listen to their story—do not interject your thoughts, expectations, or bias. Instead, let their story reveal God. And if you can’t hear, then pray for God to drown out the noise and reveal the truth about that person.

And if you can’t see or hear—then breathe deeply, clear your mind, and pray that God grant you the wisdom to understand and learn the truth that surrounds you.

God has promised to always be with us. God fulfilled that promise through Jesus’ birth, death and resurrection. And when Jesus left this earth, he gifted us with the Holy Spirit our Advocate and Guide, who now dwells within us, never leaving us.

During this Lent season, I invite you to calm your fears and anxiety by returning your focus to God. When you feel anxious, pray. When you are confused, pray. When you don’t know who to trust, pray to the one who has promised never to forsake you. Spend time talking to God, and intentionally seeking God within creation and others. Who knows, change may come more easily.

May the change that is happening manifest through you, through us, to bring about God’s year of Jubilee, offering peace and justice throughout the world. May God’s Kingdom reign here on earth, now and forevermore, so that we no longer have to say, “we are living in uncertain times,” but rather “our time is certain.” May it be so.

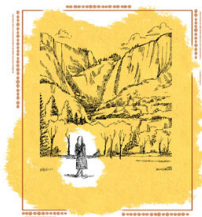
Always Peace,  
Pastor Heidi

## BIBLE QUIZ

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of \_\_\_\_."

- A. flowers
- B. sheep
- C. rocks
- D. bones

Answer: (See Ezekiel 37:1, NIV.)



## Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve at  
3:30 p.m. March 13th.

## Share-A-Meal

We are not scheduled to serve  
In March.



**Women's Group  
Will not meet  
In March**

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

**April Newsletter article deadline is March 16.**

**April Newsletter will be mailed by March. 27.**



## Board Notes

**Board Meeting  
February 23, 2025**

1. Doug Cox was selected to be President and Cheryl Leamer was selected to be Secretary for the upcoming year.
2. Jacob Houtikier has requested to repair the parsonage deck for his Eagle Scout Project.
3. Board approved having a Congregational Meeting following worship on March 9th.
4. Hope at the Brick House - served 17 on Feb. 13th.
5. Next board meeting will be March 16th.



There will be a Congregational Meeting following worship on March 9th to discuss:

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

1. Holiday Bazaar
2. General Assembly Budget



## Treasurer's Report January 2025

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	JAN	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 5,165.00	\$ 5,165.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 302.00	\$ 302.00
OCWM	\$ 151.00	\$ 168.00	\$ 168.00
DOCM	\$ 45.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 360.00	\$ 77.00	\$ 77.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 7,506.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,724.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,724.00</b>
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 5,467.00	\$ 5,467.00
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 425.34	\$ 425.34
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 2,092.13	\$ 2,092.13
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 6,950.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,984.47</b>	<b>\$ 7,984.47</b>
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,549.00	\$ 5,275.62	\$ 5,275.62
Employee Expense	\$ 1,373.00	\$ 1,171.53	\$ 1,171.53
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 383.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Office Expense	\$ 520.00	\$ 911.18	\$ 911.18
Property Expense	\$ 2,169.00	\$ 1,740.41	\$ 1,740.41
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 11,994.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,248.74</b>	<b>\$ 9,248.74</b>
<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (5,044.00)</b>	<b>\$ (1,264.27)</b>	<b>\$ (1,264.27)</b>

Submitted by Martha Watters

- 3 Ashton van der Merwe
- 8 Nicole Smith
- 11 Michelle Minnich
- 16 Amy Dowell
- 19 Sheryl Mortimore
- 20 Jacob van der Merwe
- 23 Reva Young
- 24 Jackson Holdt
- 26 Barry Smith
- 27 Gillian Preston
- 28 Larry Showens Sr.  
Heidi Hulme
- 29 Kristen Walck
- 30 Ethan Walck
- 31 Paul Dammeier



## CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



**ANKH, OR ANSATE CROSS** — Originating in Egyptian hieroglyphics, this symbol represented life and regeneration. The shape and meaning made perfect sense to ancient Christians, who appropriated it as a sign of eternal life.

**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



### Our Faith First Family

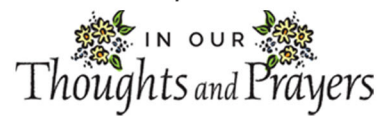
Myrene Burton  
Bob Cobb  
Glenn Perreault  
Pam Edmond  
Pastor Heidi  
Don Walton  
Sid and Ardella Boots  
Karen Risler  
Deb Lobdell  
Rev. Barb Koenig

### 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

Cindy Norman  
Lorie House  
Nancy  
Fran Frutiger  
Kim Rigg  
Fran Leamer  
Allison Byers  
Judy Cummings  
Tania Waters  
Deb  
Kathy  
Bruce  
Nilofar Basti  
Bruce  
Terry Showens  
Melissa Haynes



### Our World

Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Ireland, United Kingdom, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia



*ence connecting us all. To be a "Purveyor of Awe" is to be intentional about curating a life of spiritual depth. This has implications not only for one's own life, but also as motivation to tend to the wellbeing of others. Let us approach this Lent with awe.*

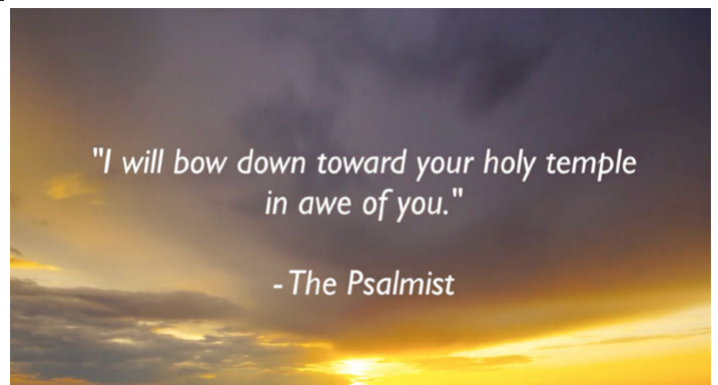
*A worship series by Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio, A non-lectionary fully-scripted worship series exploring the elements of Beauty, Wonder, Meaning, Curiosity, Delight, Connection, and Self-Giving through the writings of biblical poets, mystics, and researchers. Includes a small group study and guide to spiritual practices of awe by Dr. Marcia McFee.*

*I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,  
will enter your house;  
I will bow down toward your holy temple  
in awe of you.  
— Psalm 5:7*

*Awe is a profound emotional response that can significantly impact our wellbeing and perception of the world. Awe often arises from experiences that transcend our usual understanding, such as viewing vast landscapes, listening to powerful music, encountering extraordinary acts of kindness, or feeling heightened devotion and a Divine Pres-*

*"I will bow down toward your holy temple  
in awe of you."*

*- The Psalmist*



# March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	<b>3</b> Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>4</b> Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>5</b>  Ash Wednesday Service 6 p.m. Soup 7 p.m. Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> World Day Of Prayer	<b>8</b> Scout Graduation Party 3-10pm 
<b>9</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Congregational Mtg 11:30 a.m. Daylight Savings Begins	<b>10</b> Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>11</b> Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>12</b> 6 p.m. Soup 7 p.m. Program	<b>13</b> Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting 12:00 p.m. Newsletter Articles Due	<b>17</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>18</b> Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>19</b> 6 p.m. Soup 7 p.m. Program	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	<b>24</b> Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>25</b> Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>26</b> 6 p.m. Soup 7 p.m. Program	<b>27</b> Basket Class 5:30 p.m. Mail Newsletter	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Scouts Music Bingo Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
<b>30</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. OGHS offering	<b>31</b> Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.					