

Faith First Community Church

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Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 12 pm M-TH

Established January 1, 2024

Focus on Faith



April 2026

Vol. 3-4 Issued Monthly



April 2
Maundy
Thursday
Online



April 3
Good Friday
Soup 6:00 p.m.
Worship 7:00 p.m.

April 5
EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service
8:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast
9:15-10:15 a.m.

Worship
10:30 a.m.
“Make Your Way”
Psalm 77 / Matthew 28



There's Something Better Coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to “renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint.” There's something better coming.



"Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, as well as the cloth that had been around Jesus' head". ~ John 20:6-7

Most of you know that we have been dealing with a leak from a broken pipe in the kitchen at the parsonage. Because it was in the wall, and in the back of the lower cabinets, the leak did not present itself until the cellulose insulation thawed out as the temperature got warmer, and trickled down the basement wall, which is where David found it.

It wasn't until we found the leak, got a plumber to come to the house, and he opened up the wall, that we found we were going to need more extensive repairs than just a fixed pipe. By opening the wall, it exposed the truth of what was happening. And once that truth was found, we were unable to ignore the damage, and are faced with having to get the proper testing for asbestos, lead paint, and mold, tearing out the cabinets and counter top, and then opening more of the wall to find out exactly the amount of damage that was done by one little 3/4 inch slit in a copper pipe.

The truth is like that. Once it is out in the open, it can't be ignored. Oh, we can try and sweep it under the rug, or hide it in a closet, but good luck with that. Eventually, someone will "trip" over the rug, or open the closet, and the truth will be exposed. Truth is tricky like that.

Oftentimes, the truth hurts. Or, at the very least, it stings. But it always finds a way of coming to the surface, and you know what? The truth will set you free!

Don't believe me? Have you ever done something in your life—or said something to someone—that you didn't want anyone to find out?

Maybe it was because you didn't want to take the blame (even though you deserved to take it). Or maybe it was because the truth made you feel ashamed. Or maybe the truth proved you were wrong about something, or someone, and you didn't want to believe it—be it good or bad.

What happens when you try to hide, or try to run away from the truth? How do you feel? Do you feel lousy? How do you sleep when you try to hide the truth? Are Guilt and Anxiety constant companions during this time?

But what happens when the truth comes out, and you have to face the consequences? While it may sting for a little while, don't you feel better having let it go? With the truth in the open, you don't have to hide anything anymore, you don't have to lie anymore, you don't have to keep things bottled up anymore.

On that dark day we call Good Friday, Jesus was led to Golgotha—made to carry his own cross—and then nailed to it until he suffocated and took his last breath. And he did this willingly—because he knew the truth. He knew that his suffering would save humanity—for the rest of time. He knew the truth about how God's Love covers everyone's sins—if they but repent—if they turn back toward God and leave their old, sinful ways. (Which, by the way, must also be done willingly!)

Some 2000+ years later, we have the luxury (unlike the disciples and Jesus' followers) of knowing this Truth. We know that in the midst of the valley of death, new life will rise again.

No matter what you are going through, remember that Truth. And remember that sharing the truth, even though it may sting, in the long run, will bring you new life.

God's Truth— Love wins, and the unearnable Love of God is for everyone—no matter who, no matter what, no matter where. Go forth and spread that truth, don't hide it!

Always Peace,
Pastor Heidi



Bible Quiz

According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?



- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

Answer: (Matthew 27:51; Matthew 28:2)

Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve at 3:30 p.m. April 16th.

Share-A-Meal

We are not scheduled to serve in April



Board Notes

Board Meeting
March 8, 2026

1. Discovered leak in wall in parsonage kitchen.
2. Issues with boiler air compressor.
3. The Board is discussing changing the Worship time to 10 a.m. beginning in May.
4. Hope at the Brick House - served 17 on Feb. 12th.
5. Pastor Heidi has almost completed the 16 hours of required continuing education.
6. Next board meeting will be April 12th.



Women's Group
Will not meet
In April

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

**May Newsletter article deadline is April 19.
May Newsletter will be mailed by April 28.**

Treasurer's Report February 2026			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	FEB	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,677.00	\$ 10,902.00	\$ 16,528.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 383.00	\$ 636.00
OCWM	\$ 144.00	\$ 145.00	\$ 280.00
DOCM	\$ 38.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 332.00	\$ 295.00	\$ 495.00
Total Giving	\$ 7,191.00	\$ 11,745.00	\$ 17,969.00
GENERAL FUND			
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,677.00	\$ 11,285.00	\$ 17,164.00
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 117.76	\$ 193.56
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,627.91
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,677.00	\$ 11,402.76	\$ 22,985.47
Pastor Expense	\$ 94,152.00	\$ 7,188.79	\$ 12,835.97
Employee Expense	\$ 16,951.00	\$ 1,358.85	\$ 2,573.81
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 4,586.00	\$ 148.89	\$ 312.72
Office Expense	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 434.93	\$ 975.78
Property Expense	\$ 28,680.00	\$ 2,656.67	\$ 4,887.83
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 150,619.00	\$ 11,788.13	\$ 21,586.11
Net General Fund	\$ (143,942.00)	\$ (385.37)	\$ 1,399.36

Submitted by Martha Watters



- 3 Cody Perreault
- 3 Harrison Manthe
- 8 Peyton Ozmon
- 18 Joy Marvin
- 19 Jill Pepper
- 28 Chad Daily

Addressed to God

A letter written in a childish scrawl arrived at the post office addressed simply to "God." Unsure what to do, a postal employee opened it and read: "Dear God, my name is Jimmy. I am 6 years old. My father is dead, and my mother is having a hard time raising me and my sister. Would you please send us \$500?"

Moved by the boy's plea, the employee shared the letter with coworkers, and together they collected \$300 to send to the family.

A couple of weeks later, another letter arrived. Jimmy thanked God for the money and added one final request: "Next time would you please deliver the money directly to our home? If you send it through the post office, they deduct \$200."

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

PEACOCK – The beautiful peacock is likely one of the lesser-known Christian symbols. Based on an ancient myth that its flesh doesn't decay after death, early Christians appropriated the bird as a symbol of immortality. The molting of its tail feathers each year to be replaced with supposedly more beautiful ones led to use of the peacock as a sign of resurrection and glorification.

Additionally, the eye-like pattern in the peacock's tail feathers made it a symbol of conscience and of God, who sees all. However, the peacock also represents arrogance as it struts to show off its plumage. During the Baroque period, the peacock was often part of artwork at the 10th Station of the Cross, depicting Jesus stripped of his clothing—atonement, according to some teachings, specifically for our sin of vanity.

Early Christians believed peacocks shriek when they catch sight of their feet, which they consider ugly. Christians took this as a reminder that we, too, should lament our spiritual imperfections that detract from the beauty of life lived in Christ.



The **Easter Offering** given in April will be divided up as follows. If the envelope from the pledge envelopes is used, the offering will go to a local mission decided by the Board at the April board meeting.

If the DOC special offering envelope is used, the offering will go to the Upper Midwest conference. Any cash put in the offering basket on Easter Sunday, will be divided between the two.

Our Faith First Family

Linda Cox
Arlene Barclay
Deb Sullivan
Becky Christy
Glenn Perreault
Don Walton
Pastor Heidi
Sid and Ardella Boots
Karen Risler
Rev. Barb Koenig

Our Homebound

Paul Dammeier
Dennis Jacobsen
Hazel Jones
Harriet Meye
Colleen Skinner
Harry Stroupe

Our Family and Friends

Bill McCoy
Dean Schmidt
Albert Perreault
Fran Frutiger
JR Showens
Lorie House
Judy Cummings
Nilofar Basti
Lylah Stineman
Garrett Paxton
Kylie
Tania Waters
Terry Showens

Our World

Prayers for March

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, The Balkans—Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia








Rain: A Gentle Reminder of God's Care



A rainy day can be many things ...
It can be moisture for the farmer's garden,
Or the picnic that has to be postponed;
It can be the replenishing of a stream,
Or the overflow of a flood;
It can be relief from a hot summer day,
Or the chill of an autumn wind.
The rotating cycle of clouds to Earth
Is part of Nature's plan
For stability throughout the Universe,
As old as the hills,
And dependable as the seasons.
Rain and sunshine are equal partners
In the daily expression of God's love.
— Jeanne D. Birrell

April 2026

			1	2  Maundy Thursday Online	3 Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. Good Friday 7:00 p.m..	4
5 Sunrise Service 8:30 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Happy Easter	6 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	7 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	8 	9	10	11 
12 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	13 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	14 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	15	16 Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m. Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	17	18
19 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Newsletter Articles Due	20 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	21 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	22 	23	24	25
26 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	27 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	28 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m. Mail Newsletter	29	30 