

Faith First Community Church

1630 W. 38th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52806

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January 2026

Vol. 3-1 Issued Monthly

Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

Focus on Faith



SCRIPTURE KEYS TO A JOYFUL NEW YEAR

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11,16)

Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)

— Gus Nichols

NEW YEAR'S SUNDAY – NEW MERCIES FOR A NEW YEAR

As we turn the page to 2026, we rejoice in God's steadfast love and the gift of new beginnings. Join us for worship on Sunday, January 5, as we dedicate this new year to the Lord and seek His guidance for the days ahead. *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... they are new every morning."* – Lamentations 3:22–23

A PURPOSEFUL NEW YEAR

The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better. — C. Neil Strait

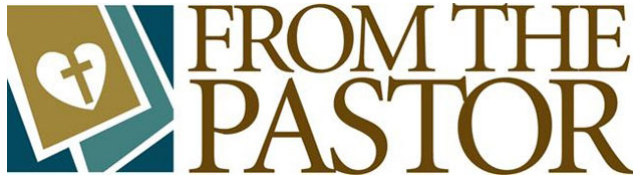


PASTOR HEIDI AND FAMILY will be on vacation from December 30 — January 3.

Jill Pepper will be on call in case of emergencies. You may contact her at 563-370-1359.

PASTOR HEIDI will be on vacation from January 12-20. Jill Pepper will lead worship on January 18, as well as be on call in case of emergency. You may contact her at 563-370-1359.

I HAVE BEEN THE SPIRITUAL LEADER first at Faith UCC and now at Faith First Community Church for 13 years, and each year I am more and more thankful for this call. I am so grateful for everything you do for me, and for my family. Your love and support continue to remind me that God is always working toward our good. Thank you for your continued love and support of one another, and of the ministries of this church and our community. Thank you especially, for your generous Christmas gift! I am very excited to use some of it while on my cruise in January. We will use the rest of it on our vacation this summer. May you see the blessings you are bestowed by God, and have a safe and Happy New Year!!
Peace, Pastor Heidi and Family



*"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."
~ Isaiah 60"1*

Most of us know the first verse of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." But did you know there were three more verses?

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are. Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky. Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are.

When the blazing sun is set, and the grass with dew is wet. Then you show your little light, twinkle, twinkle all the night.

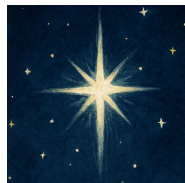
Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are.

Then the traveler in the dark thanks you for your tiny spark.

How could he see where to go if you did not twinkle so? Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are.

As your bright and tiny spark lights the traveler in the dark, though I know not what you are, twinkle, twinkle, little star.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are.



The author wonders what the star actually is. Scientifically, we know that stars are massive bodies of superheated gas—mostly hydrogen and helium—which generate their own light and heat by nuclear fusion at their centers. We also know there are an uncountable

number of stars which fall against a dark backdrop—the vastness of space.

In this season, we talk about light a lot. We intentionally add lights to Christmas trees and the outsides of our homes and properties. We have experienced the northern lights in our part of the country more this year than ever before.

Jesus was born as the Light of the World. Emmanuel broke into the darkness of a violent time, as an innocent baby, in order to shine the Light of God in the dark places.

After Jesus' birth, the Magi followed a great star—we call it the Star of Bethlehem—from the far east to Bethlehem in order to find the new King.

One of the most interesting things about light is that you have to have darkness in order to see the light. Think about being in a room that is totally void of light. If you were to shine a tiny, pinpoint size flashlight in the room, you would see it because it is in stark contrast to the darkness that is already there. Light is very important. We, like Jesus, are called to be the light to the world. To shine God's love and light in all the shadowed places.

As we prepare to begin yet another year, where can you shine your love and light? You can't tell me there isn't a small space that needs your light and love! With your light, and my light, and everyone's light, we can change what is happening in our world! We can shine bright and bring hope and joy to all who need it—one tiny flicker at a time.

Always Peace,
Pastor Heidi




ANNUAL MEETING




The 2026 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 25. Please plan to attend the annual potluck with the business meeting following the meal. The meal will be served shortly after Worship ends. The Board will lead the meeting to approve the budget, decide the fundraising distributions, as well as where the Bequest Fund CD Interest will go, and will review all the 2025 highlights for Faith First Community Church.

BIBLE QUIZ
 Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."
 A. Creation
 B. Beginning
 C. Season
 D. Covenant
 Answer: (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)



Hope at the Brick House
 We are scheduled to serve at 3:30 p.m. January 15th.
Share-A-Meal
 We are scheduled to serve at 5:15 p.m. January 30th.



Meals for the Hungry

Epiphany – Light to the Nations
 Christ's light shines for all people — and through us, it shines into the world. As we celebrate Epiphany, may we carry His light into our homes, workplaces, and community.



Women's Group
Will Not Meet in January

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.
February Newsletter article deadline is Jan. 18.
February Newsletter will be mailed by Jan. 30.

Treasurer's Report November 2025			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	NOVEMBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 5,730.00	\$ 71,552.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 261.51	\$ 3,788.51
OCWM	\$ 151.00	\$ 143.00	\$ 1,630.00
DOCM	\$ 45.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 509.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 360.00	\$ 359.00	\$ 3,531.00
Total Giving	\$ 7,506.00	\$ 6,525.51	\$ 81,010.51
GENERAL FUND			
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 5,991.51	\$ 75,340.51
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 373.69	\$ 2,879.28
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,092.13
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 6,365.20	\$ 126,311.92
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,549.00	\$ 6,647.53	\$ 80,096.68
Employee Expense	\$ 1,373.00	\$ 1,225.88	\$ 14,334.63
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 383.00	\$ 149.50	\$ 3,694.63
Office Expense	\$ 520.00	\$ 456.10	\$ 5,330.31
Property Expense	\$ 2,169.00	\$ 2,095.21	\$ 25,767.82
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 11,994.00	\$10,574.22	\$ 129,224.07
Net General Fund	\$ (5,044.00)	\$ (4,209.02)	\$ (2,912.15)

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



SHIP — The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship. While the Old Testament tells of Noah’s ark preserving righteous people during the flood, the New Testament recounts Jesus calming the storm that battered the disciples’ fishing boat. St. Ambrose described the church as a ship with the cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship). Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave — Latin for ship.

Our Faith First Family

Bill Pepper
Glenn Perreault
Don Walton
Pastor Heidi
Sid and Ardella Boots
Karen Risler
Rev. Barb Koenig

Our Homebound

Paul Dammeier
Nancy Giles
Dennis Jacobsen
Hazel Jones
Virginia Lemons
Harriet Meye
Colleen Skinner
Harry Stroupe

Our Family and Friends

Albert Perreault	Garrett Paxton
Fran Frutiger	Kylie
JR Showens	Cindy Norman
Dillon Poole	Taunia Waters
Lorie House	Terry Showens
Alison Byers	Judy Cummings

Our World

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

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)



C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)



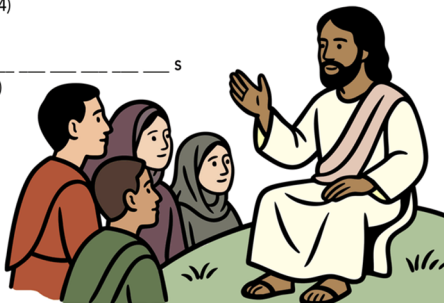
S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11: 26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples; Chosen People; Servants of Christ; Christians; Brothers and Sisters; Believers; Witnesses

FAITH FORMATION – GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Start the new year off right by joining us for Faith Formation! It’s a wonderful opportunity to study God’s Word, ask questions and grow in faith together. Whether you’re brand new or returning after a break, there’s a place for you. Come learn, connect and be encouraged as we dive deeper into Scripture this year!


NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS can be tricky to keep, but if your goal is to grow in faith and bless those around you, you’re in the right place. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen you as you walk into this new year. We’re glad you’re here — may 2026 be a year of spiritual growth, renewed faith, and joyful obedience.

FOR GOD SO LOVED

One of the hallmarks of John’s short sermons is that they almost always contain the plan of salvation in a single verse. Here is verse 16: “This is how God showed his love to the world. He gave his one and only son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have life eternal.” In perhaps the most beautiful words ever written, this verse presents the why as well as the how of God’s redeeming love. Later, in his letters, John will betray a preoccupation with the question “What is the meaning of love?” Here he gives himself and all of the answer.

— Michael Card in The Parable of Joy

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Start the New Year with a Prayer</p>				<p>1</p>  <p>Happy New Year!</p>	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.</p>	7	8	9	10
<p>11</p> <p>Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting Noon</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.</p>	16	<p>17</p> 
<p>18</p> <p>Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><i>Newsletter Articles Due</i></p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Martin Luther King Jr. -DAY-</p> <p>Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.</p>	21	22	<p>23</p> 	24
<p>25</p> <p>Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck/Annual Meeting 11:30</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Mail Newsletter</i></p>	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m.</p>	31