

Faith First Community Church

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Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

Focus on Faith



**WORSHIP TIME
CHANGES TO
10:30 a.m.
September 7, 2025**



WORSHIP SERIES FOR SEPTEMBER

September will be the Season of Creation— Ocean, Fauna, Storm, and Cosmos.

HONORING THE GIFT OF WORK

The Bible affirms both the value and dignity of work. From the beginning, God placed Adam in the garden “to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15, ESV). In the fourth commandment, we are reminded not only to observe the Sabbath, but also to labor diligently throughout the week: “Six days you shall labor, and do all your work” (Exodus 20:9, ESV).

Work is more than a routine obligation; it is an opportunity to engage our God-given abilities in meaningful ways. Whether using our hands, minds, or hearts, we reflect the image of our Creator—bringing order, care, and creativity into the world.

Our labor allows us to contribute to the common good, find personal fulfillment, and practice faithful stewardship of the talents and strengths God has entrusted to us. As Paul writes, “We are God’s fellow workers” (1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV).

On this Labor Day, may we take time to recognize the blessing of work and celebrate those who serve, build, teach, lead, and labor with purpose and care.

—Author unknown

A PRAYER FOR AUTUMN'S ARRIVAL

Lord of all seasons,
As the leaves change and the days grow cooler,
help me embrace the rhythm of your creation.
Teach me to let go of what I no longer need
and to trust your timing in every part of life.

Thank you for the beauty of autumn—
for crisp mornings, golden trees, and the promise of harvest.
May this season deepen my gratitude,
renew my spirit,
and draw me closer to your heart.

In Jesus’ name,
Amen.

THE POWER OF PRAYER WARRIORS


Prayer warriors are spiritual soldiers—men and women who faithfully lift others in prayer, often behind the scenes. Though their work may go unnoticed by the world, it is deeply valued by God. Their intercession can strengthen the weary, comfort the grieving, and open doors for God’s will to be done.

In Scripture, we are urged to “pray one for another” (James 5:16, KJV), reminding us that healing and restoration often come through the prayers of the faithful. A prayer warrior stands in the gap, bringing needs before the Lord with boldness and persistence.

The Apostle Paul recognized the power of prayer, often asking others to pray for him as he shared the gospel. In the same way, prayer warriors today uphold churches, pastors, families, and communities.

Their prayers may be silent, but their impact is mighty. Never underestimate the difference a praying heart can make.





FROM THE PASTOR

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." ~ Ephesians 3: 20-21

I feel like I should call this "General Assembly Reporting" - Part II. Last month, I talked about the resolutions for General Assembly, one of them being changes to The Design. (The Christian Church (DOC) equivalent to a Constitution.) I want to walk through this just a little, because it does affect our congregation.

BACKGROUND: Following several years of work by the Governance Committee of the General Board, along with opportunities for conversation across the church, the General Assembly meeting in Louisville, Kentucky in July 2023, adopted GA-2343, making significant changes to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. In fall 2023, the Moderator of the General Assembly appointed an Implementation Team, as called for in GA-2343, to work toward enacting these changes. Part of their work including reviewing the Design for any additional amendments that needed to be made in support of the changes called for in GA-2343. The proposed amendments to the Design include: • Clarification of the activities and meetings of the General Assembly • Changes to the membership of the General Board • Minor changes in wording and formatting to ensure consistency throughout the document.

First, much of the language that was changed included simple words like "the" and "through". Much of the wording change was from "representative" to "delegate" or "participant." Those words more accurately describe who is attending General Assembly, and who can vote.

The parts which affect the local congregations most is under THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Membership and Participation. Item 39a Voting from congregations: "Each congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall be entitled to have three (3) voting delegates. These voting delegates from congregations shall be in addition to persons holding standing in the Order of Ministry." (The last part means the pastor, who has their own voting privileges.)

Item 40 which states: "Voting members of the General Assembly, who are representatives delegates from congregations and regions, shall serve a three-year term of three (3) years with one (1) representative delegate being selected by the congregation and/or region each year. Terms begin January 1st of each year. No person shall have more than one (1) vote in the General Assembly, and no person shall vote in absentia or by proxy. Congregations and regions may name alternates to replace voting representatives delegates who are unable to attend."

And finally, under MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: "The

General Assembly will meet at least one time every calendar year for an Annual Meeting, set by the General Board, of which the first two will be held digitally. These meetings will be held digitally. Every third year the Annual Meeting will be known as the Triennial Meeting and will regularly be a meeting to be held both in-person and digitally. The Triennial Meeting in-person meeting will be held at a time and place fixed by the General Board. Participants (voting and nonvoting) can attend the business sessions of the Triennial Meeting in person meeting digitally or in-person."

Basically, each church now gets three voting delegates instead of two, and GA will move to meeting face to face once every three years, meeting online once a year for the two years in between.

How does this affect us? First, I want to say that I have not been good at encouraging participation in the wider church. And now that we have two denominations, it gets even more difficult. But what I am realizing is that if we are going to be who we say we are, and consider our roots to be in two different denominations, then we should probably understand the inner workings of these denominations. When people look for churches, especially the younger people, many of them do their due diligence into who the church they are looking at is and what they believe. That being said, it is time for us to stretch ourselves into the wider churches.

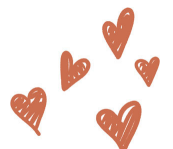
The United Church of Christ calls delegates for the Conferences, not individual churches, and the clergy with standing do not get a vote, unless they are representing the Conference. But there are other ways to participate in the wider church. I serve on the Eastern Iowa Association Advisory Council, and we need people. There are many Boards and Committees within the Association and the Iowa Conference which need people to fill.

For the Christian Church (DOC), we are now allowed these three delegates, each one serving a three year term, but one person stepping off each year. That way, each person would attend two virtual General Assembly gatherings, and one face to face gathering.

I know it is difficult to get people to sit on our Board, or run a committee here at our local setting. Every church has this issue. And yes, this is more.

But here's the thing: stretching ourselves is part of stepping out and growing into our faith. By sitting on these boards and committees, or being a delegate to General Assembly (or General Synod, if you want!) you get to take part in a whole new level of ministry. We are all part of the Body of Christ, and it takes many people to make things happen. But even more, we are all called by God to love our neighbor, to serve one another, and to create God's kingdom here on earth. We can't do that alone. It takes many hands and feet. Will you be one of them?

Always Peace, Pastor Heidi



BIBLE QUIZ

Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.



Answer: (See Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:2)

Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve on September 11th.

Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve on September 30th.



SEPTEMBER

birthdays

- 1 Matthew Stroupe
- 8 Abby Daily
- 9 Karl Jensen
Hazel Jones
- 12 Charles Fox
Harry Stroupe
- 13 Sharon Perreault
- 14 Karsten Hulme
- 16 Laura Perreault
- 17 Gregory Kress
- 21 Jim Spies
- 24 Martha Watters



Women's Group
Will meet at the church on
September 4th
6:45 p.m.

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

October Newsletter article deadline is Sep 21.

October Newsletter will be mailed by Sep 28.

Treasurer's Report July 2025			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	JULY	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 5,173.00	\$46,705.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 105.00	\$ 2,107.00
OCWM	\$ 151.00	\$ 143.00	\$ 1,126.00
DOCM	\$ 45.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 118.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 360.00	\$ 299.00	\$ 2,258.00
Total Giving	\$ 7,506.00	\$ 5,752.00	\$52,314.00
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET	TOTAL YTD	
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 5,278.00	\$48,812.00
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 383.49	\$ 2,027.00
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$26,092.13
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 5,661.49	\$76,931.13
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,549.00	\$ 6,582.28	\$50,221.11
Employee Expense	\$ 1,373.00	\$ 1,272.44	\$ 9,023.66
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 383.00	\$ -	\$ 1,679.64
Office Expense	\$ 520.00	\$ 427.83	\$ 3,450.03
Property Expense	\$ 2,169.00	\$ 1,946.14	\$16,792.99
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 11,994.00	\$10,228.69	\$81,167.43
Net General Fund	\$ (5,044.00)	\$ (4,567.20)	\$ (4,236.30)

Submitted by Martha Watters



Board Notes

Board Meeting— August 24

1. Securing two proposals for snow removal this year.
2. Approved having a security grant assessment.
3. General Fund—the operating account is at a negative balance through July 31st. \$4,567.20.
4. Selected a date for annual budget meeting.
5. Updated the Campership Scholarship Policy.
6. Next meeting - September 14 at 11:30 a.m.

THANKS TO THE CELEBRATION EVENT COMMITTEE!!

Sunday's Church Celebration was a wonderful party. We really appreciate all the work that went into pulling every thing together to celebrate the merger of our two churches. Thanks, too, for Jill Pepper and those who helped with Vacation Bible School on Saturday. It was a real treat to have the kids share with the congregation what they learned.



Dearest Friends,
I want to thank you so much for the beautiful, sparkly new stole! The butterflies, the DOC and UCC symbols, and of course, our very own Faith First Community Church logo! It is absolutely beautiful, and I am so very humbled. I love you all so very much! Thank you!

~Pastor Heidi

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



BURNING BUSH — In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses from a bush that is burning but not consumed. When Moses asks what he should say if the Egyptians question who sent him to lead the Israelites out of slavery, God states, "I AM WHO I AM." Centuries later, when people wonder who Jesus is, his answers hint at his divinity: "I AM the light of the world; I AM the good shepherd; I AM the bread of life" and, perhaps most profoundly, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). On Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles as fire. Thus the burning bush is a powerful symbol of God's presence echoed through time.

Our Faith First Family

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

Our Homebound

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

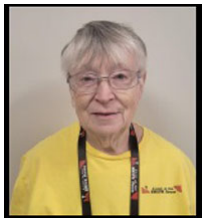
Our Family and Friends

Susan
JR Showens
Dillon Poole
Cal Klopp
Lorie House
Fran Frutiger
Alison Byers
Kylie
Cindy Norman
Tania Waters
Deb
Nilofar Basti
Terry Showens
Judy Cummings



Our World

Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru



FAITH FIRST'S KAY SHOWENS AT HBTH
Kay was featured in Hope at the Brick House's August newsletter as one of their volunteers! Kay volunteered at the 2025 Summer Program. Congrats, Kay!



AUTUMN DOWELL took part in the Summer Program at Hope at the Brick House. On the last day, the kids shared the love of Jesus with their parents through song, their memory verses and presentations that they had prepared.

ATTIC SHOP PRICING — We will meet on Sep. 2, 18 and 25 and Oct. 9 and 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Come for an hour or stay for the morning. We go through each item that has been given to us for the Nov. 1st Attic Shop and put a price sticker on it. All are welcome who can make it.



Faith Formation Classes will begin in September 14.

*

Music Bingo Fundraiser Saturday, September 6th.

*

Worship Time will change to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 7th!

*

Annual Attic Shop is set for Saturday, Nov. 1st.
Cookie Walk and Bake Sale will be Saturday, Dec. 6th.
Note: There will be a few crafts at each of these events.



ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Per our new constitution, the board selected the date for the annual budget meeting — it will be October 19 immediately after worship. The board will approve the proposed budget at the September board meeting.

We will also have board election — we will need one new member for a three year term.



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Labor Day	2 Attic Shop Marking 9 to Noon Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	3	4 Women's Group 6:45 p.m. Fellowship Hall Jan Hannel	5	6 Music Bingo 6 p.m. Doors Open 5:30 p.m.
7 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	8 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	9	10	11  9/11 REMEMBRANCE HTBH 3:30 p.m.	12	13 
14 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	15 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	16 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	17	18 Attic Shop Marking 9 to Noon Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	19	20 Christian Conference Center Fun Day
21 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	22 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	23 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	24 	25 Attic Shop Marking 9 to Noon	26 <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	27 Fellowship Hall Reserved
28 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	29 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	30 Share-A-Meal 5:15 p.m.				