

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



July 2026

Vol. 3-7 Issued Monthly

ALL MY DAYS **WDS Worship Series**



**We will continue the
Prayer Worship Series beginning
July 5th**

**Petition - Pardon - Protection
Persistence**



Freedom Worth Guarding

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God's provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God's grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.



FROM THE PASTOR

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation." ~ Genesis 2:1-3

When we became Faith First Community Church in January of 2024, to make it official, you extended a call letter to me to be your settled pastor. In a pastoral call letter, both denominations suggest offering a sabbatical after about 5 years. That was how the call letter from Faith UCC read. Most of you will remember I took my sabbatical (after 10 years instead of 5) the summer we began worshipping together.

Preparing to be gone for 12 weeks is difficult. I have to make sure everything is covered, so that things don't get dropped, people continue to get visited, and the ministries and missions of the church don't stop. It takes a lot of energy.

I had been told by multiple colleagues who have been on sabbatical that the first month you worry about what you forgot. The second month, you are finally able to relax, and the third month you begin the process of getting back into things—even though you try to disconnect for all three months. It just doesn't happen well.

In our negotiations for my current call letter, I proposed something different. Instead of a sabbatical in the traditional sense, I asked for 7 weeks of vacation a year—4 of which will be taken together.

I made this proposal partly because 4 weeks is easier to prepare for than 12. But mostly, it is because then I am able to allow my body and energy some time to really recharge every year. I believe this will help as I continue to navigate life with neuroendocrine cancer.

I am excited for this time, as I will be spending a few days in Minnesota with my best friend from high school at the beginning of that time, and ending it with our nephew's wedding (that I get to officiate!).

Jill Pepper will be leading worship and be on call during the time I am gone. I know she will have some amazing things for you, so be sure to join her in worship.

In the meantime, join us as we continue our worship series on prayer. See you on Sunday morning!

Always Peace,
Pastor Heidi

Bible Quiz

About 450 years before Jesus, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem still lay in ruins after the Babylonian invasion. The news broke his heart. After days of prayer and mourning, he stepped forward to lead the effort to rebuild the city wall. Despite opposition, the people pressed on. A well-known verse describes their progress: "So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to ____."

Choose the correct ending:

- A. be protected
- B. work
- C. serve
- D. live

Answer: (Nehemiah 4:6, ESV)



It's Time to Collect Backpacks



July is the month to collect school supplies for the EICC Student Success Store!

Bring paper, pencils, pens, markers and backpacks to the church any time during July. If you want to donate cash, we will do the shopping for you! We will bless these supplies on Sunday, August 2 and deliver them to the store during August.

Hope at the Brick House

We will be serving lunch at 11:30 on July 13 and 27.

Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve on July 31st



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

**August Newsletter article deadline is July 19.
August Newsletter will be mailed by July 29.**



Board Notes

Board Meeting June 7

1. Affordable Parking Lot Services will patch, seal and restrip the parking lot.
2. Amy Dowell will take over the custodian duties of the church.
3. Share-A-Meal served 60 in May.
4. Vacation Bible School tentatively set for Saturday, September 12 from 9-3 p.m.
5. Next Board Meeting is July 26 after worship.



**Women's Group
will meet**

**July 9th at 6:00 p.m.
Cookout at Deb's!**

Please bring a dish to share!



- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jan Hannel | 18 Vicki Ertel |
| 1 Lindsay Ozmon | 21 Lincoln Wakeland |
| 1 Jessica Daily | 22 David Hulme |
| 4 Judy Cummings | 22 Harriet Meye |
| 6 Maureen Miller | 25 Ardella Boots |
| 7 AJ Skinner | 29 Bonnie Rea |
| 9 Cathy Koehler-Wright | 30 James Sullivan |
| 10 Henry Pepper | 31 Shylynn Fox |
| 14 Karen Risler | |

Treasurer's Report May 2026

PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	MAY	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,677.00	\$ 6,540.00	\$ 35,680.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 5,719.30	\$ 7,035.30
OCWM	\$ 144.00	\$ 163.00	\$ 779.00
DOCM	\$ 38.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 124.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 332.00	\$ 335.00	\$ 1,627.00
Total Giving	\$ 7,191.00	\$ 12,789.30	\$ 45,245.30
GENERAL FUND	MO BUDGET		TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,677.00	\$ 12,259.30	\$ 42,715.30
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 278.52	\$ 736.07
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,627.91
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,677.00	\$ 12,537.82	\$ 59,079.28
Pastor Expense	\$ 94,152.00	\$ 7,003.76	\$ 37,467.01
Employee Expense	\$ 16,951.00	\$ 1,246.94	\$ 6,650.38
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 4,586.00	\$ 367.75	\$ 1,375.15
Office Expense	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 439.95	\$ 2,294.42
Property Expense	\$ 28,680.00	\$ 1,915.65	\$ 15,048.93
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 150,619.00	\$ 10,974.05	\$ 62,835.89
Net General Fund	\$ (143,942.00)	\$ 1,563.77	\$ (3,756.61)
Submitted by Martha Watters			

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

SHELL — A scallop shell, often shown pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is a Christian symbol of baptism and the washing away of sin. The three drops of water represent the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



From the earliest centuries of the church, the shell was connected with baptism because it could be used to pour water over a person's head. In a time when many baptisms took place in rivers, lakes or outdoor settings, a simple shell served as a natural vessel, reminding believers that God uses humble, ordinary things to accomplish sacred purposes.

Today, the scallop shell continues to appear in baptismal fonts, church art and Christian design. It quietly proclaims the message of baptism: washed by grace, claimed by God and welcomed into the family of faith.

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Our Faith First Family

Linda Cox
Glenn Perreault
Don Walton
Pastor Heidi
Sid and Ardella Boots
Karen Risler
Rev Barb Koenig

Our Homebound

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

Our Family and Friends

Phil Jones	Rebecca Dyer
Dean Schmidt	Bill McCoy
Albert Perreault	Nilofar Basti
Fran Frutiger	Garrett Paxton
JR Showens	Taunia Waters
Lorie House	Terry Showens
Bob "Robert" Dowell	Judy Cummings

Our World

Prayers for July

Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Burundi,
Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda

THEY WALKED EVERYWHERE

When a teenager earned his driving permit, he approached his father, a minister, to discuss using the car. His dad replied, "I'll make you a deal. Raise your grades, spend some time in your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk."

A month later, the young man came back. "Son, I'm proud of you," his father said. "Your grades are up, and you've been faithful in your Bible study. But you didn't get your hair cut."

The teenager paused. "Well, Dad, I've been thinking. Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair."

His father nodded. "That's true. And they walked everywhere they went."



JULY 2026

			1	2	3	4
				Pastor Heidi out of office July 4 Holiday		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 10:00 a.m.	Troop 828 Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	Attic Shop 9 a.m.	Women's Group 6:45 p.m.		Rising Together Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 10:00 a.m.	HTBH 11:30 a.m. Troop 828 Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.		Basket Class 5:30 p.m.		Rising Together Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved 65th Anniversary
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved 12:30 p.m. Newsletter Articles Due	Troop 828 Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	Attic Shop 9 a.m.			Rising Together Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Worship 10:00 a.m.	HTBH 11:30 a.m. Troop 828 Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Pastor Heidi on Vacation	Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	Mail Newsletter		Share-A-Meal 5:15 pm	