



VOICE OF FAITH

Sunday Worship
10:00 AM

Faith United Church of Christ

3307 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, IA 52761
Phone: 563-263-5979
Fax: 563-263-0305

www.faihuccmuscatine.com

Church Office Hours

10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

FAITH UCC STAFF

Lisa Allen

Office Coordinator
faithsecretary@machlink.com

Pat Mundell

Congregational Life Coordinator
pmundell@machlink.com

Beth Elshoff

Children's Education Coordinator
bethelshoff@machlink.com



Sign Task Force

Pictured is the design for a new permanent sign. The Sign Task Force Committee: Scott Warren, Jon Merritt, Julie Kundel, Tim Stelzner, Ann Emerick, Jeff Hanssen, and Alice Ganzley. At the Town hall meeting, we will try to answer any questions you may have about our progress for the new sign we have put so much effort into!

Search and Call Committee

The Search and Call Committee has interviewed a Candidate for the Settled Pastor role and has recommended to the Vestry that we make an offer to the candidate.

We believe our Candidate is right for our Pastor role. We would like to engage the congregation in meetings with the Rev. White prior to the Sunday Sermon and member vote on Sunday, August 13.

Jan Collinson, a Vestry member, will be contacting the congregation to invite all to participate in *meet and greet* sessions the week of August 7th.

Watch for more information in the updates and in the Sunday bulletins.

Meet Our Candidate

Paris White

Search and Call Candidate

I am an ordained pastor in the ELCA, a community organizer, and a dreamer.

My dream of a world without suffering brought me to the Church, to the ministry and now to Vanderbilt.



As a ThM student, I am taking the year to dive deep into our current economic and climate crisis. As a student, a fellow, and a pastor, my hope is to strategically steer the Church from models of charity to models of solidarity that provide real, concrete alternative systems which will make long-term changes in communities.

These alternative systems will center life in all forms and foster new ways of being that allow people and the planet to thrive.

From Vanderbilt Divinity School Website:
<https://www.religionandjustice.org/fellows>

AUGUST PULPIT SUPPLY

August 6 Rev. Brice Hughes

Scriptures: Matthew 14:13-21

Is this world a world of abundance, or scarcity? You know people who are examples of both sides of the question, don't you? Some people idle at anxiety, convinced that scarcity looms just ahead. No matter how tall the mountain of gold in their vaults, there is never enough. You know others who may have less but live without fear, confidently in a world of God's abundance. Potluck dinners are a glorious example of the world of abundance which God has created. In a potluck, everyone brings something, no matter how little they might have to contribute. And no matter how many people come there is always more than enough to share. Barbara Brown Taylor says, "Whenever there is plenty of God there is plenty of everything else."

August 13 Rev. Paris White

Scriptures: Romans 10:5-15

In this week's New Testament reading, we are invited to ponder what salvation truly is and who salvation might be for. Oftentimes Christians can find themselves being gatekeepers to the salvation God freely gives the entire world through Christ. Not only do we sometimes find ourselves excluding others, but we also sometimes find ourselves making salvation 'other worldly,' forgetting that Jesus proclaimed salvation in the present, not just in the future hope of heaven. What would it mean for our daily life together if we took seriously that the good news of salvation is as close as our own mouth, heart, hands, and feet?

August 20 Rev. Brice Hughes

Scriptures: Matthew 15:21-28

The core of this encounter rests on inequities based on race and gender. The Canaanite woman (Syro-Phoenician). Canaanite. Woman. Jesus at first refuses healing to this woman of a different 'race.' He says, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Those racial/ethnic distinctions in the Middle East can be matters of life and death, even today. But you know what? DNA testing has advanced to the point of being able to identify your ancestry back thousands of years. All those people indigenous to that corner of the Middle East- Palestinians, Lebanese, Jews- they are all descended from the Canaanites. Race is a social construct; it was in the time of Jesus, and it is still so now. Let there be no distinctions made between Jew or Canaanite, no drawing of color lines of "White" or not, no distinctions based on gender identity, no pretend binaries, no answers we insist are "Black and White" because all are on flesh, one family: all of us Children of God.

August 27 Rev. Marcy Heil

Scriptures: Exodus 1:8-2:10 & Matthew 16:13-20

The events in the Gospel reading took place in Caesarea Philippi. It was a territory where pagan gods were worshipped, and it is there that Jesus asks Peter a question about his identity. He asks the disciples not to tell anyone who he really is...maybe because it's not a safe place. More importantly, though, Jesus has special timing...and didn't think it was the right time to spill his true identity to the world. He knew his time would come soon enough.

Inherent Worth Seminar

This seminar will be held on Saturday, September 30, from 10 to noon at the church. Allison will provide exercises and lead discussion focusing on the following topics:

- Believing in our own inherent worth
- Recognizing the inherent worth of others
- Honoring inherent worth in our communication

The seminar will be open to church members, as well as community members. Participants will be asked to pre-register for adequate food and printed materials.

*your value
doesn't decrease
based on
someone's inability
to see your worth*

VESTRY SUMMARY FROM JULY 10, 2023

Treasurer –June’s Budget Report Rich Carroll gave the Treasurer’s Report. We continue to run a surplus similar to last month. If we hired Pastor Paris in August, we would have enough money for the year. In Dec. 2022, there were 132 pledges. Our pledging has taken a sharp drop in recent years. In the past couple of years, we have allocated but not used \$20-25,000 from the Endowment Fund’s growth in interest to cover year-end expenses. The Call Agreement with Pastor Paris was shared with the Vestry. The Search and Call Committee wants feedback from Vestry members in the next few days.

Deacons’ – Fall schedule for Stewardship season. Multiple requests will be made.

Elders’ – Staff evaluations: Julie Kundel reported evaluations will be conducted Sept/Oct.

Trustees’

- Dave - Air cond. & Furnace was done on July 6
- Dan - The bell tower, and the vestry room ceiling were fixed on July 5th.
- There is a step at the parsonage that needs attention.

Unfinished Business

- Sunday school rooms ceiling and wall repair/paint. Dan Huss bought the paint.
- Network upgrades to RNS standards are in progress
- Landmark Solar costs. Suggestions. \$75,000 – 30% IRA tax credit. The Solar Committee met with Paul Burback, MPW. Paul said it will take 15-16 years to reach payback with the Red Lion proposal. The church can approach this from an environmental or cost savings standpoint.

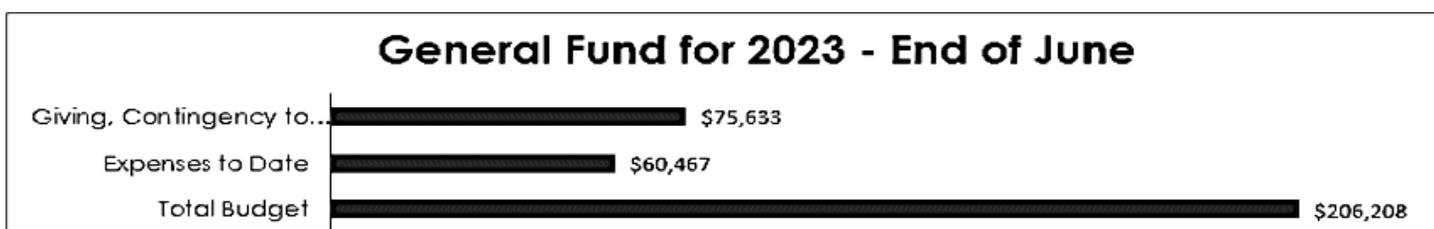
New Business

1. **Action Items:**

- They vestry spoke about concerns from the congregation. After group discussion on a variety of topics, There was a motion to hold a Town Hall meeting to offer a time for people to share concerns on July 30. Second. **Motion carried.**

2. **Updates on Committees:**

- Communion volunteers to serve for Aug. 6th: Tim Stelzner & Julie Kundel
- Altar Committee volunteers: Julie Kundel in August. Deb will take Sept.
- Search & Call – July 2nd interview with Pastoral candidate Rev. White. The Vestry welcomes meet and greets prior to Pastor Paris’s preaching on August 13. As Faith UCC moves ahead in the Search and Call process, the Vestry scheduled a congregational vote for August 13. On August 13 after hearing Pastor Paris preach, the members will vote to enter into a contractual covenant with Pastor Paris.
- Jan is arranging a time for people to view Pastor Paris preaching online. Groups included will be employees, members, and missing members. It was suggested that we write short biographies to introduce ourselves. Another member suggested house gatherings.
- Pulpit Supply –At present, Jonna Jensen is planning to come on July 23 to talk.
- ONA – Inherent Worth seminar will happen on September 30.
- Sign Task Force –Scott to finalize costs of \$ 23,331.00, will need to schedule a congregational meeting for approval soon.
- Green team – Solar – MP&W meeting Frantz will contact Kerry Keller at Landmark Solar and let him know that Landmark’s bid is preferred but not approved at this time. We would like to keep the bid estimate which is time sensitive.



FAITH IN ACTION

Mid-Summer Fun Night and BBQ at Faith United

Faith Cookout! 27 people enjoyed a summer cookout on Wed. July 19th - dining on hotdogs and hamburgers (meat & vegetarian) straight from the grill, chips, watermelon, and veggies. Games were played, conversations shared and smores enjoyed for dessert...

Thanks to John and Frantz for their grilling expertise, Chris Lary and Frantz for bringing their grills, Nancy Wangberg for the smore makings, Jan Collinson, and Rich Carroll for loaning us their yard games, and everyone who helped clean up at the end. A Big thank you to Beth Elshoff for planning and hosting this event.



Harmony Guild Rummage Sale

You may bring your donated items to the basement during church hours, 10-4. M-F.

Harmony Guild will hold a church-wide rummage sale on Friday, August 18th (9 am - 6 pm) and Saturday, August 19th (8 am - noon).

If you would like to help with sorting, pricing, set-up/breakdown &/or selling please contact Marcy Clausen or Sue Muir. Thank you!



Faith UCC Green Team

Brian R. Bodager, President and CEO of the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ (PBUCC) has announced the addition of a new **Sustainable Climate Policy** to the PBUCC's Investment Policy Statement. This announcement comes on the 10th anniversary of the passage of the United Church of Christ's 2013 General Synod resolution urging divestment from fossil fuel companies in an effort to address climate change.

The implementation of the new policy follows a period of reflection and study begun in 2022 during which the Pension Boards evaluated its existing and emerging investments and activity related to climate change and its climate action plan, reviewed detailed studies and background documents, and advanced its future vision for climate justice. The Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Pension Boards, along with investment staff and a specially designated task force on climate, developed an initial policy statement that culminated in acceptance by the Board's Investment Committee in May 2023.

At General Synod 34, Pension Boards' staff participated in a climate change panel discussion and hearing focusing on progress made by UCC-affiliated ministries on the 2013 fossil fuel divestment resolution.

The urgency of the climate crisis; the science and commitments of the Paris Accords' call to Net Zero by 2050; an already robust program of climate-related investment; and engagement and collaboration with faith partners, all combined to inform, inspire, and commit the Pension Boards to a bold new course of action to combat climate change.

Grounded in science, theology, and tradition, the new Sustainable Climate Policy reflects the Pension Boards' commitment to climate action, witness, and justice and to the values and pronouncements of the United Church of Christ.

To read the new policy, please click [here](#). If you would like more information, please contact the Rev. Rick Walters at rwalters@pbucc.org

<https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/menu-news-sep/latest-news/1636-the-pension-boards-ucc-inc-adds-sustainable-climate-policy-to-investment-policy-statement>

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Open and Affirming

August is Stop Bullying Month

Bystanders are people who witness bullying and can take positive actions to prevent bullying and address it while it is happening or after it occurs. When bystanders intervene with bullying intervene, bullying stops within 10 seconds 57 percent of the time.¹ Parents, teachers, and other caring adults can recommend safe ways that bystanders can prevent, intervene, or address bullying.

Prevention steps include:

- Being inclusive by welcoming or inviting others to join their activities and groups.²
- Being a role model for pro-social behavior by showing kindness, respect, and empathy for others.
- Openly stating an objection to bullying.
- Stating approval of the victim and validating his or her social status.
- Reaching out privately to the person doing the bullying to express concern if they feel safe to do so. Bystander interventions during a bullying incident may include:
 - Defending the target of the bullying.
 - Intervening as a group.²
 - Changing the subject.
 - Questioning bullying behavior.

Kids learn from adults' actions. By treating others with kindness and respect, adults show the kids in their lives that there is no place for bullying. Even if it seems like they are not paying attention, kids are watching how adults manage stress and conflict, as well as how they treat their friends, colleagues, and families.

Learn more at: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/how-to-prevent-bullying>

1. Espalage, D., Pigott, T., Polanin, J. (2012) A Meta-Analysis of School-Based Bullying Prevention Programs' Effects on Bystander Intervention Behavior. *School Psychology Review*, Volume 41, No. 1, 47-65 Salmivalli, C., (2014) Participant Roles in Bullying: How Can Peer Bystanders Be Utilized in Interventions?, *Theory Into Practice*, 53:4, 286-292, DOI: 10.1080/00405841.2014.947222 To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00405841.2014.947222>

Faith UCC Congregational Life Grant Due August 15th



Faith UCC Life Grant Fund may be used for the people and programs of Faith United Church of Christ of Muscatine, Iowa, including Education, Faith Formation, Fellowship, Scholarships, Outreach to the local community in support of Faith UCC's benevolence, spiritual and mission interests. If you have a request for a Grant to help support our spiritual and mission interests, you can find the request form **HERE** or stop by and pick one up in the church office.



Faith Choir

Choir rehearsals begin in September!

Faith Singers: September 6 at 7 p.m.

Faith Ringers: September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

New singers and ringers are welcome!

Any questions, call Connie at 563-299-7262.

Undie Sunday with sweatpants

The Local Outreach Committee has in the past collected Undies and Sweatpants for the local schools in the district during the months of August and September. These items are given to Julie Kundel, nurse in the school district, and distributed through the nurses at each school.

This year we will be making our collection of Undies and Sweatpants during the months of October and November. But, if you are out shopping and you can find a sale on girls' or boys' undies, sizes 3 to 14, or sweatpants before those months, feel free to purchase them and bring them to the church and put them in the closet in the overflow area.

They will be distributed when school starts. Thanks for always supporting our projects.

- Outreach Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Wednesday Night Christian Education

We will start the Fall classes on Wednesday, Sept. 6th with a light snack (no meal). We invite everyone 3 years old - 6th grade to join us for our Wednesday night CE sessions. Classes will run from 4:30-5:30 with music with Miss Tammy included. Celebrate Wonder is a Sunday school curriculum that engages children's natural sense of curiosity to help them understand God's love. It creates a safe environment for kids to ask big questions, helping them explore the Bible in ways that feed their imagination and encourage creativity. – *Cokesbury*.

Sunday Adult Forum

We will meet after church on Sundays in person and virtually from 11:15-12:00. All are invited to examine more deeply the Biblical texts from the week. Share stories and experiences with friends at Faith to understand biblical messages in today's world.

Wednesday Adult Forum

Are you ready for the next book? We'll take the next deep dive into our spirituality with Amy Jill Levine. The Wednesday Adult Forum will begin the year reading *Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*. AJ Levine selected stories of miracles and signs from the Bible to examine how these events were understood and how we can draw meaning from these words and actions today. Lisa has books in the church office for purchase, \$17.00 each.

Thank You Notes

- Thank you for all my birthday wishes. Faith Family, you are the best!! - *Connie Miller*
- Thank you for the nice book and cards from my faith family. I am looking forward to my years at the University of Iowa. - *Nate Sharar*
- Thank you for your recent gift of \$75 to the Emmaus Café. Your church has been a loyal friend in the Café's support, and we very much appreciate you. With your help, we will continue to feed those in need each Sunday. - *Sincerely, Shirley Dillon, Secretary of Emmaus Café.*
- Thank you to John Jones for all the work done around the church gardens.
- Thank you to everyone that donated to Thanksgiving in July, Took 45 items to this event.
- Dan Huss, thank you for painting the Sunday School rooms and fixing the vestry wall and ceiling.
- Thank you to Dave Wangberg for overseeing the installation of our new air-conditioning and Heating units for the church basement.
- Nathan Paulsen for filling in as the accompanist on July 23 & 30th during worship.
- Thank you to Chris Lary & Frantz Silberger for the use of your Grills at the Midsummer Cookout!
- Thank you to Paul Ales, John Jones, and Chris Lary for taking down tree limbs, cleaning up, and hauling them away.
- Thank you to the Pulpit Supply Leaders, Ushers/Greeters, Nursery, Accompanists, Liturgist, Worship team, technicians for online, candle lighters, altar committee, communion servers, refreshments and special music performers. You are the church in action! Jon Merritt, Mike Morgan, Mark Butterworth, Janelle Wilson DuSavage, Judy, Wilson, Julie Emerick Kundel, Deb Hagy, Lisa Shea, Jan Collinson, Rev. Marcy Heil, Tim Stelzner, Tom Emerick, Mike Morgan and Lauren Kundel.

FAITH UNITED MEMBER AND FRIENDS

AUGUST BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

August 9
 Judi Jones
 2806 Kaitlyn
 Muscatine IA 52761

August 11
 Bill Creasey
 2637 Seven Oaks Park
 Muscatine IA 52761

August 29
 Joyce Nichols
 846 Leroy Street
 Muscatine IA 52761

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 – Mike & Sue Johannsen
- 2 – Jim & Carla Reynolds
- 6 – Jeff & Barb Noble
- 12 – Scott & Jessica Ingstad
- 14 – Scott & Kim Warren
- 16 – Tom & Cindi Kautz
- 18 – Robert & Kathy Hiyane Brown
- 18 – Charles & Sharon Holland
- 19 – Mike & Nancy Harrison
- 20 – Steve & Julie Kundel
- 22 – Dan & Alice Huss
- 24 - Erick & Bev Knoernschild
- 24 - Tony & Tierney Hoefler
- 27 – Brian & Pat Mundell
- 31 – Clay & Corrine Welsch

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Andrew Matkovich
- 2 – Canton Welsch
- 3 – Sierra Frost
- 4 – Mark Hagy
- 4 – Cara Rada
- 5 – Brian Metcalf
- 5 – Dayton Sell
- 9 – Judi Jones
- 11 – Bill Creasey
- 14 – Barbara Noble
- 15 – Jim Sichterman
- 20 – Beth Elshoff
- 22 - Addison Weggen
- 24 – Denise Rohlena
- 29 – Joyce Nichols

Please Keep in Your Prayers

To all who are sick or with injuries, and to their caregivers, Sandra Roth, Myung Sharar, Chad Morgan, Cory Tomlin, Audrey Beckey, Lane Clausen, Nancy Hultquist, Allison Odell, Susan Willis, Joey Merchan, Paige Bedenbender, and Patricia Fischer.

Condolences to the families

- Sympathy to the family of Marlyce Cooklin, Marlyce passed away on Thursday, July 13. Cards of Condolences can be sent to Terry Stratton, 14 Forest Road in Rock Island, IL 60120. Memorials are to be directed to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's.
- Sympathy to Scott Ingstad on the death of his brother. Kim Ingstad passed away on Saturday night, July 8th. Cards of sympathy can be dropped off at the church office.

MCSA Homeless Shelter Room # 5 Sponsors

- August 6 - Virginia Cooper in memory of George and Virginia Lindle
- August 13 - The Warren Family in honor of Kim & Scott's Anniversary
- August 20 - Sylvia Trumbull in memory of my husband
- August 27- The Warren Family in appreciation of teachers

Food Pantry Drive for August

For August we will be collecting cereals, the adult variety, and not the sugary kids' kind. Everyone needs a good start to their day! Here are examples of some to check out: Cheerios, Chex, Kix, Fiber One, Total, Wheaties, Special K, Crisp Oats, Bran Flakes, Grape Nuts, Great Grains, and Life cereal.



ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS
UNITED WAY: KIDS FIRST FUND.

EVERYONE
WELCOME!!!

HOSTED BY FAITH UCC
YOUTH GROUP

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MUSICAL BINGO FOR SALE
SEP 10TH
11AM - 1PM

- 1 BINGO CARD: \$5
- CONCESSIONS
- SILENT AUCTION BASKETS

RSVP'S ARE RECOMMENDED
BUT WALK-INS WILL BE
ACCEPTED TILL FULL CAPACITY
TO RSVP TEXT 563-316-0409

3307 MULBERRY AVENUE, MUSCATINE, IA

THE KIDS FIRST FUND PROVIDES FUNDING FOR STUDENTS SUCH AS SCHOOL SUPPLIES, INSTRUMENTS, CLOTHES, ETC.

Musical Bingo!

Our youth group will be hosting a musical bingo event at the church on September 10th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are requesting donations for the included silent auction, such as baskets; including themed items, gift cards, or other fun items you feel would be appropriate. All proceeds from the event will go to the "Kids First Fund," which provides students with school supplies, instruments, clothing, and more. Thank you!

- The Faith UCC High School Youth Group

ONA News

Synod overwhelmingly affirms the dignity of trans and nonbinary persons.

by [Renee DeLuca](#)

published on Jul 10, 2023

<https://www.ucc.org/synod-overwhelmingly-affirms-dignity-of-trans-and-nonbinary-persons/>

To huge cheers, and many tears, the United Church of Christ's 34th General Synod overwhelmingly approved a resolution affirming the dignity of trans and nonbinary persons. The final count of the July 4 vote was 633 in favor and 10 against, with six abstaining. The resolution "reaffirms the historic commitment of this church to recognize and affirm that every human being is created in the image of God and is due respect for their inherent human dignity and rights so that they may not only survive but thrive." It further encourages "all settings of the church, working with local partners, to advocate for the full legal equality of transgender, nonbinary and gender diverse persons." To read more click [here](#).

Faith United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming Statement

We the members of Faith United Church of Christ declare ourselves to be an open and affirming church.

We affirm all people are individuals of sacred worth created in the image of God.

We embrace and celebrate the diversity of the human family and God's unconditional love for ALL, including but not limited to people of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures, genders, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic conditions, physical, mental and emotional abilities, faith backgrounds, nationalities, marital status, languages, and education levels.

We invite and encourage all persons into full participation by sharing in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of membership in our Faith community.

We welcome all to journey together in faith toward greater understanding, compassion and mutual respect.

We believe that in meeting each other in Christian love, God's spirit frees us all to give, to grow, to be ourselves, because, **"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE."**

- adopted April 7, 2019



VOF AUGUST 2023

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Church of Christ
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