**Faith** 

#### Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Faith United Church of Christ 3307 Mulberry Avenue Muscatine, IA 52761 Phone: 563-263-5979 www.faithuccmuscatine.com

Church Office Hours 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. Monday - Friday

# Pastor Paris White

pastor@faithuccmuscatine.com Cell Phone: (309) 791-2602

Office Admin. Asst.: Lisa Allen secretary@faithuccmuscatine.com

Cong. Care Coordinator: Pat Mundell pmundell@machlink.com

#### Special Offering Strengthen the Church May 19, 2024

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC.

Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

Please make checks payable to Faith with STC offering in the memo.

Thank you!

# VOICE OF FAITH Installation

On Sunday, April 28th, we celebrated the official Installation of Rev. Paris White as Faith's new pastor with the entire congregation, community, Eastern Iowa Association, and Tri-Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you to Sue Johannsen & Janet Sichterman for helping Pastor plan the event; Lisa Shea for all the lovely flower arrangements; Tom Emerick, Mike Johannsen, and Tim Stelzner for being liturgists; Connie Miller, Judy Wilson, & the Faith Singers for providing special music; for the Search and Call Committee members who volunteered to help host; and to all of you who helped us welcome our new Pastor! More Pictures on Back Pages.



# May Worship at Faith UCC

<u>Sunday, May 5</u> we will have communion. In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, we will have a pinata at our fellowship time! (No adult education forum). Head out to spend the rest of your day at Pilgrim Heights Retreat Center! All activities are free for the day and there will be free food! <u>Sunday, May 12</u> we will celebrate Ascension & Mother's Day. <u>Sunday, May 19</u> we will celebrate Pentecost! We will also recognize and thank our Christian Education teachers and helpers. Our youth choir will join us. After worship we will host a short worship volunteer training, so if you'd like to start volunteering but don't yet feel confident, or if you simply want a refresher (as somethings have changed), please join us. <u>Sunday, May 26</u> we will worship at 10:00 am and we will not have an end of the month potluck.

# Youth Christian Education End of Year Celebration

Faith Families, We will be celebrating the end of our church school year on Wednesday, May 15th. There will be games, food, and Music, and we will put together Outreach's "celebration packages" (which include a cake mix, a can of soda, candles, and a card), which will be delivered to MCSA and the Domestic Abuse Shelter.



We will be grilling out and invite the parents to stay/come back at 5:15 to evaluate the 23-24 school year and discuss plans for next year.

\*\*Also, the kids will be sharing music in worship on May 19th to celebrate our year.\*\*

Thank you so much for sharing your children with us!

# Recognition Sunday, May 19th, 2024

We will welcome the Youth Choir on this day and honor our Christian Education Leaders and Helpers: Beth Elshoff, Tom Emerick, Julie Emerick-Kundel, Michael & Sue Johannsen, Frantz & Mary Silberger, LeeAnn Weggen, Kim Warren, Tammy Ales, and Brian Metcalf.

# UCC Regional Youth Gathering

Calling all Faith high school youth!! Don't forget to sign up for the UCC Regional Youth Gathering this July 17th-20th at Augustana College in Rock Island. Please let Pastor know if you plan to attend and to get more information about registration.

# Christian Day Camp this summer

<u>LAST PUSH</u> if you want your child to be a part of **Christian Day Camp this summer!** Registration for the elementary camp is closed due to reaching our limit of campers. However, if you'd like to sign your child up to be put on a waiting list, you may do so until May 15. Registration remains open for our middle school and preschool camps! **Registration closes May 15**. Sign up now to reserve your spot before they're taken! <u>Christian</u> <u>Day Camp – Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church</u> If your youth cannot make it to our Christian Day Camps or would prefer a different option, please talk with Pastor about alternative opportunities! Camp scholarships ARE available!

# Faith United Church of Christ 2024 Graduates

# Anna Sharar

Anna will graduate from Iowa State on May 11th. She will have a degree in Agricultural Rural Policy Studies with a minor in Political Science.

Parents: Andy Sharar & Joni Anderson. Grand Parents: Robert & Karren Sharar

# Alec Kundel

Graduate from Minnetonka, MN H.S. Class of 2024

Alex Kundel will be going to St. Andrews University, St. Andrews Scotland. Major: in English. Alex has been active in her high school orchestra and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Orchestra (GTSY) since grade school as a cello player. She has also been on the high school newspaper staff. Since grade school, she has also been a member of the Widgewagan program out of Ely, MN. This camp teaches camping and hiking skills. Alex will be a counselor this summer and take campers to Montana.







#### UPCOMING EVENTS

## Iowa Finish Strong: death Doulas

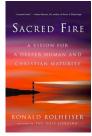
Learn about the role death doulas play in helping people prepare and plan for end-of-life choices and care. Two Iowa death doulas will share how they assist patients, as their loved ones prepare for death. This includes planning for the death process, vigil sitting in the final days and hours, and creating their legacy after death.

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM CT

Online: https://join.compassionandchoices.org/a/ia-finish-strong-death-doulas

# Ecumenical Summer Book Club 2024

Looking for a group of people to nurture you on your faith journey this summer and open you to new perspectives? Consider joining us! After our Lenten Midweek Gatherings, there seemed to be a desire to continue growing in faith together. So why not do so right away this summer? Here's what you need to know:



What we'll be reading: Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Humanity and Christian Maturity by Ronald Rolheiser. This book embodies the journey of discipleship as our faith, and as our relationship with God, matures. "What lies beyond the essentials, the basics?" Rolheiser writes. "Where do we go once some of the basic questions in our lives have been answered, or at least brought to enough peace that our focus can shift away from ourselves to others? How can we live less self-centered, more mature Christian lives? What constitutes deep maturity and how do we reach that place? And, not unimportantly, what constitutes a more adult, Christian discipleship? What constitutes a truly mature following of Jesus?" In short, if you've ever wondered what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus, and what it means to offer your life in service, this book is for you!

**When:** June 12 – July 17, none on July 3 from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced. For more information about the book or logistical questions, contact Pastor Aleese Kenitzer (<u>pastor@shepherdofthecross.org</u>; 319-427-0600) or Andy Christy (<u>andychristy1@gmail.com</u>; 563-272-8018).

How can I sign up: Sign up in the overflow area by Sunday, May 26.

# The Muscatine County LGBTQIA+ Equality Coalition

ONA will like to share the news that these agencies are partnering with One Iowa, the state's largest LGBTQ+ organization, to present a workshop, LGBTQIA+ 101, in Muscatine County. These trainings are free, open to the public, and will conclude with a dessert reception. Many of us want to be allies, but aren't always sure what to say or how to support our loved ones, friends and fellow community members. Training outcomes include: explaining the meaning of the term LGBTQ+ and its associated identities, informing individuals about the implications of the gender binary within our society, and recommended best practices for working with LGBTQ people including pronouns, gender-neutral language, and the art of the apology.

We will conduct three public training sessions in May of 2024:

May 2, 6-8pm: LGBTQ+ 101 (English) in West Liberty at the West Liberty Community Center May 6, 6-8pm: LGBTQ+ 101 (Spanish) in West Liberty at the West Liberty Community Center May 7, 6-8pm: LGBTQ+ 101 (English) in Muscatine at Musser Public Library

# Musser Public Library "Find Your Flow"

These free sessions will feature practitioners of the healing arts giving basic information about and sometimes demonstrating their areas of practice and expertise. Below is the schedule of speakers. We welcome you to Find Your Flow! Classes are at 5:30 p.m.

April 30 - Allison Castle - Human Design

May 2 – Veronica Timmons – Acupuncture

May 7 – Becky Schmertman – Cranial Sacral Therapy

May 9 – Caleen Pagel – Myofascial/Scar Tissue Release and Healing with Sound

See more details on the Musser Public Library Facebook Page for upcoming information.

#### FAITH COMMUNITY

#### Wednesday Adult Forum

We will not meet on May 1 and will resume on May 8. We will cover Part 2. The last Wednesday night will be on May 15th to cover Part 3.

#### Sunday Adult Forum

We will not meet on May 5. The last Sunday Forum will be on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

# Friendship Circle

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 2nd, and will be held at the American Diner at 9:30 a.m. All women are invited to attend.

# ONA Committee

Mark the Date: The next meeting will be on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The 2nd Thursday .

# Harmony Guild

The next meeting will be on June 3, 2024, at 6 p.m. With Co-hostesses Cindy Rada and Alice Huss. This will be the annual potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share. Desserts and drinks will be provided. All ladies from the church are invited.

# Alternative Lily Outreach Giving Collection Totals

Bag of Blessings:\$350.00 - Emmaus Café \$175.00 - MCSA Shelter \$275.00

For a Grand Total: \$800.00 in outreach support at Easter. Thank you for your generosity!

# Dementia-Friendly Community Event

Faith UCC hosted three dementia presentations on three consecutive Thursdays in April. There was an average attendance of 30 at each session with free will donations totaling \$178. Faith UCC also donated **Congregational Life Grant funds** that were awarded by the vestry of \$100 each to Dementia Friends and Alzheimer's Association.





The session titles included, "Dementia Friends", "10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's" and

"Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body". The presenters provided educational

information regarding dementia which was well received by the attendees followed by an engaging question and answer time of sharing. A special thanks to Coordinator Lanette Morgan, and all that participated in making this event successful.

# Open and Affirming Outreach Grant Awarded

The Open and Affirming Committee made Rosa Mendoza smile when she received a **Faith UCC Congregational Life Grant** check in the amount



of \$1000.00 from Sue Johannsen. The Diversity Services Center of Iowa serves the people of Muscatine who need immigration consultations and help with docu-

mentation. With DSCI's assistance, newcomers may obtain the documents they need to live and work in the United States. Rosa is currently working on her accreditation with the US Department of Justice. In addition to immigration services, the Diversity Services Center of Iowa offers a senior meal site once per month for Spanish speakers in Muscatine. The seniors find safety, friendship, and a good meal at the Musserville Church.

#### GRATITUDE WITHIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY

- I want to thank the women from the church who sent me birthday cards last month. I loved every one of them and appreciated them very much. **Darla Hays**
- To our Friends at Faith, thank you for including Community Diaper Bank in your Lenten season series! Special thanks to the Faith UCC ladies who made me feel so very welcome at the event! Your five congregation diaper drive on March 20<sup>th</sup> collected over 3600 diapers- that's enough to keep our distribution partners' shelves stocked for about six weeks! Your gifts will fill the diaper gap and ease the hearts and minds of almost 150 infants and toddlers facing diaper needs in our community. On behalf of those families, thank you so very much! Sincerely Community Diaper Bank.
- Thank you Pastor Paris for visiting me and bringing me communion. Extra thank you for the blanket. It really makes me warm. **Cathy Deters**
- Thank you to everyone who came out to our Dementia Friendly and Alzheimer's Association forums!! Thank you Lanette Morgan for bring such important presentations to our community
- Thank you to our trustees and Chris Lary for helping with the rainwater in the basement.
- Open and Affirming Committee, Thank you for the donation of trays of meat and cheese for Pre-Prom 2024. Your donation will help make the event a success for our LGBTQIA students! - Randy Naber and Stonewall Muscatine and the LGBTQIA students.
- Thank you for your generous support to the Almoner fund during the Lent season, we collected \$329.00 to help our community out during these hard times.
- Thank you for the offerings at the Lent Gathering at Wesley, we collected a total of \$444.00 from all five churches to help with multiple outreach missions.
- Thank you for the Donations at Easter for our RISE collection, we raised \$591.00 to help with Sleep in Heavenly Peace.
- Thank you to everyone who made my Administrative Assistant Day Special. It was quite a surprise to receive the cards, flowers, and gifts. You're a kind church. **Lisa Allen**
- I'm so grateful that God prepared the way for me to be here at Faith UCC, and that we all diligently listened to the Spirit's guidance! I also want to thank the Search and Call committee and Rev. Jonna, Vestry, Lisa Allen, Judy Wilson, Connie Miller, the choir, the congregation, my family and friends, and everyone who has supported me on this journey to becoming your pastor. A very special thank you to Sue Johannsen and Janet Sichterman for hosting the Installation Service and making me feel extra special that day and always! It is a blessing to serve this community! Pastor Paris White
- Thank you to everyone who came to the Inherent Worth Seminar! This is such an important event and we cannot thank Allison Castle enough for hosting it once again! Thank you also to the ONA Committee for making this event happen!
- Thank you to the Green Team for planting 4 new trees in on our church property!

#### Food Pantry

For May we will be collecting Household cleaning products. Laundry cleaners, dish soaps, paper towels, dusting spray, window cleaners, white vinegar and Baking soda, etc.



# MCSA Sponsors for Room # 5 in May

May 5 - Sue Muir in loving memory of Margaret Heerd May 12 - Scott & Kim Warren in celebration of Maddox's Birthday May 19 - Scott & Kim Warren in celebration of Stella's Birthday May 26 - Larry & Marcy Clausen In memory of loved ones



#### FAITH UNITED MEMBER AND FRIENDS

## May Birthday Card Shower

May 1st - Ron Nichols 846 Leroy Muscatine IA 52761

May 7<sup>th</sup> - Cheryl Weaver 2674 Huck Finn Dr. Muscatine IA 52761

May 9<sup>th</sup> -Linda Hardin 2902 Termini Drive #103 Muscatine IA 52761

May 9th - Lanette Morgan 3301 Anastasia PL. Muscatine IA 52761

May 16<sup>th</sup> - Lorna Hartman 5424 S. Pyrite Circle Gold Canyon AZ 85219





- 18 Kate and Nick Pierson
- 20 Jeff & Marcie Hanssen
- 25 Doug & Barb Littrel

# May Birthdays

- 1 Ron Nichols 4 – Caleb Trosen 6 – Kim Warren 7 – Cheryl Weaver 8 - Erin Elshoff 9 – Linda Hardin 9 – Lanette Morgan 9 – Allison Hartman 10 – Abbianna Adams 11 – Maddox Warren 11 - Mark Odell 13 – Skyler Plemmons 14 - Marley Welsch 16 - Allison Odell 16 – Gabrielle Hartman 16 – Lorna Hartman 18 – Jeff White 22 – Jayne Manley 23 – Reagan Carver 23 – Stella Warren 24 – Haylee Diercks 24 – Gigi Metcalf 24 – Leigh Ann Matkovich 24 – Liz Busch 25 – Mary Wildermuth
- 27 Kathy Hiyane-Brown
- 27 Elise Mundell
- 28 Cory Wangberg

#### Please Keep in Your Prayers

To all who are sick or with injuries, Myung Sharar, Chad Morgan, Audrey Beckey, Lane Clausen, Nancy Hultquist, Allison Odell, Susan Willis, Joey Merchan, Patricia Fischer, Allen Emerick, Chris Wildasin, Cathy Deters, Bob Murray, Dennis Engel, Julie Kundel, Will Kreuger, Judy Merritt, Chuck Warren, and Sandra Roth.

#### Prayers for Rehabilitation

Sandra Roth is at the University of Iowa Health Network Rehabilitation Hospital, Room 140, 2450 Coral Court, Coralville IA 52241, her stay will be for approximately 20 Days. If you would like to send her a card, they would be welcomed.

#### Condolences

Please keep Jim and Carla Reynolds and their Family in our prayers, Jims' mother, Carol Reynolds, 90, passed away on Friday, April 26th in Iowa City. The funeral service will be held at 11 am on Saturday, May 11th at the Ralph J. Wittich-Riley-Freers Funeral Home (1931 Houser St). A luncheon will follow at the Chapel of Praise (1963 N. Tipton Road). In lieu of flowers, Carol requested donations to St. Jude Children's Hospital or to the Chapel of Praise. Condolences can be sent to Jim and Carla Reynolds & family at 2501 Mulberry Ave., Muscatine IA 52761.

#### VESTRY SUMMARY APRIL 8, 2024

Vestry members – Sue Johannsen, Tom Emerick, Mike Morgan, Jan Collinson, Richard Carroll, Allison Castle, Dan Huss, Mark Odell, Mark Butterworth, and Pastor Paris. Not in Attendance: Bill Creasey, Mary Wildermuth, Brian Metcalf, Pat Pagel

#### <u>Reports:</u>

A. Treasurer – Budget report; Rich Carroll will be gone from April 22nd to May 6th,

B. Deacons – none

C. Elders – Continuing work on job descriptions & updating the Membership list.

D. Trustees –Water leak repairs in electrical room. Dan will lay mulch soon and cut the arborvitae which was damaged in the ice storm. An assessment /appraisal of the parsonage was received. Discussion of improvements to the parsonage will be scheduled. The bell tower continues to be discussed.

E. Pastor's Report— Strategic planning: mission, vision, & SWOT analysis. Mission Statements were suggested. We will decide on an updated mission statement next month based off of these suggestions. Decision Tree for building improvements and total cost we want to shoot for when fundraising:

Priority projects named:

- ADA accessible (front doors and downstairs bathroom, the orientation of seating for wheelchair accessibility, hearing devices, updating sound systems, etc.)
- flooring for tripping hazards and hygiene
- update sound system/technology for upstairs and downstairs,
- clean windows in the sanctuary,
- pews vs chairs,

#### <u>Old Business</u>

• Two Congregational Grants are left to be approved by the Vestry. **Motion carried**.

#### <u>New Business</u>

- Congregational Meeting recap on sign and endowment funds
- Keys –Next month we will discuss who has the keys. A checkout system was suggested.
- We will need a Financial Secretary before the end of the year to train.

#### Action items on Committees

- ONA Committee requests \$110 of miscellaneous funds or 2 food trays for the LGBTQ Prom on April 27, 2024. **Motion carried.**
- The Committee working on the Installation of Pastor Paris requests miscellaneous funds for expenses. Motion carried.
- New Member Sunday, April 14th Jim and Shelly Elias, Angie Harris, Ken and Stephanie Gilkerson, and Mylo Collins. Cody White. **Motion carried.**

#### Upcoming Events:

- Faith to become a Dementia Friendly Community!
- Inherent Worth seminar scheduled for April 27th from 10-Noon.
- Sunday, April 28th Installation and Blessing of ministry for Pastor at 3 p.m.
- May 5th Free Day Pass for Pilgrim Heights Retreat Center, carpool after worship
- We will celebrate 'Open and Affirming Sunday' a week early on June 23rd with special music from The Quire of Eastern Iowa.
- ONA to host a booth at the QC and Iowa City Pride Festivals.

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 13, 2024.

General Fund for 2024 - End of March		
Giving, Contingency to	\$54,714	
Expenses to Date	\$54,659	
Total Budget	\$225,4	19

VOICE OF FAITH

#### FAITH IN ACTION IN THE COMMUNITY- YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



Lauren Kundel in the Univ. of Iowa Opera at Hancher Theatre.

# Stella and Gigi

Stella and Gigi both passed their taekwondo belt tests!

Gigi is now an orange belt and Stella is now a brown belt!





McKenna & Grace in the MHS musical



# Installation Reception



























Musser Public

# /Healing Arts Presentations/

Tuesdays and Thursdays

End your

April 30 - May 16, 5:30 p.m. Join us Tuesdays and Thursdays to learn more about the holistic arts.

April 30 - Allison Castle- Human Design May 2 - Veronica Timmons - Acupuncture May 7 - Becky Schmertman - Cranial Sacral Therapy May 9 - Caleen Pagel - Myofascial /Scar Tissue Release, Healing with Sound May 14 - Deb LaRue- Reiki May 16 - Suzanne Dunlap - Neuromuscular massage and Essentrics

# 2024 Virtual Alzheimer's Education Series

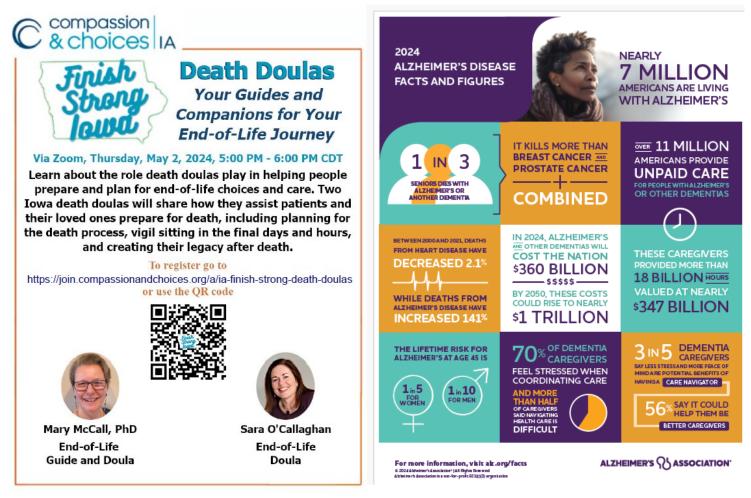
The Alzheimer's Association Iowa Chapter is offering a free, monthly education series via Zoom in 2024 for caregivers, families and people living with Alzheimer's and dementia to learn about all aspects of the disease.

#### Visit the Program Events Calendar at alz.org/lowa to register.

Contact Jessica Duncan at jsduncan@alz.org or 515.325.5287 with questions.

#### EDUCATION SERIES SCHEDULE

Every 3rd Thursday at 11 a.m. CST





# 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

# Ways to Continue Supporting the Work of the Church:

The church is more than just a building. We the people are the church, and we will continue to find ways to be a community that shares in the love of Christ together. To help maintain all that we do, your monetary offerings to the church are welcome.

Our options for giving currently are:

- Drop off your envelopes to the locked mailbox by the front door, in Box 3307 with a Faith UCC sign on the box used by the church. (Push it to the back of the box after opening with the front handle). If there is mail going out clipped to the front, just slip yours over the mail into the back of the box and we will retrieve it.
- Send in the mail to 3307 Mulberry, Muscatine Iowa 52761.
- Talk with your bank to set up a direct payment to the church.
- Use our website link for the church's PayPal, transfer charges apply.
- Pay through a Zelle Account to Faith, call for details if your Bank has this option.

Thank you for your generosity.