



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.faiithuccmuscatine.com

Church Office Hours

10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Faith UCC Office Staff

Rev. Paris White
Pastor

info@faiithuccmuscatine.com
pastor@faiithuccmuscatine.com

Lisa Allen
Office Coordinator
secretary@faiithuccmuscatine.com

Pat Mundell
Congregational Life Coordinator
pmundell@machlink.com

Beth Elshoff
Children's Education Coordinator
bethelshoff@machlink.com



Search and Call Committee News

The Search & Call Committee would like to give the congregation a huge thank you for attending the Pastor Paris White *meet and greet* sessions and for coming out to support her on Sunday, August 13 to hear her preach and participate in the vote. With 97% voting to offer her the Faith UCC Pastor role, we believe this was a strong message to Pastor Paris that we welcome her to our congregation.

Pastor Paris officially started in the role on Monday, August 14. The Vestry is working with Pastor Paris for a transition to full-time duties, honoring some of the Sunday Supply Pastors they had already coordinated.

Thank you again for your patience in the Search process – there is no doubt God answered our prayers and led Pastor Paris to our Faith family. We encourage you to help Pastor Paris and her family get to know our congregation.

Weekly Fall Calendar

Tuesdays

6:30 p.m. Faith Ringers

Wednesdays

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer
4:30 p.m. Youth C.E. Class
6:00 p.m. Adult Forum
7:00 p.m. Faith Singers

Sundays

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Adult Forum

Communion Sundays

Join us each First Sunday of the month when we celebrate Holy Communion. If you are watching from home online, have your bread/crackers, & juice/water ready. World Communion is October 1.

Rev. Paris White News

The Congregational vote on August 13th, 2023, approved the covenant between Faith UCC and Pastor Paris White. She has signed her contract and is eager to get started.

Pastor Paris has now gotten settled into her office space and is working on learning the committees, people, and projects that Faith is well known for, and working on her sermons to bring us closer on our Faith journeys with God.



She will be working Monday – Thursday at the office most days between 10-4, (If you would like to meet outside of this time frame, call ahead so she can make sure to be at the church when you can both find time). If you would like to take her to coffee or lunch, please call ahead and she can plan for this as well.

Pastor Paris will also schedule times as needed for meetings, visits, events, family matters, community work, and four Sunday mornings each month for our Worship Service.

FAITH UNITED CHURCH — PASTOR PARIS

Beloved Faith Community,

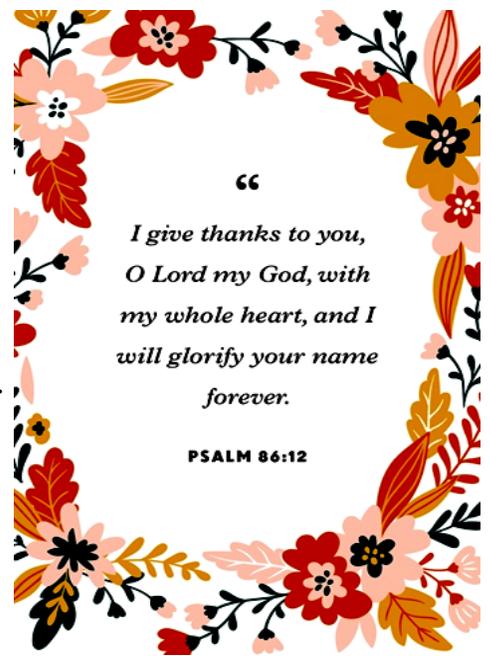
My heart has overflowed with the blessings of the grace and love of God poured out upon my life through each and every one of you! I am so grateful for the opportunity of a lifetime to come back to my hometown and join in ministry with the most amazing group of God's people! Saying thank you doesn't feel like nearly enough, but truly, thank you for calling me as your new settled pastor!

These past few weeks in August I have been slowly but surely making a new home here, gathering more information than I can humanly process, and delighting in every conversation with those of you I've had the pleasure of visiting with so far. Ministry looks different in every time and place throughout the world. What an honor it is to walk the way of Jesus with this community in such a time as this! There is a lot in the news that may make us feel less than optimistic, but we have a hope built into our foundation that cannot be shaken. God's love always prevails, even if not always in ways that look or feel how we would have wanted or expected. In this new chapter for both Faith and myself, I feel more hopeful than ever; assured of God's presence and hand leading us toward resurrected life. I pray you do too!

I cannot wait to dig deeper into this life together in Christ. One of my goals these first few months is to visit with all of you face to face. Therefore, I welcome any invitations to coffee, to break bread, or just to chat! And please know that if I reach out to schedule a visit, it is certainly not because you're in trouble or due to any agenda, I simply want to get to know you. Also, if one-to-one / family visits aren't really your thing, please don't hesitate to be open and honest that you'd rather connect in other ways. I understand completely. I am here to best minister to you, so never hesitate to cue me in on your needs. Lastly, if you have ideas for the Church/ ministry, please do let me know that as well!

I look forward to this next sacred chapter with all of you. It is so good to be here. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Paris



Bible Study with Pastor Paris Survey

Pastor Paris would like to start a bible study and is reaching out for more input from the congregation on who, when, and what content is most desired. Take the Survey by clicking on this link: [Here](#).

Calling all students and educators: September 10th

Join us for worship on Sunday, Sept. 10th for a blessing on the new school year!

Confirmation Class Meeting September 13th at 5 pm

Pastor Paris is hosting an information session for those interested in Confirmation during the Christian Education hour on September 13th at 5 pm. Students from 6th grade and above who have not yet been confirmed are welcome to join. If you are unable to attend, but are interested, please contact the office or talk with Pastor directly at 563-263-5979.

Centering Prayer September 6 at 4pm

Starting September 6, each Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., the sanctuary will be open for our weekly centering prayer session. Even if you do not practice centering prayer, but you would just like to have some quiet prayer time in the sanctuary, join us at the church! If this is something you need, but cannot attend on Wednesdays at 4, please let Pastor Paris know so she can work out a schedule that works for most people.



VESTRY SUMMARY FROM AUGUST 14, 2023

Reports:

- Treasurer – July’s Budget Report and Endowment quarterly report. Year-to-date contributions are on target. The Endowment Report was presented.
- Deacons – Meet with Rich Carroll for the 2024 Budget report.
- Elders – Staff evaluations in September/October
- Trustees’- The bell tower has a brick that can no longer be matched. Unless we can find an off-the-shelf bell tower, we need to think about this topic. The topic of smoke detectors was raised. Continued conversation is planned on this issue.

New Business

1. Action Items:

- A Fall cleanup day at the church is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 7, 8:00 a.m.
- Dave - Air cond. & Furnace estimates for rooftop units. Kelly said the curbs will need to be replaced. The life expectancy of the three units on the roof is almost gone. Replacing the three units will cost an estimated \$150,000. It will take a crane, take at least three days, and should be planned for between seasons. Orders will take about 6 months to obtain the units. There was consensus of the Vestry to approve the new HVAC, but a congregational vote in the future will be needed to allocate the funds.
- Dan Clark will fix the garage door on the parsonage. Mike Morgan made a motion to fix it for \$530. Frantz second. **Motion carried.**
- Need to form a Congregational Life Grant Committee for the fall grants.
- Grant Requests:
 1. Church t-shirts could be considered.
 2. Families First to purchase Christmas gifts.
 3. C. E. Day Camp for youth supplies and background checks
 4. Halloween dance party for those with physical and mental disabilities.
 5. Compensation increases for Special music guests.
 6. Green Team is submitting a grant for radon kits
 7. Congregational Care Support
 8. Congregational gift card to Fire/Police
 9. Advent Outreach giving
 10. Crop Walk outreach giving
 11. Fall College Student's gift packages
- Research companies for a New Church Directory, the last one was in 2016.
- Joys and Prayers– encourage people to share concerns with a Vestry member.
- Offer: Muscatine Symphony Orchestra has programs with advertising. **Motion carried.**
- Need a Bylaw Committee: Congregational voting and covenant with pastor guidelines. Rev Jonna Jensen said it should match the vote needed to end a covenant. A committee needs to recommend these changes and be ready for the Annual Meeting in January. The discussion was tabled until we can talk to an attorney.

2. Updates on Committees:

- ONA – Inherent Worth seminar Sept. 30th @ 10am until noon.
 - Sign Task Force – A congregational meeting will need to be scheduled for approval.
 - Green team – Radon info. will be shared by the Cancer Consortium Oct. 11 @ 4:30 p.m.
 - Christian Education: Class starts Sept 6th @ church at 4:30 p.m.
 - Friendship Circle: The first fall meeting is on September 7@ at 10 a.m. at the church.
 - Harmony Guild: The first fall meeting is on October 2 @ 6:30 p.m.
 - The Youth Group: The Musical Bingo Sept. 10th. RAGBRAI Pie's \$507.00
 - Outreach: Undies and sweatpants donations needed up though Nov. for students
 - Memorial Committee: 5 new Communion cloths purchased in August.
 - Altar Committee: Oct-Nov: Volunteers needed to do communion.
 - Bag of Blessings Committee: Received \$1520 from the HNI fundraiser.
 - Eastern Iowa and Iowa Conf. Delegates: Pastor Paris, Sue Johannsen, and Deb Hagy.
- The next meeting is schedule for September 11, 2023

General Fund for 2023 - End of July	
Giving, Contingency to..	\$89,793
Expenses to Date	\$89,246
Total Budget	\$206,208

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FALL EVENTS

Youth Group Musical Bingo! Sunday, September 10th

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 Bake goods to be raffled off and Baskets with fun themed items to be included in the silent auction. You are welcome to donate these items that 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*



Wednesday Night Youth - Join Us !

Sept. 6th starts our new CE year, for ages Pre-School up to 6th/7th grade. We will be meeting this year from 4:30pm to 5:30 pm with a light snack, movie, music, and lesson.

On Sept. 6th we will be playing some get-to-know-you games so that the kids can learn about Pastor Paris, and she can learn about them. Parents of C.E. Kids please send 3 facts about your child (ren). Two things that are true about them and One that is totally un-true. Please choose things that other C. E. Students might not know. Example - so nothing like - "They are in 6th grade at X school", or anything that would really point to them in a specific way.

We will start our lessons on Sept. 13th with classes for preschool-grade 2 taught by Mary Silberger and Beth Elshoff and grades 3+ taught by Julie Kundel and Tom Emerick.

Parents:

- 1) RIDE: If your child needs a ride to CE on Wednesday nights - please let the church office or Beth Elshoff know. We don't want them to miss it if their parents work until 5 pm.
- 2) EMAIL: If you are not getting the Tuesday weekly notes or Wednesday CE reminders please let the office know. This is how we will be alerting you about CE changes.
- 3) NO CLASS: We will NOT have CE classes on the following fall dates - due to conferences and holidays Oct. 18th, Nov. 22nd, Dec. 20, and Dec 27th.
- 4) REGISTRATION: We will need to have the Registrations in by September 6th, please print a copy [Here](#), and fill out your information, or pick up a copy at the church!

Wednesday Adult Forum

The Adult Forum will begin on Sept 6th from 6: 00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Church's Vestry Room. A Zoom link will also be provided for hybrid style discussions. It will be good to be back together again, and YES, we'll have coffee and candy to share.

The book we will read is Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Signs and Wonders, A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*. In the book, "Amy-Jill Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological contexts. For each miracle, she discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions." We are looking forward to seeing you again!

The book can be purchased in the office for \$17.00 while they last.

Sunday Adult Forum

We will begin the Sunday Forum after the worship service on **Sept.17 @ 11 am**, we will meet at the church in the vestry room with the option for hybrid style discussions, with the Zoom link option if you are out of town. To take a look at the upcoming Liturgical Dates for Fall Adult Sunday forum click [Here](#).

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ONA Inherent Worth Seminar

This seminar will be held on Saturday, September 30, from 10 until noon at Faith United Church of Christ, 3307 Mulberry Ave. Allison Castle will provide exercises and lead discussion focusing on the following topics:

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

The seminar will be open to church members, friends, as well as community members. Participants will be asked to sign up, so the Host has enough snacks/coffee and printed materials. If you would like to be a part of this opportunity, call the church office at 563-263-5979 or email the church office at secretary@faithuccmuscatine.com.

A written sign up is on the red board in the overflow area, or you can sign up online through the weekly updates or by clicking [Here](#). If you have questions, Deb Hagy, Allison Castle, and Sue Johannsen can assist you.

ONA Meeting Summary

ONA had a special guest at their meeting. Sue introduced Megan Francis, Marketing Director of Crossroads/Senior Resources. Megan explained that the two agencies have recently merged. She went on to share an overview of the services provided to over 200 Crossroads clients and over 500 Senior Resources clients. She and her team are very excited to move forward with a shared activity with our church. Their agency has recently identified a goal of promoting choice for their clients and inclusion in the wider community. Megan's team proposed a Halloween Dance for Crossroads clients and their family and friends emphasizing that the event be open for everyone. She said dances from 4:30 to 6:30 have been popular in the past. She recommended deejay Tony Tone, as well as The Rendezvous, both of which have been used in the past. The Rendezvous is accessible and Cindy Carver, a member of the church, has been very accommodating with reasonably priced snacks and light food options. Megan estimated attendance at 150-200. ONA will submit a Congregational Life Grant in the amount of \$500 to be used for a Halloween Dance for Crossroads clients and their families.

Green Team

The Green Team requested a Congregational Life Grant to procure radon kits from the Iowa Radon Hotline (run by the American Lung Association) They want to purchase 20 or more kits for about \$10 each. There will be a Zoom presentation for the congregation on Oct. 11 at 4:30 p.m. during the Christian Education hour to encourage parents to attend as well. All are welcome to join us in person to view the Zoom presentation together. There will be a special host at this meeting, Liz Orton, Outreach Coordinator, Iowa Cancer Consortium. This link will be available at that time here: <https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/95328728454?pwd=UGEvDWxkZ01jSmhoL0Y3emcvV21QZz09>

Friendship Circle

This group of women will meet on Thursday, Sept. 7th at 10 am at the church.

Co-hostesses will be Sylvia Trumbull and Pat Mundell.

Our program will be by Pastor Paris - "Getting to know each other".

All members and friends are invited to join us.

Local Outreach

It's that time of year again – start looking for Undies and sweatpants! (size 3 to 14) Each year we collect undies and sweatpants for our local elementary schools to distribute to students as needed throughout the year. We appreciate any donations and will have a collection box at the church. Thank you!

Food Pantry

During the month of September, we challenge you to find the best food deals you can find at your favorite local store! Food donations can be placed in the collection box by the entry-way coat racks. We appreciate any donations you can provide to the Muscatine pantry. The church collected 28 items for the pantry in August. Thank you!

Congregational Care Team

Join us for a Potluck on Sunday, September 24. Bring a dish to share and enjoy in the fellowship. Drinks will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

FAITH UNITED MEMBER AND FRIENDS

September
Birthday
Card Shower

September 3
Tom Emerick
1224 Northwood Lane
Muscatine IA 52761

September 15
Alan Arkema
Apt. 514,
3515 Diana Queen Dr.
Muscatine IA 52761

September 24
Myung Sharar
13421 S. Fairfield, 55 G
Seal Beach, CA 90740

September
Anniversaries

- 1 – John & Judi Jones
- 2 – Denise & Frank Rohlena
- 4 – Glenn & Ashley Scott
- 6 – Jim & Pat Fischer
- 9 – John & Diane Littrel
- 29 – Cody & Hannah Estabrook

Congregational
Care Team

If you have a college student, let the office know their address, so we can get a care package to them later in the fall. Thanks!

September
Birthdays

- 1 – John Littrel
- 2 – Robert Brown
- 3 – Tom Emerick
- 4 – Jeff Hanssen
- 4 - Norma Stelzner
- 5 – Kylene Blanchard
- 6 – Erin Plemmons
- 7 – Shelley Frost
- 7 – Trisha Littrel
- 11 – Jack Hovland
- 14 – Mark Diercks
- 15 – Alan Arkema
- 16 – Jim Reynolds
- 18 – Ashley Scott
- 22 – Jessica Ingstad
- 24 – Myung Sharar
- 25 – Anna Sharar
- 27 – Karen Hartman
- 28 – Eric Pagel

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, Patricia Fischer, & Allen Emerick.

Wanted: Volunteers for Sunday Morning Worship

Be a Liturgist, Usher, Greeter, Refreshment Host, acolyte?, or provide the Altar Flowers! There are many opportunities available. Call the office or sign up on the board in the over flow area on the Red Board. For online Sign up opportunities: Click on this link [Here](#)



Card Sharks Are Back

The card sharks will be meeting on Thursday, September 14, from 1:00 to 3:00. We will be making encouragement cards for Mulberry school. If you have any stickers or other embellishments that we could use on those cards, please bring them with you. All other supplies will be furnished. Hope to see you there.
Linda Hardin



MCSA Homeless Shelter Sponsors for September

- 3 - Rich Carroll & Jan Collinson in celebration of all students and educators
- 10 - Dan & Alice Huss in celebration of our 59th Anniversary
- 17 - James and Janet Sichterman in honor of Alan Arkema's Birthday
- 24 - Dan & Alice Huss in honor of all educators



FAITH UNITED GRATITUDE

Harmony Guild

Harmony Guild would like to thank everyone that made this year's rummage sale a success. Thank you to everyone who donated items for sale, helped to organize and price the merchandise, and repack the remaining items. Also, thank you to everyone who made purchases at the sale. Together we earned \$1959 which we will use to support future church and community projects. Thanks to all for making the sale a great success!! We not only earned money but made many people very happy! Many people commented that they look forward to the sale each year! We'd also like to offer a special "Thank you to Cole and Leo Loos for helping to carry purchases to peoples' cars. You were a great help! Special thanks to Nancy Wangberg for helping with pricing and contacting community people to take/donate our remaining merchandise for others to also benefit from our remaining largesse. Special thanks also to Alice Huss for creating a note we included in our customer's bag that said, "Thank you so much for shopping at our sale. The proceeds will be used to support our local mission projects. We would welcome you to worship with us on Sundays at 10 a.m. "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are always welcome here." FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. Thanks again to all our volunteer Harmony Guild/ Friendship Circle/Faith members for all your efforts to make this sale a success!

Our next Harmony Guild meeting will be held on October 2nd @ 6:30 pm.

More details will follow in future weekly updates.

Thank You Notes

- Thank you to Rich Carroll for managing the church finances and budget reports.
- Thank you to Sue Muntz for publishing the Poster of Pastor Paris for the church
- Thank you to Janelle Wilson-DuSavage, Sarah Harvey, Pat & and Caleen Pagel for sharing your musical talents with the congregation on August 6th.
- Thank you to Deb Hagy and the Youth Group for RAGBRAI Pie sales totaling \$507.
- Thank you to Jan Collinson for being the meet-and-greet hostess.
- Thank you to Mark Odell and Janet Sichterman for your leadership in finding Faith's new minister, and going through the long process, while informing the congregation along the way, with opportunities to meet with the candidate before the interview sermon.
- Thank you to Lisa Shea for all the Altar Flower arrangements with freshly cut flowers.
- Nancy Wangberg, Penny Dierickx, & Pat Mundell for serving at Emmaus Café, August 6th.
- Thank you to all the Rummage sales helpers, and Nancy Wangberg for organizing items.
- Thank you to Scott Warren, Jan Collinson, and Jim Reynolds for volunteering to be on the Congregational Life Grant committee viewing the requests, and for recommendations.
- Thank you to Dan Huss for working on painting the Sunday school rooms.
- Thank you to Pat Mundell for processing the financial secretary duties.
- Thank you to Dave Wangberg for keeping the air conditioners running in the heat.
- Thank you to John Jones for keeping up the landscaping around our building, making our space beautiful, and keeping the pollinators happy!
- Thank you to all of our worship team in August! Tim Stelzner, Tom Emerick, Nancy Wangberg, Dan and Alice Huss, Beth Elshoff, Pat Mundell, Sharon Hanssen, Julie Kundel, Lisa Shea, Mike and Sue Johannsen, Mark and Deb Hagy, Mark Odell, Janet Sichterman, Rev. Heil, Rev. Hughes, and our new minister, Rev. Paris White.
- Thank you to Caitlyn Valencia for sharing special music with the congregation.



Handbells Ringers on August 6th

Special Music was enjoyed, they even stepped in to help with the Children's Moment music: Janelle Wilson-DuSavage, Sarah Harvey, Pat & Caleen Pagel, thank you!

Faith Singers & Faith Ringers needed!



Choir rehearsals

The Faith Ringers will begin on September 12th at 6:30 p.m.

The Faith Singers will begin on September 13th at 7 p.m.

New singers and ringers are welcome!! Any questions, call Connie at 563-299-7262.

Faith United Church of Christ

3307 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

VOF SEPTEMBER 2023



September is Latino Hispanic Heritage Month

"...the glory that you have given me, I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one."

John 17: 22-23 NRSV



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, October 1st

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Please make checks payable to Faith United and in the memo add (NIN).



Crop Walk

The annual Walk will be on Sunday, October 1st, and is a 2.5-mile walk. We hope to have a group from Faith to walk together on this day. All monetary check donations are to be written out to CROP (not Faith United) and sent to the church office to be set aside in the Crop Envelope. The funds will be delivered directly to the local CROP committee. Remember that 25% of our donations come back to our community – 20% for the Food Pantry and 5% for Bag of Blessings.



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.