



Sunday Worship
10:00 AM

Faith United Church of Christ

3307 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, IA 52761
Phone: 563-263-5979
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www.faiithuccmuscatine.com

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Confirmation Class Fall 2021

This fall is a Confirmation Class year here at Faith! The tradition here at Faith UCC is to invite anyone who is in the seventh or eighth grades to be a part of the Confirmation Class.

See Page 3 for more details on upcoming events for Confirmation class.

Fall Wednesdays Night Line up! In September

4:15 pm Centering Prayer
5:15 pm Fellowship meal
5:45 pm C. E. Youth classes
7 pm Adult Forum
8 p.m. Faith Choir Rehearsal

NOT YET
VACCINATED?
IT'S NOT TOO LATE.



VOICE OF FAITH



*Blessing of
the
Backpacks*

**All Youth Are
Invited to Bring Their
Backpacks to Church
on Sunday, August 29,
for a Special Blessing.**

Mark Your Calendars.... *It's Time to Move Into New Dimensions*

As we continue to live into this new normal, it's time to get ready to for a new church year! In the hymn "In the Midst of New Dimensions," we sing:

*God of the rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.*

This fall we'll make our way forward with the theme of moving into new dimensions as a church and as a people.

- ✔ **Beginning Sunday, September 5**, Pastor Ryan will begin a fall sermon series entitled "In the Midst of New Dimensions" with a focus on the Book of Genesis
- ✔ **On Wednesday, September 8**, our Wednesday Night CE programming will begin for youth and adults (see sidebar). The fellowship meal begins at 5:15 and classes start at 5:45 p.m.
- ✔ **On Sunday, September 12**, will be our church Rally Day when we bless our CE teachers and volunteers and celebrate with an after-church cookout and games for the children.
- ✔ **On Sunday, September 19**, our Confirmation Class will be recognized and blessed in worship. A Confirmation Class mini-retreat will then follow. Also, the Sunday morning Adult Forum will reconvene.
- ✔ **On Sunday, September 26**, is our New Member Sunday. Please contact Pastor Ryan for more information about becoming a member.

What will the new normal of this fall look like for Faith UCC? Join us for the journey and let's find out together!

Explore, Learn, Grow at the Wednesday Night Adult Forum

The Wednesday Night Adult Forum will begin meeting again on September 8 at 5:45 p.m. See Page 3 for more details on what the Adult Forum is planning for this fall.

Monthly Musings From Pastor Ryan

The UCC: A Denomination on The Move – Highlights from General Synod

From July 11 through July 18, the United Church of Christ held its General Synod. Originally planned for Kansas City, Missouri, the gathering was held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. We, as a local congregation, are one part of a larger whole that is the United Church of Christ. As covenanted partners, local churches, larger conferences, and General Synod are in a stream of an ongoing theological, social, and organizational dialogue. In many ways the UCC is unique in that we do not have bishops who wield ecclesial or doctrinal authority over local churches or individuals. Instead, we trust in the discernment of local churches and the ways that we share in each other's wisdom and experiences through something like General Synod. As the United Church of Christ, we recognize that each of us make up a diverse body of Christ and that as a denomination we grow in the Spirit together.

This year's General Synod was unique in its online format. However, as a "denomination on the move," as [General Minister John Dorhauer stated in his State of the Church address](#), the UCC also continued in its long tradition as a denomination that is socially engaged and spiritually innovative.

Along with all the business that comes with a national gathering, several milestones were celebrated this year. Across the UCC churches have raised more than \$750,000 to abolish crippling medical debt for 51,720 families. The Open and Affirming Coalition celebrated 50 years of helping the UCC become more inclusive and the ordination of William R. Johnson in the UCC who was the first openly gay person to be ordained by a mainline Christian Church. The Synod also recognized 30 years of environmental justice work in the UCC.

In addition to numerous workshops about everything from music ministry to faith formation to community outreach, delegates from churches and associations across the UCC wrestled with various moral issues of the day. [Sojourners director Adam Russell Taylor, one of the Synod's keynote speakers](#), urged "beloved community" as an antidote to the "twin viruses" of "systemic racism and toxic polarization." Throughout the week, delegates continued the UCC's decades-long advocacy for fairness in society by declaring racism a public health crisis and speaking on other [churchwide](#) and [worldwide](#) issues. [News about all Synod resolutions and actions can be found here.](#)

As with any UCC gathering worship was at the heart of everything. Three main worship services set the tone for the week. In her sermon at the [Synod's closing worship service](#), Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, associate general minister Wider Church ministries and Operations and co-executive of Global Ministries, acknowledged that the church and church members have been "complicit" in injustices "in every age, and today is no different." But, she said, "Church, it is time for a new vision. It is time for us to breathe again." Noting that "I can't breathe" takes many forms, including racism, inadequate health care, toxicity and pollution, she then asked, "What will it take for us to hear, 'I am breathing?'" Thompson then drew comparisons between the prophets who wrote on the "tablets" of the Hebrew Bible and the 21st-century "tablets" that worshipers could pull out and use. She called on them to "write your vision for a just world." And if they had trouble coming up with one of their own, she urged them to "borrow from those who have gone before," such as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "Write the vision," she concluded, "cast the dream, sing a new world into being."

Needless to say, it is impossible to capture everything about General Synod in one newsletter article. You can find more information about the week [here](#). I encourage you to listen to the voices and visions coming from General Synod, remembering that as a local congregation where the Spirit is also at work, we also have much to contemplate, learn from, and share with others as we make up but one part of what is one expression of the diverse and always evolving body of Christ in this world.

- Pastor Ryan

Announcement - Pastor Ryan will be away on vacation from August 9 through August 23. Jon Merritt will be available for any pastoral care emergencies. Rev. Barbara Muhs will be our guest preacher on Sunday August 15th and 22nd.

Centering Prayer - On Wednesdays, at 4:15 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, come on over! . Pastor Ryan will be on vacation Aug 11th and 18th, there will not be a live feed on Facebook.

General Fund for 2021 - End of June		
Giving, Contingency to Date	<div style="width: 87.35%; background-color: black; height: 10px;"></div>	\$87,350
Expenses to Date	<div style="width: 87.248%; background-color: black; height: 10px;"></div>	\$87,248
Total Budget	<div style="width: 93.8%; background-color: black; height: 10px;"></div>	\$190,886

News From Around The Church

Weekly Church Calendar

Every Wednesday

4:15 p.m. - Centering Prayer

Every Thursday

9:00 a.m. - Morning coffee

Every Sunday

10:00 a.m. – Sunday morning worship

Special Calendar Events

- Aug 1st - Communion
- Aug 6 & 7 - Rummage Sale
- August 9 - Vestry meeting
- August 15 - Guest Preacher Barbara Muhs
- August 15 - Heartland Harmony Special Music
- August 22 - Guest Preacher Barbara Muhs
- August 22 - John Jones Special Music
- August 29 - Blessing of the Back Packs
- August 31 - Congregational Life Grants Due



How Can You Keep From Singing?!

The Faith UCC Vocal Choir and Bell Choir are open to all. Both will be starting back up again this fall and would love to welcome you. For more information, please contact John Jones (vocal) or Connie Miller (bells).

Fall 2021 Confirmation Class

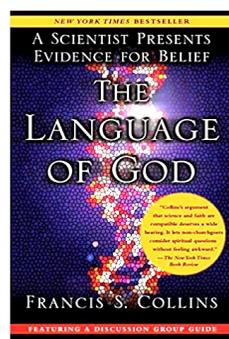
This fall is a Confirmation Class year here at Faith! The tradition here at Faith UCC is to invite anyone who is in the seventh or eighth grades to be a part of the Confirmation Class. Our classes will be based on the curriculum "Confirm, Not Conform." We will meet on Sundays after the church service, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. For now, we are planning on beginning our Confirmation Year on Sunday, **September 19** (*changed from the letter sent out earlier in the summer*). The congregation will bless the class in the worship service, and then the class will have a mini-retreat to begin our time together. The retreat will begin at 11:15 a.m. and end at 2:15 p.m. Please call or email the church office, Phone number is 563-263-5979, or email pastor-ryan@faithuccmuscatine.com

Explore, Learn, Grow at the Wednesday Night Adult Forum

The Wednesday Night Adult Forum will begin meeting again on September 8, at 5:45 p.m. We will be offering this as a hybrid opportunity, as in people will have the option to gather in person at the church or to join in on Zoom (more details about how this works will be forthcoming). Our book for this fall is Francis Collins' *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*.

From the publisher: "An instant bestseller from Templeton Prize-winning author Francis S. Collins, *The Language of God* provides the best argument for the integration of faith and logic since C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. It has long been believed that science and faith cannot mingle. Faith rejects the rational, while science restricts us to a life with no meaning beyond the physical. It is an irreconcilable war between two polar-opposite ways of thinking and living. Written for believers, agnostics, and atheists alike, *The Language of God* provides a testament to the power of faith in the midst of suffering without faltering from its logical stride. Readers will be inspired by Collin's personal story of struggling with doubt, as well as the many revelations of the wonder of God's creation that will forever shape the way they view the world around them."

The book can be found online at all major booksellers. Please contact the church office by August 18 if you would like us to order a copy of the book for you.



Fall 2021 Classes

Please fill out the registration for Fall classes for the youth. For a copy of the Christian Education Registration form look [HERE](#).

Vacation Bible School That's a Wrap!

A note from our Christian Education Coordinator Beth Elshoff

I want to give a shout-out to several people who helped during Vacation Bible School and have made my life much easier because of their thoughtfulness. Thanks to Nancy Wangberg, Harmony Guild, and Sharon Weggen for their monetary donations for meal and snack ingredients. Thanks to Cindy Carver for the cookies on one night.

Thanks to everyone in the church who saved their boxes, tubes, and all the other things I asked for. Watch for pictures of our creations in upcoming correspondence. Thanks to Lisa in the office who is always asking what she can do to help while doing many behind-the-scenes jobs—from sign-ups and announcements to helping with documentation.

Thanks to Frantz and Mary Silberger who made the wonderful pre-VBS meals for us and to Tammy Ales and Julie Kundel who led the singing.

Thanks to the "Big Kids" (Grace Kreitner, Claire, and McKenna Schumaker, Addie Weggen, Lauren Plemmons, Maddox Warren, and Emmet Metcalf) who helped in whatever capacity I ask them to from leading games to sharing in the opening skits to helping with crafts to helping the little kids with whatever needed to be done and being there to lead. They were a great asset!

Thanks to Sharon Weggen, Pat Mundell, Tom Emerick, and Julie Kundel who came and helped where needed and filling in without asking. It takes a village, and the 12 kids who came had fun, and that is why we do it.



Faith United Congregational Life Grant

Faith in Action: John Elshoff Shares His Gifts and Talents

Last spring the Vestry awarded our own John Elshoff with a small Congregational Life Grant to help him travel to the Cheyenne River reservation.



My Sioux YMCA trip by John Elshoff

I saw a video about life on Indian reservations and the problems teens were having due to their lifestyles. A thought that came to mind was if there were any YMCAs on the reservations and if fitness classes were available. I found only one YMCA in the state of South Dakota on the Cheyenne River reservation in Dupree, South Dakota.

After contacting the director of the Sioux Y about having yoga classes for their summer campers, we chose the dates June 20th through the 25th which would match the opening of their summer camp season in the post-pandemic world.



Their volunteer coordinator in South Dakota assisted me with details on what locations the campers would be at on the reservation, and we set up a timetable for morning and afternoon yoga classes at the main resident camp, camp Marrowbone, and the day camp location at the Dupree YMCA building.

When not working with the Y staff and campers I was able to travel to Eagle Butte, South Dakota, the tribal headquarters, to visit the Lakota Cultural Center and the Cheyenne River Youth Project complex which provides educational and recreational programs for the youth of the reservation from age 4 through 12. I have the volunteer coordinator's main contact information for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer or wishing to contribute to the CRYP.



This reservation is part of the Sioux lands that predates the 1868 Fort Laramie treaty which established the Great Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Of the 20 books that are listed on the Y and CRYP recommended reading list of Lakota history and culture, I own 7 of them.



Faith United Outreach Opportunities

UNDERWEAR-NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEM!

Undies & Sweatpants Sundays for the month of August!

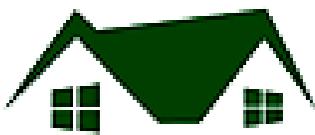
The Local Outreach Committee will again collect undies and sweatpants for the elementary schools in the fall. This year you can either write a check to Faith UCC with "Undie Sunday" in the memo, or you may purchase items of your choice and drop them off at the church Monday - Friday from 10 am to 4 pm, or on Sunday morning. Sizes of undies or sweatpants would be size 4 - 12 years.

We will also purchase adult male socks for high schoolers. As always, thanks for your support. We will collect these items during the month of August.

- Outreach Committee.



Revitalize Muscatine Housing Project



REVITALIZE
MUSCATINE

IMPROVING WORKFORCE HOUSING,
ONE HOME AT A TIME!

We need Volunteers for August 6th for a new project. We will need workers and Desserts, please call Pat Mundell at 261-1111 for more details.

We had one volunteer step up on July 9th to help with one of the housing projects. Thanks to Tom Emerick! He worked the morning in one of the kitchens painting the trim alongside a youth group.

Special offerings: Our friends at First Presbyterian and MCSA have launched a campaign to increase safe and affordable housing in Muscatine by restoring and renovating homes. On Sunday, July 25, we took up a special collection here at Faith to help with this local effort and raised \$1,135.00 so far at the time of this publishing. There is still time to give to this collection, write the check out to Faith UCC and in the memo, write Revitalize Housing project.

MCSA Sponsors for August

- August 1 - Larry & Marcy Clausen in honor of Alex Clausen
- August 1 - Virginia Cooper in memory of mother and father
- August 8 - Jim Trosen in celebration of the ministry of Beth Elshoff
- August 15 - Janet & Jim Sichterman in honor of family
- August 15 - Sylvia Trumbull in memory of Sylvia's husband
- August 22 - Kim Warren in celebration of teachers
- August 22 - Donna Reed in honor of family
- August 29 - Doug & Susan Krieger in celebration of a new school year



We still have September 19 available, signup [HERE](#) or call the office., thank you for the donation of \$25.00 for each Sunday of your choice.

Faith UCC Community

Thank you to Our Members and Friends, you are the Church!

- Thank you to Tom Emerick for the sermon during Sunday Service on July 11th.
- Thank you to Bob Danner for your beautiful music shared with the congregation on July 11th and July 18th, we are very grateful for your time and talents.
- Julie Emerick-Kundel & Beth Elshoff for leading the Children's Choir and Children's time on July 18th during worship.
- Thank you to Beth Elshoff for all the time and coordination in developing and directing the VBS this year, and thank you to all of her helpers, and the refreshments on July 18th.
- Thank you to Frantz and Mary Silberger for their dedication in preparing and serving the children meals each week during the VBS, and to their helpers as well.
- Thank you to Pat Mundell & Pastor Ryan for being available for the church coffee time on Thursdays, so members and friends can stop by to enjoy a little extra fellowship.
- Thank you to our July Liturgists during our worship service : Jack Hovland, Julie Kundel, Tim Stelzner, and Linda Hardin.
- Thank you to our Ushers in July: Tom Emerick, Mark & Deb Hagy, John & Beth Elshoff, and Larry & Marcy Clausen.
- Thank you to our July Greeters: Linda Hardin, Sylvia Trumbull, Lisa Shea, and Tim Stelzner.
- Thank you to our July Communion servers: Deb Hagy, Tim Stelzner & Mark Butterworth
- Thank you to our refreshment committee volunteers: Mark & Deb Hagy, Jan Collinson & Rich Carroll, and Beth Elshoff.
- Live Stream Technicians: Tim Stelzner, Mark Hagy, and Pat Mundell.
- Thank you for the altar flowers Jim & Dede Hoopes in memory of Family on July 25th.
- Thank you to Nancy Wangberg and all the members and friends that are donating rummage sale items to the church to sale.
- Thank you to Scott Dahlke for speaking on July 25th on the topic of the Housing Project for Muscatine, and to everyone's generosity in the special offering. \$1,135.00 collected.
- Thank you to Mark Odell for helping the church with updates and maintenance in July.
- Thank you to Jim Sichterman for all the help with office technology and computer needs to keep our systems up to date and secure for the church.



Do You Remember When?

It is always a fun time for the church school kids to play the Kristal Bells for the Congregation. The bells were purchased in 1998 in memory of Mike Lyon by his parents, Kathy & Buzz. Even the adults enjoy playing these bells.

Rummage Sale August 6th and 7th

Harmony Guild will once again host an all-church yard/rummage sale on Friday, August 6th, 11 am - 5 pm, and Saturday, August 7th 8 am-noon in the church.



Donated items may be brought to the church and placed downstairs in the basement. (The church is open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday-Friday)

If you have any questions or would like to help sort and price items, please call Marcy Clausen at 260-2369 or Pat Mundell at 261-1111.

Faith United Members & Friends

AUGUST BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

August 9
Judi Jones
2806 Kaitlyn
Muscatine IA 52761

August 26
Richard Duggleby
Unit #1
2405 Lutheran Dr.
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
- 7 – Ryan Downing & Jen Sherer
- 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
- 23 – Bernard & Sandy Roth
- 27 – Brian & Pat Mundell
- 28 – Robert & Deb Wainscott Meyer
- 31 – Clay & Corrine Welsch

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

Please Keep in Your Prayers

All who are sick or ill and all their caregivers. Grace Duggleby, Marletta Warren, Kathy Harris, Lane Clausen, Alan Arkema, Carol Schlagenhauser, Margaret Heerd, Kelly Ingstad, Bob Sharar, Shirley Johnson, Robert Meyer, Keith & Nancy Stych, Marcia Wofford, Harold Wilson, Chris Lary, Bernard & Sandra Roth, and Brenden Schumaker.

Condolences

- ♦ Sympathy to the family of Neal Kleindolph who passed away on Monday, July 19, 2021, at the age of 96. Neal is survived by his children: Jerry Kleindolph (3118 Tipton Road); Sandy Weggen (2028 Deerfield Rd) and Sue Hunt (1997 Sweetland Road). Neal was a member of the Faith United Church.
- ♦ Sympathy to Cindy Carver and her family on the death of her brother, Murry Estabrook. Murry passed away on July 9 in Oklahoma. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Cindy at 2389 Lucas Road, Muscatine IA 52761.

Congratulations

- ♦ Tierney Schneider and Tony Hoefler on your marriage on July 24, 2021, the wedding was held at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Garnavillo Iowa. Tierney is the daughter of Todd and Nealene Schneider. Blessings to you both on your future together.

Thank you notes from our members and friends

- I very much appreciated the visits, calls, notes, foods, and prayers. Thank you - Barb Noble
- Thank you to Brian Mundell, Brad Soule, and Dan Huss for volunteering your time to help with the Church Gardens. - John Jones.
- Dear Faith family, thank you for my birthday wishes. Feel so blessed to have my "Faith Family"! Connie Miller
- Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings in Christ. We would like to thank you for your generosity toward the Funding Future Leaders Scholarship. Because of your giving, we were able to award a \$5000 scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year! Thank you for your faithfulness and your support. Peace- Funding Future Leaders, oversight committee.

Congregational Life Grant Due at the end of August

Congregational Life Grants from the Endowment Fund may be used for the following purposes:

- For the people and programs of Faith United Church of Christ of Muscatine, Iowa, including Education, Faith Formation, Fellowship, Scholarships or Grants for members of Faith UCC.
- For outreach to the community in support of both local and wider-church benevolence, spiritual, and mission interests.
- For capital improvements (i.e. buildings and grounds) of Faith United Church of Christ of Muscatine, Iowa.

The Faith UCC Vestry will consider all grant requests and determine eligibility and the amount to be provided. Grant requests must be submitted to the church office no later than the last day in August.

Grant request forms are available in the church office or print one from [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 2021



**Faith United
Church of Christ**
3307 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, Iowa 52761



Our Faith UCC website
faithuccmuscatine.com

Continuing to Support 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 at this time are:

Drop off the envelope to the locked mailbox by the front door
Send your envelopes in the mail to 3307 Mulberry, Muscatine
Talk with your bank about options to set up a direct payment
Use our website link to the church's PayPal account

Thank you for your generosity at this time.