

# Faith UP

June 2020

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## PASTOR'S PEN

Greetings to you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. This has been such a very chaotic and confusing time and we don't seem to have an end in sight quite yet. I want to address this in regards to the activity of our church building, which was stopped on March 16, as the session, following the guidelines coming out of the state and county health departments recommended a stoppage to such activities. The session voted in a special meeting, on that day, to suspend face to face activity and close the doors of the building, an action that was extended to cover the month of April, then May. Now, in a meeting on Wednesday, May 27, the session has voted again to extend this stoppage of face to face activity through the month of June, with the hope of opening the doors to the building on Monday, July 6. This date was determined because I will be on vacation that first week of July and the session did not want to put a pulpit supply person in a situation of preaching and leading worship on the first Sunday back together.

So, why did the session make the decision, and why do I concur? Very simply put, we are thinking of the health and well being of our congregation, of the whole realm of people who use Faith United Presbyterian Church. I know and we know that there are some who would come and would be just fine with coming out. Chances are things would be just fine and there would not be any issue. But, there could be, given that the illness is still prevalent enough around us. If we see downward trends continue, by the end of June things may well be at a place where this will not be a worry for folks. And, we have heard from a number of our members that they would not come out face to face until such time as they felt ok with coming out, and we would like to have the whole body, or as many as possible, feeling like it would be ok to come together, because we want to be together with all the brothers and sisters. We may or may not get to a place where all are coming out again, but we have chosen to wait until such a time as the majority feel it is ok, not just a handful. In the meantime, we continue our on-line worship, which has been well viewed, we continue our outreach through this virtual means, and though it is not our strongest desire, it has served a very good purpose to keep us engaged in worship and mission.

Another comment that has been shared is that we need to gather and God will protect us, and though I would not argue that there may indeed be some truth to that, I am have been constantly drawn to Jesus' words to the Tempter as He was led out to the wilderness, and the Tempter took Him to the top of the Temple, the pinnacle, and said to Him, "Throw yourself off of here because it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning you, and on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Do you recall what Jesus' reply was to the Tempter? Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" While I and the session as well, agree that our gathering face to face for worship and mission is a living out of our faith, we are already doing that in what we have been doing over these last few months, maybe not in a way we are comfortable with or accustomed to, but we are participating in the life of the church nonetheless. If we did not have the possibilities for worship and mission and engagement by the means we have been using for these months, our conversation would be very different; if we had no means of access to this living out of our faith, it would be a different story. But we do, and so the thought of acting our faithfully takes on a different feel if we do have access already to this living our of our faith, it becomes more a "this is what I want" moment, and not a faithful response to God. Do we really believe God wants us to put ourselves in harm's way given that we have other ways and means to respond to God? We discussed this at the session meeting, and we all, to a person, believe that we are faithfully responding to God in continuing to do what we have been doing over the last few months, and putting off our "re-opening" until things are safer.

And, once we do begin our face to face activities again, things will be done differently, as we will be very intentional about good practices for health and hygiene. We will not be singing publicly for a period of time, we will not be engaging in any kind of fellowship, we will have to change the way we dispense communion elements, we will still need to distance for a period of time. Right now, as we worship on line, we can sing, we can pray our loud and very loud, we can sit close to those around us, we can still participate in fellowship, just through a camera, which is not optimal but it is safer, at this point. We want to be able to come together and be able to again practice the things that make our worship and fellowship special, and waiting a little longer might allow us to be able to do that, when we do come back face to face.

Con't on pg 2

And, what we are ultimately doing is loving our neighbor; this is being done not so I or the session can remain ok, but so that you all can remain ok. We know you all will come out, and even though you might be ok with being in possible harms way, we as the leadership of the congregation, cannot, in faith and good conscience, place people in this position, even if, ultimately God alone is Lord of the conscience, and you can make the decision. As the leaders of the congregation it is our duty to ensure this place is safe for you all to be here. The session, and I as the moderator, feel very strongly that waiting until July give us a much better possibility for this to be possible, so that we can come together and then not have to stop again. We know that some will not be happy to hear this news, and we know that some will be ok with it, and we know there are some who will not come out even in July. We know that whatever was decided, someone would have an objection, but the session, and I as the moderator believe we have made a decision that is right for our congregation as a whole. We continue to pray for God's guidance as we move forward, and that what we do, in everything we do, is in line with God's will for us. If this proves not to be then we will have to face that. But, please know that if one person was to get sick with this illness because we chose to open the doors of the building before we felt it was safe, we would have to live with that, and that would be our fault. My prayer is that we will approach this with an heart of understanding, and we will all continue to await the day when we are face to face, worshiping and serving and laughing and singing and sharing without distraction of infection. That day will come, until then we will continue to pray for one another, for the other, for the church, and we will continue to do what we have been doing. Thank you, and God's blessings be with you all.

Dave

## *Lectionary Scripture Lessons in June*

### **Trinity Sunday—June 7**

Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11–13; Matthew 28:16–20

### **Sunday, June 14 (Proper 6)**

Genesis 18:1–15 (21:1–7)  
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19; Romans 5:1–8  
Matthew 9:35—10:8 (9–23)

### **Sunday, June 21 (Proper 7)**

Genesis 21:8–21; Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17  
Romans 6:1b–11; Matthew 10:24–39

### **Sunday, June 28 (Proper 8)**

Genesis 22:1–14; Psalm 13  
Romans 6:12–23; Matthew 10:40–42



# MISSION NEWS



Written by Harriett Marsh, Peggy Reid, Kelly Berkenpas

## Spotlight on Missions!!

Another month has passed and mission activities are alive and well at Faith United, albeit somewhat reduced. Becky had 9 volunteers for our last backpack date of the school year - 7 from Faith and 2 from Westminster. We are grateful for the faithfulness of all the volunteers. As for the Soup Kitchen they will not be serving in their dining room for the foreseeable future and the regular volunteer schedule is canceled for now. We shall just have to wait and see, but Danielle does have a wish list and hours that donations are accepted on the Soup Kitchen's Facebook page. They continue to serve by giving out meals at the door. So far, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is \$624.50. Thanks to all who contributed. Also, this month, we are sending \$900 to the South Sudan nursing program. This will help to enable a student to attend a nursing school in Ethiopia and return to work in the refugee camps in South Sudan. Many thanks to Sherry Koehler for informing us about this mission opportunity! The Pentecost churchwide offering is another place for those who wish to give. Forty percent of our offering will stay here in Siouxland and be given to a program that supports children and youth. The Mission Committee will decide who will receive the money the next time we have a virtual meeting! Again, thanks to all who so generously support the mission work at Faith United. Blessings and stay safe!

## FAITH TOGETHER

It has been so long since our FAITH TOGETHER GROUP has been able to meet but I do hope you are all well. It looks like we won't be able to gather yet in June, but I have a request to make.

In February when Church World Service contacted Lowell and me about having a Blanket Drive we said 'yes', hoping we would be able to meet together and see if you would want to help in the Drive as a Mission Project for our group. If you want to contribute \$10.00 for one blanket, or \$20.00 for 2 blankets [or more] you may make checks out to CWS Blanket Fund or make them or cash to me and it will all be sent to Church World Service at the end of June.

We will make a full report of how many blankets we were able to support. We thank you in advance, FAITH TOGETHER. Some have already sent contributions.

Our phone number: 712-301-9831

Our address: 801 S. Fairmount St.

Sioux City IA 51106

Lowell & Reta Johnson



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

### June

Circles will not be meeting

*Vina Rodecker*

The Quilting Group will meet on Tuesdays, at 9 o'clock. We would invite anyone who enjoys sewing and some fellowship to join us in the quilting room on the third floor.



## Kitchen Crew for June is Rebecca Circle

**CARD MAKING GROUP** There will be no card making until further notice. However, cards are still for sale for --\$.50 each or 3 for \$1.00.

### **These Days**

We have many copies of "These Days" available. We get new ones every quarter. Please take one for yourself, a family member or friends.

*Thank  
you*

Thank you to the Deacons and all the groups of Faith UPC for the cards and prayers. Hope to see you all soon. *Eleanor Tasker*

May/June UPPER ROOM  
DEVOTIONALS ARE  
HERE!



*Faith United Presbyterian Church is on a pilgrimage to resurrect and expand our church community and to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ. We worship as an authentic expression of our gratitude to God for grace unimaginable and love unconditional. We strive to be God's heart, hands and voice to all ages as we grow in faith and engage in mission locally, nationally, and globally.*

## Prayer Families for June



7 - Audrey Fenton, Pat & Sonja Floyd, Carlotta Fox, Jim & Linda Geusebroek, Andy Gottsch & family, Zach Gould

14 - Fran Graham, Gary & Alice Hacker, Bill & Mary Hall, Brian & Tina Hansen & family, Kathleen Hansen, Keith & Eileen Hansen & family

21 - Lori Hansen & family, Paul Hansen, Fran Harris, Shirley Heath, Kevin & Jill Heller & family, Rhonda Henry

28 - Pat Herbold, Josh & Emily Hicklin & family, Sid & Lois Hoover, Marlyn Hulst, Angie Irwin, Justin & Pam Johns & family

**LUNCH BUNCH** On Wednesday, June 3 the Lunch Bunch will meet at Old Chicago at 12:00 pm for lunch.

### Treasurer's Report from April

Income	\$20,580.92
Expenses	\$13,883.85
Excess/(Deficit)	\$6,697.07

*The deadline for newsletter submission is the **3rd Wednesday** of the month prior to publication. Please direct articles & questions to Teri McCallum [faithupcsec@outlook.com](mailto:faithupcsec@outlook.com)*

## June 2020 Anniversaries



5 - Kevin & Jill Heller  
6 - Rick & Carol Butler  
11 - Bob & Julie Mesmer  
14 - Dave & Sue LeGree  
23 - Larry & Andrea Cale  
25 - Bill & Mary Hall  
28 - Dave & Sherry Koehler

## June 2020



## Birthdays

3 - Maggie Rice  
Harvey Stokes  
5 - Kirk Lien  
8 - Ellen Osborn  
Sandra Weaver  
13 - Naomi Pettit  
Leanna Whipple  
18 - Toots Pittman  
26 - Bob Ross  
27 - Matt McWilliams  
Laura Stokes

*Please direct ideas, articles and questions to Teri McCallum  
712-276-3121,  
[faithupcsec@outlook.com](mailto:faithupcsec@outlook.com)*

# 2020 Graduates

## High School

### **Dylan Clayton**

Grandson of Kathy Clayton  
Graduating from East High School

### **Dayton Lee Drake**

Grandson of Beth Lindgren and cousin of Tegan Lindgren.  
Graduating from Bishop Heelan High School.  
Going to Iowa Lakes Community College fall of 2020 in the aviation program.

### **Andrew Duquette**

Son of Mary Kay Duquette and David Duquette  
Grandson of Frances Harris & the late Leo Harris  
Graduating from Edina High School, Edina MN

## College

### **Ellen Osborn**

Master of Music degree from USD

### **Connor Beach**

Son of Brad & Renea Beach  
Grandson of Sally and Larry Manker; graduated from  
Iowa State University. Management Information Systems

### **Lukas Kieth Johnson**

Son of Cindy Oliver Grandson of Bonnie and the late  
Stuart Oliver, graduated from Texas Tech University.

# June 2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
		<p>1 9:00 am Quilting Group</p> <p>2:00 pm Naomi Circle</p>	<p>2 10:00 am Rebecca Circle</p> <p>12:00 pm Lunch Bunch @ Old Chicago</p> <p>7:00 Gambler's Anon 7:15 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>3 8:30 Men's Club</p> <p>5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 7:00 pm Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 pm Closed AA 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>5</p>	
<p>6 10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>1-4 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's AA 8:00 pm Open AA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>8 9:00 am Quilting Group</p> <p>5:30 pm Empty Nesters @</p> <p>7:00 pm Doll Club</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 Gambler's Anon 7:15 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>10 8:30 Men's Club 9:30 am Esther Bible Study</p> <p>5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 7:00 pm Scouts</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00 pm Closed AA 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>12</p>	
<p>13 10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's AA 8:00 pm Open AA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Session</p>	<p>15 9:00 am Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 pm Lydia circle</p>	<p>16 FAITH UP DEADLINE</p> <p>7:00 Gambler's Anon 7:15 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>17 8:30 Men's Club</p> <p>4:00 pm Deacons 5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 7:00 pm Scouts</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 am PW Coordinating team</p> <p>8:00 pm Closed AA 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>19</p>	
<p>20 10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>1-4 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's AA 8:00 pm Open AA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 CE Meeting</p>	<p>22 9:00 am Quilting Group</p> <p>12:00 pm Faith Together</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 Gambler's Anon 7:15 pm Choir practice</p>	<p>24 8:30 Men's Club</p> <p>5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 7:00 pm Scouts</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00 pm Closed AA 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>26</p>	
<p>27 10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's AA 8:00 pm Open AA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>29 9:00 am Quilting Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 Gambler's Anon 7:15 pm Choir practice</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6;"> <p><b>Everything on this calendar is subject to change depending on when we are allowed to gather together again</b></p> </div>			

# Faith United Presbyterian Church

4327 Morningside Avenue  
Sioux City, Iowa 51106

Phone: 712-276-3121

E-Mail (Pastor): [faithupc@outlook.com](mailto:faithupc@outlook.com)

E-Mail (Secretary): [faithupcsec@outlook.com](mailto:faithupcsec@outlook.com)

Website: [www.faithupc.com](http://www.faithupc.com)

We're also on Facebook



## Worship Schedule

### Service times

10:30 Worship Service

Staffed Nursery Available

### Faith United Presbyterian Committees

#### Building & Grounds

Don Stokes  
Ben Miller

#### Christian Education

Tina Hansen  
Becky Bainbridge

#### Finance

Renea Anderson  
Zach Gould

#### General Administration

Renea Anderson  
Don Stokes  
Tina Hansen  
Ben Miller

#### Investment/Endowment

Gary Hacker

#### Membership

Connie Sponder  
Linda Puttmann

#### Memorial

Becky Bainbridge  
Renea Anderson

#### Mission

Becky Bainbridge  
Harriett Marsh  
Zach Gould

#### Worship

Linda Puttmann  
Zach Gould

### BOARD OF DEACONS

Carolyn Daniels	Becky Paulsen
Carlotta Fox	Dick Pruehs
Angie Irwin	Harvey Stokes
Sally Lingle	Lorman Vilhauer
Bobbi Mesmer	Sally Vilhauer
Julie Mesmer	

### THE SESSION OF FAITH UPC

Clerk of Session-- Connie Sponder

Renea Anderson	Tina Hansen
Becky Bainbridge	Ben Miller
Zach Gould	Linda Puttmann
	Don Stokes

### FAITH UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. David Koehler - Admin. Asst.: Teri McCallum - Music staff: - Sonja Floyd, Pat Herbold, Ellen Osborn,  
Maintenance Services: Lindy Johnson - Nursery Care Coordinator: Tina Hansen