



A Warm Heart

November, 2017

A NEWSLETTER OF FAITH UNITED CHURCH, COMBINING FAITH TRADITIONS OF LUTHERAN AND UCC CHURCH DENOMINATIONS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We were fortunate last Sunday. We were able to keep our traditional bonfire and hay ride going through the light mist with some very brave folks. As we prepare for the busyness of the holidays that are just around the corner, I am going to ask you to be intentional about finding a few quiet moments with God. I believe that time alone with God will prove very fruitful during this time of year.

We can feel the cold air and see the dark and dreary clouds. We have been witnesses to much hardship through natural disasters and tragic violence. Perhaps, as individuals and families, we also have suffered. So, how about if we switch gears and find joy in our hearts as we prepare for the upcoming weeks and the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Last month I asked you to try and be positive and say only kind words about people and life. For the month of November, I am asking you to be thankful. Saying thanks and praising God for all your blessings. Ask yourself: what has God been doing for me, my family, my church and community? How can I be one of God's servants with so much to be thankful for? How can I give back to others? I will let you ponder on those questions for a while.

More food for thought...

Place Your Life Before God

12 ¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. **Romans 12: 1-2 *The Message***

Please meditate on these two verses from Romans. What are they saying to you?

Take it easy on the turkey and have a Merry Christmas.

In Christian Love,

Pastor Elaine

Happenings at Faith United Church

Spiritual Transformation



We just started two groups with Spiritual Transformation. What they have found so far: this book study is different! It is about surrendering yourself to God and finding peace. This study is about a willingness to change inside and follow the word of God. It is an intentional study that will take each of the students into a deeper relationship with God. Pastor Elaine is looking forward to working with these two groups that meet on Sundays following worship and at 7 p.m., Thursday evenings, both in the church social room. We are just getting started and there is still room if anyone who would like to join us.



Community Turkey Meal

Noon, Saturday, Nov. 18th is Community Turkey Dinner for anyone who would like a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. There is a sign-up sheet for donations and times for help in the entrance way of the church. Meals are served at the Ickesburg Fire Co.

at noon. Meals can be picked-up or delivered. If you know of someone you would like to see be contacted for a meal please let Joanne Fritz know.



Sunday Nov. 19—Camo Day

Come dressed in your hunting gear on Sunday, Nov. 19th. We will have a special blessing for our hunters during worship. We not only want them to be successful, but also safe.



Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.—Thanksgiving Service

Faith United Church will host a worship service for the community at 7:00 pm on Nov. 21. This service is our way of saying thanks to God for all our blessings throughout the year.



Community Tree Lighting and Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 6 p.m. in front of the Post Office: the Fire Co, Ickesburg Lions Club and Faith United Church will be hosting a

Community Tree Lighting and a time for singing Christmas Carols. Following the singing, cookies, coffee and hot chocolate will be served at Faith United Church. This is an awesome time. You don't want to miss it!



Carlisle Truck Ministry

Sunday, Dec. 3, we also will be in need of cookies for the Carlisle Truck Ministry. Every year we ask you to bake cookies and then we put them into bags for the truck drivers. They are always appreciated.



We will once again be helping out children for Christmas with our Angel Tree project through Join Hands out of New Bloomfield. Names with ideas for gifts will be available on our Little Christmas Tree in the back of the church. Please make sure you identify each package with the letters and numbers on the gift tag from the tree. More information to follow.



meeting

We will have a congregational meeting on **Sunday, Dec. 10th** following worship to look at our purposed budget and take a vote. Also, we will vote on 2 new members for the board of directors.



Christmas Eve Service—Dec. 24th

Our Christmas Eve Service will be held at **6 p.m. and again at 8 pm**. There will be lots of singing by the choir and by the congregation. Come, join us as there is always room! One of the greatest joys in life is lighting a candle with others and singing *Silent Night* together. Pastor Elaine hopes that you can come and join us at one of those times. Following each service there will cookies, coffee and punch to share.



Sunday Service Dec. 24

We will have a children's **Christmas program**. Then, following worship, Pastor Elaine will have her **Christmas meal** for everyone who is willing to stay. Also, there is a rumor that we could have a visitor in a Red Suit show up. This is Pastor Elaine's gift to Faith United Church. She hopes all can stay.



Sunday School for our Children

We have a great group of teachers who will to share Bible Stores with our children every Sunday.

If you can't make church and you still want to bring your children for Sunday school, please do so. Sunday School starts around 10:15.



Holy Communion

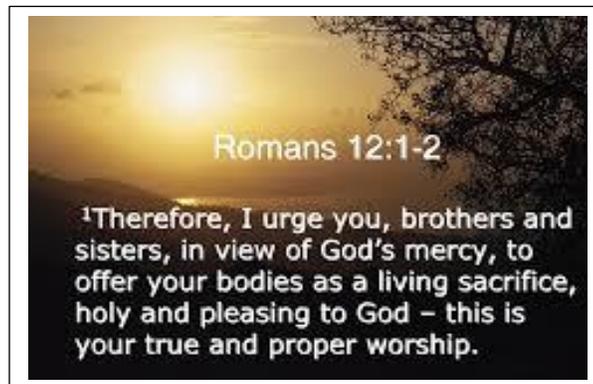
ANNOUNCEMENT: Faith United Church will celebrate **Holy Communion** on the first Sunday of each month and on other special Holy Days.



Youth Group

Our youth group took a trip to *Field of Screams*. We had a great time. Our next meeting is Sunday, Dec. 10 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the church social room. Pastor Elaine would love to see more youth participate.

Come, join in on the fun and fellowship!



Faith United Church

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TO:

