



A Warm Heart

Winter 2021

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

Greetings Brother and Sisters in Christ,

I know this past year has been so difficult in so many ways. It was just a year ago this past Wednesday that I left for the Holy Lands and I have not been able to share that experience with you because the virus hit so soon after I came home. So at this time I want to thank everyone for all your prayers and faithfulness during this very chaotic time. It felt like things and suggestions of what was best for individuals and for our church just kept changing and how were we going to manage it all. I know personally I often felt like I was in a boxing match and down for the count, but the amazing thing was Jesus would not let me stay there. The Holy Spirit kept reminding me that I was not alone and he had my back and thanks be to God.

Folks I am now looking to the future. I believe hopefully this vaccine will help us with our fears of this virus and get us back to some kind of normalcy again. For this Lenten Season I have chosen a program for us called Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery. My prayers are that this Worship Series will provide a healing. I want to encourage you to start a journey of what we need to let go of in our lives. The season will include many of Jesus' healings from the gospel of Matthew.

Unfortunately for many of us our hearts have been broken for various reasons over this past year and we need to heal. I will be asking you to write down your pains, your anger, your losses, disappointments you have felt over this time, and place them in a vessel I am providing. We will burn all of these on Ash Wednesday as we take that first step for healing.

Folks a buzz word that is being used today in all areas of life is **TRANSFORMATION**. It is also a favorite of mine. As we begin our Lenten journey, let us reflect on our lives, and ask ourselves what do we need to change? A genuine change not only mentally but from the heart, a true transformation, one that will bring us closer to Jesus Christ.

My prayers for us on this Lenten journey are that we will structure our energy and passion on a path that follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Let's go and get up!

God Bless,

Pastor Elaine

Happenings at Faith United Church

Everyone is welcome at Faith United Church! We extend an invitation to anyone in the community who would like to join us in worship and in having fun!!



ASH WEDNESDAY

Feb 17th – 7:00pm

On Ash Wednesday we will do self-implosion of ashes. We have a station for you to place your own ashes on your forehead using a Q-tip before worship starts. Individual Q-tips will be provided for everyone. A mirror will also be there for you to help with the placing of the ashes. Service starts at 7:00 pm. If you would like to come a little early to apply your ashes that would be wonderful.

We will also celebrate Holy Communion with a special communion service.



Our Lenten Theme this year is Holy Vessels – A Lenten Season of Recovery. Our focus will be on healing.



Pastor's Messages for Lent

Below is the list of Messages and scripture Pastor Elaine will be giving during the season of Lent:

Ash Wed: Feb 17- "Shattered"
Matthew 11:28-30

1st Sunday in Lent: Feb 21
"Treasure" – Matthew 8:1-4

2nd Sunday in Lent: Feb 28
"Safe Keeping"-Matthew 8:1-13

3rd Sunday in Lent: Mar 7
"Stories" - Matthew 9:27-33

4th Sunday in Lent: Mar 14
"Different Pictures" – Matthew 9:18-26

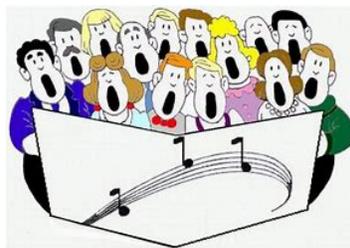
5th Sunday in Lent: Mar 21
"Restoration" – Matthew 8:18-27

Mar 28 – Palm Sunday

Apr 1 – Maundy Thursday

Apr 2 – Good Friday

Apr 4 – Easter Sunrise & Easter Worship Service



Sing a Joyful Song!

After a short hiatus, the choir has resumed practice. If you enjoy singing, join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm!



We Are "Live"! – Join in Worship Every Sunday!

Faith United worship service is now livestreaming every Sunday morning at 9:00 am!

COVID keeping you at home? Winter weather keeping you from getting to church? No Problem! You can join the worship service by going to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), and in the Search box at the top of the screen type in "ickesburg faith". You'll also see past services out there.

We now email the bulletin to everyone so you can follow along with the service. If you're not getting those emails, please let Fay or Pastor know and we'll get you on the email distribution list.

You can also find Pastor Elaine's weekly message on our website – faithunitedchurch.org or on Pastor's Facebook page.

In the meantime, we are taking all necessary precautions inside the church to keep our congregation safe.

Masks are mandatory. We also provide masks & hand sanitizer.

The church is disinfected before every service.

Hymns are provided as an insert in the bulletin (instead of handling hymnals)





CHURCH COMMITTEES!

Pastor Elaine would like to see committees start to function for Faith United Church. Please pray about how you might be able to serve on one of these committees:

Worship

Building & Grounds

Pastor Parish

Emergency Fund

Outreach

Youth Group
(need 1 or 2 couples to lead this)

Information/details about each of these committees will be sent out to everyone. Sign-up sheets will be in the church's front entrance. Also, you can contact Fay (717-574-5590, faydy320@centurylink.net) or Pastor Elaine if you'd like to sign up for a committee



YOUR CHURCH BOARD

2021 Church Board Members are...

Dave Hile – President

Andy Bender – Vice President

Teresa Freeland – Secretary

Lauri Hoyer

Zach Nyce

Angie Reisinger

Kenny Reisinger

Damia Stambaugh

Bob Sweger

Steve Orris is our Church Treasurer

If you have any concerns or ideas about the church, please contact any of your board members.



VBS

We are hoping to have Vacation Bible School this summer. In addition to the church, we're looking at how we can utilize our outdoor space and the Gathering Nest to provide a safe environment for the children.

Watch for more information in future bulletins and emails.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Faith United is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood drive on **Friday, April 30th**.

Watch for more details in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

Everyone donating or volunteering to assist with this event is required to wear a mask – no exceptions.



SOFTBALL

We plan to get the softball team together for practice in the Spring (probably sometime in April or May).

Watch for more information and a schedule via the bulletin and emails when it gets closer for our time to "Play Ball!"



