

# Summit Congregational United Church of Christ



## **“SUMMIT SPARKS”**

**May, 2024**

**563-582-5661**

**Website: [www.summitucc.org](http://www.summitucc.org)**

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ  
2885 J. F. Kennedy Rd.  
Dubuque, Iowa, 52002-1081

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	29 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 1:30pm - Bible Study	30 5:30pm - Tri-church 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	1 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	2 9am - Trustees	3	4
5 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 2:30pm - Faith's Concert @	6 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 10:30am - Diaconate 1:30pm - Bible Study	7 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	8 Pastor's vacation 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	9 6:30pm - Prochaska Zoom	10	11
12 Pastor's vacation 10:30am - Worship at	13 1:30pm - Bible Study	14 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	15 9am - All-church Cleaning 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	16	17	18
19 10am - Food Pantry gifts 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	20 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 1:30pm - Bible Study 4pm - Church Council	21 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	22 Pastor's vacation 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	23	24	25
26 Pastor's vacation 10am - Worship - Hymn Sing 11am - Fellowship	27 1:30pm - Bible Study	28 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	29 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	30	31	1

## *Sweet Inspirations ...*

As I am writing this article the birds are chirping in my backyard, the leaves on the trees are dancing in the wind, the chime are making a merry melody and the sun is shining brightly as if to say *“rise and shine, come dance with the leaves, sing with the birds, make a joyful noise unto the Lord with the chimes and let your heart soar. Enjoy the beauty of nature and this day, even if only for a little while.”*

Christopher Grundy, a UCC pastor, professor and musician has a song called *“The Fisherman’s Daughter”* that pulls at my heart strings every time I hear it. It is a story about a fisherman who lost his daughter and went on a fishing trip with others. While fishing he encounters his daughter coming up out of the water and she tells him and the group with whom he is fishing that they are scaring the fish with the long sullen faces and she goes on to tell them that *“I have been to the ball and have seen my sweet Jesus and all that he wants you to do is dance.”* She then tells the group, *“Dance with the lonely, dance with the lost, dance with the ones whom to dance with will cost you and when you’re worn out from the weight of that cross, just dance, gently and slowly, dance.”*

As Christians we are called to carry our crosses and to be servants to and dance with the lonely and lost, naked and blind, ones who are chained in their bodies and minds. Check out Matthew 25:34-40. Yet, it is important to remember that at times we need to hit the pause button on dancing with the ones who will cost us, hit the pause button on focusing on our struggles and just gently and slowly dance for the joy of dancing whatever that may be for you. Maybe your dancing is working in the dirt and planting a garden; maybe it is going for a walk or run, playing an instrument, eating or visiting with a friend or family member, reading a good book, watching a funny or inspirational movie or tv show, cooking or creating something with your hands whether that be a painting, drawing, sculpting, carpentry, needlework of some kind and so on. Whatever it is remember to sometimes simply dance for the joy of whatever your dancing is and be restored so that you can continue to dance with the ones who will cost you once again and have the hope and strength to carry on through your own struggles.

Another Christian artist who inspires me is Bryan Sirchio. Bryan has a song entitled Dream God’s Dream. Our next Tri-church meeting of the Dubuque UCC churches is Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. In those meetings not only share what is happening in each of our congregations, but we seek to discern where God is at work and what God is calling us to do as individual churches and as churches bound together in covenant. It is so important to remember the church does not belong to us, but to God, and when we stop dreaming God’s dream, we fail to follow our calling to partner with one another and especially with God, to make this world a better place by accepting both the costs and joys of discipleship, working together using our equally important gifts to serve God, one another, and all of creation and allowing God to inspire and strengthen us along the way.

The second verse to Brayn’s song says this:

*I’m dreaming of the call God is offering to me  
How to use my energy and my best gifts  
To do the work of Christ—to say God, please use my life  
To spread your healing Love and to live your Truth*  
Words and Music by Bryan Sirchio Copyright 1992, Crosswind Music. All Rights Reserved

Our gifts are ever changing, but always important. So, let us allow God’s Spirit to help us dream and then use our energy and the gifts we have to do the work of Christ, allowing God to use our lives to spread God’s healing love while remembering to hit the pause button every now and then to simply dance and be restored. God knows, the world needs the Divine’s healing love. We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can allow God to work in and through us to bring that healing love into the world through our lives both individually and in community with one another.

God’s Peace and Hope!  
Pastor Karen

Contributors: Pastor Karen, Flora Brown (clerk), Merlin Green (editor)

<b>MAY BIRTHDAYS:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Doug Watters 7 <sup>th</sup> Sarah Welbes 21 <sup>st</sup> Brian Weiss	26 <sup>th</sup> Karen Candee Rachael Stumpf 28 <sup>th</sup> Beth Havlik  <b>MAY ANNIVERSARIES:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Greg and Lisa Hansen 30 <sup>th</sup> Ellen and Ron Craff
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**Important Calendar Dates:**

<b>Tuesday, April 30</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Tri-Church Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 15</b>	<b>9 am</b>	<b>All Church Cleaning</b>

**Scheduled Committee Meetings** Please remember that **ALL committee and council meetings are open to the congregation.**

<b>Thursday, May 2</b>	<b>9 am</b>	<b>Trustees meeting</b>
<b>Monday, May 6</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Diaconate meeting</b>
<b>Monday, May 20</b>	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Church Council meeting</b>

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 23, 2024 via Zoom**

**Present:** Pastor Karen, Pat Kreimeyer, Joanne Van Natta, Merlin Green, Judy Prochaska and Flora Brown

Pastor Karen opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer. The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed, Joanne motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Merlin seconded and the motion carried.

**Trustees:**

The committee determined they would pay for the new copier out of the memorial funds in the Memorial account. They are still trying to connect with Glorious Glass regarding the stain glass windows situation. Everett has been cleaning out the gutters and reports that some have a lot of gunk in them and some are sagging. Merlin reported that a new mic on the pulpit was installed. It was purchased with some of Jo’s memorial money and he will be working out the bugs. We received an email from Century Link indicating that as of May 1, 2024, they will increase our bill by \$1.00 per month and we will continue to receive paper billings. Judy will check into this further.

**Diaconate:**

Communion continues on the first Sunday of each month. Coverage for Pastor Karen’s upcoming vacations has been taken care of. The decor in the sanctuary was changed after Easter and will be changed again soon. The committee is making plans for Campfire Worship in June, July and August.

**O/M/E:**

The One Great Hour of Sharing campaign brought in \$248. \$316 was given to (PIN) People In Need from the joint Maudy Thursday Service with the 3 Dubuque UCC churches. There is another blood drive coming up some time in mid to late July.

**Christian Ed.:**

The Bible study group continues to meet on Mondays at 1:30 pm, studying the book of 1 Corinthians.

**Summit Fellowship:**

No report.

**Pastor's Report:**

The next Tri-church meeting will be April 30th at 5:30 pm. Laurie Bartollota sent Karen the minutes from the last meeting and she made a couple of adjustments and sent them back to her for her approval. Karen will send those minutes along with an agenda out to the three churches on April 22, 2024. The last Blood Drive was held on March 21. Eleven units of blood were collected which impacts the lives of 33 individuals. Karen attended the following meetings this month—Diaconate—4/18, Church Council—3/18, Trustees—4/11 and Tri-church on 3/20, which was for Maundy Thursday planning at Immanuel. She had 0 hospital visits, 1 nursing home visit and 4 home visits/Pastoral Care Sessions this past month. She continues to send out the weekly reflection letters and has had several pastoral phone calls.

The class, Starting Missional Communities, which she and Ann Herr are taking began January 16th. It is being offered as Continuing Ed. through the UD. They met in person for class on 1/22, 2/12, 3/11 and 4/8 at the Wayfarer Coffee Shop on Washington. They have watched online lectures, read the book—Being Church Doing Life by Michael Moynagh and had to bring three quotes from the book that they would like to lift up. They also practice the ministry of presence in the community. Karen decided to do hers at The Yarn Soup Store on Main Street where a group gathers on Fridays to work on their crafts alongside others who like to craft. She read and reported on the book, The Innovative Church: How Leaders and Their Congregations Can Adapt in an Ever-Changing World by Scott Cormode. She will attend the final class which is optional on April 22. One of the assignments she turned in was a one-page Simple Pitch Page where she was to state important Features of Life in My Present Context, point out God's Good News for these people and then consider ways in which the good news might be expressed.

Karen also prepared announcements for the Sparks along with submitting her Pastor's Report to Council. She also assisted Flora in editing a couple of minor changes to her draft of the minutes for Church Council. Karen participated in CWU World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 22nd, which was held here at Summit. The focus of this service was on Unity. Pastor and Joanne Van Natta were here to make sure things ran smoothly and ran the technology. Ernie was the organist for the service. Those who attended were inspired by the message. Set-up for WDP happened on Thursday prior to and during the blood drive. She once again preached on Good Friday at the Ecumenical Service at St. Luke's UMC. She shared a reflection on the Fourth Word--(My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?) this year. Ernie Schmitt volunteered to be the reader for that day. Thank you, Ernie! Karen stayed for the service as an opportunity to have her spirit fed through the reflection of others.

This year we opened the sanctuary on Holy Saturday from noon-3 pm for anyone wishing to do some personal time of reflection and meditation during those hours. Karen was also present for that time so the building could be open and available for pastoral care for anyone who might want to talk. There were no people who showed up during that time. Set up for Easter Sunday took place at the end of that time period. Thank you to those who were able to come out and help with that set up. Karen reached out to our home-bound members to set up home visits and phone visits for those who lived too far away or those who were not feeling well enough for a home visit. Our new copy machine has been installed but Karen will be meeting over the phone with a representative on April 25th at 9 am to answer some questions that arose after using the machine.

Pastor Karen will be attending the clergy gathering of the El Assoc. on Thursday, April 25th from 12-2 pm in Tipton, IA. It has been a while since she has been able to join those gatherings and she is looking forward to meeting some of the newer clergy in the Association. With summer fast approaching and some people inquiring if we are going to do the Campfire Devotions again, she would like to get some volunteers to help plan one per month over the summer months. Also, if anyone has some topics they feel would be good themes to center those around she is open to suggestions. Karen is taking 2 vacations in May as she has 2 graduations to celebrate this year. She will be taking May 8-May 14 and May 22-May 28th off. While she is away Rev. Dianne Grace will cover for any pastoral care needs. On May 12th members will be invited to join Immanuel for their service that day. They are looking forward to worshipping together that day. On May 26th it will be a Lay Led Hymn Sing Sunday.

**Old Business:**

Nothing to report.

**New Business:**

Sparks articles are due this Friday, April 26. Next meeting—Monday, May 20, 2024 4:00 via Zoom. Pat declared the meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Flora Brown, Clerk



*"To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven:"  
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

## *Congratulations Graduates*

*As you continue life's journey--  
"May God bless and keep you.  
May God's face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you.*

*May God look upon you with kindness  
and grant you God's Peace."  
Numbers 6:24-26*



***Faith Welbes**, daughter of Tom & Sarah Welbes and granddaughter of Neil and Rev. Karen Candee will be graduating from Mount Mercy University on May 12, 2024 with honors with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. Following graduation, she will begin her nursing career at Unity Point St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids working on the Pulmonary Specialty Unit.*

***Camrin Rondeau**, son of Brandon and Bobbie Rondeau and grandson of Neil and Rev. Karen Candee will be graduating from Pleasant Valley High School on May 26, 2024. Following graduation Camrin has plans to enlist in the United States Air Force.*

Dubuque UCC Communities of Faith  
Tri-church Meeting  
Tuesday April 30, 2024  
Time ~5:30 PM  
Where – Summit Cong. UCC

## Two Special Worship Services while Pastor is on Vacation!

### Sunday May 12, 2024 Joint Worship Service with Immanuel Cong. UCC at Immanuel

1795 Jackson Street

\*Worship Time: 10:30 AM – Please note the time difference!

### Sunday May 26, 2024 Lay-led Hymn Sing and Favorite Scripture Service

Please submit a favorite hymn you would like sung at that service by May 19<sup>th</sup> so the pastor can put together the PowerPoint for that service before she leaves on her vacation.

You may even choose hymns that are not in the hymnal.

We are also asking you to submit a favorite scripture that has guided your life and why it is important to you. Please note if you are willing to read the scripture for service and say why it is important to you or if you want that to be read by a lay-leader.

Also note if you have a specific version of scripture from which you want your scripture read.

Submissions may be put in the offering plate, dropped off at church or emailed to the church.

In the spirit of the early church  
who not only worshiped together but ate together,  
we are looking at bringing back  
Campfire Devotions once a month  
for the summer months.



We could use some volunteers to help plan them and suggestions for the theme of each night. Please notify Pastor Karen or a member of the Diaconate if you are willing to help plan these events.