

# January

2020

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TIPTON, IOWA

“...And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” *Matthew 28: 20b*

So. We have come to the conclusion of our journey together. In the annals of First United Church of Christ of Tipton, Iowa, it has been a short passage, only a bit over 5 months. It's important to point out that these weeks have only been a “blink” of an eye in the history of this congregation, only a snippet of your search for a called pastor, and the work, joys, grief, success, and heartache you have experienced in that time. But as I close out my service to First United Church of Christ, and the mission and ministries you carry out in the name of God's Child that phrase, that promise, at the end of Matthew's Gospel rings very, very true.

It is so important to remember that we do not walk alone on our spiritual or mission journeys as either an individual or as a community of faith. We have this promise from the Christ of God that we are in the company of the Founder of the Faith we profess, and that that Person, or Creator, or Spirit, will not leave us alone. We will be pilgrims on a journey, in the company of others and in the company of Christ. I hope that this is the lesson you will take with you as you move forward into the future that God opens to you. I hope that this is the story that you will tell your children about the three plus years you have walked in the wilderness of search and call. I hope that you will realize that the presence of God-in-life is not just from ancient tales, but continues in God's active participation in your life and mine to this day.

Jesus bade farewell to his disciples with these words, the promise of an eternal presence forward into the unseen future: “I will be with you.” That's the promise that has

---

**Annual Meeting with Potluck  
to welcome Pastor Kerri &  
Jay to our congregation!**

**Bring a dish to share, if you are able.  
Table service provided.**

**Jan 26 following worship**

---

been carried out not only in your journey from called pastor to called pastor, but all those times in between, AND all those times that God has yet to open to you.

Early on in our marriage, Jane and I had a plaque on the wall of our home that read: “To believe in God is to know that all the rules will be fair and that life is filled with wonderful surprises.” That is my wish for you as you move into that future in the company of the One who never ever leaves us alone; that there will be “wonderful surprises!”

Shalom,

PASTOR MARK BUCK, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

---

**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
Tuesday, Dec 24 @ 7:30p**

---

## Sunday School

Now that concentrated work on the Christmas program is behind us, it's time to again refocus Sunday School lessons on Bible Ordinary Super-Heroes, some, of whom, are Jesus' own ancestors. God is always selecting unlikely “heroes” to carry out God's master plan. Anyone might be called to be one of these ordinary super heroes. We begin classes on January 5 with Joshua, who caused a fortified enemy city to collapse without firing a shot. He had help. He put his trust in God and also in a humble woman, who equally put her trust in God. This mighty combination brought a nation into being.

Join us Sundays at 9:00a even if you haven't been able to make a single class, you are welcome to join us whenever you can.

---

**Blood Drive  
Mon, Jan 20, 2:30-6:00p**

---

## Usher Sign Up

The 2020-2021 Usher Sign Up list is on the bulletin board. Please check it to see if your assigned time works. If any changes need to be made please mark it on the sheet. If you wish to be added, please add your name to the appropriate month.

## Greetings from Pastor Kerri

*[Let us] fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. – Hebrews 12: 2*

Every New Year's Day brings a sense of refreshment and hope. With a new calendar year comes the clean slate of possibility. The successes and accomplishments of the year that has passed are in mind, and there is a vigor and excitement to all that is in front of us.

Our Church calendar also is at the beginning of a new year that starts with the Advent season. The birth of a Savior – God in the flesh – reminds us of our hope and our purpose. The Good News is that hope and purpose are renewed when we focus on the King of all Kings.

As I begin this new season with all of you, I am ever thankful that our paths have merged. I look forward to all that the Lord has in store for us in the coming year. Let us keep our eyes open, our hearts prayerful, and our minds focused on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May this year at First UCC be one of beauty, possibilities, and living out the love of Jesus Christ.

PASTOR KERRI SANDUSKY

---

**Farewell Cake & Card Shower  
for Pastor Mark  
Dec 29 following worship**

---

## Annual Meeting January 26, 2020

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Jan 26, following worship. This meeting is the governing body of our church. Please plan to attend and bring your annual report, which will be mailed out in January. Installation of elected officers and committee members will be Sun, Feb 2, during worship. We will have a potluck to welcome Pastor Kerri and Jay to the congregation. Bring a dish to share, if you are able. *There's always plenty at a potluck!* **Come to welcome Pastor Kerri and Jay!**

---

## Update - Boiler Campaign

The campaign has been fulfilled and is fully paid off! Thank you for all the generous donations toward the Boiler Campaign.

## Ecumenical Youth Group

(Grades 5-12)

Since the Ecumenical Youth Group is growing so fast it is getting too crowded every Wednesday with both the high school and middle school students in the same space. Starting December 4th there will be two separate youth groups on Wednesday at Calvary Foursquare starting with a middle school only youth group from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and a High school only youth group from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We will still have dinner every night at 6:30pm

### Middle School Only

5:00 - Doors Open

5:15 - Upfront Game

5:30 - Message

6:00 - Small Group

### Both Middle School and High school

6:30 - Meal

### High School Only

7:00 - Game

7:15 - Message

7:45 - Small Group

8:30 - Doors Close

AJ WILLIAMS, YOUTH GROUP LEADER

## Food Pantry

Jan 18

The community food pantry is hosted by Calvary Foursquare Church on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00-10:00a. Anyone in need of food is welcome to get a food box.

## AA

Meets every Thursday at 8:00p at First UCC.  
Meets at St. John's UCC, Clarence, every Monday at 7:00p.

## Family Foods UPC Symbols

Cut the UPC symbols off Family Foods brand food items (including bread) and place them in the box on the shelf across from the offices. We will submit to the Bread of Life Food Pantry located at the Calvary Foursquare. The Food Pantry receives \$0.05 per label to purchase food for the Food Pantry.

## 2019 Financial Books

**Please have all donations for the year 2019 turned into the office by noon on Jan 3. Thank you!**

## Lion's Club Drop Box

Donate old glasses and hearing aids to the Lion's Club. A drop box is on the shelf across from the offices. The donated items will help improve the quality of life for children and adults living in low and middle income communities around the world. Many will experience corrected vision or corrected hearing for the first time, enabling them to lead productive working lives, support their families, attend school and advance their education. Thank you for your donations.

## Overeaters Anonymous

Eat too much? Too often? Don't eat? Binge and purge? Compulsively exercise? Overeaters Anonymous meets every Thursday at 5:00p at The Gathering, 519 Cedar St, Tipton (use South Door).

## Need a Ride?

Are you over 60 and need a ride? Call Volunteer Service of Cedar County 563-357-8690 (Lynda Hansen, Coordinator).

Transportation via car: \$6.00 for In-Town trips; \$0.55/mile for Out-of-Town trips.

Transportation via Handicapped Accessible Van: \$25.00 for In-Town trips, \$50.00 for In-County trips, \$75.00 for Out-of-County trips.

If you would like to volunteer to drive, call Lynda Hansen to arrange.

## HACAP Mobile Food Pantry

HACAP hands out food from their mobile food pantry truck in various communities.

Dec 6	3:30-4:30p	Tipton UMC
Dec 10	3:30-4:30p	Bennett Ambulance Bldg
Dec 17	3:30-4:30p	West Branch Fire Dept

## Simply Yoga

Meets every Wednesday at 6:30p at 118 W 5th St, Tipton. Cost per class \$10; monthly rates & punch cards available. See bulletin board for more information and more classes offered in Lowden. Yogi is Michele Lee Pisman (secretary at St. John's UCC, Clarence).

**Valentine's Lunch  
Feb 9 following worship**

## This N That

**Pastoral Visit:** If you are in the hospital or having an issue and wish to have a visit, please contact the church office to arrange a visit with Pastor Kerri Sandusky.

**Prayers:** If you wish to be prayed for, call the office (563-886-6361) or Evelyn Sterner (563-886-1278) to be added to the prayer list. If you would like to pray for those in need, let the office know and we'll add you to the Prayer Circle. To invite others to pray for your concern, you may allow us to publish it in the weekly Sunday bulletin.

**2020 Pledge.** It's not too late to submit your 2020 pledge. Call the office if you have misplaced your packet or did not receive one in the mail.

**Did you know?** If you use Bill Pay through your bank, then you can set up your giving as a recurring bill and never worry about forgetting to give to your church.

**Council Minutes** are posted on the bulletin board outside of the secretary's office.

To keep current with all of **First UCC happenings**, check the calendar on our website page at [www.firstucctipton.org](http://www.firstucctipton.org).

Remember to **update the church** when your phone number or address changes or when there's a birth in your family. Also, let us know if you have joined another church.

## Shared Blessings

Jan 11 & 25

A free community meal hosted by First United Methodist Church on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Saturdays of each month from 11:00a-12:00p. Anyone is welcome to attend.



Addilynn Lemburg receives her Bible on Dec 15.

## Thank You!

Thank you to all those who helped decorate the church for Christmas!

Thank you to Women's Fellowship and friends for the very successful Holiday Coffee! There were about 70 people in attendance. The program was wonderful, right on target to get us ready for Advent & Christmas! The music was sublime! The treats were over-the-top delicious!

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and gifts during this Christmas season!

Thank you to everyone who helped clean the parsonage, paint, clean to get the parsonage ready for Pastor Kerri & Jay!

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Christmas Offering!

Thank you Bill & Shirley Pinegar, Dean Eilers, and Lois Hartig for assembling the December newsletter!

Thank you Lois Hartig for assembling the pastor's Christmas letter!

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers and children for the most AMAZING Christmas Program on Dec 15!

Thank you Confirmation class for filling the Christmas goodie bags!

Thank you for lighting the Advent candles:

Dec 1 - Todd, Amy, Addison, & Avery Mente

Dec 8 - Angie, Hannah, Grace, & Avery Hodges

Dec 15 - Mark, Erica, Conner, Miles, & Maxson Christian

Dec 22 - Ina & Stan Hack

Dec 24 - Jake, Teresa, Cody, Clay, Caleb, & Callie Bohlmann

Thank you Pastor Mark Buck for leading us for the past 5 months!

Domestic Violence heartily thanks you for your generosity in donating oodles of toys. Over 100 children will have a joyful Christmas due to your benevolence!

Thank you to Women's Fellowship Executive Board for providing treats on Dec 29!

## Gridshock:

*A documentary about Sex Trafficking in Iowa*

A screening of this important film will be held in Tipton. Please consider joining us to watch, learn, discuss, and consider what we can do.

**When?** Jan 19, 2-4p & Jan 21, 6:30-8:30p

**Where?** Trinity Lutheran Church

**What?** A screening of the film followed by discussion.

**Questions?** Contact Pastor Beth Wartick (563-886-2991) or Melinda Stonebraker (563-889-0468).

You are welcome to attend either or both showings.

Please note: This documentary contains adult content as it investigates sex trafficking and may trigger survivors of sexual assault. Due to the nature of the documentary, parents must accompany minors and the filmmakers do not recommend for children under 16.

## First UCC Scholarship

The First UCC College Scholarship application is now available. Scholarships are awarded to Covenant Members of the First United Church of Christ in Tipton who are enrolled or are enrolling to college. They are awarded on an annual basis; you must reapply each year. The amount awarded varies each year. The application is due April 1. To receive an application, email the church, [office@firstucctipton.org](mailto:office@firstucctipton.org).

## Mary Circle

Jan 8

Join Mary Circle on Wed, Jan 8 at 8:30a for breakfast (purchase your own) at Tipton Family Restaurant. RSVP to Darlene Elgin 563-886-2920 to be included in the reservation.

## 2020 Offering Envelopes

2020 offering envelopes are available. Numbers are not preassigned. Once you use your envelopes, that number will be assigned to you.

**SECRETARY HOURS:  
Mon, Wed, Thurs 10a-5p;  
Friday 10a-1p**

**Wishing you  
and your family  
a blessed Christmas  
and a new year filled  
with God's blessings!**

**Pastor Mark, Pastor Kerri, and Janet**

## First Friday

We had a beautiful crisp but sunny morning as we met to greet Students and Staff of the Tipton High School on Dec 6. Devotions and donuts were shared with about 84 students.

Those that came to help were: Rev. Beth Wartick, Melinda Stonebraker, A.J. Williams, Ron & Lois Salmonson, Deb Schwitzer, Susan Lorenzen, Nancy Mathias and myself. It was a wonderful group.

Thank you to all that have helped support this wonderful mission project of our church. I am excited to tell you that with your participation in the donut offering and other donations we are currently funded through the rest of the 2019-2020 School year. A special thank you to Nancy Mathias for being the juice box manager for these gatherings.

This project is a wonderful opportunity to greet each participant with a smile and a good wish for their day and the coming month. A chance to let them know that each donut is a symbol of God's unending love that surrounds us all.

Thanks again to everyone and have a Blessed Christmas season as we remember the Love of a God that shared his son with us!

NANCY HIPPLE

## Remembering & Sharing

Decorating the chancel for the Advent/Christmas season were many beautiful poinsettias in loving memory of:

The loved ones of Bruce & Barb Cary.

Richard & Barbara Freet from Blair & Pam Freet.

Jim & Norma Jean Garwood from Blair & Pam Freet.

Robert Jacobsen from Linda Jacobsen and family.

The loved ones of Evelyn Sterner.

The Advent candles were given in loving memory of Harold & Pearl Weaver.

The Advent stand is in memory of Joyce Eiler.

The stage for the Christmas Pageant given in loving memory of R.C. Shumaker.

**LITURGISTS**  
**Jan 5** Barb Cary  
**Jan 12** Betty Emrich  
**Jan 19** Whitney Gehrs  
**Jan 26** Delores Rohlf

**CHILD READER**  
 None  
 None  
 None  
 None

**FLOWERS:** Women's Fellowship Exec Board

**GREETERS:** Darren & Lisa Lenz,  
 Betty Ann Miller, Jerry Meier

**USHERS:** John Mathias, Maury Krob,  
 Ricky Shumaker, Rob Shumaker,  
 Scott Kramer, Cody Bohlmann

**ELDERS SERVING COMMUNION:**  
 (First brings elements, second assists, third & fourth help)

**Jan 5**  
 1. Greg Hipple, 2. Sheryl Gregory  
 3. Rusty Schroeder, 4. Alice Whitlatch

**DEACONS COUNTING OFFERING:**  
 Jan Esbeck & Ron Challis

**COFFEE & COOKIE HOSTS**  
 (Please refrain from making treats with  
 peanuts, due to peanut allergies, and consider  
 bringing something for those with diabetes.)

**Jan 5** Alice Whitlatch, Gary Lausen,  
 Joel Meier, Jerry Meier, Sheryl Gregory

**Jan 12** Jared & Whitney Gehrs,  
 Aaron & Katie Kelly, Angie Hodges,  
 Jay & Viki Meier, Doug & LuAnn Davis

**Jan 19** Nancy Mathias, Carolyn Siders  
 Jake & Teresa Bohlmann,  
 John Mathias, Dustin & Megan Mason

**Jan 26** Potluck Lunch  
 Larry & Sharon Hodgden  
 Jennifer Hodgden  
 Jessica Gaertner  
 Jeremy Hodgden

**BIRTHDAYS**

<i>Jan 1</i> Gene Morrow	<i>Jan 19</i> Scarlette Arensdorf Vanessa Fraseur
<i>Jan 2</i> Sean Odeen	<i>Jan 20</i> Betty Emrich Sandy Mente Dot Schulz
<i>Jan 6</i> Mary Clark Jerry Meier	<i>Jan 21</i> Eleanor Pitt
<i>Jan 7</i> Hattie Gillespie	<i>Jan 23</i> Joyce Hakeman
<i>Jan 8</i> Wes Miller Devon Pirrie	<i>Jan 24</i> Holden Griebat Gio Holden-Clayton Jaxson Koele Keaton Koele
<i>Jan 10</i> Karis Faust Dan Meier	<i>Jan 25</i> Cliff Mente Clint Mente Randy Shumaker Mike Wagner
<i>Jan 15</i> Logan Gaul	<i>Jan 27</i> Donna Young
<i>Jan 16</i> Jan Kramer Beth Looker	<i>Jan 29</i> Caden Meier
<i>Jan 17</i> Doug Bulger Ken Herring	
<i>Jan 18</i> Jennie Cecena	

**ANNIVERSARIES**

*Jan 11*  
 Bob & Elaine Butterbrodt

*Jan 14*  
 Mark & Sharon Niles

*Jan 20*  
 Scott & Jan Kramer

*Jan 24*  
 Bruce & Barb Cary  
 Gene & Joyce Morrow

**Inclement Weather**  
**Cancellations will be on KCRG.**  
**If Tipton School is cancelled,**  
**then the office will be closed.**



Singing Silent Night at the Christmas Pageant on Dec 15: Caroline Wright, Addison Mente, Addi Lemburg, Lanie Mason, Callie Bohlmann, Avery Mente, Jayana Bower, Brooks Bower, Harper Lemburg, Avery Hodges, Avery Kelly, (hidden: Jay Mason)

**January**

Wed, Jan 1 Offices Closed

Thu, Jan 2 10:00a-2:00p Volunteer-Staffed Office Hours  
 11:00a Lion's Club Lunch  
 8:00p AA

Fri, Jan 3 8:00a First Friday

**Sun, Jan 5** 9:00a **Sunday School**  
 10:00a **Worship, Communion,**  
 11:00a **Coffee & Cookies Fellowship**  
 6:00p Cedar Cty Bicycle Coalition Mtg

Mon, Jan 6 6:30p Lion's Den Meeting  
 6:30p Girl Scouts Meeting

Wed, Jan 8 8:30a Mary Circle Meeting @ Family Rest  
 2:30p Confirmation Class  
 Youth Group (See box)  
 6:00p Christian Ed Meeting  
 7:00p Church Council Meeting

Thu, Jan 9 6:00p Webelos 2 Den Meeting  
 8:00p AA

Sat, Jan 11 11:00a Shared Blessings Meal @ UMC

**Sun, Jan 12** 9:00a **Sunday School**  
 10:00a **Worship**  
 11:00a **Coffee & Cookie Fellowship**

Tue, Jan 14 6:00p Wolves Den Meeting  
 6:00p Webelos 1 Den Meeting

Wed, Jan 15 2:30p Confirmation Class  
 Youth Group (See box)  
 6:30p Bear's Den Meeting

Thu, Jan 16 6:30p Lion's Club Supper  
 8:00p AA

Sat, Jan 18 9:00a Food Pantry @ Foursquare

**Sun, Jan 19** 9:00a **Sunday School**  
 10:00a **Worship**  
 11:00a **Coffee & Cookies Fellowship**

**Mon, Jan 20** 2:30p **Blood Drive**

Tue, Jan 21 6:00p Tiger's Den Meeting

Wed, Jan 22 9:00a Women's Fellowship Exec Board  
 2:30p Confirmation Class  
 Youth Group (See box)

Thu, Jan 23 8:00p AA

Sat, Jan 25 11:00a Shared Blessings Meal @ UMC

**Sun, Jan 26** 9:00a **Sunday School**  
 10:00a **Worship**  
 11:00a **Potluck & Annual Meeting**

Mon, Jan 27 6:30p Girl Scout Meeting

Tue, Jan 28 6:00p Scout Pack Meeting

Wed, Jan 29 2:30p Confirmation Class  
 Youth Group (See box)

Thu, Jan 30 8:00p AA

**YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE**

*Held at Calvary Foursquare*

**5:00p Middle School Youth Group**  
**6:30p Supper**  
**7:00p High School Youth Group**

**John Mathias**  
**Council President**  
**(319) 430-5100**

**First**

*United Church of Christ*

600 MULBERRY STREET  
 TIPTON, IOWA 52772-1835

Rev. Kerri Sandusky  
 pastor@firstucctipton.org

(563) 886-6361  
 firstucctipton.org  
 office@firstucctipton.org