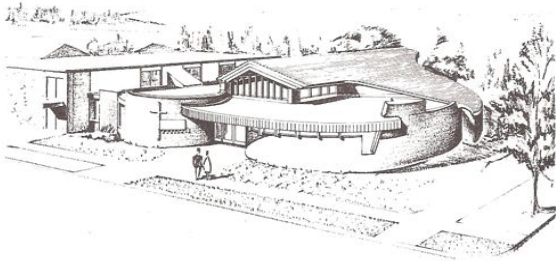


December 2019

# Matters of Faith

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**Faith United Church of Christ  
1001 5th Street Int'l Falls, Mn  
218-283-2486**

**Saturday Worship 3:00 p.m.**

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## Pastor's Notes -

I've noticed I began getting notices of Black "Friday" sales about November 15<sup>th</sup>. While it is nice to be reminded that Christmas is coming, especially the older I get, this reminds me that the real meaning of Christmas is to spend money. But to me that isn't my biggest concern going into this Christmas Season. My biggest concern is the tone of the nation this year with angry words, sentiments and even hatred directed at other people. The voices of Angels are being drowned out, even by voices from churches of anger and hatred. Is there any room for such silly ideas as PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO ALL PEOPLE? Politicians, media folk shouting out their accusations in the voices of anger are over powering the voices of messengers sent by God, calling on us to love one another, as Christ loved us. Unfortunately good people are more willing to take up the words of anger while ignoring the words of love, hope, joy and peace that the Christmas season is supposed to bring, especially when motivated by threats and fear they generate.

While I wish they would change their style and message, I don't necessarily put all the blame on the politicians and media folk. They are just doing their jobs to get more money(see above). The final watch dog of our system of Government is supposed to be the people with moral guidance provided by the church. When churches tolerate an individuals style based on misinformation, and immoral behavior, because it wins them victories in this world, while ignoring the higher standards Jesus set for us, I truly worry where we are going in this country.

It is up to us as those claiming the Name of Jesus to set the standards for society's behavior and to work together to set the tone for this Holiday Season. That starts with us obeying the most basic of moral teachings. "DO ONTO OTHERS AS WE WOULD HAVE THEM DO ON TO US." Why should others respect our holidays, institutions and beliefs, if we don't set the example by respecting their beliefs, their holidays and most importantly who and what they are. They don't have to agree with us for us to respect them. "Peace on earth, Goodwill to all" will not and cannot exist if we in the church will not honor all people and model that behavior for all the world to see. This is especially

true if we ignore the basics of our faith at this time of year. The Angels gave this message to one of the most humble and lowly groups of people in the culture of that time. We must carry their message back to the leaders of our culture and demand that they hear them and follow them, even if the people aren't part of the church. May we all dedicate ourselves to this during this Holiday and Holy Season and demonstrate to the world that our Christian Faith is not just something we pay lip service to. Rather it is the way we live our lives for all the world to see. May you all have a Merry and Joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year...*Pastor John*

p.s. --- ANYONE INTERESTED?

After the start of the New Year I am considering a brief Bible Study based on material from the National UCC. One discusses what the Bible means in the UCC Tradition and how the Bible is viewed. My plan is for this resource to provide the basis for two or three discussions on the place of the Bible in the UCC. The second resource takes a brief look at 8 passages where different commentators look at how the concept of God still speaking effects how we look at these text and the entire Bible message. My plan is to cover these in about four weekly discussions. If you are interested please let me know. All of these could be offered in all churches. I am figuring there will be a charge of \$5 to \$6 dollars to purchase both works. There will be a few available if someone can't afford the cost. Let me know of your interest ASAP.



**Treasury Notes:**

Thanksgiving 2019 – we are so thankful for the people of this church! In just a couple years, we have worked together to turn our financial status around and are better prepared to take on the challenges of an uncertain future! But we shall endeavor to “Share God’s Love” in every way we are able.

If you ‘pledge’ to the ongoing support of the church, It is now time to submit your 2020 pledge. Pledge cards are available on the table in the Narthex, and can be returned to the office anytime before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Our budget process for the new year has begun, so thanks in advance for your response! Of course, we appreciate all donations, whether scheduled or not.

Unfortunately, we have somehow overlooked our commitment to the 2019 Minnesota Conference annual membership dues. To date, our members have donated only \$195 of our \$820 commitment (\$10 per member) and the balance will be taken from our general fund. So if you have taken care of your own dues already, please accept our thanks! And if you would still like to submit your \$10, we would appreciate your doing that before December 15<sup>th</sup> so we can submit payment before 2019 ends.

Thank You! *Julie Joslyn*, Treasurer





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Faith United Church has an active prayer chain. If you have prayer requests for someone, or yourself, call the church office at 283-2486 or Norma Krats at 285-7015. You must have permission to put someone on the chain...either from the person, or from a close relative. They will remain on the prayer chain list until a request to remove them is made.

To put someone on the list for Sunday bulletin prayers, call the church office at 283-2486. People will be on the list for one week only, unless you ask that they remain on the list. In that case, please call back when they can be removed.

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- Tuesday, **Dec. 3rd** - 9:30 a.m., decorating church for Christmas Holiday.
  - Saturday, **Dec. 7th** - after worship service, Pot Luck.
  - Wednesday, **Dec. 11th** - 10:30 a.m., Cookies for Shut-Ins (bring cookies and package them.)
  - Saturday, **Dec. 14th** - after worship service, Christmas Party (bring 5-wrapped \$1.00 gifts per person for the dice game).
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### **Contact the Church:**

*Email:* [faithuccifalls@gmail.com](mailto:faithuccifalls@gmail.com)  
*Web:* [www.faithuccifalls.org](http://www.faithuccifalls.org)  
*Facebook:* Faith United Church, UCC  
*Phone:* 283-2486

### **Contact Pastor John:**

*Email:* [rrrparish@gmail.com](mailto:rrrparish@gmail.com)  
*Mailing:* POBox 697 Baudette, MN 56623  
*Cell:* 218-434-0845  
*Office:* 218-634-2000  
*Home:* 218-634-1323

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MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY NEW YEAR





# December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>3</b> 9:30am Church Decorating	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 3:00pm Worship Service +PotLuck
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 5-6:30pm Ruby'sPantry	<b>10</b> 10:00am Finance Mtg.	<b>11</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe 10:30am Cookies for Shut-Ins	<b>12</b> 12:00pm. Elephant Eaters 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 3:00pm Worship Service +Christmas Party
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>17</b> 11:30am Council Mtg.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00am Men's Club At Voyageur 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	<b>25</b> <i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i>	<b>26</b> 10:00am Evangelism & Membership Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>31</b> <i>NEW YEAR'S EVE</i>				



# January 2020 (tentative)

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

			<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	<b>9</b> 12:00pm. Elephant Eaters 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5-6:30pm Ruby's Pantry 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>14</b> 10:00am Finance Mtg. 11:30am Council Mtg.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00am Men's Club At Voyageur 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 11:30am Council Mtg.	<b>22</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	<b>23</b> 10:00am Evangelism & Membership Meeting 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>31</b>	

**Faith United Church**

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[www.fathuccifalls.org](http://www.fathuccifalls.org)

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*and don't forget to  
become a fan!*

Matters of Faith is published by Faith United Church, UCC for it's members and friends

*No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.* 



*Address Correction Requested*

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