

The **EPISTLES OF FAITH**

**FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

628 Clermont Street

Antigo, Wisconsin 54409

Phone: 715-623-5717

Church E-Mail Address: [faithucc@frontier.com](mailto:faithucc@frontier.com)

Rev. Dr. Wes A. Jedras: [wjedras@hotmail.com](mailto:wjedras@hotmail.com)

Church Website: [www.antigofaithucc.org](http://www.antigofaithucc.org)

**Administrative Assistant:** Laurie Hackbarth

**Church Office Hours:** Monday Closed;

Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM; Friday - Closed

**Church Council Chair:** Sue Moseman

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**Worship:** 10:30 a.m.

***You are invited - Bring a friend!***

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**2024**

**A Story from Pastor Wes:**

**The Gentle Whisper**

Not long ago I heard a story about a young man and an old preacher. The young man had lost his job and didn’t know which way to turn. So, he went to see the old preacher.

Pacing about the preacher’s study, the young man ranted about his problem. Finally, he clenched his fist and shouted, “I’ve begged God to say something to help me. Tell me, Preacher, why doesn’t God answer?”

The old preacher, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply–something so hushed it was indistinguishable. The young man stepped across the room. “What did you say?” he asked.

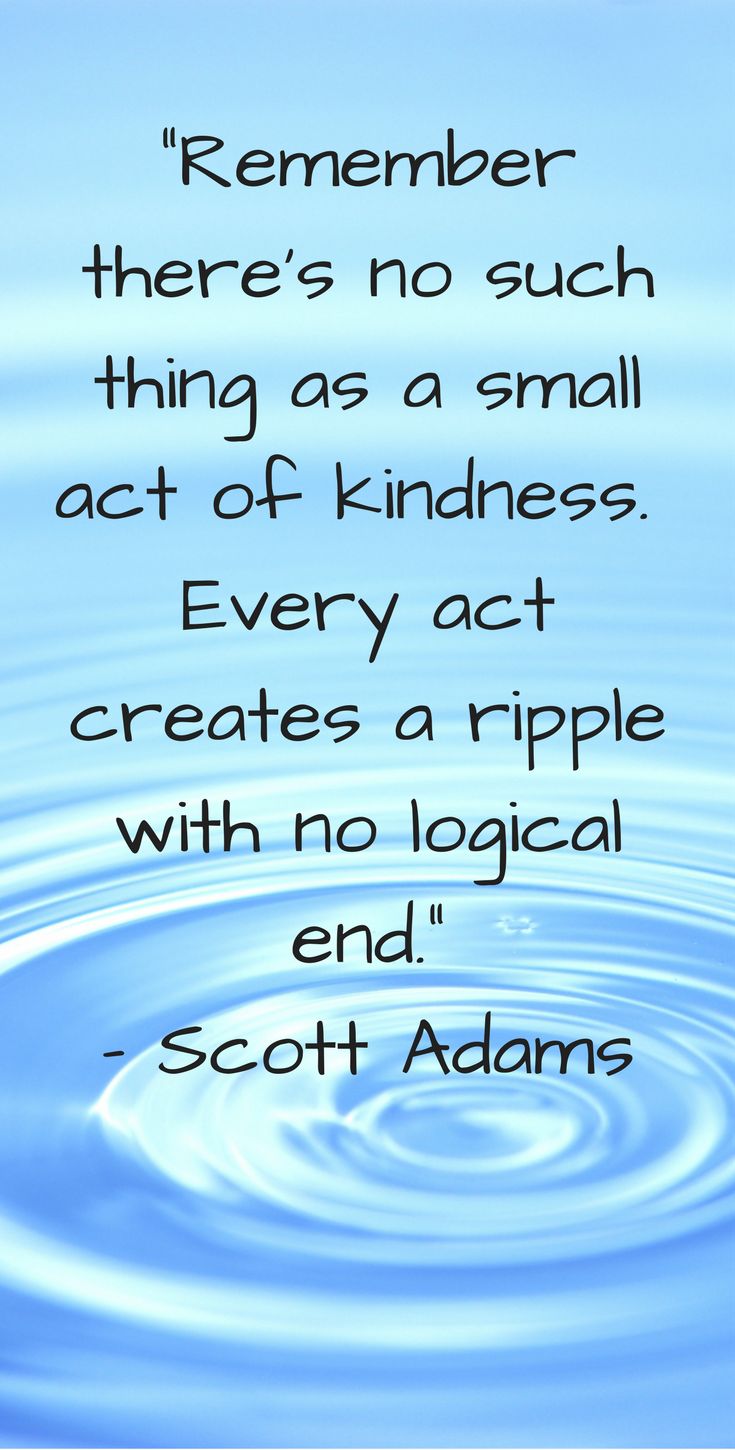
The preacher repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So, the young man moved closer until he was leaning on the preacher’s chair. “Sorry,” he said. “I still didn’t hear you.” With their heads bent together, the old preacher spoke once more. “God sometimes whispers,” he said, “so we will move closer to hear Him.”

This time the young man heard, and he understood. We all want God’s voice to thunder through the air with the answer to our problem. But God’s is the still, small voice. . .the gentle whisper.

Perhaps there’s a reason. Nothing draws human focus quite like a whisper. God’s whisper means I must stop my ranting and move close to Him, until my head is bent together with His. And then, as I listen, I will find my answer. Better still, I find myself closer to God.



**February is Month**

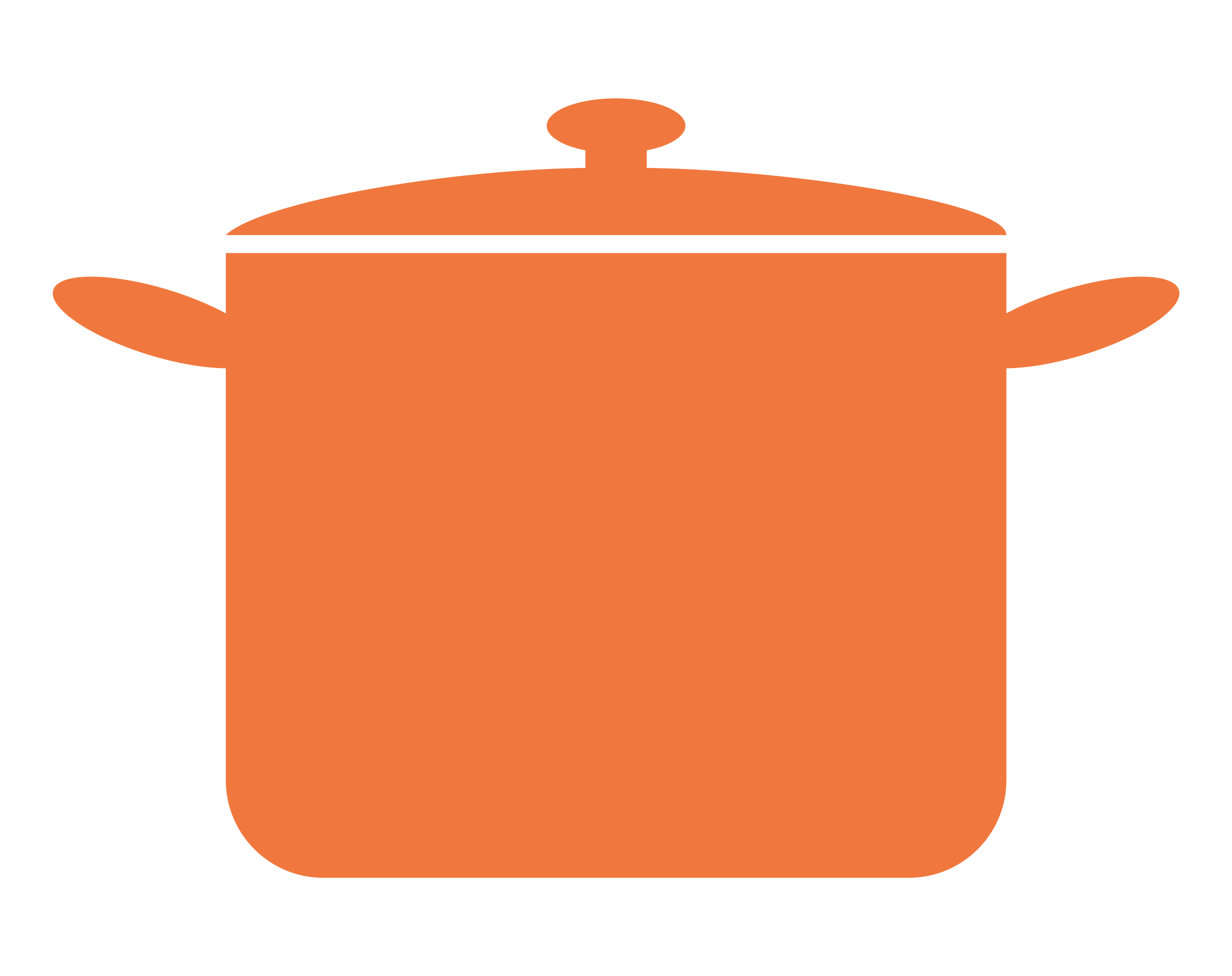
During the month of February, you should look in your heart and do something for someone who would least expect it. It need not be costly or require a lot of time. It can just be a smile to a stranger or holding the door for someone. Maybe a card to a shut-in or a care package to a soldier. Offer to grocery shop for someone that is unable to. At the store, let someone waiting in line behind you take your place at the checkout register or at the coffee shop pay for the person behind you. Take a meal to someone who is sick or cook a meal for a family with a new baby. It could just be putting something straight that another has left messy. You could pick up the phone and call a friend or relative you have not talked to for a long time. The food pantry or humane society can always use supplies and volunteers. You decide what to do and when to do it and maybe just maybe it will put a smile on your face too.

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Church Council

Meeting

Sunday, February 18th

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Faith United Church of Christ’s 2023 Annual Report are available on the counter in the annex.

Potluck

Sunday, February 25th

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Ash Wednesday Service

February 14th

@ 7 p.m.

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Birthdays

6. Michelle Blahnik 15. Melissa Gallenberg

8. Mara Wurtinger 16. Derek Mincho

14. Roy Gallenberg 19. Dennis Schroeder

15. Corey Andes

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(Members and Special Friends of the Church) Herman & Alma Albrecht; the family of Donna Brettingen; Kelly Derlein; Tom McKinnon; Diane Montour; Ashley Wurtinger

(Family/friends of members) Pete Ballas; Chris Carlson; Donna Carlson; Ed Hilger; and Bob Mackiewicz; Lolly Olsen

We pray for our military, especially Kassandra Derlein; Ben Glawoki; Padraic Kelly; and William Ryan Kelly for their protection and safe return, as well as healing for those who have been injured and are recovering.

We pray for the people suffering from the tragedies of war and for the people recovering from any natural disasters.

An Inspiring Story of Kindness

Two boys walked down a road that led through a field. The younger of the two noticed a man toiling in the fields of his farm, his good clothes stacked neatly off to the side.

The boy looked at his older friend and said, “Let’s hide his shoes so when he comes from the field, he won’t be able to find them. His expression will be priceless!” The boy laughed.

The older of the two boys thought for a moment and said, “The man looks poor. See his clothes? Let’s do this instead: Let’s hide a silver dollar in each shoe and then we’ll hide in these bushes and see how he reacts to that, instead.”

The younger companion agreed to the plan and they placed a silver dollar in each shoe and hid behind the bushes. It wasn’t long before the farmer came in from the field, tired and worn. He reached down and pulled on a shoe, immediately feeling the money under his foot.

With the coin now between his fingers, he looked around to see who could have put it in his shoe. But no one was there. He held the dollar in his hand and stared at it in disbelief. Confused, he slid his other foot into his other shoe and felt the second coin. This time, the man was overwhelmed when he removed the second silver dollar from his shoe.

Thinking he was alone, he dropped to his knees and offered a verbal prayer that the boys could easily hear from their hiding place. They heard the poor farmer cry tears of relief and gratitude. He spoke of his sick wife and his boys in need of food. He expressed gratitude for this unexpected bounty from unknown hands.

After a time, the boys came out from their hiding place and slowly started their long walk home. They felt good inside, warm, changed somehow knowing the good they had done to a poor farmer in dire straits. A smile crept across their souls.