



FIRST CHURCH UNITED
 1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776
 Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446
 Pastor, Marian Hart
 Secretary, Katie Thrasher
 June 2014



Dear Friends in Christ,

I recently got to visit and tour some of the Scattergood school and farm. We had been forewarned that we would observe 15 minutes of silence before lunch. Believe it or not I was really looking forward to that experience.

The first thing I observed upon arrival was a group of students sitting in the grass inside a sheep pen. I was both envious and curious, hoping we might get to join them. Instead we were welcomed into the meeting house.

After some introductions and opening words, the time for quiet began. The students started gathering, arriving in silence. I closed my eyes and opened my ears and hands to receive whatever God might care to send my way. It was great to have the opportunity to sit and let the world go by around us. And listening to the interstate traffic, it was obvious how the world's busyness never lets up. As latecomers came into the meeting house, their footsteps seemed extra loud; and I almost resented the disturbance. A student to my left released a heavy sigh as he sat down. I thought, "Yes, that's what it feels like when you pause before God. You let it all out in relief, or surrender, or need, or joy, or wonder."

As silence was broken by announcements, we were guided to the lunch room. I sat with a man who had said that if we wanted to talk about Quakerism, he'd love to do so. One remark has stuck with me, "We believe that the Divine is accessible to everyone." Because of this, anyone who has something to share in the midst of silence does so. Usually the silence would be much longer than our 15 minutes and one or several would have had something to say.

A few days later, I read an article about the ten top ways to make yourself happy. One of them was to go outside for 20 minutes. One was to meditate. One was to exercise. I also read about how children learn so much better in outdoor classrooms. I've seen evidence of that in Brazil, in the Durant elementary school, and on Facebook concerning West Liberty FFA kids. No wonder I left Skattergood feeling good. No wonder my prayer times on the walking trail energize me.

So, as you vacation, or staycation this summer, keep in touch with the Divine. Inside, outside, in silence, alone, with others, singing in the car, in church, it doesn't matter. What matters is you stay connected. I do hope you will join us from time to time on Sunday mornings. We'll be here.

In His Service,
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD		
May 2014		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
May 4	\$5,891.00	74
May 11	\$2,260.00	70
May 18	\$1,047.00	56
May 25	\$10,751.00	44

LECTIONARY

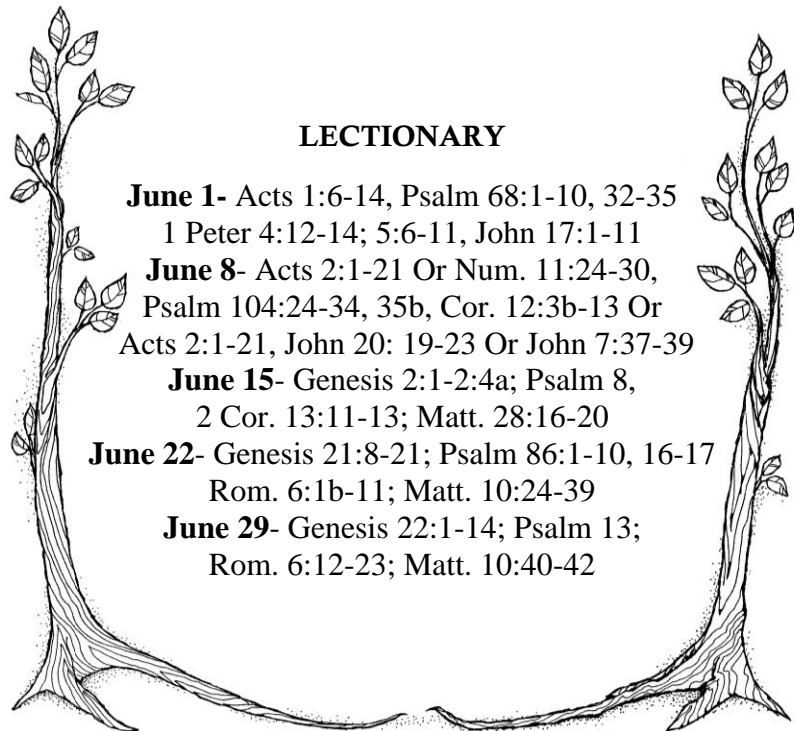
June 1- Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

June 8- Acts 2:1-21 Or Num. 11:24-30,
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Cor. 12:3b-13 Or
 Acts 2:1-21, John 20: 19-23 Or John 7:37-39

June 15- Genesis 2:1-2:4a; Psalm 8,
 2 Cor. 13:11-13; Matt. 28:16-20

June 22- Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
 Rom. 6:1b-11; Matt. 10:24-39

June 29- Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;
 Rom. 6:12-23; Matt. 10:40-42



Christian Education

The May Kids W.O.W. was a fun one! We had more kids than usual which led to more laughter, games, and fun for the kids. After the pizza meal (their favorite!) the kids made windsocks for Pentecost, talked about their summer plans, and had a great time being kids at their church.

Vacation Bible School will be held August 4-8 this year. More information to come!



Short & sweet: There are no summer choirs, but that doesn't mean there is nothing going on musically at our summer services! In June, we'll enjoy a Worship Team Sunday. We are especially fortunate this year to have a former organ student, Zachary Archer, offer to play on occasion! We may not always have choirs, but we will always have music. We look forward to sharing some summer music together!

SPIRIT of GENEROSITY-Leaving a Legacy
Prayerfully consider including First Church United in your will. A Charitable bequest is a way in which we can leave a legacy and express our faith and values to the church. The church benefits from gifts that provide for future generations. For questions, please contact Tom Brooke.



ROAD TRIP

The June visit to Oaknoll will be on Thursday the 12th. Meet at the church at 11:00 to carpool. We will share lunch, a short bible study, and lots of fellowship.

FAIR TIME IS FAST APPROACHING!

Beginning June 1, the sign up sheets will be on the buffet in the fellowship for volunteers to work our church's fair stand.

Those who attended the planning meeting designated Wed. July 9th as cleaning the stand evening. All who can help, we will meet at 6:00.

Pulled pork and Adam's Rib meat preparation will be July 11th, 12th, 13th. Look for sign up sheets with

times and type of help needed. Lori Brooke is pulled pork chair and Arnie Hart is Adam's Rib chair.

Our fair stand has been a long-standing way to raise money for mission giving as well as keep our church visual in the community. Fries and pies, here we come!

OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY

May 1, 2014



The monthly Official Board meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Tom Probst.

In attendance were: Karen Nortman, Syd Harned, Margaret Barnhart, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart and Secretary Katie Thrasher.

Those not in attendance were: Jan McCrabb, Tom Brooke, Ken Noble, Bill Koellner and Darren Brooke.

Devotion – Pastor Marian read excerpt from Sitting Through God School post.

Approval of Docket: move to approve docket 1st Syd H. 2nd Karen N. unanimously approved by Board.

Approval of Minutes: move to approve minutes as amended 1st Syd H. 2nd Margaret B. unanimously approved by Board.

Treasurer's Report: Keith Barnhart gave the Treasurer's report.

Keith did not have to borrow from savings in April.

Keith is going to open an account at MidWestOne Bank to help facilitate a gift of stock shares.

13th Month Campaign money is coming in. Dinette Myers will keep track of these contributions.

Endowment Fund – the check to the Board has not been written yet.

Keith will call Presbytery and let them know the mission check will come around June as voted on at the April Board meeting.

Starting of March balance	\$ 281.19
Receipts	\$ 9,078.66
Subtotal	\$ 9,359.85
Disbursements	\$ 7,808.59
Ending Balance	\$ 1,551.26
Board checking balance	\$ 1,456.26

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report 1st Margaret B., 2nd Syd H. unanimously approved by Board.

Co-Chair's Report – From co-chair (Koellner)

1. I am working with Jarrod Collins of Collins Concrete for the driveway and patio. I also asked him to look at some broken sidewalk on the property, and if anyone has additional items, please let me know. The bids will be

divided into driveway (kitchen funds); patio (funds provided by Stagg estate for patio); and sidewalk, etc by Church Board funds.

2. Have talked to Dane Lovell about two leaks in kitchen, but they are not fixed yet.

3. Awaiting list of items by Brookes (Darren and Dillon) to set church clean up. I would like to break down areas so that families could take areas to clean, paint etc.

4. Joe Myers has volunteered again to be treasurer of the endowment fund. at the last board meeting, I said if no one volunteered by the next board meeting, we would contract it out. Martin Brown, CPA, said he would do it as he does others in the community. The by-laws of the endowment fund state that the endowment fund committee selects within their own ranks, chairman, recording secretary and treasurer. The endowment fund will select Joe Myers and inform the board of that decision.

From Co-Chair (Probst)

All, I have removed the island from the old kitchen. One cabinet came out semi- intact, the others came out in pieces. The sinks are still in the kitchen, I plan to take them to the REstore store in the future, unless told otherwise. The semi intact cabinet is still there too, pending a decision on it. I brought the counter top home. I don't think it is my call to decide about the plumbing and electrical coming out of the floor. Tom

Pastor's Report- approved by consensus.

Old Business:

Grounds/Building Use Committee- Committee submitted check list for suggestions. Syd H. will update check list with suggestions Board came up with and email out updated check list next week.

Endowment Fund Committee member – Jan Koellner has volunteered.

Community Garden –Bob Dewar has tilled the gardens. Board gives discretion to Garden Committee to purchase plants, fencing and other items needed for garden with money previously granted by Endowment Committee.

Old Kitchen – Tom P. recommends that the pipes in the utility room are capped off that go into the old kitchen. He will look into who can do that.

New Business:

Spring Clean-up: Saturday work day has been tabled till more details are received. Darren and Dillon Brooke have made a list of work that needs to be done. Dillon B. cleaned out the gutters and Darren and Dillon worked on single restroom to make ADA compliant. More work needs to be done and their estimate is \$700 for work.

Elder on Call for June – Pastor Marian will ask Dave B.

Pastor Marian's laptop- Darren B. will deliver a computer for Pastor Marian this week. Pastor Marian will have Richard Hart set it up.

Board thanks Memorial Fund for new signs around church, outside and in building.

Mural has been started by new kitchen.

Committee and Ministry Reports:

Necrology: Shirley Lehman, April 11, 2014 (member), Shelbe Axline, April 21, 2014 (non-member)

Christian Ed. Committee – Last Sunday School is May 25th and final Kids WOW of school year is May 28th. Pastor Marian borrowed some curriculum from the Presbytery Library for the committee to review for 2014-2015 Sunday school and WOW year.

Vacation bible school will be August 4-8 this year. The theme has not been picked yet.

Stewardship Committee - Our “13 month Campaign” to raise additional funds to cover snow removal and heating bills from last winter is under way. A big thank you to the 3 folks who have returned their offering envelope! Please prayerfully consider being a part of this campaign.

Congregational Life Report to the FCU Board – May, 2014

Committee met 4-19-2014 following preparations for the Easter Brunch.

Present – Ken & Brenda Wright, Maggie Christy, Gary Hahn, Marian Hart, Arnie Hart, Marilyn Ruegsegger.

The main purpose of the meeting was to plan for monthly activities for the rest of the year:

The annual Easter brunch was served to approximately 50 people following the early service.

May – Recognition of graduates May 18. Reception during coffee hour with cake and punch. We have only one graduate this year—Kyle Miller.

June—Church in Fellowship Hall. June 8th Family Day with potluck following worship. Bob Dewar and Arnie Hart offered to prepare meat.

July—Bob and Arnie will be preparing ribs for sale at picnic in the park. Will plan to prep Friday or Saturday prior. Hamburger and pork will be prepared at the church for the fair stand—dates to be determined.

August—Worship in Fellowship Hall Aug. 24 with a cookout at the church. Jason Thrasher baptism at Hart's cabin if weather and river are calm – no date set.

September—October Suggested Bonfire and hayrack ride and Movie Night.

November—Pre-sell smoked turkeys and hams or meals.
Church and public Thanksgiving meals
December—Traditional Christmas activities with
Birthday party for Jesus.
January, February, March—some suggestions were
offered which are being investigated
Joe Myers has offered to become a part of this
committee, as he will be taking care of the financial part.
We look forward to his participation.

Move to adjourn – approved by general consensus.
Prayer concerns shared
Closing Prayer
Meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.
Next meeting is scheduled for June 5 at 6:30 p.m.



Church Workers

June 1

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

COMMUNION SERVERS:

None needed. Communion done by Intinction

USHER: Ken Ruegsegger

CANDLE LIGHTER: Ryan Noble

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bill & Jan Koellner

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

June 8

Pentecost

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

COMMUNION SERVERS:

None needed. Communion done by Intinction

USHERS: Dean Phelps

CANDLE LIGHTER: Alice Thrasher

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR: POTLUCK

Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Marcy Dewar

June 15

Father's Day

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

COMMUNION SERVERS:

None needed. Communion done by Intinction

USHER: Ken Ruegsegger

CANDLE LIGHTER: Payton Murphy

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Betty Burton & Louise McCoy

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Blaine Williams

June 22

USHER: Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

CANDLE LIGHTER: Chance Thrasher

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Ken & Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: The Thrasher Family

June 29

USHER: Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

CANDLE LIGHTER: Mikayla Gee

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks & Bud Barber

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Not needed

Communion Preparer's for June are

Ken & Marilyn Ruegsegger



4th Audrey Noring

6th Joel Murphy

6th Courtney Wendt

8th Jodi Kelly

9th Keith Barnhart

10th Charles Brooke

11th Walt Lehman

11th Katherine Willson

13th Dustin Noble

13th Lisa Murphy

14th Linda Minor

15th Jill Koellner Perkins

17th Katie Thrasher

18th Ella May Hambright

19th Dean Phelps

24th Brent Bengé

27th Brian Bengé

27th Vince Ottaway

27th Brandon Harned

30th June Phelps



Happy Anniversary

2nd Ken & Linda Minor

7th Bob & Linda Foor

15th Randy & Sandy Henderson

15th Ken & Brenda Wright

18th Vince & Letha Ottaway

20th Gary & Joyce Hahn

22nd Tom & Susan Lehman

23rd James & Jeni Laughlin

24th Joel & Lisa Murphy

25th Kurt & Jessi Simon

28th Mike & Susan Deahr

30th Blaine & Jodi Kelly

FIRST CHURCH UNITED BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2014-2016

OFFICIAL BOARD

<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
Tom Probst (2yr term)	Karen Nortman	Margaret Barnhart
Syd Harned	Tom Brooke	Darren Brooke
Bill Koellner	Jan McCrabb	Ken Noble

BOARD OF DEACONS

<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
Ken Noble	Evelyn Wilkerson	Tom Brooke
Jo Noble	Betty Burton	Mary Pat Brooke
Ken Ruegsegger		

COMMUNION SPEAKING ELDERS

<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
Mary Larson	Ken Noble	Tom Brooke
Jan Koellner	Keith Barnhart	Mary Pat Brooke

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
Blaine Kelly	Rob Miller	Emily Johnson
Susie Lehman		

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE—Marian Hart

<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
Letha Ottaway	Margaret Barnhart	Missy Johnson

PERSONNEL RELATIONS COMMITTEE—Secretary, Janitor and ancillary staff

<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
Butch Nortman	Syd Harned	Vince Ottaway

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
Katie Thrasher	Amy Lehman	Jan Koellner

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
Arnie Hart	Maggie Christy	Ken & Brenda Wright
Marilyn Ruegsegger	Gary Hahn	Mike & Sue Deahr

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2014</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2015</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
Ken Ruegsegger	Brenda Miller	Jim Kiwala	Vince Ottaway	Butch Nortman	Dillon Brooke
Carolyn Probst					

TRUSTEES

SUBMITTED BY 2013 NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Syd Harned, Lori Brooke and Brenda Miller
NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2014- Joe Myers & Jodi Kelly