



FIRST CHURCH UNITED

1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776

Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446

Pastor, Marian Hart

Secretary, Katie Thrasher

September 2014



Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm reading a fascinating book called "Last Child in the Woods". It talks about the alarming trend of children not playing in the midst of nature. It has prompted my reminiscing of all the ways my brother and I played outside. We built tree houses, creek stomped, went sledding, and explored every nook and cranny of the 17 acres or so that our house stood on. We knew all the neat junk hidden in the out buildings, what kind of treasures were buried in the old dump in one hollow, how to find our way out of a corn field, where to avoid the bees' nests, and were allowed to explore other people's land.

We invented games with the materials at hand. We played 'can't touch the ground tag' in a corn crib, dodge ball in trees with 'it' on the ground, 'on the roof,' a form of two person volleyball without a net, had shooting tournaments with pellet guns, rode our bikes 8 miles to gather and play baseball all afternoon (just for fun), or organized a dirt clod fight at the construction site down the alley.

I had the good fortune of a puttering dad who let me hang out in the garage. I built stuff out of his scraps, painted murals on the walls, played with kittens, and camped out in our carport loft. He built a little 'tractor' out of odds and ends of car and truck parts and that's how I learned to drive. We went fishing a lot and went for drives 'exploring' abandoned houses. Dad liked to hunt but spent more time lying on a grassy hillside than shooting animals. We hunted mushrooms and wildflowers.

When I was in the daycare biz, I began noticing the inability to use imagination as much as we always did. Children's games, sports, electronics, and time was becoming scheduled and structured so much, they seemed to forget how to just go outside and play. I thought I was getting old and opinionated when I started hearing myself harp about how much better it was when I was a kid. Now according to this book, there are studies, statistics, and diagnoses to back it up. Doctors have actually started prescribing outdoor play time for children with 'nature deficit disorder.'

This is one reason church camp is so important for our young people and for us, too. We can reconnect with the wild out of doors, and our Creator. In doing so, we will be happier and healthier. Twenty minutes outside lowers blood pressure, cholesterol, reduces stress, depression, and builds up our immune systems. Even though, as a kid, I suffered from extreme hay fever, I preferred being outside. I still do.

My mom used to tell us to 'go outside and blow the stink off.' I never dreamt how much of a truism that was/is. The antiseptic stink of fluorescent lighting, artificially controlled temperature, computers, smart phones, and TVs robs us of as much as it benefits us. Many kids will never experience a tree house because their housing communities have outlawed them. They will learn about plants and animals from reading or watching instead of experiencing. This makes me quite sad.

If you get a chance, go outside and 'blow the stink off.' Play, invent, experience the great gift of the out of doors. Stop being so structured and scheduled and explore spontaneously. Your mind and body will thank you.

To God be the glory,
Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

August 2014

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
August 3	\$2,070.00	47
August 10	\$1,595.00	90
August 17	\$2,757.00	54
August 24	\$860.00	38
August 31	NA	NA

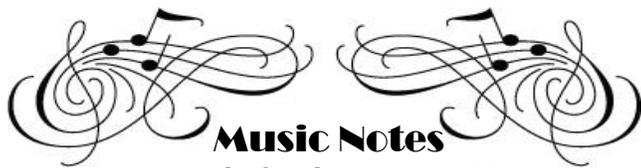
LECTIONARY

September 7 – Exod. 12:1-14; Psalm 149;
Rom. 13:8-14; Matt. 18:15-20

September 14- Exod. 14:19-31; Ps. 114 or
Exod. 15:1b-11, 20-21; Rom. 14:1-12;
Matt. 18:21-35

September 21- Exod. 6:2-15;
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Phil. 1:21-30;
Matt. 2:1-16

September 28- Exod. 17:1-7;
Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16;
Phil. 2:1-13; Matt. 21:23-32



Are you ready for the ever-exciting return of the choirs? We will make our grand entrances in September - both the Chancel and Chime Choirs and the Worship Team, and we will have a baptism to celebrate in song! Join us early on September 7th for gathering music. You will be able to choose the hymns we sing before the service.

Here is the schedule for September. The schedule for the remainder of our choir year will be available at our first rehearsals. See you there!

Wed., Sept. 3: Chime Choir - 6:50 to 7:30
Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., Sept. 7 - CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Sept. 10: (same as Sept. 3)

Sun., Sept. 14 - CHIME CHOIR

Wed., Sept. 17: (same as Sept. 3)

Sun., Sept. 21 - WORSHIP TEAM

Wed., Sept. 24: (same as Sept. 3)

Sun., Sept. 28 - CHANCEL CHOIR

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



The freezers in the kitchen have both been found ajar recently. All of the food was thawed out for an unknown amount of time, therefore pitched. Please make sure you give all the doors on the refrigerators and freezers a little extra push and make sure they get closed all the way. Thank you.



THANK YOU to all of the lawn care folks who have mowed, weeded, and trimmed. And to all those who have cleaned, painted, hauled dirt, and gardened. And to all those who usher, greet, bake bread, and host coffee hour. And to all those who send cards, make phone calls, or visit. And to all those who work behind the scenes making our church a more attractive and inviting place to gather. And to those who are prayer warriors. And to those who give generously of their money. And to those who share their smiles, hugs, and jokes. Thank you Lord for calling us together as a church family...

CHRISTIAN ED. NEWS

The Christian Education Committee met to discuss Sunday School start up this fall. The first class will be on Sept. 7. Jason Thrasher has stepped forward to both teach Sunday School and lead WOW Kids. Sunday School will continue to meet at 10:15-ish beginning right after the Children of God moment in worship. We will be using We Believe curriculum. The first WOW Kids will be Sept. 24 beginning at 5, with a meal at 6. Parents may pick up children at 6:20.

Adult Sunday School will also begin on Sept. 7 at 9:00 am. If you have a preference or request for studying a certain book of the bible or topic, please let Pastor Marian know asap.

CONGREGATION LIFE AND WORSHIP TEAM

We will have a guest preacher on Sept. 21. Kirby Gould from the Christian Foundation will lead our worship. She will stay and join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall to speak about endowment funds, giving us an update on how other churches and the foundation

have invested successfully. Kirby is our go-to person for any questions about our endowment fund. If you have any questions or concerns about our endowment or church stewardship, please plan to join us.

The Congregational Life and Worship Team will host a potluck in the fellowship hall during Kirby's visit. Meat and dessert will be furnished. Bring a side dish to share.

PW FALL GATHERING

Oct. 4 the Presbyterian Women of East Iowa will hold their annual Fall Gathering at the Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant. Pastor Marian has been on the Coordinating Team for 12 years as the SERRV/Greater Gift volunteer, ordering and selling fair trade goods and foods. This will be her last meeting in this capacity.

Sue Dravis, formerly of Muscatine, will be the guest speaker. Sue will tell us of her recent trip to Palestine. She is a passionate peacemaking advocate for the area. If you'd like to attend, see Pastor Marian for registration information.

CARPET CLEANING

We are in the process of going room by room and cleaning the carpets. The Sanctuary, pew cushions, Narthex, and hallway have been cleaned so far (they had been adopted and paid for by members). The Fellowship Hall (\$706.24), lounge (\$142.21), offices (\$60.09 + \$34.47), and kitchen area (\$126.79) still need to be adopted. If you would like to adopt a room, or part of a room, please make checks payable to the church with Carpet Cleaning in the memo line.



Come join Camp Wyoming for a night of laughter, food, and fun as we present "The Love Boat" as a dinner theater event on October 4, 2014. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors along with you for this entertaining and light-hearted fundraiser. It is a wonderful way to support the Camp Wyoming ministry and invite others to join you.

The cost is \$25 per person, which includes the meal, show, and intermission games. Bring extra cash or your checkbook for a dessert auction and photo booth. The dinner and theater will be held at Deer Center at Camp Wyoming and begins at 6:00 p.m. Event attire is

Camp Wyoming Presents

"The Love Boat" Dinner Theater!

Come join Camp Wyoming for a night of laughter,

business casual. All ages are welcome to attend, however, no childcare will be provided.

Please RSVP by Friday, September 26th by calling the camp office at (563) 488-3893 or sending an email to office@campwyoming.net. Please be sure to include the number of people in your party. Money will be collected when you arrive at the event.

Crop Walk In October

Crop Walk Sunday, October 5th at 4:00 p.m. Walk begins at the West Liberty Country Club and ends at First Church United. Join us in helping to stop hunger one step at a time.



Fall Work Week: Please consider volunteering some time Sunday, September 7th or throughout that week to help complete the list of chores the church has. The list can be found on the buffet. Contact the church office by phone or email if you need to arrange a time to come in the church during the week.

CYG NEWS

CYG held its summer fun event with about 30 youth attending. Most had a chance to get wet and/or drench someone else.

CYG Parents Night will be Sept. 7 at First Church United from 5-7 pm. Parents of all youth joining CYG are encouraged to attend and experience what a typical CYG night is like. There will be games, announcements, registration, sign up for meals, yearly calendar of events, worship with the band, introduction to the lessons, and a meal.

CYG Kick Off will be held Sept. 14 at West Liberty Christian Fellowship from 5-7 pm. We are planning outdoor games, worship, food, and continuing registration. Cube leaders will stay after and divide all registered youth into cubes.

**OFFICIAL
BOARD SUMMARY**

August 7, 2014



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

In attendance were: Karen Nortman, Syd Harned, Margaret Barnhart, Ken Noble, Tom Brooke, Jan McCrabb, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart and Secretary Katie Thrasher.

Those not in attendance were: Bill Koellner and Darren Brooke.

Devotion – Pastor Marian read Isaiah 40 and discussion followed.

Open in prayer

Approval of Docket: move to approve docket as amended 1st Tom B. 2nd Ken N. unanimously approved by Board.

Approval of Minutes: move to approve minutes as amended 1st Ken N. 2nd Jan M. unanimously approved by Board.

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

Starting of June balance	\$ 1,602.70
Receipts	\$ 13,299.06
Subtotal	\$ 14,901.76
Disbursements	\$ 14,495.33
Ending Balance	\$ 406.43
Board checking balance	\$ 311.43

Starting of July balance	\$ 406.43
Receipts	\$ 9,862.14
Subtotal	\$ 10,268.57
Disbursements	\$ 6,990.14
Ending Balance	\$ 3,278.43
Board checking balance	\$ 3,183.43

\$850.00 has been given for carpet cleaning. The carpet cleaning bid has been received and is \$2,405.43 (bid given by Dillon Brooke - PuroClean Disaster Recovery on 7/17/14)

Received Watters Estate Fund and Endowment Interest Fund money.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report 1st Tom B. 2nd Jan M. Unanimously approved by Board.

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

The last two months have been somewhat uneventful. On the positive side - beautiful flower garden at the FCU sign in front of the church (many, many comments); great yields of food from vegetable garden for food pantry (users of pantry like the fresh food); and great Muscatine County Fair (weather and

wonderful fellowship). On the negative side - poor summer attendance at church; and only two items accomplished on list of over 40 items (bushes trimmed and driveway grass and weeds sprayed).

In early July, Keith received a bill from the insurance company which stated that we had been reduced in coverage on Sexual Misconduct Claims due to non-compliance with returning a questionnaire regarding FCU Sexual Misconduct Policies. I called both the agent in Muscatine, and the Underwriter in Ohio, both stated that for over 2 years, FCU leadership did not fill out the questionnaire and return it. Thus they reduced our coverage. I checked all the files at FCU to see that FCU, in fact, did comply with the policies, and have the information on file. I then called the Agent in Muscatine, had them send me the appropriate forms. I filled out the forms and sent them to both the Agent and the Underwriter in Ohio. (Apparently the last two board chairs never got the forms). Thus, I instituted a new policy that all mail coming into FCU, not directed to a person, would be opened by Katie Thrasher, and she would then direct the mail to the appropriate leader. This will insure that the right person gets the mail. In addition, Katie will keep track of when items are due, and remind the appropriate people to return forms when required.

Bill K

Pastor’s Report- approved by consensus. Marian mentioned that the Trustees need to look at the Manse garage door frame where salt from last winter has damaged the wood. Garage door cable has been replaced.

Ongoing Business:

Carpet Cleaning – will wait till all funds have been received by donations before cleaning begins. So far we have \$850.00 and need total of \$2,405.43. Information will go into the September newsletter to get the word out.

Review of Kitchen use- Report to Congregation will be included in the September newsletter. Katie will remind Bill K. about this.

Use of Old Kitchen – the pipes coming up from the floor have not been removed from old kitchen yet. Marian noticed a smell coming from that area today. Tom P. will inspect the smell and contact Blaine K. again about cutting the pipes in old kitchen and capping the pipes in the utility room. As soon as the the floor is ready we will use it for CYG or a classroom. There is

spare carpet available for use in this room in old Board Room. If Blaine cannot complete the pipe project Tom P. will do it.

Upright freezer is not working in the Kitchen – Blaine K. has been contacted for help.

Spring Clean-Up- Window by Pantry needs attention. Tom P. has contacted appropriate people. Darren B. told Tom B. about a leak in the new kitchen. This might be due to condensation. Bret Akers mentioned the light bulbs are needing to be replaced often. Syd suggested he date the light bulbs when he changes them so we know how often they need replacing. Tom P. will contact Kessler to look into replacing those light fixtures that need it.

Karen N. will ask Butch N. to order more light bulbs. Karen N. will ask Butch N. to add paint at the end of the new patio/driveway so people are more aware that people shouldn't park in that area.

Syd H. has an idea about painting the white walls in the choir loft. She suggested adding a border where the tape and knicks are from past decorating could be attached to the walls, then the walls could be painted. Then areas below the borders would need to be painted less often. Consensus given for Syd to contact someone for a bid on what the painting and work would cost.

Karen N. will ask Butch N. to match the paint of the areas needing repainted with computer at Fred's Feed Store.

Some jobs on the work list have been completed but not all of them. A day in September will be picked and Katie will advertise it in the bulletins and newsletter.

New Business:

Elder on Call for September- Missy Johnson

Baptism on August 31st – at Cedar River. Tom Brooke will provide Turkey Tenders. Afternoon baptism with brief “remember our own” celebration before, then baptism, then dinner. A sign up sheet will need to be started for the meat. Those coming will be asked to bring a dish to share.

Trustees – Tom P. will fix the Nursery light switch and the door leading into the changing room.

Facilities Use Committee – Question arose about the responsibilities of the Facilities Use Committee. The Board agrees that for each event a church member needs to be at church at the beginning and end of the event to check building. Tom P. suggests a Facilities Use Committee be formed for Nominating Committee needs come Nov./Dec. Suggestion that the Facilities Use Committee be a part of the Board with terms staggering along with the Board terms. Syd H. 3rd year, Tom B. 2nd year, Margaret B. 1st year will be committee till Nominating Committee meets. Practice will be that once

group approaches church and asks to use it Katie will give them the policy/forms to fill out the Katie will give those forms to the Facilities Use Committee to approve or not.

Committee and Ministry Reports:

Necrology: Audrey Noring July 1, 2014

PRC Report:

First Church United Board,

Today, 7/23/2014 the pastoral relations committee met with Pastor Marian Hart. We discussed the life of the church. Many congregational members were mentioned for prayer needs. Additionally we need to pray for the Lord to provide us with a Christian Education Director. The committee discussed the organization of the church and how we "depend" heavily on the pastor. We talked about ways to activate the members of the congregation and to increase the energy in delivering the message to our community, friends and neighbors by increasing our personal contacts with others.

The meeting closed in prayer with the group praying for our pastor, her family, congregation and for God to lead us in the direction he would have us go in our ministry to others.

Respectfully submitted,
Missy Johnson

CHRISTIAN ED. REPORT:

VBS started Monday, August 4th with 18 participants! Theme is Gangway to Galilee. Meals are being provided, served, and cleaned up by Pastor Marian, Norma Brooks and Bud Barber, Amy Kirchner, Susie Lehman, Margaret Barnhart, Marilyn Ruegsegger, Louise McCoy and Gary Hahn. Lori Brooke is helping with music, Lisa Murphy and Katie Thrasher with crafts, Pastor Marian with the message, Hannah Miller with games.

Move to adjourn –1st Ken N. 2nd Syd H. approved.

Prayer concerns shared

Closing Prayer

meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Church Workers

September 7

Communion/Chancel Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Mary Pat Brooke & Jan Koellner

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Gary Hahn, Matt Kelly, Levi Larson,
Shirley Sterner, Susie Lehman, Rob Miller

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR: Lori Brooke

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

September 14

Chime Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Evelyn Evans & Betty Burton

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Marcy Dewar

September 21

Communion/Worship Team

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Mary Pat Brooke & Jan Koellner

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Gary Hahn, Matt Kelly, Levi Larson,
Shirley Sterner, Susie Lehman, Rob Miller

USHERS: Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR: Potluck

Betty Burton & Louise McCoy

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

September 28

Chancel Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

The Kelly Family

CANDLE LIGHTER: Payton Murphy

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

Communion Preparer's for September are
Evelyn Wilkerson & Betty Burton



2nd Charlie Thrasher

4th Lewis Morrison

6th Carol Miller

7th Marsha Jacobs

8th Jeanne Hale

8th Marcy Dewar

9th Kyle Harned

11th Mary Larson

11th Jacob Johnson

12th Maggie Christy

14th Kurtis Minor

16th Dave Baker

16th Ken Noble

18th Kyle Barnhart

20th Jason Thrasher

22nd Jeanine Williams

23rd Rob Miller

24th Curt Newcomb

25th Jasmin Gardenier

25th Deepak Giri

26th Addyson Lehman

26th Jim Kiwala

29th Ron Brown

29th Scott Skubal

29th Evelyn Evans

30th Brookelyn Harned



4th Bill & Jan Koellner

9th Ryan & Tana Deahr

14th Bob & Terri Larson

25th Roger & Carolyn Bengé