



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

In the last couple weeks, I've heard in one way or another, "It's too early to think about Thanksgiving and Christmas." Then I saw a cartoonish drawing of a creature and the message, "Merry Hallowthanksmas." That led me to thinking. When is the right time for Thanksgiving? Shouldn't we give thanks every day? When is the right time to celebrate the birth of Christ? Isn't it our greatest gift every day? Halloween's ancient roots and evolution to today's horrors are interesting. Beginning as All Hallowed Eve, the night before the church remembered its martyrs and Saints made it a holiday, a holy day. The scary costumes and pumpkin carving were intended to keep away evil spirits. The hallowed (holy) is the same word we use in our Lord's prayer, hallowed be thy name. So, as these three holidays seem to rush upon us three months in a row, let us keep at least a bit of the hallowed name involved in our observances. Maybe even incorporate the three celebrations into our daily lives. And drive away the commercialism spirits to keep them holy. Just something to think about.

Be happy, be safe, be blessed. Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

October 2014

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
October 5	\$3,049.00	83
October 12	\$2,530.00	51
October 19	\$885.00	56
October 26	\$988.84	59

LECTIONARY

November 2 – Josh. 3:7-17; Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37;
 1 Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12

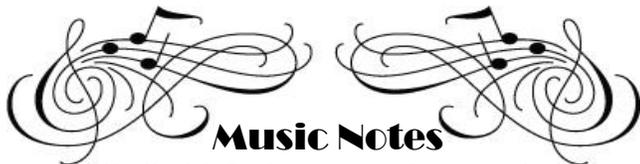
November 9- Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-7;
 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

November 16- Judg. 4:1-7; Ps. 123;
 1Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-30

November 23- Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps. 100;
 Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46

November 30- Isa. 64:1-9; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19;
 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37





It's an uphill climb! Is there any other month during the year that goes from one extreme to the other like November? We start by losing Daylight Savings Time, adding many dark hours. There is Veterans' Day (though a celebration, it is the result of some of our darkest times). But then there is Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving, an occasion set aside to praise God for all of our blessings. And, as often happens, November ends with a bright beginning - the First Sunday of Advent!

We know that music sets the tone for many special occasions and emotions. Through lyrics, it can even offer insight and perspective. As we dip into the darkness of late fall and early winter, and we turn to soft light and candles for a warm glow, turn also to the music in our church for another kind of warm glow. We can celebrate together, all that November has to offer!

(We can also celebrate with the Chime Choir at the Holiday Open House on Sun. afternoon, Nov. 23!)

Sun., Nov. 2: CHIME CHOIR

Wed., Nov. 5: Chime Choir - 6:50 to 7:30
Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., Nov. 9: CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Nov. 12: (same as Nov. 5)

Sun., Nov. 16: CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Nov. 19: (same as Nov. 5)

Sun., Nov. 23: CHIME CHOIR

Wed., Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Break - NO CHOIRS

Sun., Nov. 30: (First Sunday of Advent) WORSHIP TEAM

**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 November visit to Oaknoll will be on Thursday the 13th. Meet at the church at 11:00 to carpool. We will share lunch, a short bible study, and lots of fellowship.

Christian Education Director's Report

Hello First Church United!

Things are going great in Sunday school and Kids W.O.W. Attendance has been strong, the children are learning good things about church, God, and themselves as Christians.

We have been following a service – based routine in Sunday school. We sing songs, talk about the importance of tithing, do crafts and have a lesson each week.

At the October Kids W.O.W. we decorated pumpkins kindly donated by Gary Hahn. We then began rehearsing our Christmas play. Special thanks to Bud Barber and Norma Brooks who provided the meal for us all. Everyone enjoyed the walking tacos!

The next several weeks of Sunday school will be devoted to practicing for the Christmas play. Regular attendance will help to ensure that everyone understands their roles. So, if possible, please help to get your children to Sunday school each week!

Thanks very much for your support, Jason

CYG News

One of our favorite activities is our annual CYG Hayrack ride and bonfire! We completely filled both hay racks and had a perfect night for our ride and bonfire. We had a huge bonfire complete with hotdogs and S'mores!

This year our topics have been very interesting and have sparked some rather lively Cube discussions. So far, we have talked about TRUST and ANGER. We talked about how the Bible views these issues and how, as Christians, the best way to handle these tough situations. Our Cubes are becoming closer and bonding over these issues we all encounter.

We have 20 youth and 4 adults who will be attending Breakaway in Des Moines in November. Breakaway is an event with individual and team events where we compete against other youth groups/churches from around the State. They also have a large formal dinner and speaker along with a Praise Band.

CYG has committed to our next Mission Trip. We will be going to Indianapolis and will be working with

GROUP Mission Trips. GROUP will coordinate our activities and housing. We will join other youth groups from around the country. We have 36 youth and 8 adults committed to going on this trip. Should be another great one!

As always, we appreciate your continued support of CYG!!

Jodi Kelly
CYG Board Member
CYG Cube Leader
CYG Parent

OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY



September 4, 2014

The monthly Official Board meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Bill Koellner.

In attendance were: Karen Nortman, Tom Probst, Darren Brooke, Margaret Barnhart, Ken Noble, Tom Brooke, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart and Secretary Katie Thrasher.

Those not in attendance were: Syd Harned, Jan McCrabb

Devotion – Pastor Marian read from the book Gods Holy People by Ann Weems

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 written 1st Tom B. 2nd Ken N. unanimously approved by Board.

Co-Chair’s Report – nothing to report.

Pastor’s Report – Vacation time approved for Sept. 15-21 and Oct. 28-Nov. 2 excluding CYG time each week.

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

Starting of August balance	\$ 3,278.43
Receipts	\$ 8,573.95
Subtotal	\$ 11,852.38
Disbursements	\$ 10,761.67
Ending Balance	\$ 1,090.71
Board checking balance	\$995.7

All bills are paid. Insurance premium was lower this quarter. Music Ministry ordered items and had piano’s tuned. 13th month campaign has helped but a reminder should go out to members. \$1720.53 has been raised so far for the carpet cleaning project. The total needed to complete the project is \$2,405.43

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

Ongoing Business:

Carpet Cleaning – \$1720.53 has been raised as of 9/4/14 as reported by Treasurer Keith Barnhart. Dillon Brooke has done a great job so far!

Bid to fix windows and doors with leaking or broken glass – Tom P. reports the bids are in from Marv’s Glass. Food Pantry door - \$362.00, N. End of Fellowship Hall windows - \$495.00, West Main Entrance \$192.00, S. Entrance \$506.00. Total is \$1571.00. If we were to replace these the Board agrees the money would come from the Future Maint. of the Church (line #2103)

Review of Kitchen use- Bill K will prepare 2 reports for October. One for the newsletter and one for Stewardship Committee calling needs.

Use of Old Kitchen – Tom P. capped pipes in Utility room and ground them down to the ground in the old kitchen. Probst’s bought a new rug to go in the old kitchen. Pastor Marian cleaned out the stuff leftover from the cupboards but it still needs to be wiped down and cleaned and tables/chairs brought in. The room can then be used for a CYG classroom.

Fall Clean-Up- Sunday, Sept. 7th will begin a work week. Board updated the chore list with a few crossed off as completed and a few chores were added. List will be on the buffet for anyone to choose a chore to do for Sunday the 7th.

New Business:

Elder on Call for October- Ken Noble

Presbyterian Meeting at FCU November 14, 2015 – Presbytery of East Iowa has contacted FCU to see if we would be willing to host this meeting. The Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary would be used and a meal would be served. Need to approve expenditures to cover the upfront costs of the meal and use of the building. Motion to approve 1st Tom B., 2nd Ken N. unanimously approved by Board.

Jason Thrasher as C.E. Director – Motion to approve Jason as Sunday School Teacher and W.O.W. teacher 1st Margaret B., 2nd Darren B. Unanimously approved by Board. Rate of pay is \$11, with the thought that for every hour spend with the kids 2 hours are needed to prepare. A background check will be done as soon as possible. C.E. Committee will come up with recommended pay, training, hours to be worked per month by Nov. 1st and these guidelines will be carried over into the next calendar year. Motion to approve 1st Tom B., 2nd Ken N. Unanimously approved by Board.

Planters from Depot – There are two planters at the Depot that need to be removed. Would FCU like to use

them? If so Fred's Feed will use their equipment to move them onto the FCU property on new patio. Motion to approve church accepting planters from Steve H. and Rotary 1st Tom B., 2nd Ken N. Unanimously approved by the Board.

Advanced Planning Initiative – Chuck Coulter from Muscatine spoke with the Ministerial Association about Advanced Planning Initiative. This is helping people get their documents ready for end of life care so Doctors, families, Hospice workers have information when it is needed. Can FCU be the center for training and facilitating to others? Does FCU support the request to pay for 2 people to go through the Advanced Initiative Program? Motion to approve FCU be the center for training and facilitating and having 2 people go through the program (possibly with scholarships from Endowment Fund). 1st Ken N. 2nd Tom B. Unanimously approved by the Board. Facilities Use Committee approves either Pastor Marian or Bill K. to be present at the meeting.

Direct Deposit of contributions from congregation – Bill K. will look into how this process works.

Committee and Ministry Reports:

Endowment Fund Requests-

- 1) Request from Pastor Marian for \$1000.00 each from Fund D to go towards Camp Wyoming and Christian Conference Center. Both are always in ongoing renovations and both serve the wider church excellently. Move to approve 1st Karen N., 2nd Margaret B. Unanimously approved by the Board.
- 2) Request from Pastor Marian and Missy Johnson for \$1000.00 from Fund C. We'd like to expand Welcome Table to reach more of the needy and more of the Hispanic Community. Thinking pride, embarrassment or mistrust might keep folks from coming to FCU. We'd like to set up a pick-up site at the ELC for take-out meals. Move to approve 1st Tom B., 2nd Margaret B. Unanimously approved by the Board.
- 3) Request from Tom Probst for up to \$2500.00 from Fund C. Contribution toward the addition on the West Liberty Fire/Ambulance Station. There are no taxpayer funds used for the project; strictly donations. Move to approve 1st Tom B., 2nd Karen N. unanimously approved by the Board.
- 4) Request from Music Ministry/Susan Lehman for up to \$450.00 from Beryl Brooke Memorial Music Ministry Fund. Our Chime Choir needs larger, more dependable lights for our music stands. We hope to buy 10 LED lights with

rechargeable batteries. We should be able to purchase the lights with mounting and bulbs for this amount or less, and can report the exact amount at the next meeting or as soon as we are billed. Motion to approve 1st Tom P 2nd Ken N. Unanimously approved by the Board.

- 5) Request from Music Ministry/Susan Lehman for up to \$400.00 from Beryl Brooke Memorial Music Ministry Fund. Our Chancel Choir folders need to be replaced. They are tattered, frayed, torn, and many are taped together. We would like to buy 25 choral folders with many beneficial features and a good quality that will last many years. The exact amount can be reported at the next meeting or as soon as are billed. Motion to approve 1st Tom B., 2nd Darren B. unanimously approved by the Board.
- 6) Request from Pastor Marian for \$850.00 from Beryl Brooke Memorial Music Ministry Fund. Reimburse \$105 to Pastor Marian for 1 hymnal for office copy of "Glory to God" and 1 copy of accompanist copy of "Glory to God". Additional accompanist copies (2) \$170.00, online program for PowerPoint downloads \$499.00, \$50 for shipping. Move to approve 1st Tom P., 2nd Karen N. unanimously approved by the Board.
- 7) Request from Deacons for \$300 from Fund C. For cards and stamps for Deacons outreach. Has been approved by both Board and Endowment Committee.

Margaret B. commends Pastor Marian on last Sunday's baptisms at the Hart Cabin and Cedar River. Kirby Gould will be here Sunday, Sept. 21st. She will preach and also answer questions about Endowment funds during the Potluck.

Ministry Reports: Accepted

Music Ministry Report:

The Music Ministry of First Church United met in June. We planned our choir year calendar, scheduled organists for the year, and discussed special services and the music plans for those occasions. There are no major changes this year. Brenda Miller & Susie Lehman will continue to share the directing responsibilities for the Chancel and Chime Choirs, with Marianne Phelps accompanying and assisting. Those three, along with Lori Brooke, will continue to serve as organists / pianists. As always, we will collaborate with Pastor Marian Hart to help the music best serve the purpose of the messages and enhance the services. Some exciting new music has

been purchased and prepared for both choirs, choir members received their annual August Letter, and rehearsals begin September 3.

Brenda Miller, Lori Brooke, Marianne Phelps, and Susie Lehman

CHRISTIAN ED. REPORT: Jason Thrasher has come forward as a Sunday School/W.O.W. teacher possibility. Sunday School could start Sept. 7th if he is hired. First Kids W.O.W. would be Sept. 24th. Christian Ed. Committee is in favor of Jason being the teacher.

Motion to adjourn 1st Tom P, 2nd Darren B. Unanimously approved by Board.
Prayer concerns shared
Closing Prayer

From the Board Co-Chair:

Many special projects have been or nearly completed at First Church United. Last year the Church Board along with a special kitchen committee asked the Congregation to consider funding a new kitchen. The Board promised not to start the kitchen project until funds were either received or pledged during a three year commitment. Just before the Muscatine County Fair, the new kitchen was put into service, and nearly all the funds have been given. We are within \$5600 of all pledges received. The kitchen has been in operation now since July, and during the visits made by church callers, an explanation the kitchen funding and expense sheet was provided to each family. If you have not received yours yet, copies are available in the church office, or ask either Bill Koellner or Tom Probst for a copy. Thanks to all members of the congregation who helped with this project.

This spring, the Board asked anyone who wished contribute a 13th month pledge and also to fund new, brighter lights in the Sanctuary. Four new lights were funded by several families at FCU. Thanks to all those who funded this special project and contributed to the 13th month pledge campaign.

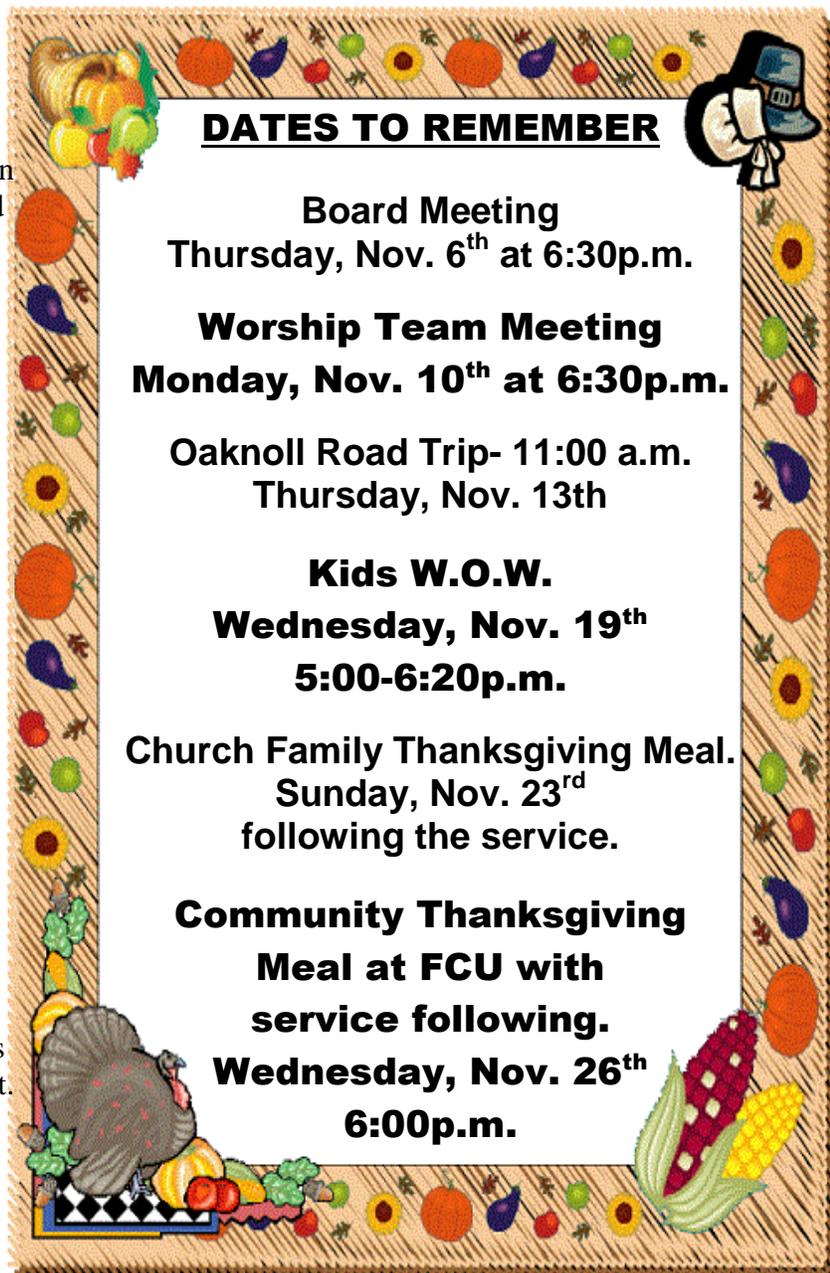
Early this summer, the Board asked anyone who was interested in funding the cleaning of carpets in all rooms in the church could provide funds for this special project. Costs for each room were made available, and several families provided for part or all of each room. This project was fully funded, and this project has been

completed. Thanks to all the families who funded cleaning of the carpet.

These projects were successful because your Board decided to ask you to help fund each project, and the Board would not complete a project unless we had all the funding available.

At the Annual Meeting either Tom Probst or Bill Koellner will share all the details of these projects and outline future needs that the Board has discussed and require funding. Thanks for all your cooperation and our church property looks very nice.

Bill Koellner
Board Co-chair



DATES TO REMEMBER

Board Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 6th at 6:30p.m.

Worship Team Meeting
Monday, Nov. 10th at 6:30p.m.

Oaknoll Road Trip- 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, Nov. 13th

Kids W.O.W.
Wednesday, Nov. 19th
5:00-6:20p.m.

Church Family Thanksgiving Meal.
Sunday, Nov. 23rd
following the service.

Community Thanksgiving
Meal at FCU with
service following.
Wednesday, Nov. 26th
6:00p.m.

Church Workers

November 2

Communion/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Keith Barnhart & Ken Noble

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Rob Miller, Hanna Hiller, Letha Ottaway,
Vince Ottaway, Blaine Kelly, Matt Kelly

USHERS: Joe Myers

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Ken & Marilyn Ruesegger

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

CANDLE LIGHTER: Joseph Delgado

November 9

Chancel Choir

USHER: Matt Kelly

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Tom & Janet Woody

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

CANDLE LIGHTER: Taylor Johnson

November 16

Communion/Chancel Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Keith Barnhart & Ken Noble

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Rob Miller, Hanna Hiller, Letha Ottaway,
Vince Ottaway, Blaine Kelly, Matt Kelly

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bud Barber & Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Chance Thrasher

CANDLE LIGHTER: Ryan Noble

November 23

Chime Choir

USHER: Dean Phelps

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

The Murphy Family

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Payton Murphy

November 30

Worship Team

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bud Barber & Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Carolyn Probst

Communion Preparer's for November are
Ken & Jo Noble.



November

- 1 Shania Minor
- 1 Chloe Gardenier
- 6 Marilyn Ruegsegger
- 6 Angie Brooke
- 6 Cindy Hambright
- 11 Dona Petsel
- 12 Holly Jacobs
- 16 Emily Johnson
- 16 Connor Skubal
- 19 Brenda Wright
- 21 Eloise Wright
- 22 Scott Brooke
- 24 Leon Larson
- 29 Ken Wright



27 Tom & MaryPat Brooke

TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

EMILY & JESSE
Johnson Reed

INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THEIR WEDDING

November
8
2014

3 O'CLOCK
THE SECREST
OCTAGONAL BARN
5750 OSAGE STREET
West Liberty, Iowa

POTLUCK DINNER
& DANCING
*following
the ceremony*



In the tradition of a barn wedding

THE COUPLE HAS ASKED THAT YOU
BRING YOUR FAMILIES' FAVORITE DISH
AND THE RECIPE TO SHARE
WITH THE NEWLYWEDS.

THE FAMILY WILL PROVIDE THE MEAT,
BEVERAGES, TABLE SERVICE
AND OF COURSE WEDDING CAKE.

KEEPING WITH THE RUSTIC THEME PLEASE NOTE
THAT THERE IS NO HEAT OR
AIR CONDITIONING IN THE BARN.
RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PROPERTY.

SINCE THE BARN IS A HISTORICAL BUILDING
NO SMOKING OR OPEN FLAMES ARE ALLOWED
INSIDE OR ON THE PROPERTY.
PLEASE HELP US RESPECT THE
HISTORICAL VALUE OF THE BARN.