FIRST CHURCH UNITED
1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776
Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446
Pastor, Marian Hart
Secretary, Katie Thrasher
October 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

We play a game at CYG called 'Cahoots.' It is mysterious how two people get in cahoots and agree on an item that has been chosen while one person is out of the room. The second person asks for silence to concentrate and will ask "Are we in cahoots?" When the answer is yes, they proceed. The secret is in listening closely.

One of the 'secrets' of our long range planning may also be in the listening.

Our nomination committee's 'secret' will be in the listening.

What are we listening for? The call God has place on us as individuals and as a congregation. The Board has decided by consensus to try nominating/electing teams to serve one year in most cases rather than having committees with 3 year terms. The exceptions will be Board members and Endowment. Our bylaws are brief and vague on what serving on former committees entailed, so we are in the process of making updates in an effort to make things simpler.

As this year's nominating team activates, they will be listening for who God is calling. I pray you will also be listening. May we all get 'in cahoots' with the Spirit leading us to future mission and ministry.

Are we in cahoots?

Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

September 2016

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
September 4	$3,390.00	57
September 11	$1,167.10	55
September 18	$2,037.00	81
September 25	$2,136.88	NA

LECTIONARY

October 2 – Lam. 1:1-6; Ps. 137; 2 Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 9- Jer. 29:1. 4-7; Ps. 66:1-23; 2 Tim. 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19

October 16 – Jer. 31:27-34; Ps. 119:97-104 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 23 – Joel 2:23-32; Ps. 65; 2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

October 30 – Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Ps. 119:137-144 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

This year's CROP walk will be Oct. 9. We will meet at the West Liberty Country Club and walk to First Church United. Checks can be made to CWS/CROP if you'd like to sponsor Pastor Marian or others.

Music Notes

October is such a colorful month! And our October music will be colorful, as well. Both choirs and the Worship Team, contrasting styles of music and messages (possibly even with some instruments) - it's all designed to bring a colorful variety into your worship experiences in October!

Sun., Oct. 2: WORSHIP TEAM
Wed., Oct. 5: Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30
Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30
Sun., Oct. 9: CHANCEL CHOIR
Wed., Oct. 12: (same as Oct. 5)
Sun., Oct. 16: CHIME CHOIR
Wed., Oct. 19: (same as Oct. 5)
Sun., Oct. 23: CHANCEL CHOIR
Wed., Oct. 26: (same as Oct. 5)
Sun., Oct. 30: CHIME 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.

THE LENDING TREE

The Lending Tree is now open Wednesday's from 11:30-1:30 and Saturday's from 9am-12pm. Spread the word!

#40 in 17

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
BLESSING BAG DONATIONS

As part of a lesson on how we can be a blessing to others I am asking for donations that will become blessing bags to those in need. After the donations are in, the children who participate in WOW will put the blessing bags together as part of their lesson. Then the bags will be available to hand out to the homeless or in need. Some bags will be kept at the church and some will go home with the children who can then hand them out (with a parent or guardian) if they see someone in Iowa City or Muscatine who is asking for money or help.

The list of donations we are looking for are:
Toothpaste
Toothbrush
Mouthwash
Shampoo
Soap
New socks
Hand warmers
New gloves
Wash cloth
Comb
Lip balm
Deodorant
Granola Bars
Tuna packs
Packs of Nuts
Water bottle
Applesauce packets
Raisons
Fruit cups
Hand sanitizer or wipes
*Travel sized soap/shampoo products are welcome!

All donations are asked to be turned in to the church office or to Jason/Katie Thrasher by October 18th.

I thank you for your continued support and encouragement to our Christian Education projects!

Yours in Christ – Jason Thrasher

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL GATHERING

Registration forms available in the office for Oct. 1st at Bettendorf. Speaker will be Donna Preston from Northern Plains Presbytery, speaking about Dakota Presbytery and Spirit Lake Reservation, ND and the ministries being done in the area to help Dakota people and the Spirit Lake Nation.

Downey Baptist Church Women's Missionary Circle is hosting their annual Silver Tea
Thursday, October 13. 2016 @ 1p.m.
At the Downey Baptist Church, 2290 Baker, West Branch, IA
Rebecca Kopelman, Weather Anchor at KFXA will be the guest speaker.
For more information call 319-471-3087 or 319-330-1061
Will be serving desserts and dessert type salads.

OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY

The monthly Official Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair Bill Koellner. In attendance were: Brenda Miller, Wayne Noring, Susan Lehman, Joe Myers, Ken Noble, Bill Koellner, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, and Katie Thrasher. Those not in attendance were: Deepak Giri, Margaret Barnhart, Darren Brooke

Devotion – Psalm 139

Open in Prayer

Approval of Docket: Move to approve the minutes with amendment (add Endowment Request) 1st Joe M., 2nd Ken N. unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of the minutes: Move to approve 1st Ken N., 2nd Joe M., unanimously approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Keith Barnhart gave the Treasurer's Report. Quarterly Insurance and Workers Comp. insurance was paid. Presbyterian and Christian Missions are paid for August. $110.00 was deposited into the CE Fund. There was a mix up on a recent deposit but it all worked out without any overdraft or other fees. August was a good month in terms of deposits. Move to accept the treasurer's report 1st Ken N., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved by the Board.

Beginning Balance for August	$1,178.27
Receipts	$12,424.14
Subtotal	$13,602.41
Disbursements	$12,415.47
Ending Balance	$1,186.94

Board Checking Balance: $1,211.94

PASTOR'S REPORT: Aug. 2-Sept. 1
Plan And Lead Worship Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28
Most Wednesdays Lending Tree
Most Saturdays Lending Tree
Worship Team Mtg. Aug. 8
CYG Mission Trip Presentation Aug. 14
Assisted Living Bike Rides Aug. 17 & 31
Ad Hoc Commission Meeting Newcomb Presb. In Davenport Aug. 18
Simpson Worship Aug. 19 & 26
CYG Board/Leader Retreat Aug. 20
CYG Fun Night, Food Shopping Too
Endowment Meeting Aug. 22
CLP Retreat Planning Meeting Aug. 23
All Congregational Gathering at Christian Conference Center Aug. 27
Ad Hoc Meeting Bluegrass Aug. 30
Wow/ Choir Food Shopping Aug. 31
Pastoral Visits 9
Counsel 1
Mileage-105
Community Activity-Rotary, 100+Women Who Care, Pickleball 'League,' Farmer's Market, Community Garden

Request Vacation Sept. 26-Oct. 2

ONGOING BUSINESS

-List of items for repair: Suggested we set a church wide work week. Sept. 18-24th. Joe M. and Katie will compile a list of inside and outside jobs that still need to be completed and Katie will include list in an email to be sent out prior.

-Sept. Elder on Call – Wayne Noring. October Elder on Call – Bill Koellner. November Elder on Call – Ken Noble. Everyone is asked to notify the Elders on Call of anyone needing a visit.

-Manse Windows – Bill K. and Marian H. will set up a time to look at windows and further this project.

- Long range planning committee – Jodi K., Letha O., Margaret B., Syd H., Brenda M., and Pastor Marian sat down recently and planned the Sept. 25th kick off worship. Susie L. is having the music ministry focus the music throughout the year on our 4 areas of concentration pertaining to the Long Range Planning of First Church United.

-Suggested we have shirts made with "I love my church" on it. A sign-up sheet with a place to put your name and shirt size will be put out soon. Each person is to pay for their shirt. The cost is $6/shirt and the deadline is Sept. 22nd.

-Bill K. shared his thoughts and what others said about church and change he encountered at the recent All Congregational Gathering at Christian Conference Center. Discussion followed about changes other churches have instituted.

NEW BUSINESS

- Leaky doors- Joe M. will call Ken Wright to check on doors.
- The outside door in the storage room behind the choir loft won't close. Rain was leaking in. - Joe M. will call Ken Wright to check on doors.
- Leak in Kitchen ceiling- Joe M. will call Ken Wright to check on ceiling.
- Nominating activation – Motion to approve the nominating committee and Pastor Marian create Ministry teams before the October newsletter is sent out. These ministry teams will replace the various committees and give clear definitions of what the teams do for the church.
- Endowment Request –

1) From Letha Ottaway - $500 to help bring speaker Blake Freeze to West Liberty to give his talk on surviving loss. Letha O. would like to publicize the event. It would be held in the High School Auditorium and will be open to the public. Motion to approve 1st Joe M., 2nd Susie L., unanimously approved by the Board.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN ED. September 2016

Good morning church family!

Greetings from the Christian Education department. You will be pleased to know that things are going very well, still. This summer's Vacation Bible school has been a great success! Each week we have had between 24 and 29 children attend. Some who are new to First Church United. We have been successfully spreading the word and love of Jesus to a bright new crop of young Christians. Our regular season WOW programming starts September 7th. Please spread the word that all are welcome to attend. Adults and children, saints and sinners, young and old. Thanks very much to all who are hoping to make it a success. Including, but not limited to: Joel and Lisa Murphy, Marilyn Ruegsegger Susie Lehman, Jan Koellner, Jodi Kelly, Gary Hahn, and Katie Thrasher.

Spread the word, please, also that Sunday school is in full swing! :-) We are learning and playing, and celebrating the word of God and all of his glory.

Thanks very much for all your support. Yours in Christ, Jason Thrasher

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT:

Susie L. reported the choirs met last night for the first time this school year. It was a great night. Her intention is to choose music with LRP themes to help the congregation keep the themes in mind.

Correspondence – Church Basement Ladies will present "Away in the Basement" at the Paramount Theater in Cedar Rapids on November 27th. Those interested please get in touch with Pastor Marian.

ADJOURN

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: October 6, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Church Workers

October 2
World Communion Day
SPEAKING ELDERS:
Tom & Mary Pat Brooke
COMMUNION SERVERS:
Vince Ottaway, Letha Ottaway, Jim Kiwala,
Lisa Murphy, Emily Reed, Hannah Miller
USHER: Tom Brooke
GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:
Marilyn Ruegsegger
ORGANIST: Susie Lehman
LITURGIST: Bill Koellner
POWER POINT: Arnie Hart
CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

October 9
Chancel Choir
USHER: Tom Brooke
GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:
Evelyn Evans & Betty Burton
ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps
POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher
CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

October 16
Communion/Chime Choir
SPEAKING ELDERS:
Tom & Mary Pat Brooke
COMMUNION SERVERS:
Vince Ottaway, Letha Ottaway, Jim Kiwala,
Lisa Murphy, Emily Reed, Hannah Miller
USHER: Tom Brooke
GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:
Jr. & Evelyn Wilkerson
ORGANIST: Lori Brooke
POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala
CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

October 23
Gathering Music/Chancel Choir
USHER: Tom Brooke
GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:
Norma Brooks
ORGANIST: Brenda Miller
POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart
CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

October 30
Chime Choir
USHER: Tom Brooke
GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:
Bill & Jan Koellner
ORGANIST: Susie Lehman
POWER POINT: Bill Koellner
CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

Communion Preparers for October are
Tom & Janet Woody

Birthdays in October

1 Darren Brooke
2 Skylar Wendt
3 Troy Myers
4 Mark Johnson
6 Filmore Melick
6 Carolyn Probst
10 Christina Newcomb
11 Linda Foor
11 Heidi Morrison
14 Tricia Lehman
14 Alice Thrasher
15 James Laughlin
21 Caitlyn Snook
23 Janey Gingerich
24 Shirley Sterner
24 Tom Probst
27 Cale Brooks
28 Bob Larson
30 Missy Johnson
30 Holly Gingerich

Anniversaries in October

6 Mike & Yvonne Gardenier
13 Bob & Marcy Dewar
19 Butch & Karen Nortman