



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 2016



Dear Friends in Christ,

How many of you can juggle? Can you keep two, three, ten, twelve balls in the air? How about bowling pins, or swords, or chainsaws? It would take lots of time and stress to practice such a task; and to what end? Oftentimes I see people living their lives like this-juggling time spent at sports events, family time, errand running, work, sleep (what's that?), exercise, church activities, traveling, meetings, Facebooking. And at the end of the day or week, to what end? Are we fulfilled or just exhausted, bored and discontented or looking forward to the next frenzy of stuff to cross off our to-do list?

How many of you balance your checkbook, eat a balanced diet, can walk a balance beam, balance on one foot for 30 seconds, balance a ceiling fan, win at Jenga? What happens if/when we don't or can't? Things get wobbly, they start to fall apart, they crash. That's us when we juggle our busyness, too. We need balance.

Pastor Mario reminded me of two important things that make up Sabbath time: praying and playing, a balance of the two. We should not neglect either. They both rejuvenate us to the work God has called us to do.

Ecclesiastes speaks of searching for meaning in everyday life. The author thinks most of what we do is meaningless or has as much substance as smoke. Chapter 3 is well known for its "there is a time for..." list. For an interesting read take a look at the book in The Message. See if you can identify any juggling or balance there. Now do the same with your life. Do as the Psalmist prays asking God to teach us to number our days and make our days count.

At rest with Him today,
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD		
October 2016		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
October 2	\$2,877.00	64
October 9	\$1,445.00	64
October 16	\$1,835.00	63
October 23	\$335.00	54
October 30	\$3,677.00	70

LECTIONARY

- November 6** – Hag. 1:15b-2:9; Ps. 145:1-5. 17-21 or Ps.98; 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
November 13 – Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 12; 2 Thess. 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-9
November 20 – Jer. 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79 Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
November 27 – Isa. 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11-14 Matt. 24:36-44

THANK YOU TO: those who helped with the list of chores around the church-Ottaways for painting, Wrights for trimming bushes and trees and wasp hunting, others who have signed up, those who've helped with WOW meals, those who mow and trim the church yard, those who've helped with funeral lunches, those who've donated to the blessing bags or food pantry, those who visit our shut-ins, those who pray, those who gave to CROP Walk and Operation Warm.

Church Family Thanksgiving potluck following the service on Sunday, November 20th. Turkey will be provided. Bring your favorite dish to share!



The term "Special Music" takes on a new meaning this November. You have to hear it to believe it! This month includes everything from Veterans' Day, the Holiday Open House (when our Chime Choir takes its show on the road), and Thanksgiving, to the First Sunday of Advent! Our worship experiences will be enhanced by the Chancel Choir, the Chime Choir, the Worship Team, and by some very "special music."

Wed., Nov. 2: Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30
Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., Nov. 6: SPECIAL MUSIC

Wed., Nov. 9: (same as Nov. 2)

Sun., Nov. 13: CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Nov. 16: (same as Nov. 2)

**Sun., Nov. 20: [Thanksgiving Sunday]
CHIME CHOIR**

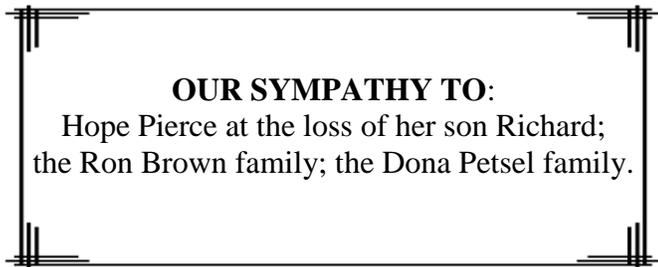
[Congregational Thanksgiving Potluck]

Holiday Open House at MidWestOne Bank

Wed., Nov. 23: No Choirs (Thanksgiving Vacation)

**Sun., Nov. 27: [First Sunday of Advent]
WORSHIP TEAM**

Wed., Nov. 30: (same as Nov. 2)



OUR SYMPATHY TO:

Hope Pierce at the loss of her son Richard;
the Ron Brown family; the Dona Petsel family.

**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's biggest need is people asking for beds. Last year we sold/gave away lots of blankets. We will be using the site to distribute coats from Operation Warm again, until the VAC distribution night. Coats will also be in the school counselors' offices for students.

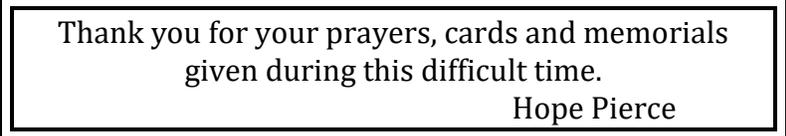


#40 in 17

Community Thanksgiving Meal and Worship

Wednesday, November 23rd at 6:00.

See sign-up sheet on buffet



Thank you for your prayers, cards and memorials given during this difficult time.

Hope Pierce

**CHURCH OF SAINT MARY OF NICHOLS,
PARISH HALL**

AUCTION & LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 6

Silent Auction 11:30am-1:00pm.

Regular Auction follows.

Doors open 11:30 am for Chicken & Noodles and more.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Yes, it's early, but please keep in mind our less fortunate neighbors this holiday season. We will be collecting hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks, and undies, as well as coats. Toys can be taken to St. Joseph's.

CYG

Nov. 6 lesson on Ruth, Nov. 13 Home Cubes, Nov. 20 lesson on Samson, no meeting Nov. 27. The first payment for those going on the mission trip was due Sunday Oct. 23. Please get your money to Jodi Kelly if your student is planning on going!

Christian Education

Hello Church Family,

You'll be happy to know that things are going well in the Christian Education Department. We continue to progress through our old testament overview with the Sunday school kids leading up to the birth of Jesus in the upcoming Christmas season. The young Christians who were there this last Sunday were overjoyed to receive their new bibles.

The WOW program continues to sustain high numbers and high energy. We are nearly through with our blessing bag project and we will distribute them this next week. Our next big project is the Christmas play. WE have chosen parts and are beginning rehearsals this week.

Thanks as usual for all of your support; it is a great joy to be part of such a wonderful family.

Yours in Christ, Jason Thrasher

**OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY
October 6, 2016**



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

Devotion – John 4 from The Message

Open in Prayer

Approval of Docket: Move to approve the minutes as amended (add Stewardship and Staff Evaluations) 1st Ken N., 2nd Joe M. unanimously approved by the Board.

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

Treasurer's Report: Keith Barnhart gave the Treasurer's Report. Ended September with a \$1600.00 balance. Presbyterian and Christian Missions were not paid for September but will be paid in October. There was a large expense for new bulbs/lamps for the projectors in the Sanctuary. Bibles bought for the Sunday School children will be paid out of VBS expenses and Classroom Teaching Materials. Move to accept the treasurer's report 1st Ken N., 2nd Susie L., unanimously approved by the Board.

Beginning Balance for Sept.	\$1,389.79
Receipts	<u>\$10,762.22</u>
Subtotal	\$12,152.01
Disbursements	<u>\$10,465.73</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,686.26

Board Checking Balance: \$1,711.28

PASTOR'S REPORT: SEPT. 1-OCT. 6, 2016

- Office hours kept as possible
- Plan and lead worship Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, just plan Oct. 2
- Adult Sunday school
- CYG and WOW meal planning and shopping
- CYG Sept. 11 + Board meeting, 18, 25
- Lending Tree most Wednesdays and Saturdays
- Ministerial Association Sept. 7
- Worship and Long Range team meeting Sept. 12
- Presbytery meeting in Bettendorf Sept. 13
- Ad Hoc Commission Davenport Newcomb church Sept. 15
- Cluster lunch Sept. 15
- Simpson worship Sept. 16
- Assisted living bike rides Sept. 21
- Graveside service William Stickford (non-member) Sept. 24
- Camp Wyoming Board meeting Sept. 26
- Vacation Sept. 26-Oct. 2. Attended Why Christian women's conference in Chicago Thursday-Sunday.
- Endowment meeting Oct. 3
- Weird Church book study Oct. 4
- Simpson bible study Oct. 4
- Pastoral visits-10
- Mileage-275

LENDING TREE REPORT SEPTEMBER, 2016

Shirts, bag, phone	\$6.00
Cot	5.00
Shoes, purse	4.00
Futon	20.00
Shelves	10.00
Rug	1.00
Pots, pans, dishes, bedding, mattress, couch, TV, 2 cabinets, crib-free	
Bed frame	5.00
Ironing board, lamp	3.00
High chair, booster seat	25.00
Halloween toteful	20.00
Toaster	3.00
Trike	3.00
Sheet	1.00
Microwave	10.00
Monies from WOW meals	53.75
Total	\$169.75

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Church Repair List

Inside the Church

1. Ceiling tile in handicap restroom needs to be replaced- _____
2. Ceiling tiles in the Fellowship Hall need to be replaced - _____
3. Ceiling tiles in the lounge need to be replaced- _____
4. Drains in lounge need to be cleaned –
Darren Brooke
5. Kitchen blinds -Brenda Miller
6. Blinds on windows in lounge need to be replaced – Brenda Miller
7. Immersion baptismal heater broken – Kessler will be called to inspect
8. Lighting for choir loft – Kessler is researching options
9. Nursery door – remove top door to prevent finger pinching – Dillon Brooke
10. Purple wall in Children's classroom needs to be painted light blue to match the other blue in the room. - Vince & Letha Ottaway
11. Replace computer in office that displays announcements in the hallway- Deepak Giri
12. Door to Sunday School room is splintering- Ken Noble

Outside the Church

1. Downspouts around the church - _____
2. Weeding of areas with bushes on N. side, trimming of bushes, add bark or rock in areas around bushes to prevent more weeds from growing. - Bill Koellner
3. New Wing (door side) wide open to the roof with multiple wasp nests. _____
4. NE wall of new wing has water mark (possible roof work needed) _____
5. Large Evergreens in the east yard need the extra foliage removed- Bill Koellner
6. Weeds by Fellowship Hall window need to be removed, wasp nests removed/treated - Bill Koellner

7. Hole in caulking in E. Stain glass window (on the outside) _____
8. Front of church under large cross needs landscape plan (something that is easily maintained) _____
9. Outside entrance to the Narthex – concrete is cracking _____
10. Crabapple trees need trimmed _____
11. Wasp nests along the upper overhang of the roof need treated around the whole building -
- Ken & Brenda Wright
12. Trim /Clean out north tree line- Ken Wright

- **Manse Windows**- no new information

- **Long range planning committee.** – Brenda M. is not at the Board meeting to speak but the Board has heard many say positive feedback from the September 25th LRP service.

- **Leaky doors** – taken care of.

- **The outside door in the storage room** behind the choir loft won't close. Rain was leaking in.- Taken care of.

- **Leak in Kitchen ceiling** – Joe M. and Ken Wright are working on this.

- **Nominating activation**- Nominating committee (Brenda M., Syd H., and Lori B.) and Pastor Marian are discussing Ministry teams. These ministry teams will replace the various committees and give clear definitions of what the teams do for the church and how long the terms will be.

-I cannot attend due to "home bound" in Simpson right now. I would like to comment on a couple of things I have heard while here. The children's participation in World Communion Sunday was wonderful along with displays of "runners" Ken and Jo have collected. Tables and chairs for children to use In Fellowship Hall from Memorial for Bud was widely and happily accepted. (Someone did a fast job of getting them ordered and here.) Several people told me about the LRP Sunday and how the presentation looked like a lot of work, was all tied together, and made them think about what they could do to help. Also with the way they were seated, they enjoyed visiting or connecting with others. Margaret B.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Building Use Policies-** Susie L. spoke of the church needing a master calendar listing all of the groups who use the church and the dates and times it is being used. The calendar will be on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Talk of the various activities going on in the church and if those activities are all going through the steps the Building Use Committee put in place. The church is blessed with a lot of church activity and we need to be reminded of the proper way of obtaining the right to use the church. Katie T. will put request in bulletin and enews for everyone using the church or wanting to use the church to first fill out a building use request form and get permission from the either Pastor Marian or Katie T.

- Endowment Requests

1) \$1000 from Pastor Marian for Ministerial Help Fund. Motion to approve request 1st Joe M., 2nd Ken N., unanimously approved by the Board.

2) \$1000 from Pastor Marian for end of year giving to Camp Wyoming. Motion to approve request 1st Deepak G., 2nd Joe M. unanimously approved by the Board.

3) \$1000 from Pastor Marian for end of year giving to the Christian Conference Center. Motion to approve request 1st Wayne N., 2nd Ken N. unanimously approved by the Board.

4) \$1500 from Jodi Kelly for Matt Kelly who is going to India for 3 weeks with Youth and Nutrition of India – Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness. Sponsored by the Univ. of Iowa. Teaches leadership and management skills needed for the effective operation of nonprofit organizations. Motion to approve request 1st Susie L., 2nd Joe M. unanimously approved by the Board.

5) \$1000 from Missy Johnson for Parenting Classes to be held at the ELC for the Community. Motion to approve request with the pro rate that Joe M. will speak to Missy J. about before the classes start 1st Ken N., 2nd Susie L. unanimously approved by the Board.

6) \$100 (maximum) from Katie T. for blessing bag supplies used in WOW ministry. Motion to approve request 1st Wayne N., 2nd Susie L. unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Stewardship** – Bill K. spoke and asked how the Board wants to move forward on this years Stewardship campaign. Suggestions discussed. Ken N., Wayne N., and Joe M. will work together to organize some stewardship events/get-togethers in the near future.

- **Staff Evaluations** – Susie L. will contact Brenda M. and Vince O. to work on evaluations. The PRC met today to discuss and start the Pastoral Evaluation process.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN ED. October 2016

Hello First Church United Board of Directors.

Pleased to report that all is well in the Christian education department. Amongst many other good missions, we are working on "blessing bags" with the children on Wednesdays. These are designed in order to be carried in one's car and handed out to those homeless or needy people on street corners who may need some assistance. We will also leave some at the church for those that come to Pastor Marian in need and this may help.

Imagine like a Ziploc bag with toothpaste, a comb, mouthwash, soap, etc.... As many people in the Bible were homeless, and as we are trying to develop a sense of sharing the abundance of the world with these new young Christians, this is a fantastic mission to develop their understanding of how they can help those in need.

We are collecting items throughout this month, and will let you know what additional items may need to be purchased. So, just an advance warning that we may solicit from the endowment committee, or some other source, some additional funds to complete this wonderful mission.

Thanks very much for your ongoing support!
Jason Thrasher

MOTION TO ADJOURN 1st Joe M., 2nd Ken N. unanimously approved by the Board

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: November 3, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Church Workers

November 6

Daylight Savings time ends/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Rob Miller, Blaine Kelly, Mark Johnson
Jan McCrabb, Shirley Sterner, Syd Harned

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Pat Brooke & Jim Kiwala

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

November 13

Chancel Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Jr. & Evelyn Wilkerson

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Carolyn Probst

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

November 20

Communion/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Rob Miller, Blaine Kelly, Mark Johnson
Jan McCrabb, Shirley Sterner, Syd Harned

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Dave & Bertie Baker

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

November 27

First Sunday in Advent

Worship Team

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Shirley Sterner

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open



Birthdays in November

- 1 Shania Minor
- 1 Chloe Gardenier
- 6 Marilyn Ruegsegger
- 6 Angie Brooke
- 6 Cindy Hambright
- 12 Holly Jacobs
- 16 Emily Reed
- 16 Conner Skubal
- 19 Brenda Wright
- 22 Scott Brooke
- 24 Leon Larson
- 29 Ken Wright

Anniversaries in November

- 27 Tom & Mary Pat Brooke



**Communion Preparers for November are
Margaret Barnhart & Evelyn Evans**