



FIRST CHURCH UNITED
 1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776
 Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446
 Pastor, Marian Hart
 Secretary, Katie Thrasher
 April 2017



Dear Friends in Christ,

Lessons from an evening spent with Middle School CYG: Play is good for your soul. One can survive without an electronic device in their hand or pocket at all times. Rules exist for a reason. You can cheer on the opposite team. Working as a team has winning results. We all have unreasonable fears. Being gross is fun. Getting locked in a bathroom is not. Comfort food keeps things simple. We all have something to give thanks for. Persistence strengthens. We are free to be who we are, but expected to grow. We all grow physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually at different paces. If we give respect, we get respect.

What lessons do you glean from your daily life at play, school, work, or rest?

This morning I was given a phrase to ponder from a conversation with a woman who said, “It’s been a long time since I learned how to listen.” Indeed. I’m spending the morning listening to the Word, specifically Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45; and Jesus words on the cross “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” and “I thirst.” How about you? What do you hear? Dry bones or resurrection?

Thought-full-y yours,

Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD		
March 2017		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
March 5	\$1,600.41	68
March 12	\$892.00	63
March 19	\$1,680.75	60
March 26	\$1,636.00	62

April 2 – Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45; Psalm 130

April 9– **The Liturgy of the Palms** Matthew 21:1-11
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

The Liturgy of the Word Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14- 27:66;
or Matthew 27:11-54; Psalm 31:9-16

April 16 – Acts 10:34-43; *or* Jeremiah 31:1-6
 Colossians 3:1-4; *or* Acts 10:34-43
 John 20:1-18; *or* Matthew 28:1-10
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

April 23 – Acts 2:14a,22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31; Psalm 16

April 30- Acts 2:14a,36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35; Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

Seeking someone to assume treasurer positions for Congregational Life and Lending Tree. You have your choice.

40 YEAR CELEBRATION

Please check the big sheets posted in Fellowship Hall for ways you can help with our 40th Anniversary celebration. Ideas are welcome. Leaders are essential, sign up today!



Our music this month will include several contrasts - new and old, somber and triumphant, Lent-Palm Sunday-Easter! Experiencing it in Christian fellowship is a blessing to us all! Let us join together as the music tells more of the greatest stories ever told.

Sun., April 2: CHIME CHOIR

Wed., April 5: Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30

Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., April 9 [Palm Sunday]: CHANCEL CHOIR

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

Sun., April 16 [EASTER]: 1

1st Service - WORSHIP TEAM

2nd Service - CHANCEL CHOIR

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

Sun., April 23: WORSHIP TEAM

Wed., April 26: (same as April 5)

Sun., April 30: CHIME CHOIR

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Palm/Passion Sunday will celebrate both the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as well as the grief of his crucifixion through our choir's anthems, the reading of scripture, and narrative. Wed. April 12 we will have a special meal and lessons for all ages to hear again the story of how Passover and the Lord's supper are connected. We will all eat at 6:10 together. Please let Pastor Marian know if you plan to participate. This is not limited to choir and WOW. A free will donation will be accepted for cost of food and supplies. Ecumenical Good Friday worship service will be at West Liberty Christian Fellowship at 7 p.m. Easter morning will begin with pond side Sunrise Service at Ken and Jo Noble's. There will be a bonfire and the reading of a short Easter vigil. Early worship is at 8 at FCU with the Worship Team leading. Our Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch will be at 9:00. Regular worship will be at 10. Each service is unique and meaningful in its own way, a good way to get a full Easter experience.

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

is open Wednesdays from 11:30-1:30 and Saturdays 9-12.

#40 in 17

Long Range Planning after church

brainstorming sessions- April 23 and May 21. More details will be coming later. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CYG NEWS

CYG is winding down with April 2 and 9 being our last times to meet this spring. We will honor our seniors on the 2nd and hear the final lesson, this one on Jesus. April 9th will be our No Talent Talent Show, sharing stories of the year that impacted us, and evaluations. Those going on the mission trip will meet 3 times at WLCF for some preparatory lessons and instructions. CYG band will play for us at Fair Worship in the grove and those going on the mission trip will be commissioned by Pastor Marian. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello, Church Family!

It is with great joy and anticipation that I write this article on this cold, rainy day. Although it is cold outside now, I know that spring is coming. And, I know that our Son will rise on Easter, shining his light of forgiveness and mercy once again! We are looking forward to sharing the good news of our risen Lord with the aspiring young minds at First Church United this season. To that end, the children will join the adults in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday, and on Easter, of course! Lessons on Wednesdays at WOW will continue to follow the lectionary, and use multi-formatted methods of preaching, acting and living the Word, as usual. We look forward to continued engagement and success in this ministry. And, thanks very much for all of your support!

Sincerely, Jason Thrasher

We sincerely appreciate the concerns expressed by our church family following Evelyn's fall. We feel blessed to be a part of such a family. Your thoughtfulness made the recuperation easier and quicker. A special thanks you to anyone involved with the choir steps being quickly redone.

Blessings, Harold and Evelyn.

***A PRAYER ***

FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

I live alone, dear Lord,
 Stay by my side;
 In all my daily needs
 Be Thou my guide.
 Grant me good health,
 For that, indeed, I pray,
 To carry on my work.
 From day to day.
 Keep pure my mind,
 My thoughts, my every deed.
 Let me be kind, unselfish,
 In my neighbor's need.
 Spare me from fire, from flood,
 Malicious tongues,
 From thieves, from fear,
 And evil ones.
 If sickness or an accident befall
 Then, humbly, Lord, I pray,
 Hear Thou my call.
 And when I'm feeling low,
 Or in despair
 Lift up my heart
 And help me in my prayer.
 I live alone, dear Lord,
 Yet have no fear
 Because I feel your presence
 Ever near. Amen

OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY

March 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

**First Church United OFFICIAL BOARD Meeting
 March 2, 2017 6:30 p.m.**

The monthly Official Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Joe Myers. In attendance were Wayne Noring, Syd Harned, Bill Koellner, Deepak Giri, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, and Secretary Katie Thrasher. Those not in attendance were Joel Murphy, Brenda Miller, Jim Kiwala, and Susie Lehman.



DEVOTION TIME Mark 2

OPEN IN PRAYER

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 1st Syd H., 2nd Deepak G., Bill K. did not vote as he was not present at last month's meeting but otherwise was unanimously agreed upon by the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Barnhart reports that all bills are paid. The church Chamber of Commerce dues have been paid for 2017. The money designated to go to Camp Wyoming and the Christian Conference Center from the Endowment Board Discretion have been sent to each camp. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report 1st Wayne N., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.

Start of the month of February	\$1,594.34
Receipts	\$13,437.75
Sub Total	\$15,032.09
Disbursements	\$12,989.52
Ending balance	\$2,042.57
Board Checking	\$942.57

PASTOR'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2-MARCH 2, 2017

- Office hours kept as possible
- Plan and lead worship Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26
- Simpson worship Feb. 17
- CYG Feb. 5, 12, 19 + Board meeting, 26
- Fair meetings Feb. 5, 19, 26
- Congregational life meeting Feb. 12
- Lending Tree Wednesdays and Feb. 25
- Planning and shopping for WOW and CYG meals
- WOW Wednesdays
- Movie night Feb. 3
- Worship team meeting Feb. 6
- Women in ministry lunch and study and Presb. Webinar Feb. 14
- Cluster meeting Feb. 15
- Ad Hoc Committee at Newcomb, Davenport Feb.16
- Funeral Marian Taylor (non-member) Feb. 20
- Ad Hoc at Presbytery office Feb. 23
- Camp Wyoming Board meeting Feb. 27
- Weird Church book study Feb. 28
- Ministerial Assoc. meeting Mar. 1
- Ash Wednesday service Mar. 1
- Mileage- 401
- Pastoral visits-9

Request one week vacation April 17-23. Motion to approve request 1st Bill K., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

LENDING TREE, FEB. 2017

Lamps	\$10.00
Silverware	5.00
Cuisinart	3.00
Afghan	1.00
Knives	1.00
Chairs	20.00
Pots, pans, toys	5.00
Lamp	10.00
Bunk beds	50.00
Cradle, dolls	10.00
Mattress, sheets, pillow, skillet, utensils, plates-free	
Misc.	5.00
Clock	1.00
Chair	3.00

Total sales \$124.00

Donations from Thrashers, Katherine Willson, Wiele

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- April Elder on Call- Bill Koellner
- Fair Stand – update. Deepak G. has estimates from Jerad Collins of Collins Concrete and from the Corridor Construction Services. Board authorizes that Fair Stand Committee may move ahead with updating the Fairstand with these estimates. The Corridor Construction Services estimate totals \$3,400 and Collins Concrete estimate totals \$2,894.52. Board discussed possibly needing deeper than 4 inch of concrete for the walkways between the Fairstand and shed, ideas of increasing the size of the shed to be able to place the freezers inside the shed for safety reasons, a need for a water heater and new sink. Pastor Marian will donate the water heater. Congregational Life account has around \$9,000 available for the project. Bill K. suggests a capital campaign to help cover costs of the project. Motion to approve if additional funds are needed to costs above the \$9,000 a capital campaign is approved by the Board. 1st Bill K., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.
- Congregational Life and Lending Tree treasurer. – no one has volunteered to take over the Congregational Life or Lending Tree treasurer positions.
- 40 year celebration ideas. Set a date for 40th Celebration. Delegate leaders for worship and making connecting sectors of long range planning- Board agreed on August 13th with sweet corn as an item to enjoy that day. Those that voiced interest on the recipe card need to be involved. Board will speak with Brenda M. soon

to ask what kind of assistance she needs, who can help and how.

- Memorial Committee Update.

"The Memorial Committee recommends that the Treasurer of that Fund be a member of the Memorial Committee. For that reason, Missy Johnson will be the treasurer of the Memorial Fund until her term expires in three years. At that time the recommendation is that another member of the committee become the treasurer.

The name plates have been ordered for the plaques in the narthex. Another memorial plaque has been ordered to put on the Clavinova.

Two projects are currently being researched by the committee. More information will be coming as the research continues. Another project is being discussed. More on that in the future as well."

Chore List

Inside Church

1. Ceiling tile in handicap restroom needs to be replaced – completed by Deepak Giri
2. Ceiling tiles in the Fellowship Hall need to be replaced - completed by Deepak Giri
3. Ceiling tiles in the lounge need to be replaced - completed by Deepak Giri
4. Drains in lounge need to be cleaned - Darren Brooke
5. Immersion baptismal heater broken – Blaine K. has ordered parts to get it fixed.
6. Leak in Kitchen ceiling-
7. Drains and grease trap in the kitchen need cleaned.
8. Ice maker needs to be emptied and cleaned with vinegar and water.

Outside the Church

1. NE wall of new wing has water mark (possible roof work needed) - _____
2. Hole in caulking in E. stain glass window (on outside) - _____
3. Front of church under large cross needs landscape plan (something that is easily maintained) - Marilyn Ruegsegger, Bill & Jan Koellner
4. Outside entrance to narthex, concrete is cracking – Deepak Giri (future maintenance of the church funds).
5. Volunteer Trees in east lawn removed – Joe Myers

Manse

1. Windows- Bill K. will look into this in April.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Sanctuary lighting- We updated the main lights a few years ago but there are more that need attention. Bill K. suggests we speak with a light specialist. Move we allow Deepak to investigate light options and bring ideas to the Board 1st Syd H., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved by the Board.

-Endowment fund requests

1. Transfer \$4619.59 from Fund A to FCU Board Discretion. Annual transfer. Move to approve 1st Bill K 2nd Syd H. unanimously approved by the Board.

2. \$950.00 for Thrasher family to attend Camp Wyoming from Fund B. You and me camp and Final Countdown. Thrashers will pay \$200. Move to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Deepak G. unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Funds for any WOW kids to attend Camp Wyoming from Fund B. Cost per kid is \$250.00 to \$450.00 and each person to pay \$50.00 deposit. Up to \$2000. Move to approve 1st Wayne N., 2nd Deepak G. unanimously approved by the Board.

4. CYG Mission Trip for Brooklyn and Brittney Harned from Fund B. \$500.00 with girls down payment of \$50.00 each. Move to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Wayne N. unanimously approved by the Board.

-FCU audit letter- Joe Myers and Wayne Noring completed an Audit of the First Church United books for 2016. Everything matches what the records say. Letter is in the file for anyone wishing to read it. Motion to accept audit letter 1st Bill K., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

-Choir loft/step issue/solution – Jarrod Collins of Collins Concrete increased the length of the steps, a railing and lights will be added in the next few days. Discussion of extending the rest of the steps by the choir loft to make them longer, making the area safer. Syd will talk with the Music Ministry Committee to get their opinions.

- Find a way to hide all the wires and extension cords connected to the speakers and piano. Discussion on how we could hide the wires but no resolution.

-Master Gardener school- Master Gardeners ask to use a plot of the church land. Food grown will be shared with the food pantry. Move to approve Master Gardeners use of church land 1st Syd H., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved by the Board.

-West Liberty High School building use request. The High school would like to use our building for an AP testing substitute site on May 2,3,5,8 and 9. Motion to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN ED. March 2017

Hello church family!

As we are about to begin the season of Lent, I am pleased to report to you about all the good things we are doing. The kids will be learning about this important part of the church calendar. We will continue to study the lessons, teachings, and parables of Jesus as we prepare for the Easter season as well. I believe we have had success in reaching the children at the level that they can understand and appreciate the goodness of Christ and the church. Thanks very much for your ongoing support, and it is wonderful to be part of such a loving and caring family!

At your service, Jason Thrasher

ADJOURNMENT 1st Syd H., 2nd Bill K., unanimously approved by the Board.

PRAYER CONCERNS

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING April 6, 2017 at 6:30p.m.

Church Workers

April 2

Communion/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

None needed- Presbyterian Tradition

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Joel Murphy, Jo Noble, Shirley Sterner,
Gary Hahn, Rob Miller, Blaine Kelly

USHER: Dean Phelps

GREETER & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

April 9

Palm Sunday/Chancel Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dean Phelps and Leon Larson

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Joel Murphy, Jo Noble, Shirley Sterner,
Gary Hahn, Rob Miller, Blaine Kelly

USHER: Dave Baker or Wayne Noring

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

The Giri Family

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

April 16

Easter Sunday/Communion

6:00a.m. Sunrise Service at Noble's Pond

8:00a.m. Service:

Communion done by Intinction

9:00 a.m. Egg Hunt and Brunch

10:00 a.m. Service:

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dean Phelps & Leon Larson

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Joel Murphy, Jo Noble, Shirley Sterner,
Gary Hahn, Rob Miller, Blaine Kelly

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS: Norma Brooks & Maggie Christy

8 :00a.m. ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

10 :00a.m. ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

8 :00a.m. POWERPOINT: Bill Koellner

10 :00a.m. POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

8:00 a.m. CANDLE LIGHTER: Alice Thrasher

10:00a.m.CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

April 23

Worship Team

USHER: Walt Lehman

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

April 30

Chime Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Dave & Bertie Baker

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

**Communion Preparers for April are
Margaret Barnhart & Wayne Noring.**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1st Dustin Brooks

4th Emily McDonald

5th Brad Sterner

8th Grayson Levai-Baird

8th Blakley Deahr

13th Kyle Miller

15th Lucas Williams

19th Cailyn Williams

19th Nathaniel Williams

19th Brady Laughlin

21st Pat Webb

22nd Tenley Murphy

22nd Gabe Gardenier

28th Mike Morrison

29th Jo Noble

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

22nd Dean & Marianne Phelps

26th Ken & Jo Noble

28th Curt & Lisa Newcomb

