



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

What puts a spring in your step?
 Sunshine? Robins singing? A goofy dog grin?
 Children gleefully playing outside? I'm grateful
 for all those things this morning.

Planning Ash Wednesday and looking
 ahead to Palm Sunday and Easter is comparable
 for me spiritually as going into winter with the
 assurance that spring will come. And it's almost
 here. Hallelujah!

A question to myself that I'll ask you is:
 What new life needs awakened or re-energized
 in you, the church? How will this happen?
 Through celebrating our 40th anniversary?
 Working together to renovate the Fair Stand?
 Visioning, ministry, study, worship? What
 would change if we approached these topics as
 intentional Easter people? Just curiously musing
 on a Monday morning.

Namaste,
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

February 2017

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
February 5	\$2,976.00	62
February 12	\$2,715.85	60
February 19	\$1,818.00	56
February 26	\$2,227.00	66

LECTIONARY

March 5 – Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 32

March 12– Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17; Psalm 121

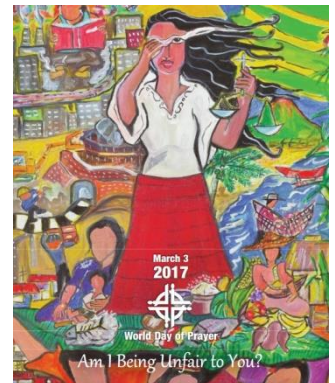
March 19 – Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
 John 4:5-42; Psalm 95

March 26 – 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41; Psalm 23

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Our Redeemer Lutheran
 Church will host this year's
 World Day of Prayer service at
 10 a.m. on Friday March 3.
 The community is invited.





The beginning of March is also the beginning of Lent. This is a time of year on the church calendar when we take our music very seriously. Selections are made, not only to convey a message, but also to evoke a mood - a sense of sincerity toward the subject. It is our hope that all will feel the spirit with the help of everything the music has to offer.

- Wed., March 1: Ash Wed. - no Chime Choir**
- Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30**
- Sun., March 5: CHANCEL CHOIR**
- Wed., March 8: Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30**
- Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30**
- Sun., March 12: CHIME CHOIR**
- Wed., March 15: (same as March 8)**
- Sun., March 19: CHANCEL CHOIR**
- Wed., March 22: (same as March 8)**
- Sun., March 26: WORSHIP TEAM**
- Wed., March 29: (same as March 8)**

**Lenten Study Mondays at 1:30
beginning March 6th.**

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- March 19, April 23 and May 21. More details will be coming later. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CYG NEWS

This past Sunday we heard from Katie Meyers, a former CYG student, about her summer working with Next Step Ministries in Texas. She was inspired from her mission trips, especially the one to Pine Ridge to apply for this adventure. Katie is a hard, hard working young woman with a positive outlook on life. We are proud of her!

March will include lesson on Paul on March 5. We will have a service weekend with Pancake Breakfast on March 11 and scavenger hunt for food pantry on March 12. The youth voted to give all proceeds from the breakfast to the Ministerial Association Help Fund as a way of giving back. If you would like someone to collect food from your house on March 12, please let Pastor Marian know. March 19 will be regular CYG. March 26 will be a new high school event called F.U.S.E. Our group has planned a day's activities, food, worship, and invited a speaker. We've reached out to surrounding communities, inviting their youth to participate as well. Our young leaders are very enthused. Junior high youth will meet at the church that day for their own activities.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

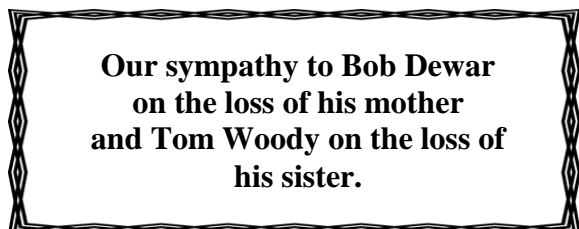
TAKE AWAY HUNGER

Good news! The Take Away Hunger Committee worked with local FFA students yesterday afternoon (Sunday, Feb 26), who packed a total of 5,562 meals in just short of 2 hours! What an accomplishment! I can only imagine the smiles on the faces of those who receive this vitally important source of nutrition. The FFA students worked 2 lines with 20+ workers, along with their advisor and his wife. We used a new "recipe" that has beans in it as well as a few more spices to give it a little more zing than the somewhat bland rice/chicken casserole we had used previously.

The FFA chapter raised \$500 for this project which was augmented by a \$500 gift from the Endowment Committee. However, we are a bit short to pay for the entire amount of meals that were packed. If you are interested in helping to defray the shortfall, please make a check out to First Church United, with Take Away Hunger noted in the memo line. The check can be dropped off at the church office or given to Keith Barnhart. We are hoping to raise \$1500 at this time, not only to make up the difference for the 2/26 packing, but also to have a good start for another group who may want to pack food. Know that we are now asking groups to help with fundraising if at all possible in order to continue efforts to feed those who are hungry...locally, regionally, and internationally.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the Take Away Hunger program, and thank you for your consideration.

Take Away Hunger Committee
Syd Harned
Arnie Hart
Bill Koellner



OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY

January 5, 2016, 6:30 p.m.



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

CALL TO ORDER

DEVOTION TIME Genesis 19

APPROVAL OF DOCKET add Lending Tree report, Financial reports for Congregational Life Committee, Lending Tree and Endowment Fund Committee and April Barnhart request. 1st Wayne N., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

APRIL BARNHART spoke to the Board requesting they consider endorsing her in either the Disciples of

Christ or Presbyterian denominations. Discussion on getting to know April more and what the process is for being endorsed. Move to approve that Pastor Marian and April investigate the process of endorsing and consider how April can be involved in First Church United so we can get to know her 1st Syd H., Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES move to approve 1st Wayne N., 2nd Joel M., unanimously approved by the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT Keith Barnhart reports that the first 1/3 of the wider mission and per capita was paid to the Christian Church and Presbytery respectively in January. Also, the first quarter of insurance was paid. The line for Music Ministry shows an extra \$100 in their budget line due to the donation MidWestOne Bank gave to the Choir for playing during the Holiday Open House. Move to approve Keith's report 1st Syd H., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

Joe M. reports on the Endowment Fund summary, Lending Tree activity and Congregational Life/Fair Stand. All of the ins and outs for each fund/account is listed. Those reports are available upon request.

PASTOR'S REPORT JANUARY 2017

Office hours kept as possible

Plan and lead worship Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

Adult Sunday School

Lending Tree on Wednesdays

Planning and shopping for Welcome Table, WOW, and CYG meals

Welcome table Jan. 7, 14, 28

Lending Tree most Wednesdays

WOW meals, prepare, serve, clean up

CYG Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 including Board meeting

Women in Ministry lunch and bible study Jan. 10

Weird Church book study Jan. 12

Ad Hoc meeting at Newcomb church Davenport Jan. 19

Simpson worship Jan. 20

Camp Wyoming Trivia Night fund raiser Jan. 20

Minister's Institute Jan. 23-25-2 days of cont. ed.

Convocation speaker Rabbi Susan, very

inspirational. Engaging Worship workshop-we have done everything that the leaders of this workshop suggest and more!

Deacon's meeting Jan. 29

Ministerial Association Feb. 1

Pastoral visits-10

Mileage-456

Community involvement-Rotary, committee for West Liberty grant application for affordable housing project through ArtPlace America, treasurer of Min. Assoc. help fund.

Due to extremely low number of guests at Welcome Table, I decided to end meals for this year. We will regroup and see what happens next year.

LENDING TREE REPORT JAN. 2017

Tea jar, mugs	\$5.00
Clock	1.00
Microwave, table, misc.	16.00
Bowls	5.00
Beds	30.00
Rug	1.00
Total sales	\$58.00

Donations brought in-toys, towels, silverware, food processor

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- Board Liaison for Congregational Life Committee and Christian Education Committee.- Joel M. will be the Congregational Life Committee Board Liaison. Board will ask if Susie L. will be the Christian Ed. Committee Board Liaison when she returns to Iowa.

- Relocating the Thermostat from Joe Myers- Mike Kessler moved the thermostat from the sound room on Tuesday, January 31st. Blaine Kelly is looking at the baptismal heater. The wires are in need of repair. Joe M. will follow up with Blaine to see how we need to go forward.

- March Elder on Call- Discussion on who can be elder and what the role is. Wayne N. will be the Elder on Call for March.

- Fair Stand- meeting on Sunday to discuss possible updates to the Fair Stand. A few of those updates might be concrete floors, air conditioning, a new sink, new water heater. Syd H. will take notes and lead the meeting. This will be a brainstorming session for anyone who would like to come.

- Congregational Life and Lending Tree treasurer. – no discussion.

- Memorial Committee – suggested a form of some kind is formulated for the memorial committee to list possible ways memorial funds can be designated when a family donates funds.

- Motion for the bylaws to be reviewed by a few members. A list of additions or revisions be made and presented to the Congregation to vote on. 1st Wayne N., 2nd Joel M., unanimously approved by the Board.

Chore List Inside 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. Immersion baptismal heater broken - Kessler and Blaine Kelly
6. Leak in Kitchen ceiling-
*Joel M. will look for ceiling tiles

Outside the Church

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

Manse

1. Windows-

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pastor Marian asks if the Board would consider using some of the Endowment Board Discretion to help each camp (CCC & Camp Wyoming). We normally give \$2,000 a year to each camp. Motion to approve \$2,000 to each camp out of Endowment Board Discretion. 1st Joel M., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN ED. February 2017

Hello, Church Family!

It is with great joy that I can report on the successes we continue to have in the realm of children's religious education at First Church United. We are learning about the life, teachings, and parables of Jesus these next few months. It is a blessing to be able to follow the lectionary as we utilize the same bibles in church as the kids are able to read at home. Our spring semester will culminate with a worship-leading extravaganza around Easter, so stay tuned!

Thanks for your support, Jason Thrasher

ADJOURNMENT/PRAYER CONCERNS

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING March 2, 2017 at 6:30p.m.

Church Workers

March 5th

Communion/Chancel Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom and Mary Pat Brooke

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Gary Hahn, Lisa Murphy, Bob Dewar,
Jim Kiwala, Shirley Sterner, Syd Harned

USHER: Ken Noble

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

CANDLE LIGHTER: Alice Thrasher

March 12th

USHER: Wayne Noring

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Tom & Janet Woody

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

March 19th

Communion/Chancel Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom and Mary Pat Brooke

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Gary Hahn, Lisa Murphy, Bob Dewar,
Jim Kiwala, Shirley Sterner, Syd Harned

USHER: Bill Koellner

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Dave & Bertie Baker

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

March 26th

Worship Team

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Arnie Hart

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

Communion Preparers for March are
Walt Lehman & Evelyn Evans



Birthdays in March

4th Rich Hambright

7th Chris Kruse

9th Jarod Williams

10th Butch Nortman

13th Marian Levai-Baird

31st Yvonne Gardenier



Anniversaries in March

3rd Travis & Breona Maurer

15th Marvin & Carol Irwin

21st Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

Congregational Life Movie Night

March 17th at 6 :00p.m. Movie is TBD.

Children and adults are invited. No childcare is provided. A sign-up sheet is on the buffet.

Synod School 2017

Information
and catalogs
are on the
buffet!



"Synod School is well organized, with inspiring worship leaders, talented instructors, and a great children's program."

July 23-28, 2017

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool
800-328-1880, ext. 207

Let Justice Flow