



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

**MAY DAY! MAY DAY!** May Day is a festival celebrated midway between the spring and summer equinox. Folks dance around and wrap a pole with streamers. It is a time of joy. It has been a custom in the past to surprise your neighbor with a basket of flowers left on the door anonymously.

**MAY DAY! MAY DAY!** May is when we really gear up for end of school year with graduation parties, final concerts, field trips. We will celebrate Mother's day. We have probably planned our summer vacations by now. We are planting our fields and gardens. We look forward to Memorial Day's three day weekend.

**MAY DAY! MAY DAY!** Is an international call of distress. It comes from the French for 'help me.' Sometimes May feels busier than December to me. And then all of a sudden, not much action or participation here at church.

And yet it strikes me as truth that the church is here all year round in our various times of May Day. We celebrate together. We pull together in times of distress. We work hard and rest together. We plant and grow and harvest together. We plan and party and pray.

We are always in some in-between state of May Day. It is good to know the church is here with us, especially in the distressing times of mayday.

Believe it or not, these are my continued Easter thoughts. Jesus' followers' emotions were very mixed and jumbled with elation, grief, confusion, doubt, belief all rolled into one. They wanted to celebrate his resurrection I'm sure. They were living in the in-between time of amazement and conviction to action. They were living in a time of great distress and challenge. I invite you to reread the resurrection appearances and find yourself in the story. Are you Mary? Peter or John? Thomas? Cleopas? An unnamed woman or disciple? Have you received Jesus' breath of peace in the midst of your personal mayday? Are you ready for the wind and fire of Pentecost to blow away the last remnants of doubt or lethargy and set your heart on fire? If not, why not? Let's use the days of May to prepare ourselves for our commission for the summer.

Happy May Day!  
 Pastor Marian

## CHURCH RECORD

April 2017

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
April 2	\$2,569.50	61
April 9	\$1,743.49	92
April 16	\$1,485.78	106
April 23	\$510.00	60
April 30	\$1,402.21	75

### Lectionary

**May 7** – Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10  
 Psalm 23

**May 14** – Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14  
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

**May 21** – Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21  
 Psalm 66:7-18

**May 28** – Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11  
 Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

**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 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Ideas are welcome. Leaders are essential, sign up today!



May Day! May Day! The choir year is almost over!

Ah well. We'll try to go out in a blaze of glory this month. Two of the three choir Sundays in May feature brand new music! (That should keep us on our toes.) Here is our schedule.

May 3: Chime Choir, 6:45 to 7:30

Chancel Choir, 7:30 to 8:30

**May 7: CHANCEL CHOIR**

May 10: (Same as May 3)

**May 14: [Mother's Day] CHIME CHOIR**

May 17: Chancel Choir only, 7:30 to 8:30

**May 21: [Senior Recognition Sunday]**

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

May 24: No Choirs until Fall

**May 28: [Graduation Sunday / Memorial Weekend]**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**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**

**Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, cards & any other kind & thoughtful expressions of sympathy on the loss of my brother, Don Hansen. Shirley Sterner**

**Long Range Planning** after church brainstorming session will be on May 21. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello Church family.

It is with great joy that I can tell you of the successes we are having in the Christian education department.

We continue to follow the lectionary in both Sunday school and WOW. The multi-faceted approach to learning involving the godly play method seems to continue to foster good relationships and understanding of the lessons. And, we have an upsurge in attendance on the youth front I am pleased to announce, so, the likelihood of a well – bonded future generation of worshipers is strong. There are wonderful plans brewing with our music ministry for the youth, and many exciting new events are starting to coalesce.

We will take a brief break for our Wednesday worship and Sunday school during the summer months to allow for vacations, beginning after May 17. We will resume in August, for the Vacation Bible school session to kick off the new year.

Sincere blessings and appreciation for all of those who support the wonderful youth ministry we offer at First Church United.

Yours in Christ, Jason Thrasher



*Potluck*

Senior Recognition Sunday is May 21<sup>st</sup>. Help us celebrate our seniors. We will have a potluck following the service. Bring your favorite dish to share.

## Baccalaureate Service

It is First Church United's turn to host Baccalaureate. It will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Jordan Pihoda from S.A.L.T. will be our guest speaker. All graduating seniors are invited to attend.

**The Congregation is invited to help Celebrate the Graduation of Kurtis Minor Saturday, May 27 from 4 to 7 pm 1001 N. Columbus Street, West Liberty**

**Please save your egg cartons!** You may bring them to the church kitchen and Mary Pat Brooke will be happy to take them off your hands.

**ADOPT A HIGHWAY SPRING TRASH PICK UP  
SATURDAY, MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 8:00 A.M.  
MEET AT THE CHURCH, WE WILL CARPOOL  
TO OUR SPOT.**

Bring gloves and a water bottle. Wear appropriate clothing. The more people who can help, the faster it will get done. A sign-up sheet is on the buffet.

**OFFICIAL  
BOARD SUMMARY  
April 6, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**



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

**DEVOTION TIME** Matthew

**OPEN IN PRAYER**

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET** move to approve with amendments (add Cliff McFerren from Simpson Home) 1st Bill K., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** move to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved by the Board.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Keith Barnhart reports that he has paid the last of the per capita to the two missions. There were additional expenses last month to pay for computer and printer issues. Receipts are down for March. Board checking is (\$1,195.60). All bills are paid. Endowment interest has been deposited to savings. Watters estate quarterly check will come this month. Keith will change the title of line #531 to Christian Ed. Funds. Move to approve Treasurer's report 1st Bill K., 2nd Brenda M. unanimously approved by the Board.

Start of the month of March	\$2,042.57
Receipts	\$11,693.54
Sub Total	\$13,736.11
Disbursements	\$13,668.71
Ending balance	\$ 67.40
Board Checking	\$(1,195.60)

**PASTOR'S REPORT FEBRUARY** March 2-April 6, 2017

Office hours kept as possible

Plan and lead worship Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, Ap. 2

Adult Sunday School

Monday Lenten Studies

Wed. WOW meals

Lending Tree Mar. 8, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29

CYG Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, Ap. 2

Weekly shopping for WOW and CYG meals

Simpson Bible Study Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28

World Day of Prayer Mar. 3

Funeral Katherine Willson Mar. 10-date of death Mar. 4

Christian Education Summit Echo Hill Cedar Rapids Mar. 10-11

Women in Ministry lunch and study Mar. 14

Newcomb church Ad Hoc meeting Mar. 16

Movie night at church Mar. 17

Cluster #12 meeting Mar. 23

Weird Church book study Mar. 28

Meeting with Ed Moreno about Master Gardener's plot for pantry

Ap. 3 Worship Team meeting

Ap. 4 Poverty to Possibility speaker at MCC

Ap. 5 annual River Bend Food Bank conference

Community involvement TTT, Rotary (National Honor Society induction), fish fry support

Reminder vacation April 17-23, Kristi Brown will be speaker 23rd

I'm accepted for this year's School for Pastors in Hastings-request time for Cont. Ed. June 4-9.

I've been invited to be chaplain for TTT camp again June 11-16, request ok to serve in this capacity, remaining on call in case of funeral etc.

Pastoral visits-13

Mileage-396

Move to approve Cont. Ed. June 4-9 and time at TTT camp June 11-16 1<sup>st</sup> Bill K., 2<sup>nd</sup> Joel M., unanimously approved by the Board.

**LENDING TREE, March, 2017**

Towels	\$5.00
Stand	3.00
Utensils	2.00
Cup	1.00
Mixer	25.00
Suitcases	free
Bookcase	30.00
Lamps	20.00
Silverware	10.00
Throw, misc.	10.00
Total sales	\$106.00
WOW meals	76.00

Donations received: beds, sleeping bags, dressers, bookcase, towels, kitchenware, misc. housewares

## **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

- May Elder on Call: Norma Brooks  
June Elder on Call: Bill Koellner  
July Elder on Call: Wayne Noring  
August Elder on Call: Norma Brooks

- Fair Stand – update- Deepak G. reports they are waiting for nice weather to work on the concrete. Deepak’s goal is to be done by end of May.

- Congregational Life and Lending Tree treasurer. – Joe Myers reports no one has volunteered yet to take over either Treasurer position. Katie will begin including the announcement that we are in need of someone to come forward to help in the bulletin.

- 40 year celebration ideas.

A. General Chair August 13 event- Bill Koellner will Chair

B. General Chair - invite speakers and special singers. Brenda Miller and Pastor Marian will Chair. Pastor Marian has invited Al Zimmerman and the regional minister to be here that day.

C. General Chair - update history, listing of original members of FCU in 1977, those who joined (year), members who died (year). Bill Koellner will Chair

D. General Chair - displays, photos, videos, etc of construction, special events and more. Bill Koellner will Chair

E. General Chair - activities around children. Joel & Lisa Murphy will Chair

F. General Chair - replacement of sanctuary carpet, Fellowship Hall door and other things to mark 40th anniversary. Brenda M. will ask Jodi Kelly and Syd Harned if they can help.

G. General Chair – food for August. 13. Arnie Hart and Bob Dewar will Chair. Pastor Marian has contacted the Heckman family about growing sweet corn for the event but she has not heard back from them yet.

-Community garden project – Bill K. reports that the area has been highlighted North of the Manse. FFA seeds are growing and will be donated. Tim Davison will plow the area soon. The Community Center will provide the water and volunteers to help with the garden.

Pastor Marian applied for a \$1000 grant from the Presbytery to help provide fruit trees. She expects to hear back about that in the next few weeks.

Bob Dewar will till the land by the Bell Tower soon.

-Food Pantry update – Pastor Marian reports that Mary Pat Brooke will resign as of May 1, 2017. Pastor Marian has contacted the other churches. Dave and Roberta Baker have agreed to take Mary Pats Saturday Food Pantry duties. The people from area churches wishing to volunteer will be trained. Motion to approve David and Roberta Baker be on the Voluntary Action Council account at the West Liberty State Bank and they will be the First Church United coordinators for the West Liberty Food Pantry as of May 1, 2017 1st Bill Koellner, 2nd Joel Murphy, unanimously approved by the Board.

Motion for the Board to approve Mary Pat Brookes verbal resignation from the Food Panty and thank her for her many years of service. 1st Bill K., 2nd Joel Murphy, unanimously approved by the Board.

## **Chore List**

### **Inside church**

1. Drains in lounge need to be cleaned - Darren Brooke
2. Immersion baptismal heater broken – Joe M. will talk to Blaine to get update.
3. Leak in Kitchen ceiling- Deepak G. will look into it.
4. Drains and Grease trap in the kitchen need to be cleaned. – Deepak G. took care of this.
5. Sanctuary lighting - Deepak G. reports that Architecture and lighting group will be coming on Wednesday to talk with Bill K. and himself. Meter Electric gave proposal for \$10, 030.24 that is in the file. The proposal does not include decorative lighting or labor (which would be subcontracted).
6. Steps, hand rail, lights, carpet - Deepak G. reports the lighting on the choir loft steps continues to be an issue but Kessler is coming back to adjust again. Joe M. asks the hand rail be stained to match the baseboard.
7. Speakers - mounting, routing of wires for safety - Brenda M. reports she moved the wires around the organ and taped them down. There is one cable that needs to be removed as it is no longer used. Deepak G will arrange for that to be done. The speakers currently used are property of CYG and are moved periodically so we cannot mount or move them. Brenda will talk to West Music about speakers and options.
8. Fellowship Hall bathroom - people locked in bathroom, replace door lock. Bill K. will check with Dillon Brooke about fixing that. Deepak G. will help if Dillon cannot.
9. Computer/Printer/Router issues over the last couple weeks were fixed by Richard Hart.

## **Outside the Church**

1. NE wall of new wing has water mark (possible roof work needed) - Jim K. will look into it.
2. Hole in caulking in E. stain glass window (on outside) - Jim K. will look into it.
3. Landscaping plan - front of church, plants for church sign, bell tower planters flower pots around outside church, new trees, more (funding Memorial committee) - Marilyn Ruegsegger, Bill & Jan Koellner. Bill K reports the Memorial Committee would like to help with purchasing trees.
4. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks, spalled concrete in handicap area -Deepak G. showed the Board a bid from Collins Concrete for \$12,365.29 for concrete by Sanctuary doors, concrete by handicap parking and north lot. Bid is in the file.
5. Volunteer Trees in east lawn removed – Joe Myers
6. Door overhangs on NE wing near kitchen to prevent rain entering - Joe M. will talk to Mark Johnson.

## **Manse**

1. Windows- needs to be brought up with the Trustees.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Necrology Report- Katherine Willson March 4, 2017
- Spring cleaning outdoors/indoors (clean closets, wash windows, trim trees, trim bushes, board make list). Katie will make up a list of chores and post on the bulletin board for the congregation to help accomplish. Deepak G. will ask the cleaning company A Brand New Day how much it would cost to clean the manse and church windows.
- Lawnmower service – Bill K. reports the lawnmower was serviced in preparation for spring and summer lawn care needs.
- Painting - Bill K. recommends the Board walk around the church to see what needs to be painted.

## **MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:**

### **CHRISTIAN ED. March 2017**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**- motion to adjourn 1st Bill K., 2nd Brenda M. unanimously approved by the Board.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**NEXT MEETING** May 4, 2017 at 6:30p.m.

## Church Workers

May 7

Communion/Chancel Choir

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Norma Brooks & Dave Baker

**COMMUNION SERVERS:**

Jim Kiwala, Emily Reed, Lisa Murphy,  
Gary Hahn, Joe Myers, Dinette Myers

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETER & COFFEE HOUR:**

Bill & Jan Koellner

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Katie Thrasher

May 14

Mother's Day/Chime Choir

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Evelyn Evans & Betty Burton

**ORGANIST:** Lori Brooke

**POWER POINT:** Jim Kiwala

May 21

Senior Recognition/Communion/Potluck

Norma Brooks & Dave Baker

**COMMUNION SERVERS:**

Jim Kiwala, Emily Reed, Lisa Murphy,  
Gary Hahn, Joe Myers, Dinette Myers

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS:** Maurers/Wieles

**POWER POINT:** Keith Barnhart

May 28

Special Music/Graduation/Memorial Weekend

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Katie Thrasher

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Bill Koellner

**Communion Preparers for May are**

**Butch and Karen Nortman**



## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

1<sup>st</sup> Carla Sphar

10<sup>th</sup> Mike Phelps

10<sup>th</sup> Joyce Hahn

10<sup>th</sup> Katlyn Skubal

11<sup>th</sup> Blaine Kelly

11<sup>th</sup> Arnie Hart

12<sup>th</sup> Adeep Giri

15<sup>th</sup> Jan Koellner

15<sup>th</sup> Brad Akers

18<sup>th</sup> Zach Irwin

19<sup>th</sup> Pat Nortman

21<sup>st</sup> Leland Kober

22<sup>nd</sup> Blaine Williams

23<sup>rd</sup> Ryan Deahr

27<sup>th</sup> Andy Nortman

27<sup>th</sup> Marian Hart

29<sup>th</sup> Betty Burton

## **MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

5<sup>th</sup> Jared & Samira Deahr

7<sup>th</sup> Filmore & Marjory Melick

19<sup>th</sup> Scott & Angie Brooke

27<sup>th</sup> Tom & Janet Woody

27<sup>th</sup> Jason & Katie Thrasher