



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

It occurs to me as I can't help but hear the banging, grinding, beeping, revving of construction equipment, to look for some life lesson parallels in the racket and inconvenience.

We all want nice smooth, wide roads to drive on much as we'd prefer easy, no pain lives. If honest, we'll admit we'd like someone else to do the work and pay the price for our bump-free existence. We gripe at the detours we have to take, the interruption to our peaceful location, the loss of what we have (even knowing in the long-run we're getting something much better). And such is life.

Admittedly we encounter more than bumps in the road. That is when the previous building up of a sturdy faith life really comes into play. When the 'repair crews' volunteer to work overtime to help us through the detour, we feel the presence of Jesus with skin on.

With Jesus as the general foreman in the making of our lives, we can be sure something beautiful is in the plan, even when we can't envision it ourselves. Much as it's hard to imagine what Maxson Street will look like in a few months, though the engineers know, we sometimes can't see our future very clearly. One of the hardest aspects is the waiting for the good. It takes time to build a street. It takes time to heal from life's hurdles and tragedies.

If you're going through a time that feels more like destruction than construction, hold tight to the faithfulness of our Almighty God who promises to be there alongside you and help you through whatever challenge you face. If a friend or loved one is going through something, remember healing does not happen in a day or two. Hold them in prayer, offer a listening ear, a hug, or meal. Even as adults, it takes a village.

May we all receive grace sufficient for the day,  
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD		
June 2017		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
June 4	\$4,020.69	46
June 11	\$1,358.00	45
June 18	\$1,080.00	38
June 25	NA	43

## All Congregational Gathering: A New Perspective August 26



Explore ministry from a new perspective

Free...Food...Activities...Lodging in cabins or tents (come Friday or stay over Saturday night)...Childcare

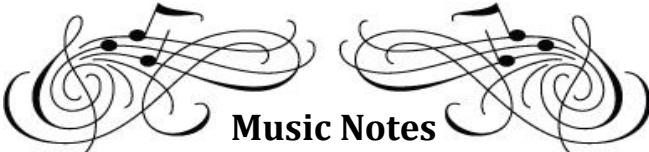
Fun..."Midway" Activities for all ages...Swim...Inflatables... 5K Walk/Run (sign up with your registration)...Hot Air Balloon Tethered Rides

Education...A Varied Ministries Building full of ideas for your congregations...Interesting and useful workshops

Inspiration...Worship...Art Show...Idea sharing

Celebration...Lots of special activities to celebrate the Conference Center's 50th Anniversary

To Register or for more information please go to  
<http://www.uppermidwestcc.org>



## Music Notes

Hey, You!!! Yes, all of you - all choir members, accompanists, organists / pianists, and wannabees! If you are in the last category and "wannabee" a member of our Music Ministry at First Church United, please speak up! You may contact any of us (Brenda Miller, Lori Brooke, Marianne Phelps, Susie Lehman, or any current member of our choirs) to let us know which area you're interested in. Do you have a child, grandchild, neighbor or friend that might enjoy and benefit from our choir family? Reach out and invite them!

### Simple Requirements:

Chancel Choir - singing in tune is advised!

Chime Choir - must be able to count rhythms and recognize your assigned note(s).

Accompanist or Organist / Pianist - must be able to read and play music.

### Unique Benefits:

Enjoyment of the music we make.

Gratification in musical excellence and accomplishments.

Charitable satisfaction, knowing you've shared messages and inspired your congregation.

The bond of Christian friendships as we serve in ministry through music!

Please watch for your August eLetter (usually the first week) for first rehearsal dates and other initial information. And we hope to see you at the fair! Sign up sheets are still in Fellowship Hall if you haven't already agreed to fill some shifts in our newly air conditioned stand, and it's a great way to visit with choir friends and other church friends while supporting many fine causes!

## 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.

## WORSHIP AT THE FAIR

It is First Church United's turn to lead worship in the grove at the Fairgrounds on Sunday, July 23 at 9:00 a.m. Music will be led by our CYG band. Pastor Marian will commission those going on this year's mission trip. A free will offering will be taken in support of the Ministerial Association Help Fund. Please plan to join us and spread the word!

## THE LENDING TREE

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



### First Church United 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 1100 N. Calhoun Street

Sunday, August 13, 2017  
Worship Service 10:00

Food served 11:30-1:00

Games and Entertainment 11:30-3:00

## Women's Retreat

Presbyterian Women of East Iowa are offering a women's retreat Aug. 11-12 at Camp Wyoming's Owl's Nest. The theme is No Jesus, no peace; know Jesus, know peace. It will be led by Rev. Melody Oltmann. Details in the flyer on the buffet. Cost of retreat is supplemented by a fund set up with money left to PW by Lois Schermerhorn. Register early as space is limited. Pastor Marian is going if you'd like to carpool.

## Meat Preparation for the Fair Stand will be Monday, July 10th at 9:00 a.m.

Meat will be cool. We need at least 8 people to pull pork and bag the meat. We hope to be done before 12:00, if not, Lori will buy lunch!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

The Christian Education committee is in the midst of planning Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held on the first 4 Wednesday's in August in the evening. More information will be sent out in the next couple weeks. Be sure to check your email and the First Church United WOW and Sunday School page on Facebook for updates. We pray you are having a safe and fun summer so far and can't wait to see you around church and VBS!

## **Food Pantry Report for May 2017**

Dear Friends of Voluntary Action:

May was a busy month at the food pantry. Not so much from the visitor's standpoint but from my standpoint. On May 6 only 2 families came, on May 13 only 2 families came, on May 20 we had 3 families, and on May 27 we had 9 families, we seem to be rather slow.

Action items: posters were placed at City Hall, the Library, and both banks in town, the early learning center, and the laundromats. Mike Duytschaver posted these.

I got a map of the West Liberty Community School district and have posted it on the door of the food pantry.

Items needed: laundry soap, bleach, body wash, hand soap, shampoo, tooth brushes, tooth paste, and deodorant, as well as anything you feel fits this category

Some of the items we cannot purchase at a discount and are needed:

Sugar

Rama noodles

Toilet paper

White Rice

Canned Mixed Fruit like Fruit Cocktail

Monetary donations are always welcome.

The Postal workers food drive brought in 1,083 pounds of food in 25 mail totes that were delivered to the church at 3:30 Saturday afternoon and they wanted the totes back at 8 AM on Monday, so we worked to get this sorted and stocked to keep from having to handle it a number of times. We also received an addition 447 pounds of food from other sources, making a total of 1,530 pounds of donated food in. We also purchased 524 pounds of food from the River Bend Foodbank for \$163.75 which had a wholesale value of \$875. This is over a ton of food in the pantry in the month of May.

We started the month with \$5,000 in our account and we took in \$1,500 and spent \$435.

We received a gift of shelving for the food pantry from a citizen of the community and we also received addition shelving from First Church United for the storage of food as well as a "cleaning closet" where we can store laundry products, personal hygiene products (body wash, shampoo, deodorant), and cleaning products. The new shelf space for a lot more choices to be displayed.

The Voluntary Action Council will meet on Wednesday, June 14 at 7 PM at First Church United to see where we are on laying the foundation and our first steps to build. We need a secretary to keep up with the

minutes or a chairman to run the meetings. Please be thinking of this need also.

Sincerely, Dave Baker

## **Food Pantry Report for June 2017**

We had a busy month at the food pantry. Things seem to be getting organized and visitors are learning the guidelines for the items they select. The visitors are enjoying their shopping experience from the feedback we have received. This month only 142 pounds of food came in however after getting 1,530 pounds of food last month because of the Postal Employee's Food Drive, it is understandable.

We had 26 total visits in the month of June. We served a total of 62 people this month. The total number of families that visited the food pantry was 18. We made an effort to check that all of our visitors were signed up for SNAP, for food stamp program and most were. We passed out flyers with the phone number for the program to those that needed to get signed up and these are in both English and Spanish so all the visitors could get signed up.

We continue to need all the food stuff that have been given in the past. Right now we are stocking a cleaning closet with personal care products, laundry soap, and cleaning products and these items have been well received by our visitors. Item that are low or completely depleted are canned chicken, sugar, flour, and soup crackers.

We still need volunteers to assist at the food pantry from 9 AM to 10 AM on Saturday morning and it would be nice to have someone to cover so we can take a break now and then. I have made flyers announcing that starting Thursday, August 3 the food pantry will be open from 6 PM to 7 PM on Thursday for families that are not able to come on Saturday morning. In August we will be open 2 days ever week. To see how this is received in the community.

Dave Baker, Chairman



*Give Blood  
for  
Life!*

**Rotary of West Liberty**

**Blood Drive**

**Monday, August 7 from**

**2-7p.m. at First Church United.**

**Walk-ins Welcome!**



**OFFICIAL  
BOARD SUMMARY  
FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD  
MEETING**

**June 1, 2017 6:30 p.m.**

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

**Devotion** – John the Mystic Writer, Colossians 3

**Open in Prayer**

**Approval of the Docket** – Add carpet update, missing dishes.

**Approval of Minutes** – Change line in minutes regarding a Maxson Street construction worker to park in the church lot, it is not a construction worker but a church neighbor affected by the construction on Maxson Street. Move to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved by the Board.

**Treasurer's Report** - Keith Barnhart reports all bills are paid. Contributions for May were \$7,613.62 and bills totaled around \$7,000. Deepak G. asks for all bills for the improvements on the Fairstand be paid for after the project is done. Deepak would like to see all of the bills. Motion to approve 1st Syd H., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

Start of the month of May	\$4,086.68
Receipts	\$7,982.94
Sub Total	\$12,069.62
Disbursements	\$10,091.24
Ending balance	\$ 1,978.38
Board Checking	(\$3,281.12)

**Pastor's Report MAY 4-JUNE 1**

Office hours kept as possible

Plan and led worship May 7, 14, 21, 28

Adult Sunday School

Lending Tree Wednesdays, one Saturday

WOW/choir meals on Wednesdays, communion served for WOW kids May 17

Donation garden meeting/planting May 8

Women in ministry lunch and study May 9

Cluster 12 meeting/lunch May 18

Ad Hoc Commission Newcomb church, Davenport May 18

Simpson worship May 19

Weird Church book study May 23, the group has asked to meet here when we resume in Sept.

Baccalaureate service May 24, 2017

River Bend Food Bank pick up and delivery May 25

Pastoral visits-6

Mileage-306

Community involvement-Meals on Wheels, TTT, Rotary, 100+Women who Care

**Lending Tree Report May 2017**

Towels	\$13.00
Blanket	2.00
Dressers	80.00
Glassware	10.00
Pitcher and trays	5.00
Bench	7.00
Willow Tree figures	15.00
Misc.	1.00
Basket	.50
Casseroles	7.00
Shelf	2.00
Skillet	1.00
Pie plates	4.00
Cake pan	1.00
Plate	1.00
Lamps	20.00
Chair	3.00
Sheets	3.00
Casserole, basket	5.00
Total sales	\$180.50
W.O.W. meals 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	\$302.86
Total	\$483.36

**Ongoing Business -**

**Fair Stand** – Deepak G. reports all concrete is done except the outside part. Tables and chairs previously used in a restaurant will be brought in. The hood for the fryer and sink still need to be added. Discussion occurred on where the fryer will be and the flow of costumers. Additional costs have incurred for concrete in an approximate amount of \$3,000. Utilities have increased 25% for all Fair grounds buildings.

**Congregational Life and Lending Tree Treasurer**- no change. Still need someone to volunteer to take over these positions. Joe reports he will ask someone to volunteer to take over the Endowment Committee Treasurer position by the beginning of 2018 as well.

**Spring Cleaning List -**

1. Clean out/up the Fellowship Hall closet - Syd H. and Susie L. will work on it.
2. Clean out/up the Lounge closet - Katie T. and Lisa M. will be working on it Friday, June 2nd
3. Clean windows and doors – done.

4. Dust wood in Sanctuary (wood beams, woodwork in front of the Sanctuary) - will wait to do this until after the carpet/flooring has been finished.
5. Clean wood on pews (remove grape juice spills and shoe marks)- Katie T. and Alice will work on this.

### **Inside the Church**

1. Drains in lounge need to be cleaned - Jim Kiwala will look into this
2. Immersion baptismal heater broken - Brenda M. will talk to Blaine to get update
3. Sanctuary lighting – Deepak G. gave Board a quote from Merit Electric proposing adding 25 lights. Discussion in Sanctuary on where lights would go, the costs, different options for style. Syd H. asks for a diagram on where the lights would go, different options of styles and how each style will illuminate the Sanctuary. The lights would be LED. Quite from Merit Electric is in the file.
4. Speaker options – Deepak G. brought in cord to connect the Clavinova to our existing sound board. Susie L, Brenda M, and Deepak will try connecting the cord and Clavinova and see how that works.
5. Carpet – Jodi K. and Syd H. spoke with Randy's Carpet. They looked at carpet tiles and different color options. Tiles are glued to the cement. Syd brought an estimate from Randy's Carpet for \$13,989.00. Syd explained the concerns for various places in the Sanctuary like the choir loft and steps. Samples of different styles and colors will be in next week. Syd will ask Randy's Carpet about timing of when the project could begin and how long the project should be expected to take to complete. Quote is in file. Board talked about possibilities of expanding the music pit (organ and Clavinova area), creating a children's area, adding a monitor so the person playing can hear.

Board recognizes three big projects: Carpet in Sanctuary, lighting in Sanctuary, and outside landscaping. Bill K. reports they received the landscaping quote this week from Iowa City Landscaping. The quote was for around \$12,000. Part of which will be covered by Memorial Fund Committee and it is suggested to offer for others to adopt trees and shrubs to cover total cost. Bill K. discussed possibility of using the Watters Estate Fund to pay for the carpet and lighting. Board notes that if money is needed from the invested money a

congregational vote is required. Move to purchase carpeting using Watters Estate Fund (line #2105) as presented with extra carpet squares for future needs or repairs. Those on the Board working on this project will approve color of carpet and move forward with project hopefully during Fair week.

Proposed plans for landscaping and lighting will be available for others to see at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Outside the Church**

1. NE wall of new wing has water mark - Jim K. is looking into this.
2. Landscaping plan - talked about this earlier in the meeting
3. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks, spalled concrete in handicap area – no action
4. Volunteer Trees in east lawn removed - Joe Myers. Door overhangs on NE wing near kitchen to prevent rain entering - Joe M. will talk to Mark Johnson.

### **Manse**

1. Windows - Brenda M will talk to Mark Johnson and Ken Wright.

### **New Business:**

1. Ken & Jo Noble replace Tom & Janet Woody as Deacons. Move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Bill K., 2<sup>nd</sup> Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.
2. Move to do communion by Intinction during the summer months 1<sup>st</sup> Bill K., 2<sup>nd</sup> Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Katie's summer hours and vacation plans. Katie plans to work M-F 9-11am. Katie has plans to be on vacation July 1-8 and July 23-29.
4. Endowment – Income is up from beginning of year.
5. Time of day for 40<sup>th</sup> Celebration on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Possible rededication of the Sanctuary during worship then an afternoon event OR a continuation of the event after church. Discussion on a budget for a take away or gift that Mary Larson can follow. Brenda will talk to Mary this week. Brenda plans to send out a tentative schedule for the 13<sup>th</sup> very soon.

### **Ministry & Program Reports:**

#### **CHRISTIAN ED.** June 2017

Hello church family.

Welcome to ordinary time. The church calendar winds down for the summer, and many regular members go on vacation. We held our last Wednesday

worship on the 17th, and the last Sunday worship on the 21st. As we pass the season of Pentecost, and wish our graduates success in their future endeavors, we bring to a close another successful season of children's education. We are blessed to have a vibrant youth ministry here at first church united. Our plan of following the lectionary throughout the season yielded good fruit. We successfully integrated children's worship each week into a format that was appropriate for the ages in attendance. It is with much gratitude that we are able to thank the parents, the food providers, the musical worship leaders and the children themselves for bringing such excitement and positivity into our midst. We will spend these weeks of ordinary time during the summer in preparation and thoughtful contemplation about how to fine tune our programs. As usual, any input is welcome at any time. It is with humble gratitude that we serve this church and spread the love of Christ with a new generation of believers.

Thank you very much for your support, Jason Thrasher

**Motion to adjourn** 1st Syd H., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

**Prayer Concerns**

**Closing Prayer**

**Next Meeting** August 3, 2017

## **Church Workers**

**July 2**

Communion

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

None needed

**USHER:** Harold Wilkerson

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Bill Koellner

**July 9**

**USHER:** Walt Lehman

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Marilyn Ruegsegger

**ORGANIST:** Brenda Miller

**POWER POINT:** Jim Kiwala

**July 16**

Communion

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

The Thrasher Family

**ORGANIST:** Lori Brooke

**POWER POINT:** Marcy Dewar

**July 23**

Fair Sunday- Worship in the Grove at 9:00a.m.

**July 30**

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Ken & Brenda Wright

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Keith Barnhart

**Communion preparers for July are  
Margaret Barnhart & Wayne Noring**



1 Kaden Brooks

6 Lisa Newcomb

8 Levi Larson

9 Calli Jo Deahr

9 Jeff Wiele

10 Kevin Minor

14 Wayne Noring

14 Bill Koellner

14 Joseph Delgado

15 JoAnne Akers

16 Kurt Simon

19 Matthew Kelly

19 Patty Laughlin

20 Rebecca Kober

20 Skylar Simon

21 Elizabeth Levai- Baird

23 Lexi Stanley

25 Corey Herrold

25 Porter Maurer

28 Letha Ottaway

28 Kenley Kirchner

30 Janet Woody

30 Cassie Miller



## **Anniversaries in July**

7th Rob & Brenda Miller

12th Joshua & Elizabeth Levai-Baird

20th Joe & Dinette Myers

30th Leon & Mary Larson



## Birthdays in August

- 1 Norma Minor
- 2 Montana Herrold
- 2 Maddex Maurer
- 4 Betty Dean Probst
- 5 Marilyn Irey
- 5 Ashley Gardenier
- 5 Amrita Giri
- 5 Jared Deahr
- 7 Aditi Giri
- 8 Bob Foor
- 8 Mike Gardenier
- 11 Marshall Delgado
- 14 Courtney Crees
- 14 Dakota Herrold
- 16 Harold Stagg
- 19 Wilbert Wendt
- 22 Madelyn Deahr
- 23 Hannah Miller
- 24 Mary Pat Brooke
- 24 Terri Larson
- 25 Lenny Larson
- 25 Rayleigh Reed
- 26 Todd Koellner
- 26 Ty Brooks
- 29 Paxton Maurer
- 30 Tom Woody
- 31 Harold Wilkerson



## Anniversaries in August

- 1<sup>st</sup> Darren & Lori Brooke
- 18<sup>th</sup> Roger & Heidi Morrison
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Keith & Margaret Barnhart
- 25<sup>th</sup> Wilbert & Mary Wendt
- 26<sup>th</sup> Mark & Missy Johnson
- 27<sup>th</sup> Joe & JoAnne Akers

**Those preparing communion in August are  
Ken & Jo Noble.**