

**FIRST CHURCH UNITED**

1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776

Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446

Pastor, Marian Hart

Secretary, Katie Thrasher

June 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

 Summer is upon us! Hallelujah! Many thanks to the folks who are working diligently on plans for our 40th Anniversary Celebration. It will be here before we know it. So far we have these things to look forward to: sweet corn, beef and pork sandwiches, ice cream, popcorn, games for all ages, music, new landscaping, special guests from the Disciples of Christ Upper Midwest Region and the Presbytery of East Iowa, and a display of our history together. We have much to be thankful for. Keep August 13 open so you won’t miss out!

As many of us take vacations, go camping, or perhaps decide to practice lazy, hazy days, let’s not forget that the ministry of the church carries on. Rain, snow, sleet, sunshine does not stop the need in our community, our outreach, or our availability. Please remember to support us in prayer, by volunteering, and financially as you are able.

 If you haven’t had a chance, come in and sign up for a shift or two at the newly renovated Fair Stand. No more dirt/gravel floors and no more heat!

 This coming Sunday is Pentecost, traditionally celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples, also sometimes called the birth of the church. It is a good time for churches to be open to the moving of the Spirit in their unique calls. The following is one of my favorite quotes:

Why do people in church seem like cheerful, brainless tourists on a packaged tour of the Absolute? … Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us to where we can never return.”

—Annie Dillard, Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters (New York: Harper & Row, 1982), pp. 40-41.

Come Holy Spirit! Buckle up y’all!

Pastor Marian



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| CHURCH RECORD |
| May 2017 |
| **DATE** | **OFFERING** | **ATTEND** |
| May 7 | $2,327.00 | 61 |
| May 14 | $2,772.62 | 82 |
| May 21 | $587.00 | 78 |
|  May 28 | $1,677.00 | 47 |

**Lectionary**

**June 4 –** Acts 2:1-21, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39, Psalm 104:25-35, 37

**June 11–** Genesis 1:1-2:4a, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20, Psalm 8, *or* Canticle 13 (or Canticle 2)

**June 18** – Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7), Psalm 116:1, 10-17
Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)

**June 25** - Genesis 21:8-21, Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

**\*Pastor Marian will be on Study Leave June 4-9**

**\*Pastor Marian will be serving at Camp Wyoming June 11-16**

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!

Music Notes

It's June - the beginning of summer, and of summer break. We're fresh out of choirs until fall. But as you know, there will always be music in our worship services! If anyone in our congregation is interested in sharing their musical talents during these summer months, please contact one of us: the office, Pastor Marian, or one of our choir members who will pass the message along. Even one selection of instrumental or vocal music for a service would be wonderful. We'd love to hear you!

Be assured that plans are already underway for next year's music and its connection with the messages, the seasons, and any special events. We are here to serve!

**Sons of the American Legion Blood Drive**

Monday, June 12th from 2-7p.m. at First Church United

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.

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**THE LENDING TREE**

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

**#40 in 17**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

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

**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.

**![MCj04326650000[1]]()OFFICIAL**

**BOARD SUMMARY**

**May 4, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

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

**Devotion** - Pastor Marian and the Board discussed the metaphor of rocks, cornerstones, stones and the church

**Open in Prayer**

**Approval of the Docket** - Move to approve 1st Syd H., 2nd Bill K., unanimously approved by the Board.

**Approval of Minutes** - move to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved by the Board.

**Memorial Committee Report** - Marianne Phelps spoke of 2 projects the memorial committee is working on.

1. Wall fountain for the Narthex- appeals to both sight and sound, is calming, brings nature inside, promotes overall well-being.  This will be positioned on the brick wall in the Narthex left of the benches (when looking at the benches).

Propose the memorial committee will do the maintenance and upkeep of the fountain.  Marianne has arranged for Deepak G. to help with installation and electrical work.

2. Landscape Improvements - The Memorial Committee is speaking with Iowa City Landscaping Company about possible trees, shrubs and flowers to be planted around the building and grounds.  A plan will be returned in the next few weeks.  Congregational support may be needed as Memorial Committee Funds may not cover all of the expenses.  Bill and Jan Koellner and Marilyn Ruegsegger are also helping in the planning/discussion.

**Treasurer’s Report** - Keith Barnhart reports he moved $5,000 from Savings to checking as we are behind in yearly non pledged giving.  All bills are paid.  Motion to approve 1st Wayne N., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.

 Start of the month of April $67.40

 Receipts $14,695.18

 Sub Total $14,762.58

 Disbursements $10,675.90

 Ending balance $ 4,086.68

 Board Checking $(3,860.41)

**Pastor’s Report** APRIL 6-MAY 4

Office hours kept as possible

Plan and led worship April 9 (three services), 16, 23 (plan only), 30

Adult Sunday school

W.O.W meals plan, prepare, serve, clean up

Lending Tree Wednesdays and one Saturday

Host for Camp Wyoming April 7-8

Camp Wyoming Board meeting April 10

Women in Ministry lunch and study

Good Friday service at WLCF

Ad Hoc Committee Newcomb in Davenport April 20

Simpson worship April 21

Vacation April 16-23-stayed home during week and purged closets, weekend retreat at Crooked Creek Christian Camp with Arnie

Presbyterian Women of East Iowa Spring Workshops April 29

Deacons meeting April 30

CYG Board meeting April 30

Endowment committee meeting May 1

Ministerial Association meeting and end of year lunch May 3

VAC meeting May 3

National Day of prayer Cedar Valley church May 4

Mileage-331

Pastoral visits-7

**Lending Tree Report** **April 2017**

Toys, bowls, Mr. Coffee $10.00

Brita and misc. 10.00

Vacuum 5.00

Pot, ladle 3.00

Chairs 20.00

Shelves 5.00

Lamp 5.00

Clock, CD 6.00

Vacuum 5.00

Pillows, umbrella 3.00

Pots 2.00

Recliner 20.00

Misc. office 5.00

Bed 10.00

Table 3.00

Blankets 8.00

Towel holders 2.00

Total sales $122.00

**Ongoing Business** -

**Fair Stand** - Arnie H. brought in plans last Sunday for the Congregation to see and discuss.  Concrete will be inside the stand and in the seating area.  Newer stainless steel tables, sink, and windows will be added.  Budget is on point.  Rubber mats will be included for comfortable standing on the concrete.  Booths will be donated from Giri BP.  Seating will remain about the same and may increase.

**Congregational Life and Lending Tree Treasurer**- no change.  Still need someone to volunteer to take over these positions.

**40 Year Celebration** -

* Lights in the Sanctuary - Merritt Electric will provide figures next week.
* Carpet in Sanctuary - Brenda M reports that Syd H. and Jodi K. are looking into the project.  Susie L. requests carpet, instead of hardwood or laminate, for safety reasons and noise prevention.  The use of carpet squares was mentioned as a possible option.  Board discussed extending the steps in the choir loft/front of the Sanctuary and more lighting.
* Landscaping plan - discussed earlier with Marianne Phelps. Bill K. added that the evergreen is dying and needs to be taken out then add two or three more.  Iowa City Landscaping will recommend trees that will be good for the yard.
* Door between FH and Sanctuary needs to be fixed or replaced.
* Anniversary Event - History of the church is going to be updated
* August 13 Events -
	+ Joel and Lisa Murphy are thinking of events for the children.
	+ The Music groups and Food plans are coming together

**Food Pantry** - There was a meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd with representatives from 5 other area churches to discuss the Food Pantry.  Dave and Bertie Baker have been cleaning and updating the storage room and pantry.  Their work is greatly appreciated!  Deepak G. has a cooler for the Pantry to use.  Board approves to designate funds from the Kitchen Expansion budget line to help fund improvements to the Food Pantry.

**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 work on it.
3. Arrange Storage room by Food Pantry - Dave Baker has been working on this.  He has added some shelves.
4. Clean windows and doors - Deepak G. will talk to “A Brand New Day” and have them cleaned next week.
5. 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.
6. Clean wood on pews (remove grape juice spills and shoe marks)

**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. Leak in Kitchen ceiling - done
4. Sanctuary lighting - talked about earlier in the meeting
5. Handrail - will be stained on Friday
6. Speaker options - Brenda reports that we can use our existing sound system for the Clavinova once we get a cord.  May need a monitor in the choir loft to measure volume.  Deepak will borrow the cord needed from West Music to see how this option will work for us.
7. Fellowship Hall bathroom - lock is fixed.

Board discussed how the church’s insurance for any accidents that happen at church only covers $5,000.  May not be enough.

**Outside the Church**

1. NE wall of new wing has water mark - Jim K. is looking into this.
2. Hole in caulking in E. stain glass window - Jim K. fixed this.
3. Landscaping plan - talked about this earlier in the meeting
4. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks, spalled concrete in handicap area - not yet done due to expense- Jim K. will talk to All American concrete for possible proposal.
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 - Brenda M will talk to Mark Johnson and Ken Wright.

**New Business**:

**Beryl Brooke Music Ministry purchase** - Susie L reports that Emily Reed researched children’s chimes and the Beryl Brooke Music Ministry will pay for them.  This will be a neat way to introduce this type of music to children.  The chimes came with music.  A few additional supplies may be needed such as pocket charts and a tote to carry the chimes in.  Emily Reed will lead the children in learning chimes.  Expenses so far- $263.96.

**Endowment Requests**

1. $500/quarter for one year ($2,000 total) from Dinette Myers - Fund D. for Kristi Browns mission work in Asia.  Motion to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Syd H. unanimously approved by the Board.
2. $1200 from Jan Koellner to cover Citizenship Class.  Fund C.  Will help cover test expenses for 3 individuals.  Motion to approve 1st Susie L., 2nd Syd H. Unanimously approved by the Board.
3. $350 from Arnie Hart to go to Synod School.  Fund B.  Move to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Syd H. Unanimously approved by the Board.
4. $1200 from the Thrasher Family to go to Synod School.  Fund B.  Move to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Syd H. Unanimously approved by the Board.

**Ministry & Program Reports**:

**CHRISTIAN ED.** May 2017

 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

Pastor Marian asked the Board for approval to let an individual working on the Maxson Street project to park in the lot while they are working.  Board approves by consensus.  Pastor Marian is welcome to approve others in similar situations to park in the church lot.

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

**Prayer Concerns**

**Closing Prayer**

**Next Meeting**  June 1, 2017

Church Workers

**June 4**

Pentecost/Communion by Intinction

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Dean Phelps & Leon Larson

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETER & COFFEE HOUR:**

The Thrasher Family

**ORGANIST**: Lori Brooke

**POWER POINT**:Bill Koellner

**June 11**

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Shirley Sterner & Pat Brooke

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Jim Kiwala

**June 18**

Father’s Day/Communion by Intinction

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Dean Phelps & Leon Larson

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS:** Norma Brooks

**POWER POINT:** Keith Barnhart

**June 25**

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Open

**ORGANIST:** Lori Brooke

**POWER POINT:** Katie Thrasher

**Communion Preparers for June are**

**Ken & Jo Noble**

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## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1. 4th McKenna Deahr
2. 6th Joel Murphy
3. 6th Courtney Wendt
4. 6th Travis Maurer
5. 8th Jodi Kelly
6. 9th Keith Barnhart
7. 9th Tasha Wiele
8. 10th Charles Brooke
9. 11th Walt Lehman
10. 13th Dustin Noble
11. 13th Lisa Murphy
12. 14th Linda Minor
13. 16th Jill Koellner Perkins
14. 16th Heather Powers
15. 17th Katie Thrasher
16. 18th Ella May Hambright
17. 18th Kaden Wiele
18. 19th Dean Phelps
19. 20th Jay Steen
20. 22nd Jesse Reed
21. 24th Brent Benge
22. 27th Brian Benge
23. 27th Vince Ottaway
24. 27th Brandon Harned
25. 28th Samira Deahr
26. 30th June Phelps
27. **JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**
28. 2nd Ken & Linda Minor
29. 7th Bob & Linda Foor
30. 15th Randy & Sandy Henderson
31. 15th Ken & Brenda Wright
32. 15th Dustin & Katherine Brooks
33. 18th Vince & Letha Ottaway
34. 20th Gary & Joyce Hahn
35. 22nd Tom & Susan Lehman
36. 23rd James & Jeni Laughlin
37. 24th Joel & Lisa Murphy
38. 25th Kurt & Jessi Simon
39. 28th Mike & Susan Deahr
40. 30th Blaine & Jodi Kelly