



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

This week I resumed a book study group with others throughout the area. We will be reading and discussing Richard Rohr's 'Everything Belongs.' Fr. Rohr is a contemplative who thinks way outside the box. I love him already! In chatting with a friend afterward, I said I was very intrigued. She asked me how so. These are the things so far: having traditional thinking challenged in an intelligent way, giving permission for others to be freed to become themselves, provocation to expand my own thinking, and the acknowledgement of mystery.

Some quotes I liked from Fr. Rohr are: contemplative thinking is an assault on the secular, which is used to calculative thinking which comes from the small self, most prayer is trying to manipulate people or God rather than be transformed by God, ego centric religion has two purposes-to find meaning and to endure (both about self), starting with the small self is a good starting place but not a good continuing or ending place, Jesus teaches us how to be human beings now, not try to earn our way to a better place later, we need an identity transplant.

I also enjoyed this quote from Merton-One thing about heaven- there won't be much of you there.

And the revelation for myself that still has me pondering=God destabilizes ego, and we suffer. Paul's words that we suffer as Christ suffered now makes more sense. As God transforms me (small self or ego) I suffer letting go of sinful habits or attitudes. As a friend of mine used to say 'I have defects and my defects have character.' And we grow fond of our own defects. Or we like to excuse them, rationalize, or justify them.

How is God speaking to you?

Contemplatively yours,

Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

September 2017

| DATE | OFFERING | ATTEND |
|--------------|------------|--------|
| September 3 | \$2,827.26 | 52 |
| September 10 | \$1,686.50 | 58 |
| September 17 | \$1,043.00 | 59 |
| September 24 | \$1,263.47 | 60 |



Music Notes

October is not only colorful, it's musical! Our Worship Team, Chancel Choir, Chime Choir and special music (individuals and groups offering to share their musical talents this year!) will fill all 5 Sundays of this month! Here's a bit of what's in store:

Funday Sunday (We are reviving a tradition from years ago that we have not done in far too long - this includes several spirituals, narrative regarding them, and even our church children sharing some of the music!)

A variety of Rhythm Instruments to complement both anthems and chime pieces.

Our new Children's Bell Choir (They have already started practicing and are doing an amazing job!)

Truly "Special Music" as mentioned above. **And the widest variety of ages we've had for quite some time!** Preschoolers through retired folks are all blessing our services with much music!

Don't miss a thing!

**Sun., Oct. 1 (World Wide Communion):
 WORSHIP TEAM**

Wed., Oct. 4: Chime Choir, 6:45 to 7:30
 Chancel Choir, 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., Oct. 8 (Funday Sunday): CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Oct. 11: (same as Oct. 4)

Sun., Oct. 15: CHIME CHOIR

Wed., Oct. 18: (same as Oct. 4)

Sun., Oct. 22: SPECIAL MUSIC

Wed., Oct. 25: (same as Oct. 4)

Sun., Oct. 29: 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.

W.O.W. activities – every Wednesday from 6-7:30p.m.
All children welcome! Enjoy music, bible lessons, games, crafts and dinner with your friends.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

October 1 – World Wide Communion- our youth will help lead worship. **Parents, please have your children arrive by 9:30a.m. Sunday morning to practice.**

October 8 – Funday Sunday- Choir singing 4 spirituals with narrative, youth singing

October 22 – Youth Bell Choir Special Music

CYG News

CYG has kicked off and officially started. We have 50+ registered so far. Spread the word to all 6-12 graders that Sunday evening CYG with friends, food, fun, fellowship is the place to be! October schedule is regular CYG Oct. 1, Special speakers The Andersons will be here Oct. 8 telling of their time helping with refugees, regular CYG Oct. 15 & 22 and hayrack ride and wiener roast Oct. 29. Can you fill in the blank? This is our _____th year as Community Youth Group. Our mission is to enable youth to find meaning, value, and purpose in life by encouraging a personal relationship with God; through Christ Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit!



OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING

September 7, 2017 6:30 p.m.

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

DEVOTION TIME- Luke 17, A kernel of faith

APPROVAL OF DOCKET- add Endowment requests, church use, bathroom drain. Motion to approve 1st Wayne N., 2nd Brenda M., unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – motion to approve 1st Brenda M., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved by the Board.

BY LAWS COMMITTEE- Jodi Kelly and Marianne Phelps proposed revised by-laws to the Board. The revisions were initiated by Jan Koellner from Board suggestion. They listed the revisions to the original by-laws are only that they were 1. organized so it was easier to find specific information. 2. they included the way things are happening now. They kept what was from the original by-laws that each denomination worked on together in 1977. The amendments were included in the body of the by-laws. Under section IX. Official Board more committees that handle money were included. The Endowment Fund by-laws and Beryl Brooke Fund were added so there is a digital copy on record. The proposed revised by-laws are on PDF so anyone can search within the document. Typos were fixed and it was restructured.

Recommendation for the Board to look at the proposed revised by-laws in depth, discuss, then come back and make any changes. Once the Board is in agreement, sign the document. Joe M. suggests we look to see if the original is in the lockbox, then compare the revised by-laws to an original.

A congregational meeting can be called with 2 weeks notice. The revised by-laws can be put on the church website for all to see before the congregational meeting.

Board agrees by consensus to revisit the revision and proposal at the October meeting. Pastor Marian requested considering including a description of the Board of Deacons.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Keith Barnhart reports we need more giving. He transferred \$3,000 from savings. Pastor Marian suggests someone from the Stewardship committee let the congregation know about the lower receipts.

The 40th Anniversary book and meat money goes in the In and Out fund. Move to approve the Treasurer's report 1st Joel M., 2nd Brenda M. unanimously approved by the Board.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Start of August balance | \$941.26 |
| Receipts | \$13,996.14 |
| Subtotal | \$14,937.40 |
| Disbursements | \$12,133.42 |
| Ending Balance | \$2,803.98 |

PASTOR'S REPORT AUG. 3-SEPT. 7, 2017

Funeral Carol Miller Aug. 4
 Plan and lead worship Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 All day 40th celebration
 Lending tree Wednesdays and Saturdays (when Butch is not in town)
 Blood Drive coordinator Aug. 7
 Women in Ministry lunch and study Aug. 8
 CYG Board meeting Aug. 8
 VBS Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30
 Ad Hoc commission Newcomb church Aug. 17
 Simpson worship Aug. 18
 CYG summer fun night Aug. 20
 Bike rides at Simpson Aug. 23 and 30
 Simpson evacuation planning meeting Aug. 23
 All Church Congregational Gathering Aug. 26
 CYG leadership retreat Aug. 27
 Vacation changed to Aug. 29, 31, Sept. 1, 3 due to days off for Arnie's surgery Aug. 7-8.
 Ministerial Assoc. mtg. Sept. 6
 WOW kids Sept. 6
 Pastoral visits 4
 Mileage 106

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Congregational Life Treasurer needed- no change

Church Cleaning List -

1. Clean out/up the Fellowship Hall closet - Syd H. and Susie L. – no change
2. 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.- no change

Inside the Church

1. Immersion baptismal heater broken - Brenda M. reports that Blaine has the part now and will fix the baptismal heater soon.
2. Sanctuary Carpet- Brenda M. reports that she will talk with Jodi Kelly and Syd Harned about plans. Brenda will invite them to come and talk to the Board and bring samples.
3. Window problem – Jim K. will talk to Ken Wright.

Outside the Church

1. NE wall of new wing has water mark - Jim K. reports that Matt Ruess is going to come to the church and take a look at it.
2. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks, spalled concrete in handicap area - not yet done due to expense- Jim K. reports that Billy Simon with All American Concrete is going to come out soon.
3. Volunteer Trees in east lawn removed - Joe Myers reports this will be done in the spring. Wayne Noring reports the new trees are not getting water to their roots. He has expressed his concern to Marianne Phelps.
4. Door overhangs on NE wing near kitchen to prevent rain entering - Joe M. will talk to Mark Johnson. – no change.

Manse

1. Windows – One specific window needs to be replaced before winter. – Jim K. will meet with Pastor Marian about this window soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Endowment Requests
 1. Camp Wyoming general giving - \$1000.00
 1. Christian Conference Center general giving - \$1000.00
 2. WOW meals - estimated expense for September thru May. - \$900.00
 3. Adullam – Milwaukee. General giving. - \$1000.00

Motion to approve 1st Wayne N., 2nd Joel M., unanimously approved by the Board.

2. Church Use – Katie T. listed the groups beginning to use the church building with the start of the school year. 4H, Boy Scouts, Blood Drive, TTT, CYG, WOW. Suggested to post expectations on use of the building around the church. Katie will posts those and give building use check lists to some of the groups.
3. Elder on Call- September- Wayne N., October- Bill K.
4. Pulpit exchange – Pastor Marian explained that the Presbytery of East Iowa has extended an invitation to Pastors to do a pulpit exchange within our Presbytery. On October 22 Don Clark from First Presbyterian in Columbus Junction will be leading worship. Motion to

- approve 1st Wayne N., 2nd Brenda M.,
unanimously approved by the Board.
5. Activate nominating committee and stewardship asap.
 6. Move to approve Jo Noble and Marilyn R., Wayne Noring and Evelyn Wilkerson to continue cataloging archives, etc. 1st Joel M., 2nd Brenda M., unanimously approved by the Board.
 7. Review stolen money from office (2nd incident) and how can we safe guard future money. Suggested we find the keys to a file cabinet in Pastor Marian's office. If we can't find them then the office will buy a locked file cabinet.

Thanks very much for your support, as always, Jason Thrasher

ADJOURNMENT
PRAYER CONCERNS
CLOSING PRAYER

MEETING October 5, 2017 at 6:30p.m.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:
CHRISTIAN ED.

Hello Church family!

I hope this finds you well as we begin our fall season of worship. You will be pleased to know that our youth education department is active and thriving. Vacation Bible school has been going well, and we are about to wrap that up for the year. Sincere gratitude goes to everyone who has helped for this year: Lori Brooke, Lisa and Joel Murphy, Marilyn Ruegsegger, Katie Thrasher, Emily Johnson Reed, Pastor Marian and many others. Many hands truly do make light work. We are blessed at first her to United to have such a caring group of versatile and talented adults to help shepherd our children. The theme of this year's VBS has been a Splish Splash with God, a water-based weekly lesson curriculum. It details successive events in Jesus's Ministry that involve water. It seems as though the kids have resonated with this theme, and are enjoying the activities and lessons.

VBS will transition to WOW the first week of September. We will reignite our blessing bag outreach ministry, start a whole new series of projects, and (believe it or not!) Start work on the Christmas play this month. :-). Hard to believe it's that soon, but we are almost there.

We will begin the Sunday school on September 10. In addition to following the lectionaries, so the kids get the same weekly Scriptures as the adults, we will be utilizing the "We Believe: God's Word For God's People" curriculum which is published by the Presbyterian Church(USA). Please encourage others to come, and spread the word that this youth ministry is alive, thriving, and welcoming any aspiring young Christian with a desire to learn to follow Jesus.

Church Workers

October 1

Worship Team/World Wide Communion

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Mary Larson & Keith Barnhart

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Shirley Sterner, Katie Thrasher, Dinette Myers,
Joe Myers, Blaine Kelly, Gary Hahn

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Shirley Sterner

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

October 8

Chancel Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

October 15

Communion and Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Mary Larson & Keith Barnhart

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Shirley Sterner, Katie Thrasher, Dinette Myers,
Joe Myers, Blaine Kelly, Gary Hahn

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Tenley Murphy

October 22

Special Music

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

The Giri Family

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

October 29

Chime Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Arnie Hart

CANDLE LIGHTER: Payton Murphy

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



Birthdays in October

- 1 Darren Brooke
- 2 Skylar Wendt
- 3 Troy Myers
- 4 Mark Johnson
- 6 Filmore Melick
- 6 Carolyn Probst
- 10 Christina Newcomb
- 11 Linda Foor
- 11 Heidi Morrison
- 14 Tricia Lehman
- 14 Alice Thrasher
- 15 James Laughlin
- 21 Caitlyn Snook
- 23 Janey Gingerich
- 24 Shirley Sterner
- 24 Tom Probst
- 27 Cale Brooks
- 28 Bob Larson
- 30 Missy Johnson
- 30 Holly Gingerich



Anniversaries in October

- 6 Mike & Yvonne Gardenier
- 13 Bob & Marcy Dewar
- 19 Butch & Karen Nortman
- 28 Jeff & Tasha Wiele