



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

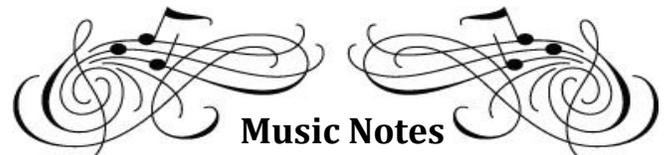
I am looking forward to the start up of our school year programming with Sunday School for adults at 9 am, for children at 10:15, for WOW Kids and choirs to return, for CYG to kick off and, what I miss most, having more in attendance at corporate worship. Worship team and our music ministry are already gearing up with planning some special worship experiences.

Last year we did a church assessment and your responses indicated worship and connectedness as two top areas of importance. Summers for me sometimes feel more like worship is on pause and I am disconnected. That's why I'm inviting you to share a God experience with your church family on Oct. 1. Sort of a 'where I saw God on my summer vacation' testimony. Or 'how I found Sabbath rest' time. Please contact me if you have a story to share. And don't be surprised if I contact you!

Two large projects did bring us together—church stand renovation/fair week and 40th anniversary. And I see on Facebook that many of you get together socially around a campfire or a sporting event. Now that summer and those two major events are behind us, what lies ahead as a community of faith? How would you be willing to serve in planning or helping lead worship? As a liturgist? As a visual arts consultant? In a sermon? Have any questions about scripture you'd like to have preached about? Have a bible or book study or small group you'd like to participate in or lead? New ideas for outreach? Can you volunteer with our ongoing ministries (connectedness)? Is there a congregational fellowship event you'd like to attend? Want to plan and lead an adult mission trip? Where do your faith/spiritual passions lie? How can we live into our church's mission statement? Where is the Spirit trying to lead us?

Feeling stirred,
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD		
August 2017		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
August 6	\$2,273.00	42
August 13	\$3,221.31	102
August 20	\$330.00	58
August 27	\$1,722.00	40



Music Notes

Happy Autumn to All! Both of our choirs are up and running and ready to share their musical messages. But it's never too late to join in! Please let one of us know if you are interested in sharing your own musical talent in one of our choirs. Contact Susie Lehman (319-330-1392 or 319-627-2458), Brenda Miller (319-321-1879), Marianne Phelps (319-330-5698 or 319-723-4587), or any member of our choirs!

This is a reminder that we will not have choir meals, at least for the first two months. We will reassess at that time. In the meantime, some of us may try to help with the early part of Kids' WOW, which begins at 6:00.

Choir Year Calendars have been distributed, and there are more if you still need one. Below is the schedule for September. Time to get in the groove!

- Sun., Sept. 3: SPECIAL MUSIC**
- Wed., Sept. 6: Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30
 Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30
- Sun., Sept. 10: CHANCEL CHOIR**
- Wed., Sept. 13: (same as Sept. 3)
- Sun., Sept. 17: CHIME CHOIR**
- Wed., Sept. 20: (same as Sept. 3)
- Sun., Sept. 24: SPECIAL MUSIC**
- Wed., Sept. 27: (same as Sept. 3)

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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

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.

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

CYG NEWS

The Community Youth Group Board and CUBE leaders met at Pastor Marian's cabin for their fall planning retreat Sunday Aug.27. This group of

dedicated and committed adults did some soul searching and spirit seeking. We shared our vision, our talents, our snacks, our prayers, our concerns together. We discussed the first two lessons and the annual Parent meeting/Kickoff event to be held on Sept. 17th from 5-7 at West Liberty Christian Fellowship. Any and all middle and high school students are welcome to attend. That night is very important for parents to come as well and to stay and receive the calendar of events, information on 2018 mission trip, sign up to help with meals and other special events, see that we have current contact information, etc. We are beginning our 18th year as a COMMUNITY youth ministry! Regular CYG begins at FCU Sept 24. If you'd like to see what we do, come join us for a night of games, worship, study, small group discussion, food and fellowship.

Food Pantry Report for July and August 2017

I am sorry I did not communicate with you at the end of July. I thought since First Church United did not have a newsletter in July I did not need to put one together. We had a total of 40 visitors representing 26 families in July. We provided food for 102 people in July.

August was another busy month at the food pantry. Things seem to be getting organized and visitors are learning the guidelines for the items they select and are enjoying their shopping experience. We are having a limited number of visitors on Thursday night now that we are open two days a week, one expressed how happy she was we are open in the evening since she works days on Saturday. Being open on Thursday night started on August 3.

We had 45 total visits in the month of June. We served a total of 125 people this month. The total number of families that visited the food pantry was 27. We continue 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 visitors so they could sign up.

We continue to need all the food stuff that have been given in the past. Items that are low or completely depleted are canned chicken, tuna, Spam, sugar, flour, and soup crackers. The cleaning closet with contains personal care products, laundry soap, and cleaning products continues to be a hit with our visitors and we do not get ahead on these items.

We have had about 12 volunteers that have taken and signed off on the Civil Rights Training to date. These 12 have also observed, asked questions, and have now been exposed to some of the things we need to

check every time we open and close the food pantry. I am working on a check list that will be posted.

The cooler has been stocked with a number of items from the garden as well as donated fruits and vegetables both locally grown and from the food bank in Davenport. We have some print outs for handling, cooking, and serving fresh vegetables.

Dave Baker, Chairman

Epilogue – 40th Anniversary

The 40th year celebration is over and many members need to be thanked for all the efforts to complete the history, prepare for the day of celebration, and volunteer the day of celebration. First, Brenda Miller as the overall chair needs to be complimented for the extra efforts she gave, along with teaching at school and preparing for her daughter's wedding. She had several committees who came together to make the Sunday event extra special.

Compiling 40 years of FCU history was a challenge. During the 40 year history, there was a period when very few if any records were kept at FCU. The history book team had to contact families to determine when members were baptized or confirmed. It is so important to maintain good records since baptism and confirmation records are used by the government as official records. Anyone who has attempted to update their family trees has found that church records are typically the most accurate. Jo Noble and Marilyn Ruegsegger researched family records of members to fill in the areas where records were absent. Many, many thanks to these two ladies for their detailed work on missing member's data and compiling the information for our history book. Also, the Music department members/leaders organized the Music history, so please acknowledge them. Jo Noble and Marilyn Ruegsegger put the photograph record on display in the fellowship hall. There are yet several names to be attached to photos that have not been identified.

Enough cannot be said for Karen Nortman who put the final book together as you see it today. This document compiles the history from the beginning of the two churches, through their merger process, and then finally First Church United. Annually, when the annual reports are completed, everyone should check closely for the accuracy of births, deaths, confirmations and baptisms. Pastors and secretaries have come and gone in our 40 year history, and it is up to us as members to be sure the data in our records is complete.

Again, thanks to everyone who worked on the 40th Anniversary celebration.

FCU Landscaping Project

The official Board along with the Memorial Committee engaged in replacement of the original bushes around the church. Several families of deceased members had left memorials for trees The Memorial Committee engaged Iowa City Landscaping for an overall landscaping plan. Some of the large pine trees are beginning to die from the inside and will soon need to be replaced.

Historically, trees had been purchased and placed without an overall plan. The Board felt that a comprehensive plan should be developed and a collaboration with the Memorial Committee accomplished both groups goals.

The Memorial Committee had limited resources, so they purchased two Serviceberries for the north entrance, and three tricolor Lindens for east of the kitchen wing. In addition, plantings were completed under the crosses in front of the church, and the sanctuary entrance door. These plantings will not get large, and will sustain conditions that can be expected near buildings. Plans have been developed for the Fellowship entrance areas, Bell tower, and information sign. Both the Memorial Fund Committee and the Board do not have funds available to complete these plantings. If anyone in the congregation wishes to fund part of these, please contact members of the Board.

Water line discovery

Before the Maxson Avenue construction project began, I attempted to find the water line to the Manse. My memory from talking to Ken Ruegsegger was that it was near the boundary of FCU property line and the home to the east of FCU. Keith Barnhart provided me a copy of the original layout with the water line marked where Ken said it was. I met with the City water department, and they had no records. In addition, there was not a shutoff valve near Maxson Avenue.

During the placement of a new water line on Maxson, FCU received a new line that connected our water line with the City line where Dane Lovell connected it for the new kitchen. This is now the only line that feeds FCU. The old water line that was near Calhoun and Maxson interchange is now disconnected. While excavating the area on our Maxson right-of-Way, the contractor found the Manse water line. It was not where the drawings show, but eight (8) feet east of the water line installed for the new kitchen. It now has a water shut off valve as does the church. Again, so much for record keeping – accurately.



13 August 2017

“Should the corporations and church memberships of the First Presbyterian Church and the Church of Christ in West Liberty be merged into a single corporation and church membership?” With the affirmative response to this question 40 years ago, the amplified ministry of First Church United began. And what an auspicious start to the 40 years of your congregation’s ministry, a vital ministry that has grown and sustained many in West Liberty over the years, a ministry from a strong congregation that has reached in missional connection across denominations and across the globe. First Church United has faithfully lived out its intention to be internally nurturing and externally serving through its food pantry, coffee fellowships, music ministry, community relations initiatives, Christian education programs, and continuing community mission and service activities. Your living witness sustains the ministries of those who have come before while laying a solid foundation for this congregation’s ministries in future decades.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in covenant community across the 70 other PCUSA congregations that comprise the Presbytery of East Iowa, it is my deep honor and great joy to congratulate this congregation of First Church United in West Liberty, Iowa for 40 years of engaged ministry, faithful witness, and community leadership. May God continue to richly bless your ministry and mission!

Grace and peace,
Rebecca Blair, Ph.D
Stated Clerk

OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY
FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING



August 3, 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, Jim Kiwala, Wayne Noring, Syd Harned, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart and Secretary Katie Thrasher. Those not in attendance were Joel Murphy, Bill Koellner, Susie Lehman

Devotion – The Lord’s Prayer. Which line do you struggle with the most?

Open in Prayer

Approval of the Docket – Add Stewardship for 2017, Necrology, Fair, 40th Anniversary Celebration. Move to approve amended docket 1st Wayne N., 2nd Syd H. unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Minutes – 1st Wayne N., 2nd Syd H. unanimously approved by the Board.

Treasurer’s Report - Keith Barnhart reports for June 2017 and July 2017. All bills are paid to date. Missions are paid. The quarterly taxes to state and Federal are paid. Both June and July contributions were low but all bills are covered. There is a bill due in August for Workers Comp Insurance and the church Umbrella insurance. Utilities for both the church and the manse have increased. Joe M. and Keith have talked with the city to address this issue. Motion to approve 1st Syd H., 2nd Brenda M., unanimously approved by the Board.

Start of the month of June	\$1,978.38
Receipts	\$8,146.17
Sub Total	\$10,124.55
Disbursements	\$6,781.57
Ending balance	\$3,342.98
Board Checking	\$(1,917.40)

Start of the month of July	\$3,342.98
Receipts	\$5,658.91
Sub Total	\$9,001.89
Disbursements	\$8,060.63
Ending balance	\$941.26
Board Checking	\$(4,318.24)

PASTOR'S REPORT JUNE, JULY 2017

Office hours kept as possible

Plan and lead worship June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Lending tree Saturdays and Wednesdays

Simpson home bike rides June 21, 28, July 5

Hastings School for Pastors June 4-9, continued ed.

Classes inspired me to do a preaching series on prayer.

Camp Wyoming chaplain for TTT Camp June 11-16

Camp Wyoming conference call evening June 20

Christian Ed meeting June 25

Fair stand clean up July 2

CYG Board meeting July 2

Music ministry planning meeting July 10

Women in Ministry lunch and bible study July 11

Work on fair stand July 8, 12, 13, 17

Simpson worship July 21

Fair July 19-22 work shifts

Synod school July 23-28-classes on Interfaith relations, liturgy writing, card making, play as healing therapy.

Convocation and preaching themes all based on theme of "Let Justice Flow"

I've been elected to serve a term on the Synod School planning committee, first meeting Sept. 11-13 in Minnesota. Following meetings will be by Skype if possible.

Pastoral visits-19

Mileage-327 (285 already turned in)

Request vacation Aug. 29, 30, 31, Sept. 1, 3, 5. Will need pulpit supply Sept. 3.

Motion to accept request for vacation 1st Wayne N., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

LENDING TREE REPORT JULY, 2017

Bed, sheets, drop cords	\$12
Stand	10
Small misc.	3
Cage	1
2 baskets	2
Chair	5
Cart	5
Chairs	5
Dishes	59
Donation	10
Grill	2
Plates	2
Cake pans	5
Misc.	5
Pie plates	6
Misc.	18.80
Total	\$130.80

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- Fair Stand -Invoices paid for Fairstand renovation;
Arnie \$200.51 Menards,
Arnie \$722.69 Menards A/C
Collins Concrete \$4822.12
Arnie \$1785.63
Morrison Trucking Gravel \$576.00
Fred's Feed PVC pipe \$56.37
Total to-date \$8163.32

Still need to pay \$230 to Fred's Feed. A thank you note to the delivery driver for delivering the French Fry trays needs to be sent. Pat Barton has not been paid but Deepak G. is working on another project with him and will talk with him about what needs to be paid.

Gross Revenue is down this year (totaled about \$8,500.00). The heat and not selling breakfast are thought to be factors.

- Congregational Life and Lending Tree treasurer. Shannon McNaul has agreed to be the Lending Tree Treasurer.

Church Cleaning List -

1. Clean out/up the Fellowship Hall closet – Evidence of mice was found in the closet. Bosch came to inspect and set metal traps in closet and two rooms storing food pantry items. Syd H. and Susie L. will work on more on this project soon.
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.

Inside the Church

1. Drains in lounge need to be cleaned - done
2. Immersion baptismal heater broken - Tabled
3. Sanctuary lighting – Deepak G. will know status of order later this week.
4. Sanctuary Carpet- waiting for lighting project to be done so colors of carpet samples are chosen with the true lighting in place.

Outside the Church

1. NE wall of new wing has water mark - Jim K. has looked at the wall. Might need to take off some roof panels. Will keep looking into it.
2. Landscaping plan – Marianne Phelps sent update by email. Katie T. read the update to the Board.
3. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks, spalled concrete in handicap area - not yet done due to expense- Jim K. talked to Bill Simon. All American Concrete is busy right now. Jim K.

will talk to them about possibly working the project a little at a time rather than all at once.

4. Volunteer Trees in east lawn removed - Joe Myers
5. Door overhangs on NE wing near kitchen to prevent rain entering - Joe M. will talk to Mark Johnson.

Manse

1. Windows – Pastor Marian reports that there is one window in particular that needs to be fixed before winter time. The others are not high priority. Pastor Marian also asks for her bathroom exhaust fan to be fixed. Kessler electric needs to come rewire an outlet on the outside of the church so we will request he fix the exhaust fan at the same time. Jim K. will look at the Manse window to be replaced.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mice in fellowship hall closet. Bosch came to inspect and set metal traps in closet and two rooms storing food pantry items.
2. Church classroom window problem - Ken Wright looked at it and will get quote on new window.
3. Budget for 40th anniversary. Board agrees money needed for the celebration can come from the Endowment Savings. Board agrees on \$1000.00. Board discussed the details of who is helping and how.
4. Stewardship- Joe M. is going to look into each denomination and see if they have suggestions on how to proceed with stewardship for the upcoming year.
5. Necrology – Carol Miller. Date of death 7/31/17

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN ED. VBS will be August 9, 16, 23 and 30th, 6-7:30p.m. We are referencing a free VBS program called Pool Party this year. Registration is Wednesday, August 2nd.

Children's Sunday School will start the Sunday after Labor Day.

Motion to adjourn 1st Syd H., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved by the Board.

Prayer concerns shared

Closing prayer

Next meeting September 7, 2017 at 6:30p.m.

Church Workers

September 3

Communion

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Vince Ottaway, Letha Ottaway, Butch Nortman,

Lisa Murphy, Emily Reed, Gary Hahn

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

September 10

Chancel Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Keith & Margaret Barnhart

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

September 17

Communion and Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Vince Ottaway, Letha Ottaway, Butch Nortman,

Lisa Murphy, Emily Reed, Gary Hahn

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

September 24

Special Music

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala



Birthdays in September

2 Charlie Thrasher

4 Lewis Morrison

7 Marsha Jacobs

8 Jeanne Hale

9 Kyle Harned

11 Mary Larson

11 Jacob Johnson

12 Maggie Christy

14 Kurtis Minor

16 Dave Baker

16 Ken Noble

18 Kyle Barnhart

18 Marcy Dewar

20 Jason Thrasher

22 Jeanine Williams

23 Rob Miller

24 Curt Newcomb

25 Jasmin Gardenier

26 Addyson Lehman

26 Jim Kiwala

29 Scott Skubal

29 Evelyn Evans

30 Brooklyn Harned

Anniversaries in September



4 Bill & Jan Koellner

9 Ryan & Tana Deahr

14 Bob & Terri Larson

25 Roger & Carolyn Bengel

Communion preparers for September are

Walt Lehman & Evelyn Evans