



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

I was recently in the Washington Goodwill store. There were so many Halloween accessories! A few decades ago, I would have gone crazy buying costumes. Our basement closet is full of bygone days when we all dressed up, decorated, and scared ourselves enthusiastically. I miss such fun. That is one of the reasons I decided to set up a table and participate as First Church United on the Trick or Treat on the Trail event sponsored by our W.L. Chamber.

A recent week of studying a scripture passage where Jesus called some religious leaders hypocrites, meaning actors or masqueraders or pretenders, has also come to mind. I've been thinking about the masks we Christians wear. And since I've been asked to speak each week about stewardship using different verses, I pick Matt. 22:15-22. I invite you to ponder what it means for you to be stamped with the image of God. Then to consciously and diligently portray that image in your daily life. You won't have to pretend to be someone you're not. Find a starting place, a characteristic that is the same as God's, for instance patience and intentionally practice that, then expand out with others. And be honest when it's challenging. Your honest sharing with someone who needs to see and hear what a faith journey is, or perhaps needs to come in contact with 'Jesus with skin on' may be a life or death experience.

Trick or treat? No tricks, no pretense please. Treat yourself and others by being who God knows you are.

Yours while pondering 'In God's image,'
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

October 2017

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
October 1	\$1,980.52	64
October 8	\$3,986.04	92
October 15	\$1,111.00	60
October 22	\$1,840.25	82
October 29	\$1,142.61	53



Music Notes

November: From All Saints to Advent almost. We recognize all saints and all who have gone before us. We celebrate Thanksgiving and truly give thanks to God for all of our many blessings. And while Advent does not begin in November, it feels like it when our Chime Choir plays at the Holiday Open House. We will play sacred and secular favorites and invite our own church family to come and enjoy on Sunday, afternoon, November 19!

Wed., Nov. 1: Chime Choir, 6:45 to 7:30

Chancel Choir, 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., Nov. 5: CHIME CHOIR

Wed., Nov. 8: (same as Nov. 1)

Sun., Nov. 12: CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Nov. 15: (same as Nov. 1)

Sun., Nov. 19: CHANCEL CHOIR

Holiday Open House: CHIME CHOIR

Wed., Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Vacation - No Choirs

Sun., Nov. 26: SPECIAL MUSIC

Wed., Nov. 29: (same as Nov. 1)

Church Family Thanksgiving potluck
 following the service on Sunday, November 20th.
 Bring your favorite dish to share!

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.
Thank you to all who help each week!

POINSETTIA'S AT JAN'S FLOWER YARD – Each Poinsettia is IN 6 ½ pot, of florist quality, beautiful, wrapped and comes with a handmade bow for \$15.50 plus tax. Call 627-2616 to order.

CYG News

On November 5, CYG high schoolers will gather at the High school for F.U.S.E. event. Starting at 3, there will be games, competition, worship, Sheltered Realty!, and pizza. Middle school is invited to join them at 5:45 to worship and hear Sheltered Realty.

Regular CYG will be Nov. 12 and 19. No CYG Nov. 26.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL

On Wednesday, Nov. 22 we will offer a Thanksgiving meal to the community. See the sign up sheet if you can help prepare/provide food for this event. We will eat at 6 pm and have a short time of worship following the meal. Spread the word!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES October 29, 2017

Called to order by Board Chair Joe Myers
Open with prayer by Pastor Marian

Joe M. explained the revised by-laws goals was to;

1. Keep the original By-Laws as negotiated & agreed upon by members of the two denominations in 1977.
2. Incorporate the amendments to the By-Laws that the board has approved in the past.
3. Include current practices of our Board & congregation.
4. Organize the document in an easy-to-read format.

Specific changes were;

On page 3, top of 3rd section – Include what practices the Board does now.

Section e. Added the Nominating Committee

Page 4. Pastoral Relations Committee

Bottom of page. 4. Music Ministry Committee and Beryl Brooke Ministry

Move to accept recommendations as presented by the revision committee 1st Dean Phelps, 2nd Norma Brooks
Discussion from Congregation

-Clarification on what “under Presbyterian Session” includes.

-For those who winter away from West Liberty, consider offering an absentee ballot when a vote from the congregation is needed at the January Annual Meeting.

-Clarification on how many the Board needs present to vote on a motion during a Board meeting.

Motion approved by Congregational vote. Move to adjourn.

REPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY ACTION FOOD PANTRY LOCATED AT FIRST CHURCH UNITED.

On August 3rd we began opening the food pantry on Thursday night from 6 to 7 PM. We only get 3 families at the most to come on Thursday night but we are not discouraged. It may take a while to get the word out to the people that need the help. We have been there a few nights when no one came, but we kept ourselves busy cleaning and restocking the shelves.

We had the following number of visitors in the last three months: August we had 45 visits representing 25 households where we find 126 total people that needed help. September we had 44 visits representing 30 households where we find 118 total people that needed help. October we had 38 visits representing 28 households where we find 102 total people that needed help.

We continue to be able to help all that come. We received over 500 pounds of fresh vegetables from the two gardens that were distributed. They visitors seemed to be pleased with what we grew.

As we approach the holiday season and planning is underway for the Christmas box distribution that will take place on Friday, December 15 from 5:30 PM – 8 PM and Saturday, December 16 from 8 AM to 10 AM. We find that our funds are in need of an infusion of cash. Please be mindful that our money goes a lot further at the River Bend Food Bank in Davenport

than it does anyplace else. We can purchase food at 20 to 25% of wholesale prices, and depend on volunteers to make the trip to Davenport to pick up what we need from the online order I place.

Some of the items we cannot purchase from the food bank are fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges, (pineapple crushed, sliced, or tidbits), canned salmon, spam, canned chicken, sugar, flour, soup crackers, cleaning products, personal care items, (i.e. Body wash, shampoo, conditioners, deodorants, etc.) and paper products. Sometimes a local farmer will send us eggs or one pound packages of ground beef or ground pork from an animal they have sent to be processed for the family. All these things are greatly appreciated by all.

We continue to purchase the turkeys, potatoes, and milk at Jeff's Market here in town and they deliver all this to the church. We get canned goods from the food drives held by the schools here in town as well as the churches. We are also collecting winter coats, mitten, hats, scarves, gloves, sox and under ware to be distributed with the Christmas boxes.

We also purchase fruit from the FFA to be included in the remembrance bags for the senior citizens.

Thanks for the opportunity to help in the community, Dave Baker



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

October 5, 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, Deepak Giri, Syd Harned, Joel Murphy, Susie Lehman, Pastor Marian Hart, and Treasurer Keith Barnhart. Not in attendance was Bill Koellner.

DEVOTION TIME - The Parable of the Fig Tree

APPROVAL OF DOCKET - The following items were added under new business: Take Away Hunger, City of West Liberty letter, VanMeter lighting bill, Stewardship, and Nominating. Motion to approve 1st Syd H., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT - Keith Barnhart reported

continued need for more giving. We are \$10,000 behind, but bills are paid and up to date. We owe the general savings account \$8,200.

Start of September balance	\$2,803.98
Receipts	\$7,065.32
Sub Total	\$9,869.30
Disbursements	\$7,908.03
Ending Balance	\$1,961.27

PASTOR'S REPORT OCT. 5 - NOV. 2

- Office hours kept as possible
- Plan and lead worship Sept. 10, 17, 24, Oct. 1
- Adult Sunday School
- CYG meal planning, shopping, lesson, etc.
- PRC meeting Sept. 10 (?)
- Synod School Planning meeting in Minnesota Sept. 11-13
- Lending Tree Wed.s and Sat.s
- WOW Kids on Wed.s
- Simpson Worship Sept. 15
- Assisted Living bike rides Sept. 20
- Simpson Bible Study Sept. 19
- People in Ministry Bible study and lunch Sept. 19
- Disaster Preparedness meeting with Simpson personnel Sept. 21
- Newcomb church AD Hoc Commission Sept. 21
- Worship Team meeting
- Christian Ed meeting Sept. 17
- Hosted Presbytery book study Sept. 26
- Funeral Harold Stagg Sept. 27, died Set. 23
- Camp Wyoming Board meeting Oct. 2
- Ministerial Association Oct. 4
- Pastoral visits - 4
- Mileage – 404
- Request vacation Nov. 1 - Nov. 5.

Motion to approve vacation request: 1st Syd H., 2nd Joel M., unanimously approved.

Motion to approve Pastor's Report 1st Joel M., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Congregational Life Treasurer needed - a request is being made and will be reported to Joe
2. Proposed revised bylaws - It was agreed that they were reengineered well and in a good format. A question was raised about the annual meeting simply being on a designated date in January rather than during the first 15 days as before, but agreed that this gives flexibility if holding it in the first 15 days is not possible. It was moved that "We, as a board, accept the bylaws as

revised to put forth to the congregation for a vote on Oct. 29" - 1st Syd H., 2nd, Joel M., unanimously approved. It must be announced to the congregation on at least 2 Sundays before a vote is taken. Joe will make the first announcement this Sunday, Oct. 8. The revision will be available on a link from the church website, and hard copies will be available in the sanctuary on Sunday.

Church Cleaning List -

1. Clean out/up the Fellowship Hall closet - Syd H. and Susie L. will do
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. Immersion baptismal heater broken - Blaine has the needed part and will install it.
2. Sanctuary Carpet - Syd reported that the committee has been looking at samples but have requested more from Randy's Carpet which will be considered after church this Sunday. Before proceeding with carpet, however, a decision needs to be made regarding possible changes to the levels and steps on the dais for the safety of all using it. Making it handicap accessible was also discussed, and there are ADA regulations to consider. In order to get professional recommendations, Brenda offered to ask her cousin, a contractor, to look at it, Deepak offered to bring in an architect, and an engineer may be asked for an opinion, making clear our tight budget while needing ideas for a solution.
3. Window in south classroom - Jim K. reported that he believes a crank is broken and he will look into fixing it.

Outside the Church

1. NE wall of new wing has a water mark - Jim K. talked with Matt Reuss who will look into it.
2. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk crack, and spalled concrete in handicap area - Jim K. talked to Bill Simon but he will have to get back to us after the Maxson Ave. project is completed.
3. Volunteer trees in east lawn removed - Joe M. will take care of this in the spring.
4. Door overhangs on NE wing near kitchen to prevent rain entering - Joe M. will talk to Mark Johnson
5. Marian reported that a mower needs repair, and suggestions were made for servicing it - Syd will contact someone.
6. Doors on the shed by the dumpster need to latch. They are off-center.

Manse

1. Window - Jim K. will get more information from Marian.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Elder on Call - November: Joe will ask available elders to take November. Syd suggested a list of all eligible names so they can be contacted to sign up for a month every quarter rather than have the Board deal with it every month.
2. Take Away Hunger - There is a greater need due to recent hurricanes. Endowment has approved up to \$2,000 from Fund D (wider mission). Motion to approve 1st Joel M., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved.
3. A letter from the City of West Liberty was received, offering insurance for possible water problems. No motion was made to accept this.
4. Deepak G. presented a bill of \$8,533.22 from VanMeter for the lighting in the sanctuary. The check will be made to Giris to reimburse them. (The additional bill of \$3,000 to Joe Simon for labor has already been paid.) Motion to have Keith pay this out of the Watters Estate Fund 1st Syd H., 2nd Joel M., unanimously approved.
5. Stewardship - Joe reported that after having cottage meetings last year, the idea for this year is to have letters sent out followed by a congregational meeting and potluck after church, probably on Nov. 12. Brenda suggested tying this in with long-range planning. Joel used the new kitchen project as an example of visible and clear information. It was agreed that we need to be communicative and visual in this endeavor, and include information on all other projects (lights, carpet, landscaping). Joe M. and Wayne N. are on the committee, and Brenda M. and Joel M. offered to help. They will meet next week.
6. Nominating Committee - They will begin making their contacts. Marian will offer training for deacons and speaking elders.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:

Necrology Report - Harold Stagg, date of death September 23, 2017

Christian Ed. -

Hello church family,

A few quick notes about September and October.

The regular attendees of Sunday School have been delving into proper Bible reading. We are following the feasting on the word curriculum for fall, and the girls yes, they are girls, are learning to thumb their way

through the Serendipity Bible. We read the lesson, learn how to navigate through the New and the Old Testament by the Table of Contents, and then discuss the lesson. It is a good next step for this young group, most of whom will be going through confirmation together in about four years.

You have also probably witnessed their participation in the church service as well, as we return from our study for communion, and skip it altogether to lead worship on World Wide Communion day. A good solid group.

The Wednesday night program continues to flourish. Participation is strong, and spirits are lively. Again, it is a great blessing to have the additional adult helpers this semester. We have used much of this time to practice for upcoming Sunday activities, such as the recently completed World Wide Communion, singing songs on this upcoming Sunday, and Bell Choir which will be a great joy to have in the Sunday service. The lessons continue to follow the lectionary as we are able.

This month, we will do harvest crafts and begin practice for the Advent season.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Sincerely, Jason Thrasher

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER CONCERNS

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING - Thursday, November 2, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

Church Workers

November 5

Daylight Savings time ends/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Leon Larson & Dean Phelps

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Vince Ottaway, Letha Ottaway, Butch Nortman,

Lisa Murphy, Emily Johnson, Karen Nortman

USHER: Ken Noble

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Gary Hahn

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Arnie Hart

November 12

Chancel Choir

USHER: Dave Baker

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bette Burton & Evelyn Evans

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

November 19

Communion/Thanksgiving Potluck/Chancel Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Leon Larson & Dean Phelps

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Vince Ottaway, Letha Ottaway, Butch Nortman,

Lisa Murphy, Emily Johnson, Karen Nortman

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

CANDLE LIGHTER: Alice Thrasher

November 26

Special Music

USHER: Dave Baker

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bill & Jan Koellner

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

**Communion preparers for November are
Butch and Karen Nortman**



Birthdays in November

1 Shania Minor

1 Chloe Gardenier

6 Marilyn Ruegsegger

6 Angie Brooke

6 Cindy Hambright

12 Holly Jacobs

16 Emily Reed

16 Conner Skubal

19 Brenda Wright

22 Scott Brooke

24 Leon Larson

29 Ken Wright



Anniversaries in November

27 Tom & Mary Pat Brooke