



FIRST CHURCH UNITED
 1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776
 Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446
 Pastor, Marian Hart
 Secretary, Katie Thrasher
 January 2018



Dear Friends in Christ,

As another year ends many of us take time to reflect back and to look ahead, oftentimes setting goals of some sort. I recently heard on the radio a question: if all of your prayers had been answered ‘yes’ what would have changed in the world? The asker was trying to get folks to consider if they prayed more for themselves or others and maybe ask themselves if their prayers were big enough. I wonder.

Perhaps one goal we can set is to pray for our whole world more. Perhaps another might be to invest ourselves into being the answer to prayers. Are there ways we can do that in partnership with God?

Looking back, I ask myself not what is going smoothly with my life, or tallying up my ‘blessings’, but how did I reflect Jesus? Was I able to be kind, compassionate, patient, gentle, courageous, joyful? Did I live sacrificially, giving generously of my time, talent, and treasure? Did I take time for Sabbath rest? Have I stood for justice for all? Have I prayed for my enemies? Do I give thanks in all circumstances? Do I trust God to work another miracle?

As you enter 2018, may your reflections be the image of God!

Contemplatively,
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

December 2017

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
December 3	\$2,754.52	80
December 10	\$2,182.85	71
December 17	\$3,680.37	85
December 24 a.m.	\$4,388.50	67
December 24 p.m.	NA	93
December 31	NA	NA



Music Notes

Fresh or Frozen? We have a fresh start at the beginning of a new calendar year - so many possibilities! But we may feel frozen in our tracks. Our advice: warm up to some warm-hearted music & Christian fellowship! Here's what's happening this month in the Music Ministry.

Wed., Jan. 3: Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30

Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., Jan. 7: CHIME CHOIR

Wed., Jan. 10: (same as Jan. 3)

Sun., Jan. 14: CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Jan. 17: (same as Jan. 3)

Sun., Jan. 21: SPECIAL MUSIC

Wed., Jan. 24: (same as Jan. 3)

Sun., Jan. 28: CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Jan. 31: (same as Jan. 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.

CYG News

Second semester Kick-Off will be Jan. 7th at WLCF. All other meetings will be at FCU with games, worship, lessons, cube time, and food! It's not too late to invite a friend. Remember, all who are signed up for the mission trip should be making their payments and attending CYG to remain eligible.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello Church Family.

Pleased to report again that the children are well taken care of and educated in our wonderful church.

We continue to follow the lectionary in Sunday school. With good results... The regular attendees recognize the lessons from previous weeks and apply them to current teachings. Brooklyn Harned helped with a wonderful craft and lesson about M&M's, connecting the letters to the Christmas story. The kids really enjoyed the lesson and appreciated the gift!

The Christmas play was a success, and attendance was very high. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the program and potluck. It was a fun night. It is safe to say that there is a good recognition of the story and meaningfulness of Christ's birth amongst our young ones.

As the new year dawns, we begin planning for next semester. The Christian Education Committee will meet on January 7 following the service. If you have any input about anything you would like to see covered: any lessons, games, crafts or songs that would be of value to our next year, please let me know.

It truly takes a village to raise a good child and we are successful at that effort. Thank you for your continued support, and input.

Humbly at your service and in service to Christ's mission, Jason



OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING

December 7, 2017 6:30 p.m.

Official Board meeting called to order by Board Chair Joe Myers. Those in attendance were: Joel Murphy, Deepak Giri, Susie Lehman, Bill Koellner, Lori Brooke, Wayne Noring, Brenda Miller, Syd Harned, Pastor Marian, Keith Barnhart, Bob Dewar, and Katie Thrasher

DEVOTION TIME- Christmas story in Matthew 2 and Luke 2.

OPEN IN PRAYER Pastor Marian

APPROVAL OF DOCKET – accepted as presented
APPROVAL OF MINUTES – accepted as presented

PASTOR'S REPORT NOV. 2-DEC. 6

Vacation Nov. 3-5, went on retreat in Cedar Falls, included a meal and visit with daughter Carrie Plan and lead worship Nov. 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3

Adult Sunday school

WOW

CYG Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 3-includes lesson and meal planning, teaching and shopping, Board mtg

Lending Tree Nov. 8, 15, 22, 25, 29, Dec. 6

Endowment mtg. Nov. 6

Cluster 12 mtg. Nov. 9

Worship team mtg. Nov. 13

People in Ministry lunch and study Nov. 14

Meeting with Sara Sedlacek sharing outreach resources and ideas

Presbytery mtg. Nov. 16

Advent study introduction Nov. 20

Helped with Bill Cline funeral lunch Nov. 20

Funeral Ruby Arnold Nov. 21-date of death Nov. 15

Helped prepare, serve, clean up Community Thanksgiving meal

Advent study Nov. 27, Dec. 4

Hosted Presbytery book study Nov. 28

Conference call Camp Wyoming Nov. 29

Hanging of the Greens Nov. 30

Dec. 1-present mouse control, purchased, baited and set traps in kitchen. Caught one culprit.

Take Away Hunger Dec. 2

Dec. 4 Maggie Christy death

Hosted Ministerial Association mtg. Dec. 6

Mileage 301

Pastoral visits-6

Accepted as presented

LENDING TREE REPORT OCT. NOV. 2017

Paper towel holder	1.00
Toys	2.00
Blankets	5.00
Xmas deco	2.00
Misc.	5.00
Bag	1.00
Pitcher	1.00
Thermometer	1.00
Booster chair	5.00
Knives	2.00
Suncatcher	1.00
Xmas misc.	3.00
Rack	2.00
Tupperware	2.00

Corningware	1.00
Bicycle	5.00
Skillet	1.00
Pan	1.00
Scarf/hat	1.00
Duffel	2.00
Table	10.00
Cup	1.00
Bed spread	2.00
Lunch pail	1.00
Coffee pot	1.00
Silverware	10.00
Bowls	2.00
Basket	3.00
Mixer	1.00
Teapot	3.00
Flashlight	1.00
Towels	2.00
Xmas tree	5.00
Dishes	5.00
Misc.	10.00
Heater	5.00
Boxes	2.00
Towels	5.00
Clock	3.00
Couch	25.00
Griddles	2.00
Towels	9.00
Xmas	1.00
Saw	10.00
Cookie sheet	2.00
Dresser	20.00
Lamp	2.00
Xmas tree	5.00
Bulbs	2.00
Total sales	194.00

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Stewardship – pledges received to-date for 2018 budget. 21 Pledges equally \$50,660.00.
2. Reviews for staff and proposed salary increases- Lori Brooke and Bob Dewar from the current PRC committee spoke with the Board about Pastor Marian’s review and salary proposal. Lori explained that Pastor Marian has not had a salary increase in 8 years. The PRC proposes that she have a 4% pay increase and that the church pay her part of their (Arnie and Marian’s) insurance premium. The PRC feels it is time and is needed. 4% of Pastor Marian’s salary would be about \$2,107 and the insurance

would be around \$400-\$500/month. More information will be available soon and the Board will be in contact with Arnie to get a more accurate figure for the cost of Pastor Marian’s insurance.

Board discussed areas of the budget Pastor Marian does not use and if that money could help pay for the insurance.

Motion to accept the recommendations of the PRC committee of 4% salary increase and cost of Pastor Marian’s insurance 1st Bill K., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.

The Presbytery has guidelines to help determine pay increases. It is more than likely online. Lori asks that if we have or find those guidelines to share that information with the PRC committee.

Personnel Committee discussed the other staff reviews and comments from the evaluations. Hourly pay was discussed. Those discussed were Bret Akers, Katie Thrasher, and Jason Thrasher.

3. Nominating committee update- Committee reports they are still working on finding people to cover all the open positions. Board agrees that the Board of Deacons can split duties as they please. Preparing communion can be a volunteer position. Not all Deacons are required to make hospital or home visits.
4. Endowment – Review of Activity through Dec.3 2017. Watters Estate Fund balance = \$198,704.54. Endowment Fund balance = \$721,612.65. Requests – Approved by the Endowment Committee
 Brookelyn and Brittany Harned - \$200 each for CYG mission trip in summer of 2018. – Fund B. Move to approve 1st Deepak Giri, 2nd Syd Harned unanimously approved by the Board.
 Chance Thrasher - \$200 for CYG mission trip in summer of 2018 – Fund B. move to approve 1st Brenda M., 2nd Wayne N., unanimously approved by the Board.
 Ministerial Association - \$1000. Move to approve 1st Joel M., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.
 Presbytery of East Iowa- \$500 will go to help construct Christian school in Pakistan. Move to approve 1st Joel M., 2nd Deepak G., 1 member abstained from voting.

- Arnie Hart - \$1000 to help with Hurricane relief. He is traveling to Texas. The money will be used for fuel and to bring food and supplies to those in the community. Move to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Deepak G., unanimously approved by the Board.
5. Gift from Roth family - recommendation to keep \$40,000 locally and invest \$95,000 equally between New Covenant Fund and Christian Church Foundation. (money kept to be used for church and/or manse). Motion to approve 1st Deepak G., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.
 6. Lawn Mower – we need a 46 inch blade mower. Deepak G. has a quote from HD Cline for a 2017 model (new) at \$2,969.10. Church will purchase in the spring. Motion to approve 1st Bill K., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.

TREASURE’S REPORT

Treasurer Keith Barnhart reports that November was a good month in terms of contributions, but we still need to pay back \$8,000 to savings. Keith will move \$20 that was donated to Hurricane relief to the TAH line. We owe another \$125 to insurance this month to finish the year. For the 2018 budget we will need to increase this line by about \$700 to cover the increase in cost of insurance.

The 40th Anniversary line (in the in and out area) there is \$313 balance. We are waiting for a bill from Karen Nortman for the balance she is owed for the 40th Anniversary history books. Move to accept the Treasurer’s report 1st Wayne N., 2nd Bill K., unanimously approved by the Board.

November start of month balance	\$3,902.25
Receipts	\$15,259.91
Sub Total	\$19,162.16
Disbursements	\$11,146.29
Ending Balance	\$8,015.87
Board Balance	(\$875.89)

2018 BUDGET each line was discussed and adjusted to reflect the needs for 2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CCLI sheet music upgrade- Board approves upgrade by consensus.

2. Prepare 2018 budget- Board went line by line and discussed if changes needed to be made or if the budget amount should be kept the same.
3. Necrology report – Ruby Arnold Nov. 15, 2017, Maggie Christy Dec. 3, 2017

**MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

It has been another good month in the Christian education department. We continue to follow the lectionary in Sunday school. Attendance has been strong, particularly on bell choir day. The Harmed girls are Great and willing helpers. We have had enough kids that we have divided, with their help, into two rooms on occasion lately. It has been nice to be able to focus on Bible lessons and familiarity with scripture with the older kids who can read, while Brooklyn and Brittney take care of the younger kids after the group lesson. There is a core group of 6 to 8 girls who will be ready for confirmation in four years. If they continue to attend regularly, at present rate, they will be very well-versed and ready. Very blessed to have continued help with the Wednesday program from Emily for bells, Lori Brooke for singing accompaniment, Lisa and Katie and Norma and Missy and the Giri’s and More for dinner, Gary and the kids for cleanup, and Marilyn for crafts. It is a strong program with a good message and curriculum. We have wrapped up our old testament lessons and are now into the season of Advent and preparation for the Christmas program. The program will be on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00p.m. All are welcome to attend. We will host a potluck after the program so feel free to bring a dish and an appetite! :-)

Thank you very much for your continued support, Jason Thrasher

ADJOURNMENT/PRAYER CONCERNS

CLOSING PRAYER/MEETING January 4 , 2017 at 6:30p.m.

Church Workers

January 7

Communion/Epiphany Sunday/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Mary Larson & Keith Barnhart

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Gary Hahn, Bob Dewar, Blaine Kelly,
Lisa Murphy, Shirley Sterner, Dinette Myers

USHER: Joe Myers

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Evelyn Evans & Walt Lehman

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

January 14

Chancel Choir/Annual Meeting/Potluck

USHER: Wayne Noring

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger & Wayne Noring

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

CANDLE LIGHTER: Alice Thrasher

January 21

Communion/Special Music

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Mary Larson & Keith Barnhart

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Gary Hahn, Bob Dewar, Blaine Kelly,
Lisa Murphy, Shirley Sterner, Dinette Myers

USHER: Walt Lehman

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

January 28

Chancel Choir

USHER: Wayne Noring

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR: Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

Communion preparers for January are

Butch & Karen Nortman



Birthdays in January

- 1 Mary Wendt, Marvin Erwin
- 3 Tom Brooke, Sandy Henderson, Karen Nortman
- 5 Barb Irwin, Susan Deahr
- 7 Joseph Akers, Katherine Brooks
- 9 Tom Brown, Mark Irwin, Josh Gingerich
- 10 Evelyn Wilkerson, Perry Lehman,
Samantha Noble
- 11 Diana Brown, Ken Harned
- 12 Lori Brooke
- 17 Tiffany Schieffer
- 23 John Bothell
- 24 Syd Harned
- 26 Gary Hahn
- 27 Scott Barnhart, Ryan Noble
- 29 Bob Dewar



Anniversaries in January

- 2nd Tom & Carolyn Probst
- 3rd Ken & Syd Harned
- 28th David & Roberta Baker

The poinsettias that decorate our Sanctuary this holiday season are given in loving memory or in honor of:

Clare Brooke & Gladys Brooke, Charles Miller & Ione Miller,
Findlay & Beryl Brooke, Chelsea Brooke, Bob Brooke, Marion Barnhart,

Georgia Kiwala, Annabelle Kempf,

Gerald & Vera Ruegsegger, Ken Ruegsegger,

Dave & Roberta Baker family, Annette Martinez,

Jim McCrabb, Don & Kate McCrabb, Harold & Velma Hofmaster,

Eileen & Sandra, George Barber, Harold Brooks,

Pam Westra Hillyer, Bob McCoy, Loved ones of Evelyn Evans & Family

Virgil & Venita Harned, Waldo & Angela Myers,

Glen & Elinor Myers, Pat & Jean Reddin, Loletta Mackey,

Hansen & Sterner Families, Earl & Ellen Hitchings

