



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thanks to my Fitbit, I've been on the move more throughout the time I'm in the church office. In response to its little buzzing invitation, I've walked thousands of steps up and down the hallways, circled through the sanctuary, looped around the kitchen, and observed a few things.

If our church people are a family, then is our building our big old home away from home? Maybe the fellowship hall is really our living room/dining room. The class rooms are the play and study areas. The lounge is for sure the man cave. The pantry is, well, a pantry. The kitchen is the kitchen. What started this train of thought is the art work on our refrigerator. All families have it. We are officially, then, a family.

This reminds me of the song "Big House." Written in response to Jesus' promise in John 14 that he is going to prepare a place for us, "Big House" reminds us that we are to be inviting others to 'come and go with us, to our Father's house.' Let this be your little buzz to invite someone to join our church family in worship, WOW, or ministry more often. God is on the move; we should be too!

Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

April 2018

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
April 1	\$2,232.95	86
April 8	\$1,855.00	58
April 15	\$1,758.00	68
April 22	\$836.50	65
April 29	\$2,621.54	64



Music Notes

May is filled with blessings. There is much joy to celebrate, and we will begin the month with "A Joyful Celebration!" There is Mother's Day, Senior Recognition & Graduation, the beginning of Pentecost, and Memorial Day. Each of these joys will be celebrated musically, and with each other as a Church Family!

Wed., May 2: Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:20 (last rehearsal)

Choir Spring Party - 7:20 to 7:40

Chancel Choir - 7:40 to 8:30

Sun., May 6: CHIME CHOIR

Wed, May 9: Chancel Choir, only - 7:30 to 8:?? (last rehearsal)

Sun., May 13: CHANCEL CHOIR

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

Hello Church Family,

Spring is in the air! Our children's ministry is still going strong but the school year and our Christian Education calendar is coming to a year end.

We have been blessed with great attendance for WOW and Sunday school this year. Introducing church, the bible, lessons and embracing those who are not familiar with the word or church at all, into our church family has been a highlight of my year.

Our last WOW of this school year will be May 16th and the last Sunday school of the year will be May 20th.

I pray the summer months continue to strengthen your bond with Christ and we see you and your children back at WOW and Sunday school in August.

Yours in service, Jason

Brookelyn Harned would like to invite her church family to celebrate her graduation from West Liberty High School at an open house on Sunday May 27 from 5-8 PM at 613 East 6th Street, West Liberty. Brooke will be attending UNI this fall to study Psychology.

FOOD PANTRY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2018

We had a very busy month with lots of things going on. We made 2 trips to the Food Bank in order to have fresh produce and day-old bakery products 2 weeks in a row. Bertie and I had the pleasure of working with volunteers from First Church United this month. West Liberty Christian Fellowship will be assisting the Food Pantry in May and Cedar Valley Methodist Church will be assisting in June.

I was invited to speak about the Food Pantry at the Lion's Club and at Cedar Valley Methodist Church this month. It seems both presentations were well received. I have a few power point presentations with a print out of the slides, so you can add your own notes when you present the program at your church or other organization which I will gladly give you.

We had 52 total visitors this month representing 146 people. This represents 31 families containing 89 family members. Total number of visits to food pantry so far this year are, January with 48, February with 34, March with 61, and April with 52.

Food donations were 341 pounds this month so there were items to be sorted and put on the shelves.

Since July 1, 2017 86 families have visited the food pantry which makes me feel better knowing that we prepare at least 100 Christmas Boxes every year.

We have not been keeping track of volunteer hours at the food pantry, this was an oversight on my part. Beginning May 1 there will be a sign in sheet so please write your name, hours volunteered, and the date you were at the food pantry so hours can be tracked.

Dave Baker, Facilitator of the Food Pantry

OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING



April 5, 2018

CALL TO ORDER by Deepak Giri. Those in attendance were Joe Myers, Vince Ottaway, Joel Murphy, Pastor Marian, Treasurer Keith Barnhart and Secretary Katie Thrasher.

Those not in attendance were Brenda Miller, Syd Harned, Jim Kiwala, and Holly Gingerich.

DEVOTION TIME John 20

OPEN IN PRAYER

APPROVAL OF DOCKET Amend to include Endowment requests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith B. reports he will change the payment to Lynch Plumbing from line 706 (church repairs) to line 701 (Manse repairs). He paid the final per capita mission payments. He paid \$300 for snow removal to Snyder. Keith moved money from the Future Maintenance of the Manse account to pay for the manse new dishwasher. As of the end of March the Board checking is (\$5405.87).

March start of month balance	\$174.85
Receipts	\$11,150.83
Sub Total	\$11,325.68
Disbursements	\$10,388.05
Ending Balance	\$937.53
Board Balance	(\$5,405.87)

PASTOR'S REPORT MARCH 1-APRIL 5, 2018

PLAN AND LEAD WORSHIP MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25, APRIL 1x2

OFFICE HOURS KEPT

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

WOW ON WEDNESDAYS EXCEPT MARCH 28

LENDING TREE ON WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS MARCH 24, 31

CYG MAR. 4, 11, 18, 25 Meals, Lessons

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER MAR 2

MEETING WITH ED, DAVE, AND RON J. FOR
 DONATION GARDEN
 CLUSTER MEETING MAR. 8
 BOOK STUDY AND LUNCH MAR. 13
 WORSHIP TEAM MEETING MAR. 15
 SIMPSON WORSHIP MAR. 16
 CYG PANCAKE BREAKFAST MAR. 17
 CAMP WYOMING BOARD MEETING MAR. 19
 PRESBYTERY MEETING MAR. 20
 COMMUNITY PRAYER MAR. 26
 ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY MAR. 30
 MIN ASSOC. MTG. APRIL 4
 PASTORAL VISITS-7
 MILEAGE-278

REMINDER-I will be on vacation April 17-22, Rev.
 Kitch Shatzer is pulpit supply

Lending Tree Report March, 2018

Dishes	\$10.00
Glasses	5.00
Misc.	3.00
Gate	2.00
Quilt	3.00
Blankets	5.00
Mug	1.00
Easter eggs	1.00
Grater	1.00
Magnets	1.00
Pan	1.00
Toys	1.00
Total sales	\$34.00
Donation	\$71.00

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Church Cleaning List -

1. 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 leak – update. Pastor Marian reports that Arnie and Blaine K. spoke. Arnie found the part and Blaine said he would fix it soon.
2. Sanctuary Carpet- Board agrees we need to wait for Brenda M.’s input to make decisions. Discussion on step depth, “stage” area dimensions. Reviewed proposed plan the congregation was presented.
3. Lounge ceiling leak. -Pastor Marian said Mr. Morrison had been to the church to look at the area in

the lounge that needs more attention but that nothing had been done yet. Deepak said he would follow up with Mr. Morrison. Additional ceiling tiles will need to be purchased to replace the spotted tiles.

Outside the Church

1. NE wall of new wing has water mark – will look again this spring/summer.
2. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks, and spalled concrete in handicap area - not yet done but will be looked in the spring.
3. Volunteer Trees in east lawn removed - Joe Myers 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. The light in the parking lot is out. Deepak will follow up with Mr. Kessler.
6. The tulip tree and others need trimming.

Manse

1. New dishwasher needed for Manse- finished.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Furnace noise- Pastor Marian said that the furnace that controls the Fellowship Hall makes a lot of noise. Board thinks the furnace might need to have the filter replaced. Board asked Katie to contact the Trustees and ask them to put together a list of tasks that should be accomplished on a monthly schedule such as to replace furnace filters and change fire alarm batteries. These tasks could be accomplished by Trustees and anyone willing to take on the task.
2. RAGBRAI- Pastor Marian got a request from a group who will be riding on RAGBRAI to stay at the church the night before the large RAGBRAI group will be traveling through town. Board agrees this is a nice idea and will vote at the next meeting.
3. Lawn mower- the new mower is ready to be delivered.
4. Conduit- Pastor Marian reported that Arnie suggests we should have two different conduits to accommodate the sound system and other wiring in the Sanctuary. Deepak will get more information from Arnie.
5. Landscape- Pastor Marian explained that there are a few areas of their backyard that need attention. Underneath the deck there is a bulging area after this winter. One of the retaining walls has collapsed as well. Katie will locate Bryan Oeppings phone

number for Arnie to call. Bryan has done work on the Manse landscape before.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Hello Church Family.

Hope this finds you well and warm. Pleased to report that both Sunday School and WOW are going well. Hard to believe that it is past Easter already. We are planning toward Pentecost, now. And, preliminary sketches of summer scheduling are beginning to take shape. A common theme in both groups is that attendance has been so strong that we are starting to specialize the curriculum into age, availability & attendance-oriented programs.

Sunday School continues to flourish, with the help of the Harned girls. The core group of attendees in the 1st-4th grade age range have been learning to read, interpret and discuss the relevant passages in the lectionary. It's a great joy to see these kids grow in their faith and understanding. We tackle some tough questions, and it's insightful to me to know how deep and complex their perspective is already.

WOW attendance has been off the charts. We had 31 last week & 35 children this week. It's a good sign that kids are inviting their friends to the program. If you have not already been personally witness to the program, I'd highly recommend it. The multi-faceted approach to learning seems to help subject apprehension quite well. We do crafts, games, activities, yoga, free-play, bells, singing, and more. Curriculum continues to follow the lectionary here, also.

Again, it takes a village to make all of this happen well, so there are many people to thank. Marilyn, Wayne, Margaret, Missy, Emily, Lori, Brenda, Jaime, Rachel, Joel, Katie, Lisa, Breona, Todd, Marian, Chance, Charlie, Gary, Norma, and more all are integral components to this program, and are much appreciated! Sincere gratitude for all of your assistance. It is an honor to shepherd our younger generation in their faith walk, teach them about Christ, the church, and being the future leaders of our world as good Christians.

Yours in service, Jason

ENDOWMENT REQUESTS

1. From Jason Iske – for Elle to go to Camp Wyoming. \$190. Fund B.
2. From Breona Maurer – for Porter to go to Camp Wyoming. \$385. Fund B.
3. From Jason and Katie Thrasher – for Alice to go to Camp Wyoming. \$130. Fund B.
4. From Joel and Lisa Murphy – for Tenley (\$140) and Payton (\$385) to go to Camp Wyoming. Fund B.
5. From Pat Barten – for Katherine to go to Camp Wyoming. \$385. Fund B.
6. From Todd and Nicollete Woodburn- for Jude to go to Camp Wyoming. \$300. Fund B.
7. From Jason and Katie Thrasher – for Synod School Registration Fees. \$1,350. Fund B.
8. From Yvonne Gardenier – For Gabe to go to Camp Wyoming. Fund B.

Move to pay the funds required to pay for camp expenses as requested 1) Vince 2) Joel . Katie will email Board. We need two more votes to pass the vote. *On April 6 Holly G votes yes, Syd H votes yes. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT/PRAYER CONCERNS/CLOSING PRAYER/MEETING May 3 , 2018 at 6:30p.m.

Church Workers

May 6

Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

David Baker & Norma Brooks

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Syd Harned, Butch Nortman, Letha Ottaway,

Vince Ottaway, Karen Nortman

USHER: Joe Myers

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR: Open

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWERPOINT: Open

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

May 13

Chancel Choir/Mothers Day

USHER: Wayne Noring

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks, Dinette & Joe Myers

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Open

CANDLE LIGHTER: Jude Woodburn

May 20

Communion/Special Music

SPEAKING ELDERS:

David Baker & Norma Brooks

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Syd Harned, Butch Nortman, Letha Ottaway,

Vince Ottaway, Karen Nortman

USHER: Walt Lehman

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Brookelyn Harned

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

May 27

USHER: Wayne Noring

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Evelyn Wilkerson

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Open

CANDLE LIGHTER: Jude Woodburn

Communion preparers for

May 6-Butch & Karen Nortman

May 20- Ken & Jo Noble



MAY BIRTHDAYS

1st Karla Sphar

10th Mike Phelps

10th Joyce Hahn

10th Katlyn Skubal

11th Blaine Kelly

11th Arnie Hart

12th Adeep Giri

15th Jan Koellner

15th Brad Akers

18th Zach Irwin

18th Rolo Galvan

19th Pat Nortman

21st Leland Kober

22nd Blaine Williams

23rd Ryan Deahr

27th Andy Nortman

27th Marian Hart

29th Betty Burton



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5th Jared & Samira Deahr

7th Filmore & Marjory Melick

19th Scott & Angie Brooke

27th Tom & Janet Woody

27th Jason & Katie Thrasher

