



FIRST CHURCH UNITED

1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776
Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446
Pastor, Marian Hart
Secretary, Katie Thrasher
July and August 2018



Dear Friends in Christ,

2 Corinthians 8:7 says, “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” It is part of a passage for this week’s lectionary study. It is not what I will be preaching on, but it is a very important part of spiritual health. So I’d like to share a few thoughts on giving. First I want to thank the many volunteers who contribute to the mission and ministry of First Church United. We could not be church without you!

As you should know, the church has ongoing expenses for routine operation, just as your household does—utility bills and general maintenance. And like a business, we have paid staff—pastor, secretary, Christian education, custodian, childcare, choir director, music accompanists. Our ministries function year round in various ways. Should your family need pastoral care, a scholarship for camp, a hospital visit, a meal, a prayer, a hug, we are here. Therefore, our financial needs remain constant. We don’t/can’t afford to ‘take the summer off.’ Yet there is always a slump in giving and Keith has to borrow from savings to meet our budget expenses. Can you help prevent this?

Today I just ask that you ponder what the phrase ‘grace of giving’ might mean to you. And invite you to take a look at the things you excel in. Is giving on the list? Should it be? Why or why not?

Let me just share the importance of this church to me this morning. It is my son Richard’s birthday, he’s turning 33. I remember 5 years ago when our family was going through a very rough time. Richard’s health and life seemed to be falling apart. That year on his birthday we sat in the car in the garage and he wept wondering if he would be able to live to the age of 30. I lived in daily fear/worry about him. I also lived with a boatload of guilt feeling I didn’t have the energy or time to be a good pastor for those in the church family who might need me. I was told, and am ever so grateful, by a member of my PRC that maybe it was just time to let the church take care of me for a while. You did and I thank you for the many ways you gave support and encouragement and understanding. We had an early

birthday supper last night and it felt like a true celebration.

When I began writing this, I never dreamt that a ‘stewardship’ message would make me cry! I have tears of gratitude for every good thing that First Church United does. I make it my business to pass it on and be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ whenever/however I can. Thank you for giving me the means to do so.

Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

June 2018

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
June 3	\$1,646.00	45
June 10	\$806.29	48
June 17	\$1,224.26	40
June 24	\$2,762.25	48



Music Notes

Summer Greetings!

If you are a member of any of our choirs, please watch for your August eLetter (usually the 1st week) which will give you details regarding our upcoming choir year and the start dates and times.

If you are not a member of our choirs but are interested, here's a summary of information and requirements.

Chancel Choir: We are a group of adults and high school age students who like to sing!

Chime Choir: Members must be able to count rhythms and recognize your assigned note(s).

Youth Bell Choir: All are welcome! The students are assigned a bell with a number, and they simply read the number from their director's chart to know when to play.

Accompanists, Organists / Pianists: Anyone able to read & play music on a keyboard instrument will be welcomed with open arms!

Our church musicians enjoy a bond of Christian friendships as we serve by ministering through music. We are a choir family!

We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall, and we hope to serve together at our church's food stand at the county fair in July!

Enjoy a safe and happy summer,
Your Music Ministry Committee: Brenda Miller, Emily Reed, Lori Brooke, Marianne Phelps, Susan Lehman

WORSHIP AT THE FAIR

Sunday, July 22 at 9:00 a.m. Music will be led by our CYG band. A free will offering will be taken in support of the Ministerial Association Help Fund. Please plan to join us and spread the word!

**Please join us to celebrate the
birthday of Wayne Noring
7-14-18 at First Church United
2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Meat Preparation for the Fair Stand will be
Saturday, July 14th at 4:00 pm and Monday, July
16th at 9:00am.**

ALL CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING

Pastor Marian is excited to be serving on the planning committee for the All Congregational Gathering. The event is August 25 with many activities offered. The theme Abide With Me will help us as we choose workshop choices, a mini-retreat option, participatory worship ideas, and speakers. There are fun things for youth with games. There is food! There will be booths where churches share their ministry passions and outreach. And it's all free! Please mark your calendar and consider attending. It is a day well spent-guaranteed!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

The Christian Education committee is in the midst of planning Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held August 6-9 5:30-7:30pm. More information will be sent out in the next couple weeks. Be sure to check your email and the First Church United WOW and Sunday School page on Facebook for updates. We pray you are having a safe and fun summer so far and can't wait to see you around church and VBS!

Food Pantry Report for June 2018

The freezer problem solved itself! We got different thermometers and they both show the temperature to be 2 Degrees below Zero in both freezers. I am glad to find the thermometers were the real problem because they are much easier and cheaper to replace.

Bertie and I had the pleasure of working with volunteers from Cedar Valley United Methodist Church. Atalissa Christian Church will be assisting the food pantry in July. In August we start through the list again starting with the United Methodist Church with Cindi Sanders in charge.

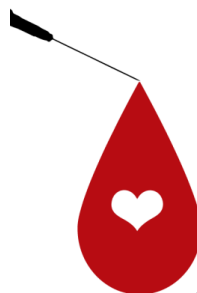
We had 44 total visitors this month representing 150 people. This represents 31 families containing 97 family members. Total number of visits to food pantry so far this year are, January with 48, February with 34, March with 61, April with 52, May with 61, and June with 44. We are continuing to see new faces again this month. 100 different families have visited the food pantry since July 1, 2017. We served 3 new families in the month of June.

Total food donations were 519 pounds this month. We received 263 pounds from Becky, 78 pounds from Joe, and other donations of 178 pounds. We were the recipient of a very nice monetary donation from West Liberty Foods in honor of the 1st Annual Turkey Day of Service. Thank you notes were sent to all the named donors.

Handouts for the Summer Feeding program at the school were posted and given to families that have school age children in the community. We are also giving out information about the 4-H program for kids in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade to be held at both First Church United for a cooking/nutrition program, and at the Fairgrounds for planting and care of vegetable and flower gardens as well as related subjects.

I started keeping track of the volunteer hours at the food pantry this May. I should have started to track that on January first, but better late than never. Volunteers accounted for 42 hours of service to the food pantry this month.

Dave Baker, Facilitator of the Food Pantry



*Give Blood
for
Life!*

**Rotary Club Blood Drive
Monday, August 6 from
2-7p.m. at First Church United.
Walk-ins Welcome!**



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

June 7, 2018 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER by Deepak Giri. Those in attendance were Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, Jim Kiwala, Vince Ottaway and Brenda Miller (acting Secretary in place of Katie)

DEVOTION TIME - Pastor Marian's devotion focused on the Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian view of church and what First Church United is known for. Would it be pleasing to Jesus?

OPENING PRAYER by Pastor Marian

APPROVAL OF DOCKET - Motion to approve the docket 1st Vince O., 2nd Jim K., unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion to approve the minutes 1st Vince O., 2nd Brenda M., unanimously approved by the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT -

May start of the month balance	\$1,866.65
Receipts	\$5,727.32
Sub Total	\$7,593.97
Disbursements	\$6,788.53
Ending Balance	\$805.44
Board Balance	(\$7,088.06)

PASTOR'S REPORT - May 2018

- Plan and lead worship May 6, 13, 20, 27 and June 3
- Adult Sunday School
- Worship Team meeting May 7
- Lending Tree Wednesdays and May 12
- Cluster Meeting May 10
- WOW May 2, 9
- Synod School planning committee/Zoom meeting May 17
- Simpson Worship May 18
- Presbytery Meeting, Washington May 22
- Baccalaureate May 23
- All Congregational Gathering worship planning Zoom May 24
- Book study and lunch May 29
- Cluster meeting June 6
- Lunch and Learn Pastors June 7
- Pastoral Visits - 5
- Mileage -209
- Counseling - 1

Pastor Marian will be required to be in Buena Vista from July 20-27 for Synod School and committee work. She has signed up for the Worldwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Kentucky from August 1 - 5, this will be continued education time for her. It includes a Sunday.

LENDING TREE REPORT:

TOTAL RECEIPTS = \$128.00 for May
\$80.00 for June 2

Salvation Army is sending a truck for the remaining items/goods on June 21.

Motion to approve 1st Vince O., 2nd Jim K., unanimously approved by the Board.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Carpet Installation Schedule:

1. Deepak presented the two-week schedule for the updated Sanctuary work, including the carpet removal, organ and piano moving and carpet installation. Work is scheduled to be completed by Friday, June 29.

Church Cleaning List:

1. Dust wood in Sanctuary including the wood beams in the ceiling and all the woodwork in the Pulpit area - all of this will be completed once the carpet/flooring has been finished.

Inside the Church:

1. Immersion Baptismal leak has still not been fixed and really needs to be as soon as possible
2. Carpet replacement - see above minutes

Outside the Church:

1. Door near Sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks and spalled concrete in handicap area - Jim Kiwala presented a bid. No action was taken. Board would like to make a decision and vote at next meeting.
2. Vince will take care of the volunteer trees in the East lawn to remove them.
3. Tulip tree and others need trimming - mid-summer is a good time.
4. Two of the four outside water faucets have been capped off due to leaking - could cost \$2,000 to repair them, item to be discussed and voted on at next meeting.
5. Board agreed to put the Little Library House on a pole out in the front of the church yard by the sidewalk where people can see it and get access to it.
6. Katie Thrasher's requested time off for Synod School July 22-27 and August 11-19 for MN vacation - Motion to approve 1st Brenda M., 2nd Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board
7. Discussion was held on the process of sending thank you letters to those who give memorials to the

church. Board agreed that secretary can draft an appropriate thank you letter on behalf of the church and the church Board that is tailored to each individual's memorial gift.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Someone needs to spray weeds, mow and trim the church yard, need more people to help fill in for those few who are becoming unable to do it due to physical labor involved.
2. The freezer/upright needs fixed before the fair. Norma Brooks is donating her old refrigerator to the Fair Stand.
3. Use of the Kitchen - the Rotary Club would like to use the church's kitchen for preparing the food for Picnic in the Park on July 15. Motion 1st Vince O., 2nd Jim K., unanimously approved by the Board
4. Discussion was held in regard to the Fair Stand and FCU kitchen renewal licensing. No action was taken.
5. Endowment Requests
 - a. Christian Conference/Newton - \$1000
 - b. Camp Wyoming - \$1000
(These two were for our wider mission)
 - c. WOW meals - \$900 for the 2018-19 year
 - d. Kristi Brown Mission work in China - \$500 quarterly.

Motion to approve Endowment requests 1st Vince O., 2nd Brenda M., unanimously approved by the Board.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS - none reported

ADJOURNMENT - Motion 1st Vince O., 2nd Jim K., unanimously approved by the Board.

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

Next Meeting - August 2, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Church Workers

July 1

Communion by Intinction

SPEAKING ELDERS:

None needed

USHER: Dave Baker

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Susan Deahr

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

July 8

USHER: Bill Koellner

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bill & Jan Koellner

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

July 15

Communion by Intinction

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Keith Barnhart & Mary Larson

USHER: Dave Baker

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bette Burton & Evelyn Evans

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

July 22

Fair Sunday- Worship in the Grove at 9:00a.m.

July 29

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

The Giri Family

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

Communion will be served by Intinction



Birthdays in July

1 Kaden Brooks

3 Bill Laughlin

6 Lisa Newcomb

8 Levi Larson

9 Calli Jo Deahr

9 Jeff Wiele

10 Kevin Minor

14 Wayne Noring

14 Bill Koellner

14 Joseph Delgado

15 JoAnne Akers

16 Kurt Simon

19 Matthew Kelly

19 Patty Laughlin

20 Rebecca Kober

20 Skylar Simon

25 Porter Maurer

25 Maeli Galvan

28 Letha Ottaway

30 Janet Woody



Anniversaries in July

7th Rob & Brenda Miller

19th Bill & Patty Laughlin

20th Joe & Dinette Myers

30th Leon & Mary Larson

Church Workers

August 5

Communion by Intinction

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

August 12

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Evelyn Wilkerson

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

August 19

Communion by Intinction

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

August 26

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

The Murphy Family

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

Communion will be served by Intinction



Birthdays in August

- 1 Norma Minor
- 2 Maddex Maurer
- 4 Betty Dean Probst
- 5 Ashley Gardenier
- 5 Amrita Giri
- 5 Jared Deahr
- 7 Aditi Giri
- 8 Mike Gardenier
- 11 Marshall Delgado
- 14 Courtney Crees
- 14 Karli Galvan
- 19 Wilbert Wendt
- 22 Madelyn Deahr
- 23 Hannah Campbell
- 24 Mary Pat Brooke
- 24 Terri Larson
- 25 Lenny Larson
- 25 Rayleigh Reed
- 26 Todd Koellner
- 26 Ty Brooks
- 29 Paxton Maurer
- 30 Tom Woody



Anniversaries in August

- 1st Darren & Lori Brooke
- 18th Roger & Heidi Morrison
- 23rd Keith & Margaret Barnhart
- 25th Wilbert & Mary Wendt
- 26th Mark & Missy Johnson
- 27th Joe & JoAnne Akers
- 29th Todd & Nicolette Woodburn

Date and time of VBS 2018

August 6-9

5:30-7:30p.m. at First Church United

11:00 N. Calhoun Street, West Liberty

Phone: 627-2989

Dinner provided. **Register August 1st at 6:00 at FCU.**



Confidential Registration Form

Child's name: _____

Nickname/preferred name to be called: _____

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Home email address: _____

Child's Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

Gender: M ___ F ___ Last school grade completed: _____

Home faith community (if any): _____

In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached), please contact:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Please list any allergies/medical needs the VBS staff should be aware of:

Person responsible for picking up this child at the end of each VBS day:

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Tell us anything special you'd like us to know about your child (use back side if you'd like)

This will/will not be my child's first large-group experience other than Sunday school.

Special needs/circumstances: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Photo Release:

On occasion we publish photos of activities in the newsletter, West Liberty Index or on the website. By signing below you give authorization for your child's photo to be used.

Signature _____ Date _____

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO FIRST CHURCH UNITED
with a check payable to "VBS" for the \$10/child or \$25/family registration fee
by Monday, August 1st between 6-7p.m.
1100 N CALHOUN ST., WEST LIBERTY, IA 52776
319-627-2989**

