



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

I spent Memorial Weekend playing a lot of cards. We play a game called “Oh, hell.” The dynamics differ from hand to hand as the number of cards dealt changes, who leads, how many players there are, and each player’s strategy (or lack of). Sometimes it’s really frustrating for me because others’ logic and bidding doesn’t jive with mine. And so it is with life. If only the world functioned like I think it should!

What happens when a few billion of us live life like that? The mess we’re in right now. Wars, the super-rich controlling world economy, shrinking middle class, growing poverty, high rates of depression and anxiety related illness, destruction of nature, blaming the ‘other’ and placing our hope and trust in what the bible calls false prophets and idols.

Jesus said we can not serve two masters. Though we try to juggle and justify, we can not do it. Just as in Joshua’s time, we need to make a daily choice to be on the Lord’s side. With the Lord as our partner, we can live the life we are dealt to its fullest and for the benefit of the most of our neighbors.

So, let’s strategize good rather than evil, in big ways and small. Let’s try to promote more winners by letting the Word and will of God trump our every move. At home, at work, at school, at play, be aware that you might have been dealt a really good hand in order to help out someone with a really stinky one.

Do something intentionally just today,  
 Pastor Marian

## CHURCH RECORD

May 2018

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
May 6	\$1,643.00	62
May 13	\$1,231.00	77
May 20	\$1,754.43	62
May 27	\$855.00	33



### Music Notes

Summer has arrived and the choirs may be on break, but the music never stops! It is the Music Ministry's intent & hope that our selections for special occasions like Father's Day as well as the sacrament of communion will help all worshippers feel the impact of the messages. Enjoy your summer, and enjoy our summer services!

The Music Ministry

**Our Sympathy to Mark & Roger Johnson upon the death of their sister.**

Thank you to everyone who has shown your showers of blessings thru your communication of prayers, concerns, deeds, cheers and support during my last month of recovery. Your helping hands and inspiration brings healing and are deeply appreciated. Peace be with all of you. Joyce Hahn

**The Secretary's summer office hours will be M-F 9:30-11:30am**

## FOOD PANTRY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2018

We had a very busy month with lots of things going on. Bertie and I attended Civil Rights training at the River Bend Foodbank on Monday, May 21. We learned that the temperatures in the freezers must be Zero degrees or colder. Both of our freezers run about 5 degrees to 2 degrees above Zero! We defrosted one freezer, cleaned the compressor compartment, and cleaned the seals on the lid, this freezer is set as low as the temperature control will go. Cleaning and defrosting did nothing for the temperature in this freezer. Both freezers show some age and I am not sure they were new when the food pantry started. One of the solutions I thought of was to purchase a new freezer, however it was suggested to put out an appeal for another freezer for the food pantry and see what happens.

We made a trip to the Food Bank this month. Bertie and I had the pleasure of working with volunteers from West Liberty Christian Fellowship Church this month. Cedar Valley United Methodist Church will be assisting the Food Pantry in June, and Atalissa Christian Church will be assisting in July.

We had 55 total visitors this month representing 169 people. This represents 37 families containing 106 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, and May with 55. We are continuing to see new faces again this month. 95 different families have visited the food pantry since July 1, 2017. We served 7 new families just in the month of May.

Total food donations were 592 pounds this month, the Postal Employee's food drive brought us 585 pounds of the total pounds, and the Atalissa Christian Church brought in 139 pounds of cleaning supplies and personal care items so there were a number of items to be sorted and put on the shelves this month.

I started keeping track of the volunteer hours at the food pantry this month. I should have started to track that on January first, but better late than never. Volunteers accounted for 55 hours of service to the food pantry this month. I count our trips to and from the food pantry and how long we spend doing the shopping through the pick and choose section as well as unloading and stocking shelves in this total. Sometimes there 6 people there which is too many, but we spent time learning. Once we are done with the training phase, I am sure this number will drop.

Dave Baker, Facilitator of the Food Pantry

## OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING May 3, 2017

CALL TO ORDER by Deepak Giri. Those in attendance were Joe Myers, Vince Ottaway, Holly Gingerich, Joel



Murphy, Jim Kiwala, Syd Harned, Brenda Miller, Pastor Marian, Treasurer Keith Barnhart and Secretary Katie Thrasher.

**DEVOTION TIME-** National Day of Prayer verse Eph. 4:3  
**OPEN IN PRAYER**

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET-** add correspondence. Motion to approve docket as amended 1<sup>st</sup> Joe M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** motion to approve minutes 1<sup>st</sup> Vince O, 2<sup>nd</sup> Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Barnhart reported that \$9,304 was contributed in April but we paid out \$10,000. He moved \$3,000.28 from Watters Estate to pay for the new lawn mower.

Keith changed the budget line he paid a Lynch bill from in April from line #706 to #701. He paid another Lynch bill for #114.80 for a new stool for the manse. He paid the drafting service who drew up the sanctuary remodel plans \$400. The Endowment Fund interest of \$4,181.60 is now in savings. Paid \$200 to each mission. Motion to approve Treasurer's report 1<sup>st</sup> Joe M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.

Pastor Marian explained that the retaining wall in the backyard of the manse has been fixed asks for reimbursement for the gravel purchased.

<b>April start of month balance</b>	\$937.63
<b>Receipts</b>	\$18,886.58
<b>Sub Total</b>	\$19,824.21
<b>Disbursements</b>	\$17,957.56
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$1,866.65
<b>Board Balance</b>	(\$6,026.85)

### PASTOR'S REPORT April 5-May 3, 2018

Office hours kept

Plan and lead worship April 8, 15, 22 (planned), 29

CYG teach, meals, April 8, 15, Board meeting 22

Adult Sunday School April 8, 15, 29

WOW on Wednesdays excluding 18<sup>th</sup>

Lending Tree on Wednesdays and April 7

Simpson worship April 13

Co-planned and led CRE retreat April 13-14 at Camp Wyoming

Deacons meeting April 15

Vacation (staycation) April 16-22

Book study April 19

Zoom call for Synod School planning committee April 23

Ministerial Association meeting and lunch May 2

Pastoral visits-5

Mileage-100

Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Vince O., 2<sup>nd</sup> Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.

**Lending Tree Report-** Pastor Marian reports that we are very close to having to close the door. She hopes to at least be open through June and to use the West Liberty garage sale weekend in early June to sell most of the inventory.

## 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 – Brenda M. will follow up with Blaine.
2. Sanctuary Carpet- Syd H. read an estimate for brown carpet from Randy's Carpet. Estimate was \$14,000. This is for carpet removal, move the pews out/back in, install the carpet. Deepak G. has talked with Randy's Carpet and will get a better estimate with discount and a portion of the carpet contributed. Board voted between a blue/gold/patterned carpet option and a brown with pattern option. Board voted in favor of the brown with pattern option. Deepak will find someone to take out pews and the carpet to decrease the cost of the project. Randy's Carpet will install the carpet. Syd will let her contact at Randy's Carpet know which option the Board chose and ask them to adjust the numbers to exclude removal and disposal. Syd will also ask Randy's Carpet when the carpet will be ready to install so we can plan accordingly.
3. Lounge ceiling leak. - Deepak G. believes Ken Morrison has been to the church to fix the leak. Brenda M. will buy a box of ceiling tiles at Manards so the discolored and molding tiles can be replaced.
4. Electric Numbers from Neumiller- Deepak G. reports we have an estimate of \$2,850.00 for electrical work done during the remodel.
5. Morrison Construction- Deepak G. reports there is an estimate of \$3,100.00 to raise the area by the organ. Deepak or Brenda M. will talk to Susie Lehman and Marianne Phelps about who to call to move the organ. Motion for the money for the 4 projects (1. Carpet removal and disposal, 2. Ken Morrison construction work, 3. Neumiller Electrical work, 4. Randy's Carpet installation and carpet) to come from the Watters Estate Fund, the Harold Wilkerson Memorial Fund, and General Savings Fund, if needed 1<sup>st</sup> Joe M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.
6. Furnace noise- The noise disappeared but Mr. Kessler has ordered filters and is going to replace all the filters in the church furnaces.

### Outside the Church

1. NE wall of new wing has water mark – Jim K. reports that the mason person came out and looked at the area. There is nothing wrong with the bricks.
2. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks, and spalled concrete in handicap area – Jim K. will bring a bid from Simon to the next month's meeting. The first part to be worked on would be by the Narthex

doors then the parking lot would be worked on in sections.

3. Volunteer Trees in east lawn removed - Joe M. has cleared the volunteer trees and weeds from one large pine tree and will continue to work on clearing out the other large pine tree.
4. Door overhangs on NE wing near kitchen to prevent rain entering – Board agrees to take this task off the list as nothing has been done to take care of it.
5. The light in the parking lot is out- done
6. The tulip tree and others need trimming- Vince will take care of this soon.

### Manse

1. Backyard landscaping- project is complete.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review quarterly Endowment Report for 1st quarter – Joe M. reports that we have \$1,006,533.73. The markets have not been good lately and numbers have gone down. We have \$33,204.97 in the Beryl Brooke Memorial Fund. Endowment Committee is short 2 people out of 5.
2. Plant grass seed by bell tower- Brenda M. will buy all purpose grass seed at Menards.
3. Planters – the planters by the main doors and the side door need to be filled now that the Christmas decorations have been removed. Syd H. will ask Jan McCrabb for suggestions as they are both in the Memorial Committee.
4. Correspondence – from Camp Wyoming. Idea to support staff for a week with cards or small donations. Pastor Marian will talk about this during MADCAP over the next couple weeks.

### MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:

#### 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 16<sup>th</sup> and the last Sunday school of the year will be May 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

**ADJOURNMENT** motion to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> Joe M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vince O. unanimously approved by the Board.

**PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**MEETING** June 7, 2018 at 6:30pm

## Church Workers

June 3

Communion

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Evelyn Evans & Walt Lehman

**ORGANIST:** Brenda Miller

**POWERPOINT:** Arnie Hart

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Payton Murphy

June 10

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Pat Brooke, Shirley Sterner, Jim Kiwala

**ORGANIST:** Lori Brooke

**POWER POINT:** Bill Koellner

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Tenley Murphy

June 17

Communion/Father's Day

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Norma Brooks

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Jim Kiwala

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Jude Woodburn

June 24

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Marilyn Ruegsegger

**ORGANIST:** Brenda Miller

**POWER POINT:** Keith Barnhart

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Alice Thrasher

**Communion will be served by Intinction**



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4<sup>th</sup> McKenna Deahr

6<sup>th</sup> Joel Murphy

6<sup>th</sup> Courtney Wendt

6<sup>th</sup> Travis Maurer

8<sup>th</sup> Jodi Kelly

9<sup>th</sup> Keith Barnhart

9<sup>th</sup> Tasha Wiele

10<sup>th</sup> Charles Brooke

11<sup>th</sup> Walt Lehman

13<sup>th</sup> Dustin Noble

13<sup>th</sup> Lisa Murphy

14<sup>th</sup> Linda Minor

16<sup>th</sup> Jill Koellner Perkins

16<sup>th</sup> Heather Powers

17<sup>th</sup> Katie Thrasher

18<sup>th</sup> Ella May Hambright

18<sup>th</sup> Kaden Wiele

19<sup>th</sup> Dean Phelps

20<sup>th</sup> Jay Steen

22<sup>nd</sup> Jesse Reed

24<sup>th</sup> Brent Bengé

27<sup>th</sup> Brian Bengé

27<sup>th</sup> Vince Ottaway

27<sup>th</sup> Brandon Harned

28<sup>th</sup> Samira Deahr

30<sup>th</sup> June Phelps



### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

2<sup>nd</sup> Ken & Linda Minor

7<sup>th</sup> Bob & Linda Foor

15<sup>th</sup> Randy & Sandy Henderson

15<sup>th</sup> Ken & Brenda Wright

15<sup>th</sup> Dustin & Katherine Brooks

18<sup>th</sup> Vince & Letha Ottaway

20<sup>th</sup> Gary & Joyce Hahn

22<sup>nd</sup> Tom & Susan Lehman

23<sup>rd</sup> James & Jeni Laughlin

24<sup>th</sup> Joel & Lisa Murphy

25<sup>th</sup> Kurt & Jessi Simon

28<sup>th</sup> Mike & Susan Deahr

30<sup>th</sup> Blaine & Jodi Kelly