



FIRST CHURCH UNITED

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

At the end of the CYG year we do an evaluation with the youth. We asked what kind of lessons they would like for this year. Pastor Mario chose the topics. My first lesson is titled God and Us. To me that's a mighty broad topic and I've thought a lot about where to start and what to focus on. What would your first thought be upon hearing the phrase 'God and us?'

I settled on Genesis (the beginning) 1:1 'in the beginning, God created...' I want us to think about what it means to be created in the image of God. And how that translates into living in the likeness of God.

Should/does our Creator have ultimate authority over us, the creature? What kind of love is involved in this relationship? What is our commissioned responsibility in Creation overall? See Gen. 1:28-30. That is our stewardship assignment. To take care of all other created things on behalf of a loving Creator. That includes our air, soil, trees, waterways, birds, fishes, animals, and our fellow humans.

In the middle of writing this, Joe Myers came in with this year's church stewardship campaign information. It is a resource called "Graced by the Fruits of Our Labor." He left to plant grass seed and I finished this letter in order to plant a spiritual seed-that of considering your pledge for the support of our church's ministry in the coming year.

Imagine what the fruit of your labor means-it could be increased monetary giving to insure that our children/youth programs continue with quality curriculum; it could be using your hands and feet to maintain our building (which is our largest ministry tool); it could be saying yes when asked to serve on the Board to make decisions that affect us all; it could be accepting a term on a committee in the area you are most passionate about: Christian education, worship, congregational life, etc.; it could be praying faithfully for our staff and members; it could be sharing a vision you have to implement a new way of community outreach; it could be teaching children that there are bills to pay at church, too. The possibilities are numerous.

Now imagine being graced by the fruit that generous stewardship might bring. Would more children find a safe place to spend Wednesday evenings? Would more families who are food challenged have healthy eating choices? Would more ladies take care of their health by exercising and socializing with their friends? Will the Boy Scout troop grow and teach young men values and skills that will benefit the world? Will a youth go on a mission trip and have a life changing experience? Will a grieving person find support and encouragement? Will we draw closer to the Lord due to a song or prayer we hear? Will the word of God transform us?

We will hear more in bulletin inserts, sermons, daily devotions, and email news throughout October as we prayerfully prepare to offer our pledges at the end of the month.

May you be richly blessed by your seed sowing,
Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD		
September 2018		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
September 2	\$2,572.27	44
September 9	\$1,439.41	59
September 16	\$1,450.79	62
September 23	\$718.50	48
September 30	NA	73



Music Notes

October can be such a fun month! We cool off. We reap the fruits of the summer. We savor the colors of autumn. We even dress up in goofy costumes. Well, at FCU we have additional ways of having fun & spreading the joy! We will share favorite hymns during Gathering Music. Our senses will be blessed with all choirs. Our spirits will be blessed with a Spiritual Sunday. And we will truly spread the joy by hosting a Sunday evening community event full of music and, yes, praise! Watch for details later!

Wed., Oct. 3: Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30
Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., Oct. 7: WORSHIP TEAM

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

Sun., Oct. 14: CHANCEL CHOIR

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

Sun., Oct. 21: CHIME CHOIR

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

Sun., Oct. 28: CHANCEL CHOIR AND YOUTH
and Community Music & Praise Night

Wed., Oct. 31: (same as Oct. 3)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

W.O.W. is off to a great start! The kids are energetic and excited to be at church. We have been using a new curriculum that is based off the weeks Gospel lesson. We are so thankful to the volunteers who have been helping with crafts, dinner, games and everything in between. If you would like to volunteer, please check out the sign-up sheet on the buffet.

We will not have W.O.W. on October 31 for Halloween.

CYG NEWS

We had around 40 youth attend the kick-off with games and food enjoyed by all. Our awesome parents have signed up for almost all weeks to help with meals for the entire year! The Board will be ordering CYG shirts for all youth and leaders. Oct. 7 will be home cubes, leaders should inform their cubes where to meet and what they'll be doing. Regular CYG on Oct. 14 and 21, Meet at FCU for hayrack ride on Oct. 28 followed by bonfire at WLCF and ending with participation back at First Church United's Music and Praise night. All youth grades 6-12 are welcome, spread the word!

Food Pantry Report for September 2018

We had the pleasure of working with a number of volunteers from the St. Joseph's Catholic Church this month. We served 44 families representing 138 people. Some families visited more than once this month the total number of families visiting the food pantry was 62(41% of the families visited a second time) and with the extra visits the number of people served was 185. (34 %of the number of people served visited more than once.)

West Liberty United Methodist and Atalissa Christian Church provided 94 pounds of cleaning supplies. We received 367 pounds of food items so far this month. From all the sources of gifts to the food pantry we received 461 pounds. All these donations kept us busy sorting and stocking shelves, oh what a great way to spend our volunteer hours serving others. Volunteer gave the food pantry 36 hours. Considering that we were only open 1 hour on 7 days so far this month I think we did a great job of serving our guests and restocking the shelves to have the best variety of items on the shelves. This shows it takes about 5 volunteer hours for every hour the food pantry is open.

We look forward to having help from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in October and First Church United will be providing help in November.

Here is the list for the next 4 months:

October – Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rhonda Jensen is in charge

November – First Church United, Dave Baker is in charge

December – West Liberty Christian Fellowship, Julie McKillip is in charge

January 2019 – Cedar Valley United Methodist Church, Louise Newcomb is in charge

Sincerely, Dave Baker, Facilitator

West Liberty Food Pantry - First Church United is scheduled to volunteer at the Food Pantry this November. The Food Pantry is open Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-10 a.m. Please consider signing up to help run the pantry during November. If you have any questions, see Dave or Bertie Baker. Sign-up sheet is on the buffet.

If you are a member of the church and would like to be a communion server please email the church at fcu@Lcom.net

Coming Soon: “*Graced by the Fruits of Our Labor*”

On Sunday, October 7, we begin a four week program called *Graced by the Fruits of Our Labor*. Our theme verse is from Ephesians 6:7: “*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you are serving the Lord, not men.*” We serve wholeheartedly when we give wholeheartedly in service to the Lord. In our resolve to serve wholeheartedly in Christ’s name, we put our faith and trust in the Lord into action. Through this program, we all will grow to understand a little more clearly what it means to be a Christian whose purpose is to serve, not to be served.

God has created, forgiven, and redeemed us, as instruments of love and compassion in the world. God blesses us so we can serve him by serving others. God honors us with the privilege of being the channels through which he works. We are blessed to be a blessing. God wants us to live in total devotion, and to be faithful stewards. God empowers us to do the “*good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*” (Ephesians 3:20). The same strength that was available to Paul is available to us. As the Apostle Paul wrote the people in Philippi, “*I can do everything through him who gives me strength*” (Philippians 4:13). Through the reading of Word and participation in the Sacraments, we are strengthened and equipped so that we can fulfill God’s purpose for our lives. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can **give it all we’ve got** in service and commitment to the Lord.

It is our prayer that the Lord will truly bless this program and that God will reveal the true riches of peace and joy as we give it all we’ve got in serving and glorifying God. Plan to be present at the four Sunday services and to utilize the daily devotions which also address the theme of being **Graced by the Fruits of Our Labor!**

Community Music & Praise Night



 **First Church United is hosting a musical worship night on Sunday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m.**

 Come spend an hour of wonderful music, from praise and worship songs, to hymns and gospel spirituals.

 Enjoy a musical evening with the First Church United Chancel Choir, Chime Choir, Kids Bell Choir and CYG Band.

 All friends and family of the community are welcome to attend. There will be a free will donation to support the West Liberty Ministerial Association.

 If you would like to share a talent that evening or perhaps sing with the First Church United Choir, please contact Brenda Miller by email, brenkay05@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome to come spend an hour listening to and singing beautiful music!



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

September 6, 2018 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order by Board Chair Deepak Giri. Those in attendance were Joe Myers, Holly Gingerich, Pastor Marian Hart, Brenda Miller, Vince Ottaway, Keith Barnhart

Devotion Time - Pastor Marian shared a lesson from a book called, "The Love of God". Devotion question was "Where has God seen you spending yourself?" Marian then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Docket - Motion to approve the docket 1st Joe M., 2nd Brenda M., unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Minutes - Motion to approve the minutes 1st Joel M., 2nd Joe M., unanimously approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report - Keith Barnhart submitted a reports on the church accounts. It was noted that we have borrowed \$15,000 from savings, which is more than past years. Keith clarified the question about the Roth estate of \$135,000. \$90,000 of it was divided among the two endowment investments and the rest stayed in the general savings.

The money used for the latest church improvements came from the Watters Fund and memorial for Harold Wilkerson. This included the carpet and sanctuary updates.

Looking at the past year's budget sheets, even though we have borrowed more from savings this year, it is still within our normal budget usage.

Respectfully submitted, Keith Barnhart Treasurer.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report - 1st Holly G., 2nd Joel M., unanimously approved by the Board.

August start of the month balance	\$1,949.39
Receipts	\$9,895.55
Sub Total	\$11,844.94
Disbursements	\$9,228.40
Ending Balance	\$2,616.54
Board Balance	(\$13,809.36)

PASTOR'S REPORT AUG. 2-SEPT. 6

Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering in Louisville Aug. 2-5

Office hours kept

Plan and lead worship Aug. 12, 19, 26, Sept. 2

VBS Aug. 6-9

Presb. Mtg. in Vinton Aug. 12

Simpson worship Aug. 17

CYG mission trip presentation Aug. 19, meal prep

Host pastor group and lunch Aug. 22

All Congregational Gathering, co-planned worship, helped side new cabin, attended youth ministry workshop

Christian Ed. Mtg. Aug. 26

Planned and co-led CYG leadership retreat Aug. 26

Index article

Simpson bible study Sept. 4

Ministerial Assoc. Aug. 5

CLP retreat planning in Col. Jct. Aug. 6

Pastoral visits-9

Counseling-1

Mileage-364

FYI-Synod obligations will take me out of town Sept. 17-19

Request vacation Oct. 8-14; Nov. 5-11. Jason Thrasher will preach Nov. 5

Motion to approve Pastor Marian's time off 1st Joel M., 2nd Joe M., unanimously approved by the Board.

On-Going Business

Inside the Church:

1. There is another leak in the Baptismal Tub. Pastor Marian noticed it right before the baptism on Sept. 2. There was water on the new carpet. Lori called Darren Brooke and they came and cleaned it up right away. Deepak will contact someone to take a look at it. Discussion was held on other options if it cannot be fixed.
2. Mouse situation - there seems to be mice in various locations in the building such as the kitchen, church office and fellowship hall closet. It was noted that many people still prop the doors open which may not help the situation. Decision was to continue to put more mouse traps out.
3. New vacuum cleaner for church - Brenda is still looking into this. Add to next month's meeting agenda.
4. FCU Website updates - Possible cost to update the website would be \$2000. This would include adding archive tabs within the site and including digital copies of all pictures and church history. Updated pictures of the church would also be included. Board discussed taking care of maintenance items in the church first before updating the website. Board will brainstorm ideas and suggestions for next month's meeting. Joel M. offered to look into this in more detail.

Outside the Church:

1. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks and spalled concrete in handicap area was discussed. We

do not have the funds to fix this at this time - Board will continue to discuss at next meeting.

2. Vince took care of trimming the tulip tree and other trees in the church yard.
3. Two of the four outside water faucets have been capped off due to leaking.
4. Outside landscaping - discussion was held on the many maintenance items that need our attention and the lack of funds and manpower to take care of everything. It was suggested that we hire a local landscaping person to take care of the church landscaping once every few months. Since the sanctuary updates came in at a lower cost than budgeted, it was proposed that we use the Watters fund to help with the cost of some of the maintenance items. It was agreed upon that the church building needs to be maintained.

New Business

1. Joe M. presented a Stewardship kit he found online. This kit provides all of the resources and public relations information for the church. Cost of this kit is \$59.95. Motion to approve the purchase of the Stewardship Kit - 1st Vince O., 2nd Joel M., unanimously approved by the Board.
2. Joe M. will look into purchasing a hard plastic runner for in front of the communion table for those Sunday's in which communion is served by intinction. This is to help prevent stains on the new carpet.
3. It was noted that the need for future planning and giving to missions and preventative church maintenance needs to be discussed in January 2019 when working on the budget.

Ministry and Program Reports

1. Discussion was held in regard to upcoming committees. It was noted that our pool of resources is getting smaller. There was no one to serve on this year's nominating committee. Joe M. and Joel M. agreed to serve for this year.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion 1st Joe M., 2nd Vince O.

Unanimously approved by the Board.

PRAYER CONCERNS

CLOSING PRAYER

MEETING October 4, 2018 at 6:30pm

Church Workers

October 7

World Wide Communion

Presbyterian Style

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Jo Noble, Gary Hahn, Joel Murphy,
Joe Myers, Dinette Myers, Bob Dewar

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Jim Kiwala & Pat Brooke

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

October 14

Chancel Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

October 21

Communion/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Jo Noble, Gary Hahn, Joel Murphy,
Joe Myers, Dinette Myers, Bob Dewar

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Tenley Murphy

October 28

Chancel Choir & Youth Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Keith & Margaret Barnhart

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher



Birthdays in October

1 Darren Brooke

2 Skylar Wendt

3 Troy Myers

4 Mark Johnson

6 Filmore Melick

6 Carolyn Probst

10 Christina Newcomb

11 Linda Foor

11 Heidi Morrison

14 Tricia Lehman

14 Alice Thrasher

15 James Laughlin

20 Janice Stites

21 Caitlyn Snook

21 Jaime Galvan

23 Janey Gingerich

24 Shirley Sterner

24 Tom Probst

27 Cale Brooks

28 Bob Larson

30 Missy Johnson

30 Holly Gingerich

Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries in October

6 Mike & Yvonne Gardenier

13 Bob & Marcy Dewar

19 Butch & Karen Nortman

28 Jeff & Tasha Wiele

28 Caleb & Kelly Waters

Communion preparers for October is Open

My Commitment to the Lord

“Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

- I (we) promise to worship regularly.
- I (we) commit to diligent study in God’s Word.
 - Regular group Bible study Personal/family devotions
- I (we) commit to “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).



- I (we) will commit with my/our time:
Current service activities: _____
New service activities: _____
- I (we) will faithfully and cheerfully give the following amount:
With God’s help, I (we) will give 1% 2% 3% 4% 5% 6% 7% percent or more _____
of my (our) income.

My (our) faith offering each week will be \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Please return on Commitment Sunday or send to the church office.

My Commitment to the Lord

Please detach and keep for your records

- I,(we) promise to worship regularly.
- I (we) commit to diligent study in God’s Word.
 - Regular Bible study Personal/family devotions
- I (we) will commit to the faithful use of my/our time.
- I (we) will faithfully and cheerfully give \$ _____ per week.
- I (we) commit to “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

FIRST CHURCH UNITED