



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

I thoroughly enjoyed the melodic worship this past Sunday evening. It brings joy to be able to gather ecumenically to lift our voices in prayer and praise to the Lord. After a week of bomb threats and hate crime shootings in the news, it was just what a broken heart needed.

Thank you to the many who gave generously to the West Liberty Ministerial Association Help Fund. A total of \$475.55 was collected!

A funny thing happened on the way home that night. As I was walking across the parking lot, I noticed a couple people hanging out by our dumpster. I greeted them and they started following me. A voice called out, "Hi, excuse me." My awful Spanish skills picked up enough to know they needed help with rent. So I went in the house and got our Help Fund check book, then we paraded back over to the church to fill out the paperwork. I was thinking to myself, "Maybe the offering tonight will be exactly this amount."

Monday morning comes and a young woman is peeking in my window. I motion her to come in. She has a sick child in their pajamas with her. They need help with their electric bill so they don't get shut off. This reminds me I haven't counted the offering yet. And I think, "That would really be great if we got enough to cover both of these needs!" I counted and found the total was even more!

A half hour later I received a phone call asking for \$50 to help with a light bill, again to prevent shut off. The young man came in and also needed food. He hugged me so hard I thought I might need to straighten my glasses afterward. He called me a life-saver!

I wonder who will be blessed with the next \$25.55, perhaps before this day is over. I mean other than me. In the face of all that is wrong in the world, it feels so good to know that we are doing something right here. We pour out our praise to God, we pour out our pocket change or our sacrificial gift in the offering plate, and we pour out hope and love to those who need it most. Thanks be to God.

Be peace for someone today,  
 Pastor Marian

## CHURCH RECORD

October 2018

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
October 7	\$1,584.74	57
October 14	\$623.02	54
October 21	\$2,924.48	69
October 28	\$2,153.00	65



### Music Notes

What do you think of when you think of November? Patriotism? Thankfulness? Indoor activities?! Our Music Ministry offers all of this and so much more!

Take a look at this schedule.

**Sun., Nov. 4:** CHIME CHOIR (and the end of daylight savings time)

**Wed., Nov. 7:** Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30  
 Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

**Sun., Nov. 11:** CHANCEL CHOIR (& Veterans' Day, & Gathering Music - request favorite hymns)

**Wed., Nov. 14:** (same as Nov. 7)

**Sun., Nov. 18:** CHIME CHOIR (& our Thanksgiving Sunday)

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** - Chime Choir will play at the Community Center from 4:15-4:45.

**Wed., Nov. 21:** No Choirs (Thanksgiving Vacation)

**Sun., Nov. 25:** SPECIAL MUSIC

**Wed., Nov. 28:** (same as Nov. 7)

**Church Family Thanksgiving potluck** following the service on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Meat will be provided.

Bring your favorite dish to share!

**Please turn in your pledge card** to the office, financial secretary box as soon as you can. We are working on the budget for 2019 and your pledges will help the Board with that process. Thank you.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT**

Hello Church Family!

It is with great joy that I can report to you that all is well on this lovely Autumn day. WOW and Sunday school are in full swing, and each have their own successes, to be sure. The Spirit is moving among us, as evidenced by the curiosity of our youth, strong attendance, new members, and robust parent and adult participation. Many hands truly make light work, and thus I am ever grateful to all of those who help in whatever way possible.

The format of multi-sensory education seems to be successful. Lessons continue to follow the Lectionary, which helps prime the children for Sunday's texts, still. (When the Sunday service is not focused around a Stewardship program, that is.) And, it's hard to believe it is that time of year already, but practice for the Christmas Program will begin shortly after Halloween.

A few items of note: Keep in mind that there is no WOW this week, as Halloween falls directly on a Wednesday. And, collection of personal care items and non-perishable foods will continue through the New Year, as the Blessing Bag project will be a focus of the WOW group. As usual, please do contact me if you have any ideas, or support that can help further this wonderful ministry.

Yours in service, Jason

## **CYG NEWS**

We had 40 youth and adults for our annual hayrack ride and bonfire on Oct. 28. A few joined us here at FCU for special music night afterward. Regular CYG will be on Nov. 4 and 11, Take Away Hunger packing on Nov. 18 (open schedule, drop in when you can, no meal that night) no CYG on Nov. 25 due to Thanksgiving weekend.

**West Liberty Food Pantry** - First Church United is scheduled to volunteer at the Food Pantry this month. 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.

## **CHRISTMAS BOX GIVING**

Once again the churches will collect hats, gloves, mittens, socks, underwear & coats for distribution with our Christmas food and toys. Please consider a gift to someone less fortunate as you do your shopping. We generally serve over 400 people through this outreach.

Rotary Club and United Methodist Church have kickstarted us with the purchase of 174 new winter coats. We always run out. Gently used anything is appreciated.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Thank you to all who have returned their pledge of support for the ministry of First Church United in the coming year. Our building is a huge outreach tool for this community. There is someone here 7 days a week. Here are some of the groups: the Iowa City van pool, Boy Scouts, Tai Kwon Do, TTT, 4-H, WOW kids, 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists, exercise group, blood drives, food pantry, funerals, Sunday morning worship and Sunday School, CYG, Dream Catchers (kitchen use), birthday parties, occasional PEO and Rotary, buses for Stars on Stage, VBS, Lisa Murphy and co-workers. It takes a village...(entire faith community).

## **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

We will decorate the church for Christmas on Thurs. Nov. 29 beginning at 5:30. Many helping hands are needed and appreciated.

## **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL**

Once again we will gather together to fellowship around the tables for a Thanksgiving meal on Wed. Nov. 21 at 6. There will be a short time of worship following the meal. Sign-up sheets to contribute food are on the buffet. All are welcome!

## **POINSETTIA'S**

This year Jan's Flower Yard will offer poinsettia's in 6 inch pot, cost is \$15.55 + tax. Call 627-2616 to order yours.

## **Food Pantry report for the month of November 2018**

We had the pleasure of working with a number of volunteers from the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church this month. We served 46 families representing 150 people. Some families visited more than once this month the total number of families visiting the food pantry was 64 (about a third of the families visited more than once) and with the extra visits the number of people served was 203. (Again about a third of the number of people served visited more than once.) We had a few new families again this month.

Atalissa Christian Church, West Liberty Methodist Church, and others provided 88 pounds of cleaning supplies. From all the sources of gifts to the food pantry we received 1197 pounds. All these donations were not enough to keep the shelves full. On October 4 Ron Jensen and Mike Duytschaver went to the food pantry and picked up 887 pounds of food and again

on October 31 Ron Jensen and Dave Baker went to the food pantry and picked up 1,260 pounds of food.

We received a few donations of cash this month. We thank all the donors for their support, without them we would not be able to visit the Riverbend Food Bank and get large orders of food at deep discounts over other sources available to us.

Volunteer gave the food pantry 56 hours. Considering that we were only open 1 hour on 8 days this month this shows it takes about 7 volunteer hours for every hour the food pantry is open.

On Wednesday, October 31 there was another very generous 529 pound donation from “Becky” in Cedar Rapids. We give thanks for her generosity. We look forward to having help from First Church United in November and West Liberty Christian Church is scheduled to help in December.

**Here is the list for the next 4 months:**

**November** – First Church United, Dave Baker is in charge

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

**January** – I have grouped Cedar Valley Methodist, Louise Newcomb is in charge and Atalissa Christian Churches, Sheryl Brown is in charge, together since they are both small churches and do not have a large number of volunteers. Louise and Sheryl should be able to split it any way that suites you, just let me know who will be there on what days.

**February**- West Liberty Methodist Church, Cindi Sanders is in charge.

Here is my form to track visits to the food pantry. As you can see we have grown very steady this year.

	I	J	K	L	N
<b>Number of visitors year to date</b>					
<b>total # of People</b>			<b>Families</b>		
Jan		130	48		
Feb		86	34		
Mar		190	61		
Apr		146	52		
May		181	61		
June		195	58		
July		172	56		
Aug		188	59		
Sept		260	88		
Oct		203	64		
Nov					
Dec					
		1751	581	year to date	



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

**October 4, 2018 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Board Chair, Deepak Giri. Those present were Joe Myers, Jim Kiwala, Joel Murphy, Pastor Marian, Keith Barnhart, Syd Harned, Katie Thrasher.

**DEVOTION TIME** Pastor Marian reflected on stewardship. Time, talent and treasure. How can we do all three? What do we give God?

**OPEN IN PRAYER**

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET** add that the church received Marilyn Ireys trust check of \$10,000. Katie Thrasher will write a letter of thanks to the Ireys family. Motion to put the money into General Savings 1<sup>st</sup> Jim K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe M., unanimously approved by the Board. Move to approve the docket 1<sup>st</sup> Joe M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim K., unanimously approved by the Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** add Joel Murphy to the names present at the September meeting. Change that Jason will preach October 14 and November 11 in the Pastor’s report. Move to approve as amended 1<sup>st</sup> Joel M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim K., unanimously approved by the Board.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Keith Barnhart reported that we have \$800 in the checking account. \$15,000 has been borrowed from savings. All bills have been paid. All VBS bills have been paid. Receipts were received to cover expenses.

Organ tuner was paid to service the organ following the carpet installation.

Keith will change line 403 to read Insurance not SECA Allowance.

Pastor Marian noticed she used more than budgeted for Continuing Ed. There has not been much used out of Books or Professional Meetings, so Keith will move where those expenses were taken from.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s report 1<sup>st</sup> Joel M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim K., unanimously approved by the Board.

Start of Sept. balance	\$2,616.54
Receipts	\$11,040.18
Sub Total	\$13,656.72
Disbursements	\$12,771.00
Ending Balance	\$885.72

Board Checking (\$14,963.78)

**PASTOR’S REPORT SEPT. 7-OCT. 4**

- Office hours kept
- Plan and lead worship Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30
- Adult Sunday School
- Funeral visitation Sept. 7
- Funeral Stanley Phelps Sept. 8

Funeral Jeffery Powers Sept. 8  
Camp Wyoming Board meeting Sept. 10  
WOW Sept. 12, 26, Oct. 3  
Simpson bible study Sept. 4, 11  
Cluster meeting and lunch Sept. 13  
Worship team meeting Sept. 20  
Simpson worship Sept. 21  
Synod School Planning Committee meeting in Storm  
Lake Sept. 17-19  
Presbytery meeting Cedar Rapids Sept 29  
Ministerial meeting Oct. 3  
Pastoral visits-6  
Mileage-240

Reminder-I will be on vacation Oct. 8-14, Jason is  
preaching  
Motion to approve Pastor's report 1<sup>st</sup> Syd H., 2<sup>nd</sup> Joel M.,  
unanimously approved by the Board.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

#### **Inside the Church**

1. Immersion Baptismal tub leak- Deepak G. volunteers to look at it at no cost to the church.
2. Vacuum cleaner- Board moves to give Brenda M. the authority to get an appropriate vacuum for the church.
3. FCU Website updates – Joel M. talked to Ethan Anderson about how to reinvest in our church website. Joel learned that we need to maintain and update the website to keep up with current technology. The website would have more resources. They would take pictures that would be on the website.

The proposal from Big Imprint is \$2000 and \$39/month to maintain. Syd H. asks where the money could come from. Pastor Marian explained that the Eastern Iowa Presbytery is offering \$500 grants to digitize archives we could put towards the cost.

Syd H. asked what the Board Discretionary Funds are to be used for. Pastor Marian proposed that the missions be paid if at the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year we still have the Board Discretionary funds. Currently Board discretionary funds total \$16,304.96.

Move to move forward with the website updating project with the \$2,000 proposal from Ethan Anderson and Big Imprint 1<sup>st</sup> Syd H., 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim K., unanimously approved by the Board.

#### **Outside the Church**

1. Door near sanctuary entrance, sidewalk cracks, and spalled concrete in handicap area. Jim K. has estimated proposal from All American Concrete for \$10,000-\$12,000. Collins Concrete gave a proposal for \$3,833 in

2017. Both for door area near Sanctuary entrance. Joe M. suggests we use principal from the Watters fund since that is used for Maintenance of the church or to pay debt.
2. Board will identify maintenance needs around the church, grounds, and manse. Syd H. suggests we then present the needs to the congregation after church for a few Sunday's. Jim K. suggests we do a couple of needs a year. There will be a clipboard in the office for potential maintenance needs for Board members to add to beginning Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Missy Johnson proposes a church address book be published – Joel M. will talk to Missy.
2. Update on Wintering Fair stand – Jim K. and Syd H. report that there was a leak above the fryer. Jim K. caulked the leak, but we have to wait to see if it holds. Jim took down the FCU Fair stand sign from the top of the stand and will put it in the shed. Letha and Vince Ottaway planted Hosta's around the Fair stand. The water will be shut off October 15 and Bob Dewar will bring the water heater to the church for storage and bleed the lines to prevent the pipes from freezing.
3. Discuss process for year-end performance reviews and salary/benefits- Joe M. asks that this year we have closed meetings when discussing performance reviews and salary/benefits. The PRC & Personnel committees would present to the Board, then the Board would meet separately. Syd H. will ask PRC and Personnel committees to have evaluations to Deepak and the Board October 28 and one person from each committee present at the November 1 Board meeting.
4. Dream Catchers would like to use the kitchen to prepare the food for their annual Taco dinner fundraiser. Move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Joe M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim K., unanimously approved by the Board.
5. Pastor Marian asks the Board use \$1000 for each Christian Conference Center, Camp Wyoming and the Ministerial Help fund from the Endowment Interest fund. Syd H. moves we take \$3000 from Endowment Interest fund #2108 1<sup>st</sup> Syd H., 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe M., unanimously approved by the Board.

**MOVE TO ADJOURN** 1<sup>st</sup> Joel M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe M., unanimously approved by the Board.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**MEETING** November 1, 2018 at 6:30pm

## Church Workers

November 4

Communion/Chime Choir

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

**COMMUNION SERVERS:**

Letha Ottaway, Vince Ottaway, Lisa Murphy  
Emily Johnson, Katie Thrasher, Chance Thrasher

**USHER:** Gary Hahn

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:** Gary & Joyce Hahn

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Bill Koellner

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Tenley Murphy

November 11

Chancel Choir

**USHER:** Dave Baker

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Marilyn Ruegsegger & Wayne Noring

**ORGANIST:** Marianne Phelps

**POWER POINT:** Katie Thrasher

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Alice Thrasher

November 18

Communion/Chime Choir & Youth Bell Choir

Church Family Thanksgiving Potluck

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

**COMMUNION SERVERS:**

Letha Ottaway, Vince Ottaway, Lisa Murphy  
Emily Johnson, Katie Thrasher, Chance Thrasher

**USHER:** Wayne Noring

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:** Marilyn Ruegsegger

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Marcy Dewar

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Jude Woodburn

November 25

**USHER:** Walt Lehman

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Evelyn Evans & Betty Burton

**ORGANIST:** Brenda Miller

**POWER POINT:** Jim Kiwala

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Payton Murphy

Communion preparers for November are

**Butch & Karen Nortman**



### Birthdays in November

1 Shania Minor

1 Chloe Gardenier

5 Todd Woodburn

6 Marilyn Ruegsegger

6 Angie Brooke

6 Cindy Hambright

12 Holly Jacobs

16 Emily Reed

16 Conner Skubal

19 Brenda Wright

22 Scott Brooke

24 Leon Larson

29 Ken Wright



**ANNIVERSARY**

### Anniversaries in November

3 Todd & Rachel Morrison

10 Rolo & Jaime Galvan

27 Tom & Mary Pat Brooke