



FIRST CHURCH UNITED
 1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776
 Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446
 Pastor, Marian Hart
 Secretary, Katie Thrasher
 January 2019



Dear Friends in Christ,

Negativity, judgmentalism, sloth, aimless busyness, worry, fear. Those are some of the things I'd like to 'give up' this coming year. Will it help me to resolve to do so? Probably not, if I attempt to do it on my own. It never has before. Even though I'm pretty stubborn I've failed in the past to make lasting changes until I'm good and ready.

Maybe we'd be better off praying for readiness and willingness to change before we make our list of goals that will gradually fade away in disappointment.

So every morning I'll continue to do my physical exercises whether I feel like it or not. Once in a while I'll say no to my second or third cookie. And I'll feel better for every tiny success and victory. And I'll pray that God makes me who I am more fully meant to be from the inside out.

Good luck to you all as we are individually, continuously, transformed into God's beautiful new creation. Happy New Year on this dark and dreary day!

Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

December 2018

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
December 2	\$1,328.00	56
December 19	\$1,518.68	64
December 16	\$8,900.00	73
December 23	\$1,136.08	95
December 24 p.m.	NA	102
December 30	\$3,437.00	45



Music Notes

Typically the coldest month of the year, this January will warm your soul with so much sacred music! Chime and Chancel Choir rehearsals will not resume until Wed., Jan. 23. But there will be a Sunday with Gathering Music (start looking up your favorite hymns), and all ages from our Youth Bell Choir through our Worship Team and Chancel Choir will bring you songs to inspire!

- Sun., Jan. 6** [Epiphany] - WORSHIP TEAM
- Sun., Jan. 13** - Gathering Music and SPECIAL MUSIC
- Sun., Jan. 20** - YOUTH BELL CHOIR
- Wed. Jan. 23** - Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30
Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30
- Sun., Jan. 27** - 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.

CYG NEWS

Second semester CYG begins this Sunday Jan. 6 with Kickoff at WLCF. We will enjoy games and pizza together. Regular CYG continues through January. Tell your youth all are welcome!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello, Church Family!

Hope this finds you all well and warm this mid-winter day. The Christmas Play and Potluck was enthusiastically received by the children, their families, and friends who came to watch this year. I believe, through the repeated telling of the message in our multiple practices that our young Christians have come to further understand that Jesus is our Savior. Thanks very much to everyone who helped to make it such a success.

As the new year dawns, we begin planning for next semester. The Christian Education Committee will meet soon to plan for the next several months. If you have any input about anything you would like to see covered: any lessons, games, crafts or songs that would be of value to our next year, please let me know.

Thanks again for your support. Yours in Christ,
Jason Thrasher



OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING

December 6, 2018 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER by Board Chair Deepak Giri.

Those present were Vince Ottaway, Holly Gingerich, Syd Harned, Joel Murphy, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, Secretary Katie Thrasher

DEVOTION TIME Pastor Marian spoke of the early history of John the Baptist.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET add 1) window painting 2) Fellowship Hall ceiling/roof leaks. Move to approve docket as amended 1st Syd H., 2nd Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion to approve the November minutes 1st Vince O., 2nd Holly G., unanimously approved by the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Barnhart reports we received \$20,857.12 in November. He repaid \$10,000 to the savings account.

All bills are paid. Blaine Kelly fixed a furnace last month without charging a service fee and only charging us for the cost of the part (at his cost, not retail). Board thanks Blaine. Motion to approve the

Treasurer's report 1st Vince O., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.

Start of November balance	\$555.06
Receipts	\$21,882.12
Sub Total	\$22,437.18
Disbursements	\$18,332.00
Ending Balance	\$4,105.18
Board Checking	(\$4,744.32)

PASTOR'S REPORT Nov. 1-Dec.6, 2018

Office hours kept

Plan and lead worship Nov. 4, 18, 25, Dec. 2

Adult Sunday school

Vacation Nov. 5-11, retreat 9-11

CYG, plan and shop for meals, co-teach, Board meeting Dec.2

Worship team mtg. Nov. 13

Food pantry Nov. 15

Simpson worship Nov. 16 and 30

Take Away Hunger Nov. 18

WOW

Community Thanksgiving meal and devotions Nov. 21

Cluster meeting and lunch Dec. 6

Pastoral visits-7

Mileage-40

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Inside the Church

1. Budget- Board went line by line in the budget and discussed what/if anything needs to be adjusted. Motion to present the budget the Board agreed upon to the Congregation at the Annual meeting on January 13, 2019 1st Vince O., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.

2. Immersion Baptismal tub leak- Deepak G. will call a plumber to find the issue and fix it as he was not able to find the problem when he and his employee looked at it.

3. FCU Website – Deepak G and Joel M. will talk to Ethan Anderson of Big Imprint to have the work done on the price previously agreed upon with Deepak and Ethan.

4. Church address book- tabled

5. Update on pledges - 2018 was \$51,860 with 22 units. 2019 pledges received to date are \$58,400 with 28 pledging units.

6. Update from nominating committee:

Official Board

Class of 2020 (2 year term) Leon Larson

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Susan Deahr, Blaine Kelly, Evelyn Wilkerson

Board of Deacons

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Norma Brooks, Pat Brooke

Communion Speaking Elders

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Dean Phelps, Jason Thrasher

Endowment Fund

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Brenda Miller, Lisa Murphy

Pastoral Relations

Personnel Relations

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Deepak Giri

Christian Education

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Todd Woodburn

Congregational Committee

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Gary Hahn

Community Center Board

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Jodi Kelly

Memorial Committee

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Susie Lehman

Trustees Committee

Class of 2019 (1 year term) Ken Wright

Class of 2021 (3 year term) Bob Dewar

Move to accept these names to come before the Congregation at the Annual meeting January 13, 2019 1st Syd H., 2nd Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.

7. Endowment Committee need list of kids going to Wintertainment – Katie provided Joe with names of students going.

8. New LED lights in the attic space above the pulpit area – Deepak G. and Mike Kessler checked it out and approximated \$800 for materials and \$200 for labor. Board agrees Keith will use funds from the correct budget line. Move to buy new LED lights for the attic/cross area 1st Joel M., 2nd Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.

Outside the Church

1. Door area near sanctuary entrance– will table till Spring.
2. Parking lot light – has been fixed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Concerns expressed about use of church by 7th Day Adventist - Use of church is exceeding more than just Saturdays. How many hours are they here on

Saturday? This used to be prime time for our organist to practice now they have to find time elsewhere in their busy schedule. Water being used in their baptismal. We discussed at last meeting but are we being compensated adequately?

As agreed upon at the last Board meeting the 7th Day Adventists were given permission to use the church November 25-Dec. 1 in the evenings after 7:00. They pay \$50 each time they use the church so any utilities they may use adequately be covered by that fee. They brought in a baptismal since ours has been broken for years. They did not use much water though. Pastor Marian will email Pastor Carlos to ask for specific times they are using the church on Saturdays and we will communicate that to the organists.

2. Window Painting – Board invites Todd Woodburn to paint a window for the church and be compensated for his time and talent. Move to approve 1st Joel M., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board. Keith will pay out of the appropriate budget line.
3. Fellowship Hall ceiling/Roof leak – Deepak will talk to Jim this Sunday for update on what Jim has done and found when he went on the roof to investigate leak.

ADJOURNMENT move to adjourn 1st Vince O., 2nd Syd H., unanimously approved by the Board.

PRAYER CONCERNS shared

CLOSING PRAYER

MEETING January 3, 2019 at 6:30pm

FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING

December 16, 2018

Board members of FCU met on Sunday, December 16, 2018, after the worship service to discuss compensation for Katie and Jason Thrasher for the proposed 2019 budget. Those attending included Pastor Marian Hart, Brenda Miller, Joe Myers, Joel Murphy, Syd Harned, Deepak Giri, Vince Ottaway, and Jim Kiwala.

- 1) Joe Myers stated that Katie's and Jason's budgeted hours have been over-estimated the past few years. He suggested that their budgeted hours be adjusted to numbers more in line with the hours they have actually been working. After discussion, it was felt that Jason's hours could be budgeted at 216 hours per year and Katie's hours could be budgeted at 550 hours per year. These numbers reflect what they have been working

along with a comfortable (but not overly inflated) margin should they need to work additional hours to complete their work. Jim moved to use these numbers in the proposed 2019 budget, with Vince seconding. Motion carried.

2) Katie and Jason are now both receiving compensation at the rate of \$16.50 per hour. With positive performance evaluations this fall, it was felt an increase of \$0.50 per hour should be offered. Vince moved and Jim seconded this increase be included in the proposed 2019 budget. Motion carried. It should be noted that custodian Bret Akers also received good marks on his performance evaluation, but with his current salary of \$20 per hour, it was felt his salary is still currently higher than most other custodians in the area. The recent purchase of a new commercial vacuum cleaner will hopefully make his job a little easier.

3) Joel Murphy raised the topic of better utilizing annual performance evaluations. After some discussion, it was decided to table this issue until the new Board is in place. It will be important to address this matter early in the year so that the Personnel Committee has clear instructions and be given a timeline that will allow them to do their work and still give the Board time to consider the Committee's report prior to working on next year's budget.

The meeting was then adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Syd Harned

Church Workers

January 6

Communion/Epiphany Sunday

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Not needed

COMMUNION SERVERS:

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

USHER: Gary Hahn

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Evelyn Evans

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

January 13

Gathering Music/Annual Meeting/Potluck

USHER: Gary Hahn

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Dinette Meyers

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

January 20

Communion/Youth Bell Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Mary Larson & Keith Barnhart

COMMUNION SERVERS:

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

USHER: Wayne Noring

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Ken & Brenda Wright

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

January 27

Chancel Choir

USHER: Wayne Noring

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Keith & Margaret Barnhart

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Arnie Hart

Communion preparers for January are

Butch & Karen Nortman



Birthdays in January

1 Mary Wendt

3 Tom Brooke, Sandy Henderson, Karen Nortman

5 Barb Irwin, Susan Deahr

7 Joseph Akers, Katherine Brooks

9 Tom Brown, Josh Gingerich

10 Evelyn Wilkerson, Perry Lehman,

Samantha Noble

11 Diana Brown, Ken Harned

12 Lori Brooke

16 Pat Brooke

17 Tiffany Schieffer

23 John Bothell

24 Syd Harned

26 Gary Hahn

27 Scott Barnhart, Ryan Noble, Vincent Wolf

29 Bob Dewar

Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries in January

2 Tom & Carolyn Probst

3 Ken & Syd Harned



*The poinsettias that decorated our Sanctuary
this Advent season were given in loving memory or in honor of:*

Clare Brooke & Gladys Brooke, Charles Miller & Ione Miller,
Findlay & Beryl Brooke, Chelsea Brooke, Bob Brooke,
Marion Barnhart, Annabelle Kempf,
Don Kempf, Elgin Phelps, Gerald & Vera Ruegsegger,
Ken Ruegsegger, Earl & Ellen Hitchings, Duane Ruegsegger,
Dave & Roberta Baker family, Annette Martinez,
Jim McCrabb, Don & Kate McCrabb,
Jan McCrabb's parents, sisters and brother,
George Barber, Harold Brooks, Avery Reed,
Bob McCoy, Virgil & Venita Harned, Waldo & Angela Myers,
Glen & Elinor Myers, Hansen & Sterner Families