



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

On this April Fool’s Day, the first day back from vacation, I wake up to some intestinal distress and Mother Nature sending another unladylike and unspringlike blast of cold air, neither being the greeting I’d have chosen.

My thoughts have wandered enough in trying to think of what to write so I’ve landed on fools. Specifically, I ask myself what I have done that the Apostle Paul might classify as being a ‘fool for Christ.’ Some might look at the anticipation I feel when putting together the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday’s worship and wonder what the big deal is. Some might see the folks who come into the office needing assistance and wonder why it gives me joy to help them. Some might glance at my reading materials and think booooring. Some might eavesdrop on my prayer thoughts that give thanks for sunshine and beagles, even on days I’m not up to par. Is that enough, though to be thought a fool for Christ?

I rather think not. Today I choose the foolishness of surrender. Of seeking the next challenging, discomfoting thing I hear/see/feel Jesus asking me to do for Him.

So what about you? Have you ever pondered your worldly foolishness in comparison to your godly foolishness? What does that mean to you? I challenge you to give up something in the first category and replace it with something in the second. Give it a shot. What’s God asking you to do that may be viewed as foolishness to the rest of the world? May we be fools for Christ,

Pastor Marian

## CHURCH RECORD

March 2019

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
March 3	\$2,406.00	52
March 10	\$1,454.00	34
March 17	\$1,580.00	42
March 24	\$1,285.00	63
March 31	\$1,388.00	57



### Music Notes

Can you feel it? The whole earth is coming alive again. All of our choirs will do their part in leading the worship services as we close the season of Lent; honor the significance of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; and celebrate the greatest blessing that is Easter! Be joyful! (Be here!)

**Wed., April 3** - Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30

Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

**Sun., April 7** - CHIME CHOIR

**Wed., April 10** - (same as April 3)

**Sun., April 14 [Palm Sunday]** - CHANCEL CHOIR and YOUTH BELL CHOIR

**Wed., April 17** - (same as April 3)

**Sun., April 21 [Easter]** -

1st service: WORSHIP TEAM

2nd service: CHANCEL CHOIR

**Wed., April 24** - (same as April 3)

**Sun., April 28** - CHIME 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.

### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service at  
WL United Methodist Church  
**Easter Sunday - April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service at  
Ken & Jo Noble's pond.  
8:00 a.m. Early Easter Worship  
9:00 a.m. Egg Hunt and Brunch  
10:00 a.m. Easter Worship

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Hello, Church family!

It is with great joy that I greet you this early April! The weather is getting warmer, and we are looking forward to learning and fellowship with the children in our church. We are starting to wind down toward summer, so, here are a couple of dates to keep in mind:

**April 7th**, following the worship service- Christian Education meeting. All are welcome to provide input, or can give ideas to me, Pastor Marian, or any CE Committee member at any time prior to that.

**April 3rd, & 10th**- Brenda Miller will practice Holy Week songs with the children, who will help lead worship on April 14th for Palm Sunday.

**April 14th**, Palm Sunday!

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**, Last WOW of the season.

**April 21st**, Easter! No Sunday School. Youth will benefit from the service.

**April 28th**, 4pm Hwy 6 pick-up. vests, gloves, routes, directions, & trashbags will be provided. Older children with parent(s) are encouraged to help.

Sunday School will continue through the end of the school year.

Information about VBS dates/WOW starting back up in the fall will be available soon.

Regarding WOW & Sunday School programming, we are (of course) getting ready

for Holy Week, and Easter. We will educate the children about the triumphal entry, Lord's Supper, prayer and betrayal in Gethsemane, crucifixion, death and resurrection. Thanks sincerely for bringing your child(ren) into the fold to be a part of this wonderful church and program.

Yours in service, Jason Thrasher

### **Lord's Prayer**

IN THE EPISCOPAL order of worship, the priest sometimes introduces the Lord's Prayer with the words, "Now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say.. ." The word bold is worth thinking about. We do well not to pray the prayer lightly. It takes guts to pray it at all. We can pray it in the unthinking and perfunctory way we usually do only by disregarding what we are saying.

"Thy will be done" is what we are saying. That is the climax of the first half of the prayer. We are asking God to be God. We are asking God to do not what we want but what God wants. We are asking God to make manifest the holiness that is now mostly hidden, to set free in all its terrible splendor the devastating power that is now mostly under restraint. "Thy kingdom come . . . on earth" is what we are saying. And if that were suddenly to happen, what then? What would stand and what would fall? Who would be welcomed in and who would be thrown the Hell out? Which if any of our most precious visions of what God is and of what human beings are would prove to be more or less on the mark and which would turn out to be phony as three-dollar bills? Boldness indeed. To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze.

You need to be bold in another way to speak the second half. Give us. Forgive us. Don't test us. Deliver us. If it takes guts to face the omnipotence that is God's, it takes perhaps no less to face the impotence that is ours. We can do nothing without God. We can have nothing without God. Without God we are nothing.

It is only the words "Our Father" that make the prayer bearable. If God is indeed something like a father, then as something like children maybe we can risk approaching him anyway.

-Frederick Buechner from *Whistling in the Dark*

## Help Us Fill an Ark...

- Two Heifers.....\$500 each
- Two Water Buffalo.....\$250 each
  - Two Alpacas.....\$150 each
- Two Irrigation Pumps.....\$150 each
  - Three Llamas.....\$150 each
  - Two Goats.....\$120 each
- Three Pigs.....\$120 each
  - Three Sheep.....\$120 each
- Six Schools of Fish.....\$100 each
  - Four Tree Seedlings.....\$60 each
  - Five Beehives.....\$30 each
  - Twelve Rabbits.....\$20 each
- Five Flocks of Chicks.....\$20 each
- Four Flocks of Geese.....\$20 each
  - Four Trios of Ducks.....\$20 each

***Donate to purchase an entire animal or item, or make a donation of any size toward filling the ark. \$5000 Fills the Ark and helps people around the world make a sustainable living.***



Heifer International is an organization that works around the world with small-scale farmers enabling them to achieve an income sufficient to support a decent standard of living which then impacts the community. They do this through training and education, the gift of animals and other tools, and a commitment that the benefits of this relationship will impact the whole community. Their goal is to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

First Church United is partnering with Heifer International with the goal of raising money to support an Ark. An Ark is a supply of animals and tools that will reach many people in many places and offer sustainability. Through our gift...

- Families in Peru will have alpaca fiber to make warm winter clothing
- Families in Mexico will earn money through the sale of honey and beeswax.
- Families in China will improve their nutrition and income from the eggs and meat of geese.
- Families in the Philippines will increase rice production with water buffalo draft power.

## OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

March 7, 2019 6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** by Board Chair Joel Murphy.

Those present were Blaine Kelly, Susan Deahr, Arnie Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, Pastor Marian Hart, and Secretary Katie Thrasher. There were not enough Board members present for a quorum.

**DEVOTION TIME** Pastor Marian read from the book of Luke.

**OPEN IN PRAYER**

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**TREASURER'S REPORT** Keith Barnhart reports we are \$8,885.73 behind in receipts for the year.

We've been billed \$3,230 for snow removal so far this winter. The phone bill will be going down next month due to a change with our phone book ad. Keith received a bill from Big Imprint, but Joel is going to talk to Deepak Giri about a previous quote we had voted and agreed on. The bill sent did not reflect the quote the Board agreed upon. Once the bill is adjusted the bill will be paid out of Endowment Interest. Take Away Hunger bill came in for \$2,375. There will be about \$1,000 coming in from FFA and there is already \$1,099.50 in the Take Away Hunger budget line. About \$275 will be paid from a budget line at Keith's discretion.

Start of January balance	\$1,395.17
Receipts	\$14,278.92
Sub Total	\$15,674.09
Disbursements	\$12,627.93
Ending Balance	\$3,046.16
Board Checking	(\$3,031.26)

Start of February balance	\$3,046.16
Receipts	\$11,144.63
Sub Total	\$14,192.79
Disbursements	\$12,717.53
Ending Balance	\$1,473.26
Board Checking	(\$8,950.06)

### PASTOR'S REPORT

JANUARY 2019

Office hours kept as possible

Planned and led worship Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3

Adult Sunday School

CYG plan, shop for meals, co-lead lessons Jan.6, 13, 20, 27

Voluntary Action Council meeting Jan. 7

Hospital all day with Richard for surgery Jan. 8, brought him and his dog to our house for recovery for two weeks

Ministerial Association Jan. 9

Cluster 12 meeting Jan. 10

Meeting with Chamber, WeLEAD, individuals WOW, when not canceled

Simpson home worship Jan. 18

Soup lunch fund raiser Jan. 20

Service coalition meeting Jan. 21

Zoom meeting for Synod School planning committee Jan. 24

Deacons meeting Jan. 27

Minister's Institute Jan. 28-30, see newsletter or listen to sermons for details

Simpson Bible study Feb. 5

Ministerial Association Feb. 6

Pastoral visits-8

Mileage-248

### FEBRUARY 2019

Office hours kept

Plan and lead worship Feb. 10, 17, 24, Mar. 3, 6

Adult Sunday school

CYG plan and shop for meals, co-teach lessons

WOW

Simpson bible study Feb. 12, 19, 26

Simpson worship Feb. 15

Presbytery meeting, Williamsburg Feb. 9

Book study Columbus Junction Feb. 19

Spoke about help fund at 100+ Women Who Care Feb. 21

Meeting with pastors/school Feb. 28

World Day of Prayer Mar. 1

Ash Wednesday service at Heath Mar. 6

Ministerial Association mtg. Mar. 6

Pastoral visits 9

Counseling 1

Request for vacation week of Mar. 25-31. This includes a Sunday.

Motion to approve vacation time for Pastor Marian.

Those present vote yes, Joel will email the rest of the Board to get a quorum. \*Board unanimously approves motion by email.

### ONGOING BUSINESS:

#### Inside the Church

1. Immersion Baptismal tub leak- Blaine will check in with Dane on the progress of fixing the leak.

2. FCU Website – Keith is going to pay the deposit, but Joel is going to contact Deepak about the final cost. The bid the Board approved previously was for \$2,000, the bill we received was for \$2,400.

3. Church address book- Joel will send Katie a form his school uses and Katie will print and email this form to our members. Once those are collected a booklet will be made.

4. New LED lights in the attic space above the pulpit area- Horizontal lights on outside cross are still dark but the interior lights have been replaced. Blaine will call Kessler to see exactly what all he was able to do.

5. Fire alarms and extinguishers need to be looked at and determined if the alarms are past their 10 year expiration date and extinguishers need to be checked. – Katie will call for the fire extinguishers to be checked and Susan will talk to the Trustees about checking the smoke detectors.

### **Outside the Church**

1. Door area near sanctuary entrance– tabled till spring.
2. Maintenance of Landscaping – tabled till spring.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Kitchen use for Dream Catchers- Pastor Marian has approved the Dream Catchers use the kitchen to prepare their soup next week for the March 15 Soup Fundraiser.
2. Emergency building use – We have had a need for emergency building use this winter. Pastor Marian has contacted the Police to let them know they may contact her if they know of someone who needs a warm place to sleep. Pastor Marian asks if we can turn one of the end rooms into a useable room someone would be able to sleep in.  
Board is looking into several options on how the we can support those with emergency housing needs.
3. Snow removal- Pastor Marian asks that we use a different snow removal company or person next year. They didn't follow directions on where to put the snow, blocked the trash dumpster and covered the lamp post sensor. Board recommends getting bids from Kurt Sickels and All American Concrete for next year. We will keep this on the docket in April.
4. Roof leaks and lights– there are discolored ceiling tiles in the Choir Lounge. Susan will ask the Trustees to replace those and look at the flickering lights in the hallway, lights above the Memorial plaques, and the lights that are burned out in the Sanctuary along the west wall.
5. Heifer Ark Project – Pastor Marian asks for Board approval to have an ongoing mission project raising money for the Heifer Ark Project. Three Board members vote yes and Joel will contact the other Board members by email for a vote. \*Board unanimously approves motion by email.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**MEETING** April 4, 2019 at 6:30pm

## Church Workers

April 7

Chime Choir

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

None Needed

**COMMUNION SERVERS:**

Jo Noble, Bob Dewar, Leon Larson

Karen Nortman, Katie Thrasher, Chance Thrasher

**USHER:** Joe Myers

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Evelyn Wilkerson

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Keith Barnhart

April 14

**Palm Sunday/Chancel Choir and Bell Choir**

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Keith Barnhart & Mary Larson

**COMMUNION SERVERS:**

Jo Noble, Bob Dewar, Leon Larson

Karen Nortman, Katie Thrasher, Chance Thrasher

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:** Susan Deahr

**ORGANIST:** Marianne Phelps

**POWER POINT:** Katie Thrasher

April 21

**Easter Sunday/Communion/Chancel Choir**

**6:00a.m.** Sunrise Service at Noble's Pond

**8:00a.m. Service:** Communion done by Intinction

**9:00 a.m.** Egg Hunt and Brunch

**10:00 a.m. Service:**

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Keith Barnhart & Mary Larson

**COMMUNION SERVERS:**

Jo Noble, Bob Dewar, Leon Larson

Karen Nortman, Katie Thrasher, Chance Thrasher

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS:** Norma Brooks

**8 :00a.m. ORGANIST:** Lori Brooke

**10 :00a.m. ORGANIST:** Lori Brooke

**8 :00a.m. POWERPOINT:** Bill Koellner

**10 :00a.m. POWER POINT:** Bill Koellner

April 28

Chime Choir

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

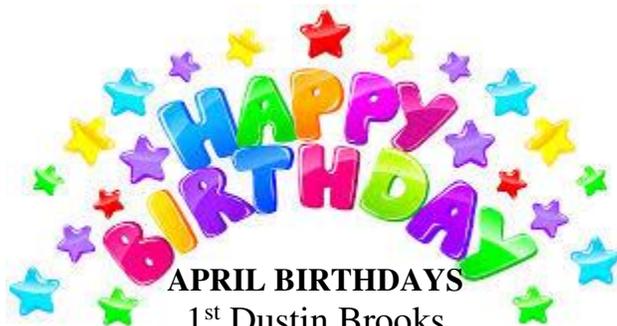
**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Holly Gingerich

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Jim Kiwala

Communion preparers for April are  
Butch & Karen Nortman



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Dustin Brooks

4<sup>th</sup> Emily McDonald

5<sup>th</sup> Brad Sterner

8<sup>th</sup> Blakley Deahr

13<sup>th</sup> Kyle Miller

15<sup>th</sup> Lucas Williams

17<sup>th</sup> Isaiah Galvan

19<sup>th</sup> Cailyn Williams

19<sup>th</sup> Nathaniel Williams

19<sup>th</sup> Brady Laughlin

22<sup>nd</sup> Tenley Murphy

22<sup>nd</sup> Gabe Gardenier

27<sup>th</sup> Emmee Wiele

28<sup>th</sup> Mike Morrison

28<sup>th</sup> Nicolette Woodburn

29<sup>th</sup> Jo Noble

29<sup>th</sup> Jena Wiele

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

22<sup>nd</sup> Dean & Marianne Phelps

26<sup>th</sup> Ken & Jo Noble

28<sup>th</sup> Curt & Lisa Newcomb

