



**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 2019



Dear Friends in Christ,

Please read Matthew 25. There is a movement throughout the Presbyterian denomination to initiate and declare churches a Matthew 25 church. What can we do to qualify? We have a great head start through several of our outreaches, do you know what they are? Have you volunteered to be part of them? Do you know that outreach ministry and community projects are the best way to grow a church?

Our Board Chair, Joel Murphy, and Vice Chair, Holly Gingerich, are waiting to hear from you. Do some walking around our building and grounds and assess what you see. Does something need repaired, replaced, re-purposed? Do we have any resources (including people and skills) that aren't being used or are underused? Pray as you walk. Open yourself to the leading of the Spirit. Dream big. Share with the Board so we can catch the vision and the passion of you, the people.

I had a great visit with some guests from Cedar Falls. They were asking about our kitchen and food pantry, saying their church was going through a discerning/visioning process. I gave them a tour and shared a lot of ideas we've tried or I'd like to try. It was exciting and fun. My final 'advice' to them was to not insult God by little dreams. It's the same thing I'd say to us.

Whatever we do for the least of these we do for Christ.

Whatever we don't do for the least of these we don't do for Christ.

Blessings on your vision,  
 Pastor Marian

<b>CHURCH RECORD</b>		
May 2019		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>OFFERING</b>	<b>ATTEND</b>
May 5	\$1,569.00	35
May 12	\$2,692.50	72
May 19	\$589.00	46
May 26	\$1,302.00	42



**Music Notes**

Change your Tune in June! While we have no choirs up front, BE the choir! Lift your voices & sing - sing out extra strong!

If any of you, or any combination of you, would be willing to share your music with our congregation, please let our office know (contact info. below), or feel free to speak with anyone on Music Ministry (Brenda, Emily, Lori, Marianne, & Susie). We'd love to hear you!

Office: 627-2989  
 fcu@lcom.net  
 Marian: mhart@lcom.net

Best Wishes for a Melodic & Harmonious Summer!

Congratulations to Jesse & Emily Reed on the birth of their son, Brooks.

**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.

**FILL THE ARK!**

We collected a noisy offering for several weeks to send to Heifer International. Our goal was to be able to fill an ark with animals, fish, bees, trees, and water pumps. Our total was \$1945.06. The Board approved spending from their endowment discretionary funds to add \$3000. These monies will be sent and matched by an offer through Heifer, Intl. Good job all!



**Vacation Bible School will August 5-8**

anyone wanting to help with VBS please contact Lisa Murphy. There are many ways you can help.

VBS registration forms will be in next months newsletter and on the First Church United website.

**OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES**

**May 2, 2019 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Board Chair Joel Murphy. Those present were Holly Gingerich, Vince Ottaway, Syd Harned, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, and Secretary Katie Thrasher.

**DEVOTION TIME** Pastor Marian led devotion by reading Matthew 25, the Parable of the sheep and goats.

**OPEN IN PRAYER** by Pastor Marian

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET** move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Vince O., 2<sup>nd</sup> Holly G., unanimously approved by the Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Holly G., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vince O., unanimously approved by Board.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** Keith Barnhart reports we are short \$11,567.91 in contributions right now. We received the Watters Estate Fund and Endowment interest checks. Keith has moved a total of \$10,000.00 from our savings account to the checking account this year to ensure a positive bank balance.

Total raised so far for Heifer International Ark project is \$1,502.11.

The church pianos were tuned recently, and bill has been paid.

Move to accept Treasurer’s report 1<sup>st</sup> Syd H., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.

Start of April balance	\$848.57
Receipts	\$14,756.18
Sub Total	\$15,604.75
Disbursements	\$15,144.78
Ending Balance	\$459.97
Board Checking	(\$11,272.24)

**PASTOR’S REPORT**

**April 2019**

Prepare and lead worship April 7, 14, 21 (three services), 28

Adult Sunday school

CYG April 7, 14, meal prep, shopping, scavenger hunt

Meeting with ministers, Dr. Potts April 10 and 23

WOW April 10, 17

Spoke at TTT Conference about being chaplain at camp April 13

Good Friday service April 19

Book study April 25

Index article for May

Ministerial Assoc. mtg. and lunch for DeLane’s retirement May 1

ZOOM call for Synod School planning committee May 2

Pastoral visits-5

Mileage-72

Baptism April 21-Eliza Anne Probst

**ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**Inside the Church**

1. Immersion Baptismal tub and watercooler leaks- Done
2. FCU Website – Joel spoke with Ethan Anderson at Big Imprint and the cost of the website improvements is as documented at \$2,400.00. -Identifying public documents for archives. Katie will ask Karen Nortman for electronic copy of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book.

- Pictures for website. Deepak Giri spoke with Tom Strumpel and Tom and Cory have offered to take 25 pictures at no charge. Members involved with activities (VBS, WOW, Fair Stand, Choir, CYG and CYG Band, Community involvement) can submit photos as well.
- 3. Church Address Book – Forms have been offered in the newsletter and on the buffet. Katie will collect information until Sunday May 19 then begin putting an address book together.
- 4. New LED lights in the attic space above the pulpit area- Tabled
- 5. Smoke detectors and extinguishers- Tabled
- 6. Emergency Building Use – Pastor Marian acquired a hide-a-bed and the police are aware we are a space they can bring someone if a need arises.
- 7. Sanctuary Computer – Richard Hart has begun assembling our computer and we should see it in the Sanctuary in the next few weeks. Katie mentioned we have a variety of old microphones, computers, printers, and the cords that go along with them. Joel M. will take a look at the microphones and see if they are still in good condition to use. The computers can go to Goodwill. Joel will talk with Tom Strumpel about CYG equipment since Tom is retiring from the CYG Band.
- 8. Heifer Ark Project – Pastor Marian asks the Board to use Board Discretionary Endowment Interest to finish the Ark Project once we stop collecting Noisy Offering at the end of May. The Noisy Offering total we are reaching for is \$5,000. Move to use Endowment Interest funds up to \$3,000 to finishing filling the Ark once we have stopped the Noisy Offering collection at the end of May 1<sup>st</sup> Vince O, 2<sup>nd</sup> Syd H., unanimously approved by those present. Joel M. will email Board for rest of vote.

### Outside the Church

- 1. Door area near sanctuary entrance– Tabled
- 2. Maintenance of Landscaping – Holly G. spoke with Joe Myers and Vince O. Some maintenance on concrete areas is needed and trees need trimming. The health of the trees should be considered as well. Someone could pull weeds in the landscaping. Holly will talk to Ken Wright about helping with the work needed on the trees.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Trustee Work to be done-
  - a. Manse soffits need to be looked at.
  - b. Leak in the church kitchen when it rains.
  - c. Church soffits need to be refilled with foam

- d. Downspout areas need to be filled with dirt at both the church and manse.
- 2. Use of building for middle school in case of emergency. Board would like clarification on plans if there is a need as we are also the emergency building for the Elementary School and Simpson Home. Pastor Marian will contact Superintendent Joe Potts.
- 3. Needs Assessment – Looking to the future, the Board has proposed a needs assessment for the church. Needs can include property improvements, community outreach, congregational growth, etc. Joel Murphy and Holly Gingerich invite you to contact them with questions, comments or concerns by email. Joel's email is [joelandlisamurphy@gmail.com](mailto:joelandlisamurphy@gmail.com), Holly's email is [Holls52245@yahoo.com](mailto:Holls52245@yahoo.com).

### CORRESPONDANCE

- 1. Thank you card from Christian Conference Center for annual donation
- 2. Thank you card from Dream Catchers for use of the church/kitchen when preparing for their fundraiser meals.

Pastor Marian explained that Bill Spangler-Dunning is leaving the Christian Conference Center for a different position. We wish him happiness in his new adventure.

Board proposes \$1,000 for Henderson family in their time of need. Funds will come from Board discretion (line #2008). Joel will email the Board for a vote.

**ADJOURNMENT** move to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> Vince O., 2<sup>nd</sup> Syd H.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**MEETING** June 6, 2019 at 6:30pm

Our sympathy to the family of  
Christine Newcomb

## Church Workers

June 2

Communion by Intinction

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:** Roberta Baker

**ORGANIST:** Brenda Miller

**POWER POINT:** Bill Koellner

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Tenley Murphy

June 9

Pentecost

**USHER:** Walt Lehman

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Betty Burton & Evelyn Evans

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Bill Koellner

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Aniston Murphy

June 16

Father's Day/Communion by Intinction

**SPEAKING ELDERS:**

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS:** Giri Family

**ORGANIST:** Lori Brooke

**POWER POINT:** Keith Barnhart

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Jude Woodburn

June 23

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:** Norma Brooks

**ORGANIST:** Brenda Miller

**POWER POINT:** Katie Thrasher

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Alice Thrasher

June 30

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

**GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:**

Marilyn Ruegsegger & Wayne Noring

**ORGANIST:** Susie Lehman

**POWER POINT:** Marcy Dewar

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Payton Murphy

Communion preparers for June are

**Bill & Jan Koellner**



4 <sup>th</sup> McKenna Deahr	16 <sup>th</sup> Heather Powers
6 <sup>th</sup> Joel Murphy	17 <sup>th</sup> Katie Thrasher
6 <sup>th</sup> Courtney Wendt	18 <sup>th</sup> Ella May Hambright
6 <sup>th</sup> Travis Maurer	18 <sup>th</sup> Kaden Wiele
8 <sup>th</sup> Jodi Kelly	19 <sup>th</sup> Dean Phelps
9 <sup>th</sup> Keith Barnhart	20 <sup>th</sup> Jay Steen
9 <sup>th</sup> Tasha Wiele	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jesse Reed
10 <sup>th</sup> Charles Brooke	24 <sup>th</sup> Brent Benge
11 <sup>th</sup> Walt Lehman	27 <sup>th</sup> Brian Benge
13 <sup>th</sup> Dustin Noble	27 <sup>th</sup> Vince Ottaway
13 <sup>th</sup> Lisa Murphy	27 <sup>th</sup> Brandon Harned
14 <sup>th</sup> Linda Minor	28 <sup>th</sup> Samira Deahr
16 <sup>th</sup> Jill Koellner Perkins	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

