



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

I've been noticing spider webs lately. There was a long strand from the corner of our garage over to the light pole. There was one the length of my bathtub this morning. Down at the cabin there was a spider busily capturing food and 'saving it for later.' As I just took my hourly walk through the church, I noticed some magnificent silken structures in one of the classrooms that haven't been used all summer as they gleamed in the sunlight. I felt some in odd places walking through doorways and such.

It made me think of how the church will be filling up again in a couple weeks. Last night Boy Scouts met. Soon WOW kids will begin. Sunday school will start. Choirs will return. Exercise class and Tai Kwon Do will continue. Seventh Day will keep filling the church with music and the smell of good food.

Fall isn't my favorite season due to allergies and the coming of winter, but I can rejoice in the bustle of activity as the church comes alive again.

I want to encourage you to 'get the cobwebs out' of your spiritual life. Start a new prayer practice of some sort. Read a faith-based book. Have a God talk over coffee. Volunteer in a new way. Challenge yourself to grow. Get caught up in the Spirit. Notice the ways we are connected in our faith journey, woven together, lending strength to each other, just like the strands of a spider web. And when the Son shines on us and through us, we too are beautiful!

In His Service,
 Pastor Marian

| CHURCH RECORD | | |
|---------------|------------|--------|
| August 2019 | | |
| DATE | OFFERING | ATTEND |
| August 4 | \$4,785.00 | 44 |
| August 11 | \$2,473.10 | 78 |
| August 18 | \$1,872.00 | 42 |
| August 25 | \$932.40 | 53 |



This is going to be one *Awesome Autumn!* Our choirs will resume rehearsals on Wed., Sept. 4, preceded by our annual kick-off picnic. All of our choirs (Chancel, Chime, and Kids' Bells) will help with worship in September. Worship Team will take a turn, and we'll even gather together to enjoy a community "Worship in the Neighborhood." Music Ministry hopes everyone is as excited as we are! So let the joyful praise begin!

- Sun., Sept. 1** - Special Music
- Wed., Sept. 4** - Chime Choir, 6:45 to 7:30
Chancel Choir, 7:30 to 8:30
- Sun., Sept. 8** - CHANCEL CHOIR and Gathering Music
Wed., Sept. 11 - (same as Sept. 4)
- Sun., Sept. 15** - "Worship in the Neighborhood" at West Liberty Christian Fellowship
- Wed., Sept. 18** - (same as Sept. 4)
- Sun., Sept. 22** - WORSHIP TEAM
- Wed., Sept. 25** - (same as Sept. 4)
- Sun., Sept. 29** - CHANCEL CHOIR

SPECIAL LOVE OFFERING

On Sept. 8 we will receive a love offering to help the Henderson family in this time of great need and stress. Randy has been in the hospital for 80+days. This has placed a huge burden on Sandy as she has tried to be with him and fulfill her job duties. Randy has improved enough to be out of ICU, but remains in very serious condition. Please show your love by giving generously to this special offering.

WORSHIP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

We will share in a community worship experience on Sept. 15. The morning will begin at 10:30 at West Liberty Christian Fellowship with four church pastors leading the service. Afterward, we will share a picnic meal together. Bring a lawn chair, a side dish, and a friend, and join us! The theme of the day will be Christian Unity with liturgical dance, singing, prayer, and preaching. And food! First Church United is providing meat left over from the fair. Other churches are providing drinks, buns, condiments, and table service. Any loose offering not designated to a specific church will go to support the Ministerial Association Help Fund. (Feel free to bring two checks ☺) We, the pastors, are really looking forward to this time together. We hope you will join us.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

W.O.W. will begin September 18th with dinner at 5:45 and end at 7:30p.m. Each week we will have dinner, lesson, craft, and a game time. The Children's Bell choir will also practice a couple times a month and play one Sunday a month.

We encourage volunteers for serving dinner, craft time, game time and dinner clean-up as well. Those sign up sheets will be on the buffet.

We will not have W.O.W. on October 16 for Homecoming.

Children's Sunday School will begin September 22. We begin the service in the Sanctuary then, after the children's message, we will leave to worship and learn that Sunday's lesson together.

CYG NEWS

The Mission trip program was lightly attended on Aug. 25. We followed by feeding the youth and playing a couple of games. CYG will officially kick off on Sept. 15 at 5:00 at WLCF. Parents are encouraged to come and receive information about the semester's activities and to sign up to help with Sunday evening meals. Regular CYG begins on Sept. 22 at First Church United. We could use another person to serve as Cube leader or

Board member. This year's lessons will be based on a book called, "Why Did Jesus Cross the Road?" Please hold this ministry in prayer throughout the year. Tell all youth grades 6-12 they are welcome to join us!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We will begin adult Sunday school on Sept. 22 at 9:00 am. This year's lessons come from the Horizon PW Bible study. It is called 'Love Written in Stone, a fresh look at the ten commandments' If you'd like to join us, order your book online or contact Pastor Marian ASAP. This class is open to all adults wishing to deepen their understanding of scripture and their daily walk as people of faith.

NEW YOUNG ADULT GROUP STARTING AT WEST LIBERTY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

Beginning Monday, September 9 at West Liberty United Methodist Church – a faith-based non-denominational discussion and social group for Young Adults of any age. A light meal will be served at 5:30, with video and discussion following, from 6 to 7:00. Childcare will be available.

The first session will be on David Jeremiah's series Slaying the Giants in Your Life: Fighting Your Fear. This series does not require weekly attendance, so feel free to drop in whenever you can for good food, conversation, and the opportunity to learn. If you have any questions, call Pastor Mary at 563-320-0501.

This is open to all, so invite your friends to come with you! The bonus is you won't have to cook on Mondays! Please help us spread the word of this new group for the young adults with the young adults in **YOUR** church.



OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING

August 1, 2019 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER by Board Chair Joel Murphy. Those present were Blaine Kelly, Susan Deahr, Syd Harned, Leon Larson, Vince Ottaway, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart and Secretary Katie Thrasher.

DEVOTION Genesis 1 – Letter from Paul saying that we have everything we need. Pastor Marian asked us to share our blessings, tangible and intangible.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET move to approve with additions 1st Vince O., 2nd Blaine K., unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Move to approve 1st Leon L., 2nd Vince O., unanimously approved by Board.

TREASURER’S REPORT Keith Barnhart reported that the June report was routine. For July, we still owe \$750 to each mission and will do that in August. Keith moved another \$5,000 from savings to checking to pay insurance. So far this year, Keith has moved \$20,000 from savings to checking compared to \$12,000 at this time last year. Move to approve Treasurer’s report 1st Vince O., 2nd Leon L., unanimously approved by the Board.

Move to approve Emily Reed’s Endowment request of \$400 to help pay for VBS expenses 1st Leon L., 2nd Susan D., unanimously approved by the Board.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Start of June balance | \$697.74 |
| Receipts | \$6,328.11 |
| Sub Total | \$7,025.85 |
| Disbursements | \$6,357.57 |
| Ending Balance | \$668.28 |
| Board Checking | (\$14,417.82) |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Start of July balance | \$668.28 |
| Receipts | \$10,070.94 |
| Sub Total | \$10,739.22 |
| Disbursements | \$8,812.71 |
| Ending Balance | \$1,926.51 |
| Board Checking | (\$18,159.59) |

PASTOR’S REPORT June-July 2019

Office hours kept as possible
 Planned and led worship June 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14, 28
 Served Presbytery of East Iowa as chaplain for TTT
 Camp at Camp Wyoming June 9-14
 Voluntary Action Council meeting June 17
 Simpson worship June 21
 CYG Board meeting June 30
 Helped pull pork July 13
 Helped clean Fair Stand July 7 and 11
 Met with other pastors to plan ecumenical service on Sept. 15, July 11
 Helped cook hamburger July 15
 Worked the Fair Stand July 17
 Served the Synod of Lakes and Prairies July 18-26 on Synod School Planning Committee
 Contact person/coordinator for Aug. 1 Blood Drive
 Pastoral visits-6
 Mileage-190

Pastor Marian added there will be a combined church service on September 15, 2019 with First Church United, United Methodist Church, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and West Liberty Christian Fellowship. Pastor Marian asked if leftover fair meat could be used for lunch following the service.

Move to approve using left over fair meat for Sept. 15 ecumenical church service, VBS meal and VBS potluck meal 1st Susan D., 2nd Blaine K. unanimously approved by the Board.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Inside the Church

1. FCU Website – Joel M. asked that the Board review the email he sent that includes a link to the “un-live” website and make suggestions for improvement. Send pictures to be used to the church email and Katie will upload them once she is trained. Any suggestions for the website can also be sent to Katie. Joel and Katie will then meet to go over suggestions before sending them to Big Imprint to be added.
2. Church Address Book – Done
3. LED lights in the attic space above the pulpit area- Blaine K. will talk to Kessler to see if the outside cross light has been replaced.
4. Smoke detectors - Blaine K. will follow up with Jim for progress report.
5. Use of building for middle school in case of emergency. -Middle school now has a key to use if they need to use the building in an emergency.
6. Needs Assessment – Suggestions gathered so far:
 - a. Consider installing a carport/canopy outside the main entrance
 - b. Consider using Lisa’s Place as an emergency stay option.
 - c. Consider extending the West Liberty bike trail.
 - d. Consider improving the handicap parking area/parking lot of the church.
 - e. Consider adding a shower to the church building
 - f. Consider adding a laundry facility to the church building
 - g. Consider building a small home for an emergency stay option
 - h. Consider separate accommodations within the church or adding onto the church for emergency housing needs.
 - i. Consider maintenance of the roof.

Joel will talk about this during the MADCAP on September 11.

7. Blaine K. replaced parts and fixed wiring for air conditioners and fixed the ice machine. The Board thanks Blaine!

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING September 5, 2019 at 6:30pm

Outside the Church

1. Door area near sanctuary entrance– Blaine contacted Jared Collins with Collins Concrete regarding beginning this project. Jared indicated he plans to begin next week. Syd and Joel will fill out and turn in the form the City would like to have prior to work beginning.
2. Gutters – Blaine K. will contact Jim K. for an update.
3. Maintenance of Landscaping – Susan D. reports the removal of the two bushes to prepare the north entrance for landscaping by Missy Johnson will be done soon.

Trustee Work to be done-

- a. Manse soffits need to be looked at – Blaine K. will contact Jim K. for an update.
- b. Leak in the church kitchen when it rains- Blaine K. will contact Jim K. for an update.
- c. Church soffits need to be refilled with foam - Blaine K. will contact Jim K. for an update.
- d. Downspout areas need to be filled with dirt at both the church and manse- Susan D. and Arnie Hart will arrange a time to get dirt with Arnie's dump trailer.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Katie's hours will return to 4-6p.m. August 19th
2. Old office equipment - Joel and Katie will meet next week.
3. Correspondence
 1. Newcomb family thank you note for Christine's services and lunch.
 2. Camp Wyoming thank you note for donation.
 3. Vision to Learn
 4. Parks and Rec. letter for Kimberly Park donations.
4. Kitchen License – Pastor Marian suggests the church get their own kitchen license next year for fair food preparation. Board needs to look into cost difference for an annual license and an event license. Board informally agrees to have kitchen license in own name for Fair Stand needs.

ADJOURNMENT move to adjourn 1st Blaine K., 2nd Vince O.

Church Workers

September 1

Communion by Intinction

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Gary & Joyce Hahn

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

September 8

Chancel Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Marcy Dewar

September 15

**“Worship in the Neighborhood” at
West Liberty Christian Fellowship. 10:30a.m. with
picnic following the service.**

September 22

Worship Team/Communion

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

COMMUNION SERVERS:

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Evelyn Wilkerson & Bertie Baker

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

September 29

Chancel Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner



Birthdays in September

2 Charlie Thrasher

4 Lewis Morrison

7 Marsha Jacobs

8 Jeanne Hale

9 Kyle Harned

11 Mary Larson

11 Jacob Johnson

14 Kurtis Minor

16 Ken Noble

18 Kyle Barnhart

18 Marcy Dewar

20 Jason Thrasher

23 Rob Miller

24 Curt Newcomb

25 Jasmin Gardenier

26 Addyson Lehman

26 Savannah Smith

26 Jim Kiwala

29 Evelyn Evans

29 Scott Skubal

30 Brooklyn Harned

Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries in September

4 Bill & Jan Koellner

14 Bob & Terri Larson

25 Roger & Carolyn Benge

25 Ryan & Tana Deahr

30 Aaron & Hannah Campbell

**Communion preparers for September will be
Norma Brooks & Pat Brooke**