



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 2019



Dear Friends in Christ,

When you get this, I will be in the middle of my first two consecutive week vacation in many years! Two quick things are on my mind this morning: stewardship and Sabbath. Are they related? Sabbath is devoting time to spend with God. To rest, yes, but more so to connect. To pray, listen, and just be in the Presence. That's what I aim to do a little of. And when we do, we find ourselves in a clearer frame of mind to define what God is calling us to do, to give, to learn, where to go and why. So, my pastoral encouragement for you is to prayerfully consider how you will pledge to invest in the life of First Church United in the coming year. Our faith community needs your giving of time, talent, and treasure to continue to ministry and mission in West Liberty and beyond.

Shalom,
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD		
October 2019		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
September 1	\$1,048.00	34
September 8	\$1,204.00	44
September 15	NA	NA
September 22	NA	42
September 29	NA	55

Fair Stand Meeting
 following the service on Sunday, November 17

Music Notes

What do we think of first when we think of November? Thanksgiving? As a Music Ministry, we continually give thanks for our church, our congregation, each other, and the God given talents that we have chosen to share. There are, of course, other things to be grateful for in November - our veterans, our harvest and bounty, family and friends, and God's love.

We hope you'll be inspired with a thankful heart as you hear messages through music. All three choirs and a special duet will *aspire to inspire* this month. Can you feel it?

- Sun., Nov. 3: YOUTH BELL CHOIR**
- Wed., Nov. 6: Chime Choir, 6:45 to 7:30
 Chancel Choir, 7:30 to 8:30
- Sun., Nov. 10: SPECIAL MUSIC - Piano/Organ Duet**
- Wed., Nov. 13: (same as Nov. 6)
- Sun., Nov. 17: CHANCEL CHOIR & Gathering Music**
- Wed., Nov. 20: (same as Nov. 6)
- Sun., Nov. 24 [Thanksgiving Sunday]:**
CHIME CHOIR
- Chime Choir plays at Holiday Open House at 4:30**
at the West Liberty Public Library
- Wed., Nov. 27: No Choirs (Thanksgiving Vacation)

CYG NEWS

CYG invites you to join them to hear about Mary Maxson's recent trip to Israel on Nov. 17. All other Sundays in November will be regular CYG nights.

July – Sept. WL Food Pantry Report

Our food pantry continues to grow both in number of families served and in the amount of food items we can offer to them. Thank you to all and your church members for responding when we send out a call for items needed. We have also received an abundance of fresh vegetables from the Donation Garden and other gardeners. Current balance of the checking account is \$7364.65.

In July the pantry had 76 visits from 55 families; August had 113 visits from 66 families and September saw 94 visits from 68 families. It takes many volunteers to keep this operation running smoothly. Volunteer hours in July – 81, August – 93 and Sept. – 93. Thank you to all for giving your time.

The VAC is gearing up to get ready for the Christmas Distribution, which will be Friday, Dec. 13 from 5:30 p.m.– 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 14 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Please consider being available to help at one of these times at First Church United or helping to deliver fruit bags to the elderly on Saturday morning.

Churches are asked to collect hats, mittens, gloves, socks and underwear which should be delivered to FCU on December 9. Wrapped gifts of toys are being collected at the banks under the Star Trees. Any additional toys should be taken to St. Joseph Parish Hall on December 10 before 6 p.m. Aquarius Club members will pack the toy bags. Food boxes will be assembled and packed at FCU on Wednesday, Dec. 11, beginning at 6 p.m. We will have some help from Rotary and the Interact Club, but your presence is welcome also.

The schools will be having a food drive to help supply the boxes. Foods that would be especially helpful are canned chunky soups, canned fruits, canned vegetables, peanut butter, wide noodles, spaghetti, macaroni, tomato sauce or pasta sauce, canned tuna or chicken, boxes of cereal and cooking oil. Personal care items of toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, dish soap and laundry detergent are also appreciated. Have a great fall!

CHURCH FAMILY THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Sunday, November 24th after the service.
Bring a dish to share. Meat will be provided.

WEST LIBERTY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 24th from 3:00pm -
6:00pm. Chime Choir will be play at the
West Liberty Public Library at 4:30p.m.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL AND WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 27th
At First Church United.
We will eat at 6:00 with worship to follow.



OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY

FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING October 3, 2019

CALL TO ORDER by Board Chair Joel Murphy.
Those in attendance were Susan Deahr, Leon Larson,
Vince Ottaway, Holly Gingerich, Jodi Kelly, Pastor
Marian, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, and Secretary Katie
Thrasher.

JODI KELLY - Jodi spoke as a representative of both
FCU and the Community Center. She gave a short
history of the Community Center including the facts that
30% of the Community Center Board is FCU members,
and for the past 21 years the Community Center has only
allowed alcohol to be brought in by event organizers.
The Community Center is looking into purchasing a
liquor license to use for events held there in order to help
compete with local venues. They have lost multiple
events due to people having to bring in their own
alcohol. The Community Center Board wants to be open
with FCU that this is the direction they are going.

DEVOTION TIME Pastor Marian read scriptures with
a stewardship theme.

OPEN IN PRAYER

APPROVAL OF DOCKET add 1) approval of church
employee review and timeline 2) window painting
3) Nominating Committee. Move to approve docket as
amended 1st Leon L. 2nd Vince O. unanimously
approved by the Board.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith reports the outside cross lighting repairs totaled \$2,020.05. He paid that out of the future maintenance of the church budget line (#2103). He moved \$6,000 from savings to pay the rest of the September bills. We do not have a total for the contributions from the last two Sundays.

The love gift collected for the Henderson family totaled \$1,315.

Each denomination still needs to be sent \$250 by the end of the year.

Move to approve Treasurer's report 1st Holly G., 2nd Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.

Start of month balance	\$361.21
Receipts	\$11,837.18
Sub Total	\$12,198.39
Disbursements	\$11,314.05
Ending Balance	\$884.34
Board Checking	(25,201.06)

PASTOR'S REPORT September 2019

Office hours kept as possible

Plan and lead worship Sept. 8, 15 (Neighborhood Worship), 22, 29

Adult Sunday school Sept. 22, 29

CYG Leadership retreat Sept. 9

Simpson bible study Sept. 10, 17, 24

CYG Sept. 15, 22, 29 co-lead lessons, plan and shop for meals

Ministerial Association meeting Sept. 11

Cluster meeting Sept. 12

WOW Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2

Simpson worship Sept. 20

Presbytery meeting all day Sept. 21

Book study Sept. 26 Canoeing the Mountains, about changing times, changing leadership styles

Celebration of Life service for Randy Henderson Sept. 28

Meeting with superintendent, pastors Sept. 30, plan for student crisis, emergency situations

Meeting with superintendent and support staff, cooperation church and school activities

Ministerial meeting Oct. 2

Pastoral visits-7

Mileage-200

Board discussed Pastor Marians agreement with school district and we are now the emergency site for the ELC

in case of emergency. Move to accept report 1st Leon L., 2nd Holly G., unanimously approved by the Board.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Inside the Church

1. FCU Website - Joel M. reports the website will be finished soon. We need to provide more pictures. Joel will take some this Sunday and Pastor Marian will take pictures at CYG.

2. Smoke detectors- Tabled

3. Needs Assessment - Board wants to divide the bequest 3 ways. 1) Mission/Ministry

2) Immediate Maintenance 3) Future Maintenance. Board discussed suggestions and who will look into costs of those high on the list of priorities. Board agrees to gift \$20,000 to each the Christian Conference Center and Camp Wyoming to help with immediate needs then assess other needs they have at a later date. 1st Vince O., 2nd Susan D., unanimously approved by the Board.

Suggestions gathered so far: Names behind suggestions are who is going to look into costs associated with the project.

- Consider installing a carport/canopy outside the main entrance - Susan
- Consider finding an emergency stay option/building a small home or purchasing a trailer/consider separate accommodations within the church for emergency housing needs.
- Consider improving the handicap parking area and replacing the bad patches of concrete in the parking lot.- Vince
- Consider adding one or more shower to the church building - Holly
- Consider adding a laundry facility to the church building - Holly
- Consider maintenance of the roof, kitchen leak. - Susan
- Consider replacing the outside water faucet/hose hookups - Holly
- Consider having a professional landscaper come in twice a year to cleanup/trim up outside trees and bushes. - Joel (could also use Future maint. Funds for this)
- Consider cleaning up evergreens and adding new trees to empty spots between FCU and Community Center with tree contractor. -Leon
- Consider burying outside downspouts.- Jim
- Consider needs the manse may have such as AC/furnace, carpet, windows, shower in master bathroom and other plumbing structures.- Pastor Marian

- l) Consider cleaning or replacing the pew seat cushions.- Holly
 - m) Consider replacing the doors between sanctuary and fellowship - Holly
 - n) Consider cleaning the Fellowship Hall carpet.- Joel
 - o) Consider replacing Projector.
 - p) Consider buying more copies of hymnals used most often.- Pastor Marian
 - q) Consider outside seating with shade with concrete pad that includes conduit.
 - r) Consider replacing or fixing the south door in the Fellowship Hall (fix lock).- Joel
 - s) Consider fixing or adding overhangs to the doorways that let water in when it rains. - Joel
 - t) Consider saving funds for future furnace replacement needs. Put in future maintenance of the church fund.- Keith
 - u) Consider local and worldly mission outreach including both denominations church camps.- each denominations camp will receive at least \$20,000.
 - v) Consider extending the West Liberty bike trail.
- 5. Nominating Committee - needs to be activated but no one volunteered at the last Annual Meeting. Joel M. will speak at the Oct. 13th MADCAP.
 - 6. Employee Review - Susan D. has handed out the review forms to congregants to review Katie, Jason and Brett's job performance. PRC has handed out reviews for Pastor Marian as well. Susan will report back at the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT Move to adjourn 1st Holly G., 2nd Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

MEETING November 7, 2019 at 6:30pm

Outside the Church

1. Maintenance of Landscaping - Vince O.
2. Gutters - Tabled.

Trustee Work to be done-

- a. Manse soffits need to be looked at
- b. Church soffits need to be refilled with foam
Katie will email the trustees to remind them these jobs need to be completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Snow removal - Board asks Katie to talk to West Liberty Index about putting an ad in the paper that we are accepting bids for snow removal now. Pastor Marian will also announce this on Facebook.
2. Building use for play practice - Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the Sanctuary. They will store items in the CE Director's office. Move to approve 1st Leon L., 2nd Susan D., unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Stewardship Campaign - Joel will see what we have used in the past and ask Joe M. for his resources as well.
4. Window Painting - Pastor Marian asks for Todd Woodburn to paint the Narthex windows again this Advent season. Move to approve 1st Holly G., 2nd Susan D., unanimously approved by the Board.

Church Workers

November 6

Communion /Youth Bell Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dean Phelps & Keith Barnhart

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Rob Miller, Syd Harned, Bob Dewar

Need 2 more

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Susan Deahr

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

November 10

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Evelyn Evans

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

November 17

Communion/Chancel Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dean Phelps & Jason Thrasher

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Rob Miller, Syd Harned, Bob Dewar

Need 2 more

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Betty Burton

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

November 24

Thanksgiving Sunday

Chime Choir/Potluck

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Open

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner



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



3 Todd & Rachel Morrison

10 Rolo & Jaime Galvan

27 Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

**Communion preparers for November will be
Butch & Karen Nortman**

My Commitment to the Lord

“Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

- I (we) promise to worship regularly.
- I (we) commit to diligent study in God’s Word.
 - Regular group Bible study Personal/family devotions
- I (we) commit to “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).



I (we) will commit with my/our time:
Current service activities: _____

New service activities: _____

- I (we) will faithfully and cheerfully give the following amount:
With God’s help, I (we) will give 1% 2% 3% 4% 5% 6% 7% percent or more _____ of my (our) income.

My (our) faith offering each week will be \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Please return on Commitment Sunday or send to the church office.

My Commitment to the Lord

Please detach and keep for your records

- I.(we) promise to worship regularly.
- I (we) commit to diligent study in God’s Word.
 - Regular Bible study Personal/family devotions
- I (we) will commit to the faithful use of my/our time.
- I (we) will faithfully and cheerfully give \$ _____ per week.
- I (we) commit to “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

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