



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

How do you define stewardship? What's it mean to be a good steward? I looked it up in the dictionary and was not surprised at the definition found there: to oversee, be responsible for another's household, property, resources. As Christians we are called to be stewards of God's earth, all of its life forms and beauty in land, sea, and sky. We are also called to be stewards of God's house, for us, First Church United. That includes the building and grounds and maintenance of them, but a whole lot more.

It includes the care of everyone who sets foot inside. Those in need of rest, shelter, food, financial assistance, a listening ear, a hug, a smile, a place to belong, a place to find purpose, a place to serve. Those in need of a song, a prayer, a moment of silence, a teaching, a healing, a laying down of burdens. Those in need of play, creativity, and asking questions.

My bible dictionary goes a step deeper—stewardship includes being keepers of divine mystery. Not by keeping it to and for ourselves but in teaching it to others. We learn about this divine mystery through God's Word—spoken, written, and living. Through relationship with Jesus. I'd say the Word in all of its forms is the biggest treasure we've been entrusted to care for and share.

In order to do that faithfully, it is important for each and every one of us to be faithful to the body of Christ in thought, word, and deed. In building us up, not tearing us down.

Soon you will be asked to consider what your part in our church's stewardship will be for the next year. Please prayerfully consider how you can give toward the ministry and mission of this church through your time, talents, treasure, prayers, and presence.

I'm blessed to be able to serve in many ways because of your support,
Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

September 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 |



Music Notes

GET EXCITED!!! October is going to be one amazing, musical month at FCU!

On Oct. 6, we will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our Chime Choir during morning worship, and it will be a festive occasion! Some former members will join us, and Kids' Bells will participate in the fun. This is not to be missed!

On Oct. 27, Chancel Choir will sing in the morning. And that evening, all musicians will join in our 2nd annual Community Music Ministry Night! Again, not to be missed!!

Between those occasions, our Worship Team will have something special planned for Oct. 13, and the Chime Choir will give a sneak preview on Oct. 20 of their contribution to the Community Music Ministry Night.

This could be the best October ever!

Wed., Oct. 2 - Chime Choir, 6:45 to 7:30
Chancel Choir, 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., Oct. 6 - CHIME CHOIR - 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Wed., Oct. 9 - (same as Oct. 2)

Sun., Oct. 13 - WORSHIP TEAM

Wed., Oct. 16 - (same as Oct. 2)

Sun., Oct. 20 - CHIME CHOIR

Wed., Oct. 23 - (same as Oct. 2)

Sun., Oct. 27 - CHANCEL CHOIR during morning worship; and all musicians at

COMMUNITY MUSIC MINISTRY NIGHT, 6:30 p.m. in our sanctuary

OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO THE FAMILY OF
RANDY HENDERSON.

CYG NEWS

The fall semester has begun with kick-off activities, new band members, new student faces, new CUBE leaders, as well as many returning from previous years. Regular CYG meets Oct. 6 with a lesson on Why/when Jesus crossed the road to the poor. Oct. 13 will be Home Cubes, Oct. 20 regular CYG followed by a Board meeting, Oct. 27 is our annual hayrack ride and wiener roast. It's not too late to join us, so spread the word to all youth grades 6-12!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

It's not too early to start thinking and planning for our Christmas outreach. All the churches are invited again to collect winter hats, gloves, mittens, socks, underwear, gently used coats, and boots. First Church United's endowment contributed \$1000 toward Operation Warm, an organization that helps provide new coats to those who wouldn't otherwise have them. Rotary Club has been involved in this project for the past 5 years, with Pastor Marian coordinating through the schools and VAC to pre-distribute coats. Any that we have left are given away with the Christmas boxes of food and toys. In addition, this year we intend to provide personal hygiene items for all families made possible through a Rotary Community grant. Volunteers welcome on Wed. Dec. 11 as we put together the boxes, and especially needed on Fri. Dec. 13 5-8 pm as people pick up their boxes (two wheel cart drivers needed), then again on Sat. morning 8-10.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

Hello Church Family!

It is with great joy that I can announce that both Sunday school and our Wednesday children's programming are back in full swing. We have a lively bunch of Christian youth here, whom I am blessed to have the pleasure of educating. There are still some spaces available on the sign-up sheet for helpers on Wednesday. Take a look on the buffet in the fellowship hall. It is a great ministry that you would be sure to gain joy from helping in. Be sure to come October 6th when the youth bell choir will help lead worship!

And, believe it or not, we are already looking forward to the Advent season, and the joys and gatherings and programming that it will bring. If you have any ideas, or resources that you would like to share, let me know and we will do our best to incorporate them.

On a personal development front, I have gained much insight from reading "Becoming a Pastor", by Jaco Hamman. I also continue to search for the appropriate educational program to help me further my call in leading this church and all people to an understanding of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Jason Thrasher



**WE are in need of donations of candy to hand out.
Talk to Pastor Marian if you would like to help.**

OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING

September 5, 2019 6:30 p.m.

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

DEVOTION TIME Luke 6:36 – Compassion

OPEN IN PRAYER

APPROVAL OF DOCKET add Trustee items. Move to approve 1st Blaine K., 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 that we had a good August and didn't need to move any money from savings. August receipts was \$10,291.59. He paid the insurance umbrella and workers comp. Paid both missions. Keith moved the organ lesson payment balance of \$48.61 into general

savings and that fund hasn't been used in many years. There is now an Irey Estate Funds line (#2007). As of the end of August, 61% of the budget has been spent but only 45% has been received for the year. Move to accept Treasurer's report as presented 1st Syd H., 2nd Holly G., unanimously approved by the Board.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Start of August balance | \$1,926.51 |
| Receipts | \$10,291.59 |
| Sub Total | \$12,218.10 |
| Disbursements | \$11,856.89 |
| Ending Balance | \$361.21 |
| Board Checking | (\$19,724.89) |

PASTOR'S REPORT August 2019

Office hours kept
Plan and lead worship August 4, 11, 18, 25
Helped with VBS August 5, 7, 8
Meeting to plan Worship in the Neighborhood August 14
Speaker presentation of border ministry August 14
Book study August 15
Simpson worship August 16
Christian Ed meeting August 18
CYG mission trip presentation and fun night August 18
Worship team August 19
St. Joseph's meeting August 22
Arnie surgery August 23-chaffeur through August 26
Cluster gathering August 29
Quarterly Index article
Wrap up paperwork for grant for pantry
Pastoral visits-7
Mileage-207

I will be in Okoboji the evening of Oct 6-8 for Synod
School Planning committee work
Request last vacation days Oct. 28-Nov. 10
Move to approve vacation days 1st Vince O., 2nd Holly G., unanimously approved by the Board.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Inside the Church

1. FCU Website commentary— Joel will bring our comments to Big Imprint.
2. LED lights in the attic space above the pulpit area—done
4. Smoke detectors— Tabled
5. Needs Assessment –
Suggestions gathered so far:
 - a. Consider installing a carport/canopy outside the main entrance
 - b. Consider finding 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 or purchasing a trailer home in the West Liberty trailer park.
- h. Consider separate accommodations within the church or adding onto the church for emergency housing needs.
- i. Consider maintenance of the roof.
- j. Consider replacing the outside water faucet/hose hookups
- k. Consider having a professional landscaper come in twice a year to cleanup/trim up outside trees and bushes.
- l. Consider removing or cleaning up evergreens between FCU and Community Center with tree contractor.
- m. Consider fixing outside downspouts.
- n. Consider replacing bad patches of concrete in the parking lot.
- o. Consider needs the manse may have such as AC/furnace, carpet, windows, plumbing structures.
- p. Consider cleaning or replacing the pew seat cushions.
- q. Consider replacing the doors between sanctuary and fellowship
- r. Consider cleaning the Fellowship Hall carpet.
- s. Consider purchasing year-round banners for front of church to enhance the beauty of the altar area.
- t. Consider replacing or Projector.
- u. Consider buying more copies of hymnals used most often.
- v. Consider a sprinkler system for the church
- w. Consider outside seating with shade.
- x. Consider replacing or fixing the south door in the Fellowship Hall.
- y. Consider fixing or adding overhangs to the doorways that let water in when it rains.
- z. Consider a lectern at the right height for the congregation to see Pastor Marian.
- aa. Consider saving funds for future furnace replacement needs. Put in future maintenance of the church fund.
- bb. Consider supporting both church camps

cc. Consider local and worldly mission outreach.

Board will divide the above list between the Board members and research costs of the projects to consider. With that information, at the next Board meeting the Board will identify what percentage of the bequeath will go towards 1) Mission/Ministry 2) Maintenance 3) Endowment 4) Future maintenance of the church, both immediate and future needs.

Outside the Church

1. Maintenance of Landscaping –
 - a) Removal of evergreen bushes near north entrance by Deahr family.- done
 - b) Johnson family landscaping at north entrance.- this will be a fall project.

Trustee Work to be done-

1. Manse soffits need to be looked at -tabled
2. Leak in the church kitchen when it rains – tabled but added to the needs assessment list.
3. Church soffits need to be refilled with foam – tabled
4. Downspout areas need to be filled with dirt at both the church and manse.- there is dirt in the parking lot to be used. The downspouts need to be fixed first. Downspouts added to the needs assessment list.
5. Remove the unused planters by the front and north door.
6. Sanctuary door jamb needs to be replaced or fixed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Endowment Requests
 - a) Operation Warm – Requested by Pastor Marian, fund C, \$1,000. Will help provide warm coats to those who wouldn't have one otherwise. Move to approve request 1st Holly G., 2nd Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.
 - b) WOW meals – requested by Lisa Murphy and Katie Thrasher, fund C, \$900. For WOW meals during the 2019-2020 school year. Move to approve request 1st Holly G., 2nd Vince O., unanimously approved by the Board.
2. Cradle Roll – Board agrees the cradle roll will be retired until a more convenient system is established.
3. Church Employee review process – Susan D. will contact previous personnel relations committee members for the questionnaire used in the past and begin the process of reviewing the Secretary, Janitor, and Christian Ed. Director. Board asks for the Personnel Committee to have

the results back to the Board by the November meeting so items can be voted on at the December meeting.

Pastor Marian will activate the Pastoral Relations Committee to begin the process of her end of the year review as well. Each committee is in charge of their own questionnaire. Board is in charge of the budget items for the staff.

4. Pastor Marian reminded the Board that last year we agreed to host a Presbytery meeting at the church on November 21st. The church is responsible for providing cookies and drinks. The clutter from around the church needs to be removed.

ADJOURNMENT move to adjourn 1st Holly G., 2nd Susan D., unanimously approved by the Board.

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

MEETING October 3, 2019 at 6:30pm

Church Workers

October 6

World Wide Communion /Gathering Music

20th Anniversary of Chime Choir

Youth Bell Choir plays

SPEAKING ELDERS:

None needed. Presbyterian tradition

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Gary Hahn, Jo Noble, Lisa Murphy,

Katie Thrasher, Joe Myers

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Keith & Margaret Barnhart

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Arnie Hart

October 13

Worship Team

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Susan Deahr

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

October 20

Communion/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Keith Barnhart & Mary Larson

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Gary Hahn, Jo Noble, Lisa Murphy,

Katie Thrasher, Joe Myers

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Joe & Dinette Myers

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Marcy Dewar

October 27

Chancel Choir

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

Communion preparers for October will be

Bill & Jan Koellner

Substitute Communion Server: Norma Brooks



Birthdays in October

1 Darren Brooke

3 Troy Myers

4 Mark Johnson

6 Filmore Melick

6 Carolyn Probst

11 Linda Foor

11 Heidi Morrison

14 Tricia Lehman

14 Alice Thrasher

15 James Laughlin

20 Janice Stites

21 Caitlyn Snook

21 Jaime Galvan

23 Janey Gingerich

24 Shirley Sterner

24 Tom Probst

27 Cale Brooks

28 Bob Larson

30 Missy Johnson

30 Holly Gingerich



Anniversaries in October

6 Mike & Yvonne Gardenier

13 Bob & Marcy Dewar

19 Butch & Karen Nortman

28 Jeff & Tasha Wiele

28 Caleb & Kelly Waters