



FIRST CHURCH UNITED

1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776

Office - (319) 627-2989

Pastor, Rev. Deborah Mann

Secretary, Katie Thrasher

June 2021

From the heart of Pastor Deb . . .

The school year has ended and summer is fast approaching. There is planning for the fair stand going on and VBS and children's ministries around the corner. Our clean out and refresh project continues on with the help especially of Jodi Kelly and Lee Ann Maas. As we look forward to more things opening up and less restrictions in place, we celebrate opportunities to take vacations, to enjoy the outdoors and to spend more time with loved ones. Don't forget, you don't have to miss worship as we are also available by zoom. Tune in with your church family and give your heart a lift.

Also this summer, as we make our FUN 'to do' lists, don't forget to add 'invite someone to church'. That's right, FUN is also a part of our faith and fellowship together. Look for upcoming ways to invite others to join in the fun. There is still much to be done in preparation, so if you have a talent to paint or help with children's activities, please let myself or Katie know. I'm excited to see what God is laying on your hearts this summer as we continue to move forward in a positive, Hope-filled direction. When the Lord returned the fortunes of Zion, they sang (Psalm 126) . . . the Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

Let us be full of that joy that cannot help but spill onto others. We welcome one and all!!

Praising our Savior,
Pastor Deb

JUNE LECTIONARY

Advent Year B	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Proper 5 (10) Second Sunday after Pentecost June 6, 2021	<u>1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)</u>	<u>Genesis 3:8-15</u> <u>Psalm 130</u> <u>Psalm 138</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1</u>	<u>Mark 3:20-35</u>
Proper 6 (11) Third Sunday after Pentecost June 13, 2021	<u>1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13</u>	<u>Ezekiel 17:22-24</u> <u>Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15</u> <u>Psalm 20</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17</u>	<u>Mark 4:26-34</u>
Proper 7 (12) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 20, 2021	<u>1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49</u>	<u>Job 38:1-11</u> <u>Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32</u> <u>Psalm 9:9-20</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 6:1-13</u>	<u>Mark 4:35-41</u>
Proper 8 (13) Fifth Sunday after Pentecost June 27, 2021	<u>2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27</u> <u>Psalm 130</u>	<u>Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24</u> <i>or</i> <u>Lamentations 3:22-33</u> <u>Psalm 30</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 8:7-15</u>	<u>Mark 5:21-43</u>
Proper 5 (10) Second Sunday after Pentecost June 6, 2021	<u>1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)</u>	<u>Genesis 3:8-15</u> <u>Psalm 130</u> <u>Psalm 138</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1</u>	<u>Mark 3:20-35</u>

CHURCH RECORD

May 2021

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
May 2	\$1,895	36
May 9	\$462	62
May 16	\$2,772	48
May 23	\$4,070	70
May 30	\$2,420.10	53

THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY

We wish to send a sincere Thank You to all of you who has shown your support in any way during the many months with cards, prayers, phone calls, and words of encouragement expressed to us during our challenging times.

We are doing the best we can to get back to active times. Your many acts of kindness shown is much appreciated.

Gary & Joyce



Tree Dedication May 18, 2021 with family of Chuck and Louise Newcomb.

MUSIC NOTES

As we wrap up a school year / choir year, we thank those who have tirelessly and faithfully provided some sense of "normal" for our sacred music during the continued pandemic.

As we continue to experience small steps toward "normal," such as gathering in person to worship, we take giant leaps in our faith of what's to come.

As we look ahead, we still don't know what next fall and beyond will be like for our choirs. But we are hopeful, faithful, and even joyful for the progress thus far!

During our summer services, we can still feel inspiration from instrumental music. And without the benefit of choir members with microphones to lead our songs, we hope all will cheerfully sing out as we enjoy worshipping together and praising God for our blessings!

Our Music Ministry team wishes each and every one the blessings of happiness, safety and comfort through faith as we begin our summer.

Please mail your offering to our Financial Secretary

Dinette Myers
1244 Country Heights Lane
West Liberty, IA 52776.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 25 Fair Service 9:00

Vbs, August 3-5

FIRST CHURCH UNITED IN PERSON CHURCH GUIDELINES

Below are the current guidelines established for attending FCU safely:

1. Masks are still required for those who have not been vaccinated.
2. Fellowship hall will be open for those who prefer not to sit in the sanctuary.
3. Offering plates will not be passed, but are on the back table of the sanctuary for your convenience.
4. Communion elements will not be passed at this time. Please bring your own or use the sealed elements at the back of the sanctuary.
5. Music will be played and sung. If you have not been vaccinated or would feel more comfortable, please wear a mask covering.
6. Fellowship after church is allowed, but refreshments will not be served at this time.
7. If you are feeling unwell or have a fever, please stay home so as not to transmit any illness to anyone else. These guidelines will be reviewed and changed by the Board's discretion. It is First Church United's intention to provide worship to all members via Zoom and in person. We thank you for your cooperation as we want to keep everyone safe including our children 11 and under who cannot be vaccinated at this time.



Senior Recognition May 23, 2021 for Lindsey Laughlin and Chance Thrasher.

THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY

First Church United, Thank you so much for the card and money. The money will be used towards various colleges expenses, like textbooks and anything I may need. Thank you so much for thinking about me in this wonderful time of my life. Thanks so much for being a great church family.

Thanks again for everything, Lindsey

Dear Church family, Thank you for the card and gift. It was great to see everyone at the graduation party as well.

Thanks again, Chance

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

May 6, 2021 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER by Board Chair Dean Phelps.

Those present were Jo Noble, Lori Brooke, Karen Nortman, Blaine Kelly, Susan Deahr, Pastor Deb, Brenda Miller, Jodi Kelly, Bill Koellner, and Secretary Katie Thrasher.

OPEN IN PRAYER by Pastor Deb for National Day of Prayer.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET move to approve Board docket 1st Lori, 2nd Jo, unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES move to approve 1st Jo, 2nd Karen, unanimously approved by the Board.

UPDATES

1. Sound System committee – Brenda Miller explained that Pastor Deb, Katie, Lee Ann, Susie, and herself have been meeting. We began as a sound system committee, but it has become more of a livestream/zoom/sound system committee now. Our overall purpose is for everybody in person and at home to have a meaningful worship experience. We discussed the goals of Pastor Deb, Music Ministry, Outreach, and Worship in terms of virtual worship, looking for an effective way to meet our growing needs. To successfully achieve this, we are looking for a reliable camera, an audio system that pairs with the camera, a computer for the sound booth, taking the walls of the sound booth down, and a live streaming service that has support services we trust. Brenda asked the Board to think about using Zoom vs. livestream for the services. More information will be presented next month.
2. Organizing/updating church rooms – Jodi Kelly explained that the Fellowship Hall was organized and cleaned last month with Pastor Deb, Syd Harned and Jodi's help. They have walked through the church to see the areas that need to be inventoried, sorted and cleaned up. We want to be good stewards of the church, presenting a positive/uplifting church. Much of the furniture is worn or dirty, carpet needs to be cleaned, holes in the walls need to be repaired. In the not-so-distant future much of the carpet (except the Sanctuary) might need to be replaced. Jodi's going to contact some of the families that

will use the nursery and children's areas to help sort items, and gain their input. Jodi would like to know if the Board approves that they be allowed to purchase new items to replace those that are old/dirty. The items we are replacing can then be offered to church members first before putting them in the West Liberty City Wide Garage Sale on June 5. Motion for Jodi & Pastor Deb to continue as they see fit, present a proposal for new furniture when they have it, using their judgement 1st Susan, 2nd Lori, unanimously approved by the Board. Wishlists for rooms are being created and prioritized. An option for the congregation to adopt a room/piece of furniture to purchase may also be presented soon.

3. Endowment Committee – Bill Koellner explained that presently we have three endowment funds 1) General, 2) Watter's 3) Beryl Brooke. In the last 10 years the value has gained 6% with about a 3.5% return last year. Right now, at WLSB the Irey Funds are earning .8% but could be earning 3.5% if placed in the Endowment Fund. If placed there the funds could be accessed within a few days as needed. Motion to move the Irey funds to the Endowment Fund for the betterment of the church 1st Blaine, 2nd Karen, unanimously approved by the Board. Katie and Dean will write a letter to WLSB to remove the funds that will be moved to the Endowment Fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 2021 treasurer report comments.

The checking account shows a negative balance. I did not send the pension fund check until after Dinette made the deposit on Monday May 3. There was not an overdraft from the Bank.

Paid the Quarterly insurance bill of \$1662.50.

Paid the Quarterly withholding taxes to the IRS \$1343.71 and State of Iowa \$195.00.

Received money for the Watter's Estate funds: New Covenant \$365.17, Christian Church \$930.98.

Moved \$2,000.00 from Savings to checking for operating.

Will send the One Great Hour of Sharing/Week of Compassion money to the two denominations when I get back.

Respectfully, Keith Barnhart, Treasurer

Start of April balance	\$359.91
Receipts	\$10,554.65
Sub Total	\$10,914.56

Disbursements	\$10,949.31
Ending Balance	(\$34.75)
Board Checking	(15,906.73)

Move to approve Treasurer's report 1st Lori, 2nd Blaine, unanimously approved by the Board.

PASTOR'S REPORT April 2021

1. *Worship planning and services:* Good Friday, Sunrise and Easter morning services, Weekly services - planning and preparation. Find lay leaders/communion stewards, Installation service and working with those involved. Follow up with thank you notes. Regular Bible study and preparation for sermons. Graveside service for Tiffany Dengler. Simpson Home worship service - met activity director and assistant, served communion, move things around in the sanctuary as needed and work with those assisting in worship

2. *Visits / Care giving:* office visits, phone calls, emails, text, joys and concerns lists, reach out to those in need

3. *Community Outreach:* talking with those groups who use the church and those in community

4. *Special projects:* received donation-changed out hangars, work with Bill and Jan on library cleanup, work with Brenda, Katie, Lee Ann and Syd to help decorate sanctuary for Easter season, clean out video cabinet, cabinets in lounge area and follow up with members regarding items. Work extensively with Jodi on planning clean up and organizing projects. Reach out to Susan for help finding posters/positive sayings. Work with Rob, Blaine, and Jodi to move items out of lounge/choir room for Lee Ann and I to begin painting. Painting completed outside office in hallway.

5. *Meetings:* Ministerial Association, DOC Cluster group, Church Board, Meeting with members about music, church history, Seventh Day Adventist members, counseling, met social worker at Simpson Home to discuss visitation, met with Food Bank manager to discuss new process for pick up and help as needed, finished up CYG season with board meeting and outdoor cookout

6. *Denominational Resources:* coordinate with DOC Regional Minister and Associate Minister to plan

installation service. Read newsletters for both denominations and passed info on accordingly

7. *Committee work:* formed and worked with sound committee, Worked with Margaret and Susan on safety for installation reception plans

8. *Office Duties:* answer phone calls, texts, emails, talk with walkins, work daily with Katie on needs of the community and church, write up monthly newsletter and pastor's report

9. *Miscellaneous:* Followed up with city about fire pit, it will be on the same side of the yard as the clothesline, registered to attend Synod School, July 25-30th, got my 2nd vaccine and took a class through Presbytery Leadership Development on Communication. Will attend New Pastor's retreat May 17-18 at Christian Conference Center.

Motion to accept Pastor's Report 1st Karen, 2nd Lori, unanimously approved by the Board.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. The Meeters - Janice, Pastor Deb, Margaret - **Tabled**

2. Manse

- Refrigerator - Thank you to Lori and Dillon Brooke for their quick response to replace the Manse refrigerator.
- Manse front step railing - Dillon Brooke
- Door handle in garage - Jim Kiwala is working on it
- Extra dirt around Manse east side - Bob Dewar will do this in the spring
- Toilet seat - **done**
- Porch Railings- Jim Kiwala
- Filter in the basement by the back door needs to be replaced. - **done**
- Gasket needs to be replaced in the basement toilet - **done**
- Large fire pit (stone circle ring) on manse property - **will be done soon.**

4. Office copier - **Karen and Katie agreed on a Brother brand copier that would cost around \$600 with a \$60 4-year warranty. Karen will send the Board the three she found at Staples for their input.**

5. CD Renewal at WLSB - **See #3 under Updates**

6. Women's restroom issue - **done**

7. Needs Assessment - Board divides the bequest 3 ways. 1) Mission/Ministry 2) Immediate Maintenance 3) Future Maintenance.

Suggestions gathered so far:

Immediate Maintenance

- A. Consider improving the handicap parking area and replacing the bad patches of concrete in the parking lot. – **will wait till we know about the possibility of carport being added.**
- B. Consider maintenance of the roof, sanctuary wall, kitchen leak. - 1) fix spots on roof 2) replacing roof 3) Carport/Canopy - **Blaine sent copies of the roof plans to the engineer so he has that information. Will follow up with him.**
- C. Consider burying outside downspouts.
- D. Consider replacing the pew seat cushions.
- E. Railing for Manse front steps- will be able to complete once the sidewalk/steps are raised.

Mission/Ministry

- F. Consider local and worldly mission outreach including both denominations church camps
- G. Consider offering classes to those in the community to help with budgeting and other life skills. Offer support to families and those in need in our community.

Future Maintenance.

- H. Consider needs the manse may have such as AC/furnace, carpet, windows, shower in master bathroom and other plumbing structures.
- I. Consider saving funds for future furnace replacement needs. Put in future maintenance of the church fund.- Report that Keith included in Treasurer's report averages \$10,000/year.

Trustee Work to be done –

1. Church soffits need to be refilled with foam - Lori
2. Women's toilet needs new innards and family restroom needs more water in the tank – **done**
3. Basketball hoop needs to be straightened and enforced. - **done**
4. Baseboards in Manse office need to be replaced – **Lee Ann to complete**
5. New batteries in Manse smoke detectors or if detectors are older than 10 years, replace them - **done**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Landscape-
 - a. Spring Clean-up – **Katie will contact Noe Bernabe for estimate**
 - b. Ongoing maintenance during the year – **Katie will contact Noe Bernabe for estimate**
2. Fair Stand summer 2021 – **At the meeting held after church May 2nd it was discussed that Syd Harned and Dinette will be co-chairs for 2021. New guidelines we will follow include: no breakfast will be served, hours are 11:00 am to after the evening**

performance has begun, we will get another air conditioning unit, look to get an exit on the south wall so it is ADA approved and connects with the ramp. Susie will work on filling the shifts. Committees will help with various areas of needs we normally have.

3. Light replacements in hallway, classrooms, food pantry, family restroom, choir room/lounge. Need to contact Kessler to see if we are still on his list of jobs to do. – **Blaine will call Kessler**
4. Birds nest in bricks by raised bed area. – **Lori will look at this.**
5. **Jo Noble would like to resign from the Board immediately due to time constraints. Marilyn Ruegsegger has agreed to take over coffee hour purchases, and Jo and Marilyn will finish their archive project. Board thanks Jo for her work and participation in Board activities and decisions. Motion to accept, with deep regrets, the resignation of Jo Noble from the Official Board 1st Lori, 2nd Karen, unanimously approved by the Board.**

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING June 3, 2021 at 6:30pm



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

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 15th Ken & Brenda Wright
- 15th Dustin & Katherine Brooks
- 18th Vince & Letha Ottaway
- 20th Gary & Joyce Hahn
- 22nd Tom & Susan Lehman
- 23rd James & Jeni Laughlin
- 24th Joel & Lisa Murphy
- 28th Mike & Susan Deahr
- 30th Blaine & Jodi Kelly

