



FIRST CHURCH UNITED

1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776

Office - (319) 627-2989

Pastor, Rev. Deborah Mann

Secretary, Katie Thrasher

July & August 2021

From the heart of Pastor Deb . . .

Looking at the calendar, it is hard to believe that the first month of summer is already behind us. Lee Ann and I were blessed to take a wonderful trip with family to Colorado. I know many of you are also enjoying time with family and friends. What a precious gift to be able to have these opportunities after a very long year and a half of cancellations and postponements. While some safety measures are still in place or modified, the joy of being together is once again a reality for many. In the church, it is our hope and prayer that we will be able to come together again safely and offer ways to enrich our souls through shared fellowship. Beginning Saturday, July 10th we will have an all day Church Clean Up and Cook Out. We want to send a positive message out that our church is clean and vibrant and ready to share with our community again as we open our doors to VBS, WOW, CYG and other vital ministries, including our exciting music program. We also want to present a positive example of Faith in Action through our upcoming Church Fair Stand, another wonderful opportunity to share God's love through our outreach mission efforts. I am so proud of First Church United and the difference we make in this community. God has entrusted us with an abundance of blessings to share and we have generously given back. May our efforts continue to be fruitful and may our church shine with the love of our Savior. Please continue to pray for guidance and healing and opportunities to serve. Join in the fun and fellowship wherever you can this summer and make sure to invite others to join with us. There is room for ALL at the table of Jesus Christ!

Blessings for much joy and laughter,
Pastor Deb

CHURCH RECORD		
June 2021		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
June 6	\$555	53
June 13	\$1,766	40
June 20	\$105	50
June 27	\$625	15

JULY & AUGUST LECTIONARY

Advent Year B	First reading	Psalms	Second reading	Gospel
Proper 9 (14) Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 4, 2021	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48	Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
Proper 10 (15) Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 11, 2021	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24	Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:8-13	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
Proper 11 (16) Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 18, 2021	2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Proper 12 (17) Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 25, 2021	2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14	2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-18	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21
Proper 13 (18) Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 1, 2021	2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a Psalm 51:1-12	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Psalm 78:23-29	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
Proper 14 (19) Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 8, 2021	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130	1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 34:1-8	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
Proper 15 (20) Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 15, 2021	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 Psalm 111	Proverbs 9:1-6 Psalm 34:9-14	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
Proper 16 (21) Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 22, 2021	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34:15-22	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
Proper 17 (22) Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 29, 2021	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Proper 15 (20) Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 15, 2021	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 Psalm 111	Proverbs 9:1-6 Psalm 34:9-14	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58

THANK YOU

Thank you to Kevin and Craig Ruegsegger who repaired our Little Library that sits in the church front yard.

Thank you to our lawn care volunteers!

Thank you to Lee Ann, Brenda, and Pastor Deb for painting.

Thank you to Jodi Kelly for your work in cleaning out, distributing items to people in need and purchasing replacement items for the church.

MUSIC NOTES

Great News! Our Music Ministry has met (first time since 2019) to discuss plans for the coming year & brainstorm ways to safely proceed toward a return to our old normal.

All choir members will be contacted soon to discuss individuals' comfort levels. Every person's feelings and decisions will be 100% respected! This is a very personal decision and we want everyone to feel comfortable, wherever they are on the spectrum of opinions!

Please watch for that communication and for your August eLetter! It might even be an August-in-July eLetter. ;-)

Thank God (literally) for the progress made to minimize the pandemic over recent months and for the joy of our music! We're grateful for all of you who have participated & contributed in your own way, and we look forward to joining with you again whenever you are ready!!

Best Summer Wishes,
Your Music Ministry Team

FIRST CHURCH UNITED IN PERSON CHURCH GUIDELINES

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.



**ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP
& COOK OUT**
Sat, July 10- starting at 9:00 am
*Opportunities to Serve:
something for everyone*
Fellowship FUN and Food

Come for a few hours, come all day - whatever works with your schedule. We want to UNITE in making our church shine for the glory of God and have FUN doing it!!

Sign up sheets will be available after the 1st. We ask that you bring your own supplies if you have them. If not, we will have some available.

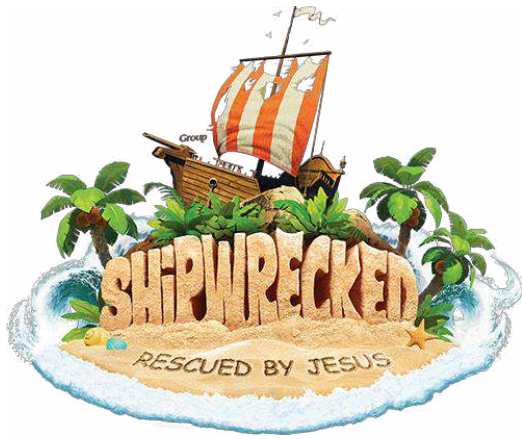
CHURCH STAND SIGN UP TO CLEAN

Preparations are underway to prepare the fair stand to open for business during the Muscatine County Fair being held July 21-25, 2021. We are asking for willing individuals to please sign up (if able) for one or more evenings to help prepare the shed (includes putting up the fencing), dining area, and kitchen area. We are in the process of making sure we have water (both hot and cold), electricity, etc. for cleanup. Please bring cleaning products, buckets, rags, brooms, etc. to help. Please email Dinette Myers (jdmyersfour@aol.com) to sign up for a shift or if able shift(s) or see the signup sheet available in the fellowship hall.

Sunday, July 11 4:00-7:00, Monday, July 12 4:00-7:00, Tuesday, July 13 4:00-7:00, Wednesday, July 14 4:00-7:00, Thursday, July 15 4:00-7:00.

Thank you so much in advance.

It takes a lot of volunteer labor to get this project completed from start to finish.



SHIPWRECKED VBS

August 3-5, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at First Church United
 Registration forms available in the office or online at
<https://form.jotform.com/92517295802158>

If you would like to help with VBS please contact the office or Jason Thrasher at jason.thrasher28@gmail.com.

*All volunteers will need to fill out a permission form for the church to perform a background check, forms are in the office.

DISCIPLES VIRTUAL GATHERING

Saturday, August 7, 2021 11:00am-6:30pm

“Nothing Can Separate us from the Love of God”

An opportunity for Disciples to connect, learn, worship, and imagine new ways of gathering as church.

Through Bible study, workshops, and worship, the event will focus on the covenant we share as Disciples and the promise of Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

<https://disciples.org/2021-virtual-gathering/>

Please mail your offering to our Financial Secretary

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

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

June 3, 2021 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER by Board Chair Dean Phelps.

Those present include Margaret Barnhart, Karen Nortman, Blaine Kelly, Lori Brooke, Pastor Deb, Treasurer Keith Barnhart.

DEVOTION TIME

OPEN IN PRAYER by Pastor Deb

APPROVAL OF DOCKET under Ongoing Business line #3 it should read CD was moved to Endowment Committee. Under New Business the refrigerator mentioned is a freezer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES under New Business line #3 it should read motion to move Irey Funds to the Endowment Funds for the betterment of the church. Motion to approve minutes as amended 1st Karen, 2nd Lori, motion carries.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Keith reports bill paid for the new Manse refrigerator for \$1,884 was paid out of the Future Maintenance of the Manse funds. Blaine purchased new furnace filters and smoke detectors and will be paid out of the Future Maintenance of the Manse fund. Ground maintenance line #455 is over budget due to snow removal and landscaping care by Noe Bernabe. OGHs/WOC has been sent to each denomination, about \$600.00 to each mission. Keith moved \$2,000 from Savings to Checking. Pastor Deb and Brenda Miller purchased 13 new banners for the Worship and Fellowship areas. That bill will be paid out of the Watters Fund. Move to approve Treasurer’s Report 1st Blaine, 2nd Karen, motion approved.

Start of May balance	\$(34.75)
Receipts	\$13,543.69
Sub Total	\$13,508.94
Disbursements	\$11,673.29
Ending Balance	\$1,835.65
Board Checking balance	(14,860.33)

PASTOR’S REPORT May 2021

- Worship planning and preparation - find and work with support team, offer prayer for all before worship service. Additional time spent for Mother's Day and Memorial Day services as well as Pentecost and Senior Recognition with help from other members. Also planned and held membership service for Michelle Fortenbaugh and tree planting service for family of Chuck and Louise Newcomb.
- Continue cleaning out church with Jodi Kelly and painting with Lee Ann Maas and work on entryway and bulletin board. Worked with Dillon and Sam on hanging and removing items. Contacted Chamber of Commerce about participation in Community Wide Garage Sale. Jodi also posted items on Facebook WL Families Helping Families and arranged pick up times for items.
- Participated in overnight retreat at Christian Conference Center for New Clergy with Disciple

Regional Minister Rev. Josh Patty and Associate Ministers

- Plan and led Simpson Home worship service - offered communion and brought plants to share
- Lee Ann and I volunteered at H.S. to assist with 2nd covid vaccine process
- Met with Fair committee and signed up to serve during fair. Also met with Jason and spoke with others about VBS
- Met with Ministerial Association meeting and Cluster group
- Participated in personal prayers for National Day of Prayer
- Visited with church family via phone, texts, emails and in person. Also talked with family members and sent cards as needed
- Did research, discussed with other church members then ordered wall decorations and banners
- Talked with Food Bank leadership and helped clean up kitchen and lounge cabinets
- Work with wedding family to set up and assist as needed for decorating, rehearsal and day of wedding
- Contact Brooke family about plumbing issues in bathroom and other trustees regarding maintenance needs
- Assist with joys and concerns and phone calls / drop ins
- Provided counseling as needed
- Do monthly newsletter and pastor's activity report, Facebook posts

Pastor Deb adds that she is hoping to have a grill out and worship outside this summer sometime.

UPDATES

1. Organizing/updating church rooms – **Jodi Kelly has met with people and has been able to give away most items helping community members and other churches. The old kitchen and nursery have been cleaned out. She has a bid in to replace the flooring in the old kitchen and a bid for blinds needed throughout the church that will match the other blinds installed a few years ago in some areas of the church. Wish lists for “needs” have been made for the Nursery (\$1800), Sunday School room (\$1300), tables (\$1200), Flooring (\$2800), youth lounge (\$3000), blinds (\$2900) totaling around \$13,000. Jodi would like the Board to think about a list of “wants” including pew cushions in the Sanctuary, cleaning the carpets, putting new carpeting on the docket for the future, adding more lights and new flooring to the Fellowship Hall closet. Motion to approve list of needs and wants up to \$15,000 1st Blaine, 2nd Lori, motion approved.**

2. Sound/Visual Committee – **Brenda Miller reports the initial budget for the equipment needed (including camera, laptop, USB port, audio visual device, HDMI card, streaming service) is around \$3,700. Would use the equipment the church already has first. Brenda will present a final report in July and try out some ideas before purchasing anything. The goal is to move from a Zoom platform to a Livestreaming platform with higher audio and visual qualities.**

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. The Meeters - Janice, Pastor Deb, Margaret- **will now be called “Shepherds”.** They will be putting together welcome packets with information on who we are, events happening and such.
2. Manse
 - a. Manse front step railing - Dillon Brooke
 - b. Door handle in garage - Jim Kiwala
 - c. Extra dirt around Manse east side - Bob Dewar
 - d. Porch Railings- Jim Kiwala
 - e. Sidewalk/steps raised – Back in December 2020 the Board approved Concrete Polyfix bid of \$675. **We are on their schedule and will be done soon. Completed 6/2021**
 - f. Office copier – **Karen spoke of options to replace current copier/printer. Motion to approve purchase of a Brother’s printer/copier Karen and Katie recommend for \$540 plus warranty 1st Blaine, 2nd Margaret, motion carried.**
 - g. Manse Landscaping needed to keep weeds under control – rock preferred. **Board approves.**
3. **CD money has been moved to Endowment Fund.**
4. Ongoing yard maintenance – **Pastor Deb reread email previously sent to Board. Board approves ongoing maintenance for initial \$300 then \$150 per month May-November 2021.**
5. Light replacements in hallway, classrooms, food pantry, family restroom, lounge. -Blaine
6. Fill open Board position ending December 2022.
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. – The area by the dumpster and basketball hoop has been fixed.
- B. Consider maintenance of the roof, sanctuary wall, kitchen leak. - 1) fixes spots on roof 2) replacing roof 3) Carport/Canopy

- C. Consider burying outside downspouts.
- D. Consider replacing the pew seat cushions.

Mission/Ministry

- E. Consider local and worldly mission outreach including both denominations church camps
- F. 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.

- G. Consider needs the manse may have such as AC/furnace, carpet, windows, shower in master bathroom and other plumbing structures.
- H. 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 – Lori
- 3. Birds nest in bricks by raised bed area- Lori

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Katie’s summer plans: work from 1-3pm Mon-Fri. Attend Synod School July 25-30, family vacation August 7-14.
- 2. White freezer in back of kitchen by storage room where Bret keeps mops has been having problems with freezing and leakage. Pam said that Food Pantry has the funds to purchase a new freezer to replace it. She confirmed that the church would have usage of it as well as the food pantry. Requesting approval to remove and put in new freezer at food pantry's expense. **Board gives its blessing for Food Pantry to buy a new freezer both the Food Pantry and church will use.**
- 3. Proline Striping by Dan Novak in Muscatine is wondering if the church is wanting a quote for striping the parking lot this year. Last time it was done was 2016 by ProLine Striping (Dan Novak). **Lori will ask Dan Novak for a bid.**
- 4. Vacation Bible School – **We will do a 3 day VBS the first week of August.**
- 5. Children’s hallway mural – **Pastor Deb would like to have it updated to reflect our community.**

ADJOURNMENT/PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED CLOSING PRAYER/NEXT MEETING August 5, 2021 at 6:30pm. No meeting in July.



Birthdays in July

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Kaden Brooks | 15 JoAnne Akers |
| 3 Bill Laughlin | 19 Matthew Kelly |
| 6 Lisa Newcomb | 19 Patty Laughlin |
| 8 Levi Larson | 20 Skylar Simon |
| 9 Calli Jo Deahr | 21 Kara Wieland |
| 9 Jeff Wiele | 25 Porter Maurer |
| 9 Kristin Smith | 25 Maeli Galvan |
| 10 Kevin Minor | 28 Letha Ottaway |
| 14 Wayne Noring | 30 Janet Woody |
| 14 Bill Koellner | 30 Eliza Probst |
| 14 Joseph Delgado | |



Anniversaries in July

- 7 Rob & Brenda Miller
- 19 Bill & Patty Laughlin
- 20 Joe & Dinette Myers
- 30 Leon & Mary Larson



Birthdays in August

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Norma Minor | 19 Wilbert Wendt |
| 2 Maddex Maurer | 22 Madelyn Deahr |
| 5 Ashley Gardenier | 23 Hannah Campbell |
| 5 Amrita Giri | 24 Mary Pat Brooke |
| 5 Jared Deahr | 25 Lenny Larson |
| 7 Aditi Giri | 25 Rayleigh Reed |
| 8 Bob Foor | 26 Todd Koellner |
| 8 Mike Gardenier | 26 Ty Brooks |
| 11 Marshall Delgado | 29 Paxton Maurer |
| 14 Courtney Crees | 30 Tom Woody |
| 14 Karli Galvan | |

August Anniversaries

- 1 Darren & Lori Brooke
- 18 Roger & Heidi Morrison
- 23 Keith & Margaret Barnhart
- 25 Wilbert & Mary Wendt
- 26 Mark & Missy Johnson
- 27 Joe & JoAnne Akers
- 29 Todd & Nicolette Woodburn

