



FIRST CHURCH UNITED

1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776

Office - (319) 627-2989

Pastor, Rev. Deborah Mann

Secretary, Katie Thrasher

October 2021

From the heart of Pastor Deb . . .

Thinking today of the song lyrics from
Nicole Nordeman's "Every Season"

*". . . I will offer thanks for what has been
and what's to come . . ."*

Sometimes we need to take a moment to reflect on all that has happened and rejoice that God is already with us in the what's to come. Time to carve out those special moments for reflection on God's goodness throughout all of life. My kids knew growing up that in the month of October, mom was going to *suggest* a 'fall foliage' drive. The schedules rarely made it easy for us to plan, so we just had to snatch up those precious moments and do it for the good of our souls and mental well-being. We always came back after just a few short hours, laughing, relaxed and recharged. Who doesn't love the crunch and color of Autumn leaves and roaring bonfires? Or maybe the joy of picking pumpkins or apples, or smelling sweet hot cider or tasting cider donuts? As we begin to embrace this new season, let us remember to stop and lift up prayers of gratitude for all that God has done and will continue to do in our personal lives, our communities, our church and our world. Let us be generous with our praise and humble gratitude.

Last week we returned to Sunday School and WOW this Wednesday. CYG has also started off well. 27 kids have already participated, and our music ministry team is growing. Each teenager was given a personal Bible and bookmarks outlining our program. In addition to the great work in the past, we have 4 pastors helping with the teaching as well as experienced cube leaders. We are also blessed with dedicated board members and those who have assisted with food and games. I am so pleased to work alongside a church family that is passionate about helping our children grow their faith. On the

10th, we will present Bibles to our youth and on the 17th, we will have a special Robe Dedication service celebrating this generous new gift. As we make our way further into the season, there will be more opportunities for fellowship and gathering safely. Already we have a Bible Study that is offered on zoom.

Yes, we have much to be thankful for in what is past and what will be. Our past, our present and our future lies in the loving hands of a very generous and faithful God. I pray that we too, will be faithful and generous in our praise back to God. Take some time this season to hit the stop button and pause for a few moments of quiet reflection. Your soul will be glad it did.

With a grateful heart - Pastor Deb

Colossians 3:15-17 ¹⁵ *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.* ¹⁶ *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.* ¹⁷ *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father*

CHURCH RECORD		
September 2021		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
September 5	\$625	42
September 12	\$685	35
September 19	\$1,477	58
September 26	\$645	57

UPCOMING SERVICES
Sunday, Oct. 10th - Bible presentation
Sunday, Oct. 17th – Robe Dedication

Please mail your offering
to our Financial Secretary
 Dinette Myers
 1244 Country Heights Lane
 West Liberty, IA 52776.

OCTOBER LECTIONARY

Advent Year B	First reading	Psalms	Second reading	Gospel
Proper 22 (27) October 3, 2021	Job 1:1, 2:1-10 Psalm 26	Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
Proper 23 (28) October 10, 2021	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
Proper 24 (29) October 17, 2021	Job 38:1-7, (34-41) Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c	Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
Proper 25 (30) October 24, 2021	Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
Proper 26 (31) October 31, 2021	Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146	Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Psalm 119:1-8	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34

MUSIC NOTES

We're back in full force! There is not a single Sunday in October without a choir to help lead the service. How great is that?! See our active schedule below.

- Sunday, Oct. 3:** CHANCEL CHOIR
- Wed., Oct. 6:** Chime Choir, 7:00 to 7:45
Chancel Choir, 7:45 to 8:30
- Sunday, Oct. 10:** CHIME CHOIR
- Wed., Oct. 13:** (same as Oct. 6)
- Sunday, Oct. 17:** CHANCEL CHOIR
- Wed., Oct. 20:** (same as Oct. 6)
- Sunday, Oct. 24:** CHANCEL CHOIR
- Wed., Oct. 27:** (same as Oct. 6)
- Sunday, Oct. 31:** CHIME CHOIR

CHURCH WORKERS SIGN UP SHEETS

are on the buffet in the Fellowship Hall for October and November. Please sign up to help by being either an usher, greeter, PowerPoint person or candlelighter.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER

- Sunday School begins Sunday, Oct. 3
- WOW resumes Oct. 6 from 5:30-7:00
- Bible Presentation for Youth Sunday, Oct. 10
- Noisy Offering will be collected each week beginning Sunday, Oct. 17
- CYG (COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUP)
Sunday's from 5-7p.m. at First Church United. All youth are welcome in grades 6-12. Oct. 24 there will be a Hayrack ride and Bonfire at West Liberty Christian Fellowship. No CYG on Oct. 31.

**NEW SOCIAL PROGRAM TO START:
"LUNCH LADIES"**

Jan Koellner and Pastor Deb will be hosting a new program for those ladies who have been missing socializing with their 'gal pals' in the church. We would like all those who can join us to bring a sack lunch and meet in fellowship hall on Tuesday, Oct. 26th at 11:00. am. This will give us a chance to visit with one another, have some fun and find out what you would like to do. We will practice social distancing. Hope you can come.

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

September 2, 2021 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER by Board Chair Dean Phelps.
Those in attendance are Margaret Barnhart, Blaine Kelly, Karen Nortman, Brenda Wright, Letha Ottaway, Lori Brooke, Pastor Deb, and Treasurer Keith Barnhart.
OPEN IN PRAYER by Pastor Deb
APPROVAL OF DOCKET add work on canopy.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES motion to approve minutes from August 1st Blaine, 2nd Margaret.
Motion is approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT Keith reports the budget line for Deacon's funds is negative and Keith asks for the Endowment committee to consider \$200 to help fund that line for the rest of the year. Had a great month for receipts, best month of the year so far. Bills are paid. Motion to approve Treasurer's report 1st Blaine, 2nd Karen, motion is approved.

Start of August balance	\$1,336.90
Receipts	\$20,582.98
Sub Total	\$21,919.88
Disbursements	\$14,930.06
Ending Balance	\$6,989.82
Board Checking balance (19,477.68)	

UPDATES

1. Sound/Visual Committee – **estimate for equipment emailed to Board. Estimate total = \$4,413. Motion to move forward with approving the livestreaming equipment 1st Blaine, 2nd Margaret. Money can be used from the Watters Estate fund. Motion is approved.**

PASTOR'S AUG REPORT/CHILDREN'S REPORT

What a fun month we had in August celebrating our children's activities!

- We had an outdoor service, played bells together and enjoyed a potluck afterward.
- The first week in August we had a wonderfully charged VBS hi-lighting 'Jesus Rescues' us (no matter how we are feeling or what we have done). The kids and helpers were super to work with and everyone seemed to have great fun.
- Two weeks later we were off to a good start with WOW, but due to the rising safety concerns we had to put a temporary hold on this children's ministry (for now).
- Our CYG youth group also had their Registration / Fun night. While the numbers seemed low in comparison to previous years, we celebrate that 7 churches were represented from the area and half of the group were first timers.
- As the start of school drew closer, we had the blessing of the backpacks for kids and staff members. The service also included a puppet show written and performed by Lori Brooke
- Good news - almost everything has been completed from the Clean Up project! The rooms look so clean

and fresh with the new furniture, paint, blinds, clean carpets / registers and wall decorations -bulletin boards. Again, a HUGE thank you to Jodi, Blaine and Lee Ann for putting in a great many hours towards this undertaking and to all those who helped in any way. It was indeed a group effort and most definitely a Labor of Love. The kids love it!!

- This month I also worked with Todd Woodburn, who added the new wall mural of Jesus and the children. I believe this picture truly captures the essence of our church. All are loved by Jesus and welcomed into the family of faith.
- Along with planning and putting in many hours to complete the above, work was done with the WL Index and endowment committee to begin running a monthly ad supporting the Latino Culture page. I believe this is an important outreach in our community and great visibility.
- Administered to the needs of our church family and community through office and counseling - visiting responsibilities and helping fulfill requests as needed.
- Mike Kindred preached on 1 Sunday while I attended an out-of-town family wedding.
- Followed up with emails, text, calls and denominational meetings and correspondence.
- Was able to do an outdoor service for Simpson Home due to current safety restrictions.

Thank you again for your continued support and encouragement. Pastor Deb.

Deb requests Sept. 24 off, Sept. 13-15 off for Pastor's retreat at CCC, Oct. 1-2 for All Congregational meeting. Deb is going to set up a list for Deacons to start calling and writing again

Consensus of the Board is to wait a couple weeks to see how Covid affects the community before we decide when WOW and Sunday school begins.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Children's hallway -done
2. Manse
 - a. Manse front step railing - **Dillon Brooke**
 - b. Door handle in garage – **done**
 - c. Extra dirt around Manse east side - **Bob Dewar/Lori**
 - d. Trim around the garage and some other areas – **Darren Brooke**

3. Light replacements in hallway, classrooms, food pantry, family restroom, lounge, test outlets -Bid from Kessler emailed to Board – **Blaine will talk to Jim Kiwala about getting an additional quote to compare prices.**
4. Roof/Carport Update – **Blaine spoke with our engineer who said the carport/canopy can be done without an engineer. He’s going to speak with Ken Morrison next week to see what his thoughts are and see about plans. The roof still needs to be recalced to stop the leaks and Blaine will ask Jim Kiwala to help him do this once the weather cools off. Insulation is needed above the ceiling to help stop condensation from damaging the Fellowship Hall and kitchen each winter.**
5. Bathroom plumbing – **Darren is going to meet with Lynch’s after Labor Day to look at the bathroom plumbing and discuss solutions.**
6. Needs Assessment

Mission/Ministry

- a. Consider local and worldly mission outreach including both denominations church camps – **remove.**
- b. 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. – **The Salvation Army has been helping over the last year or so but, sadly, our friend, Pastor Jacque McCoy passed away suddenly. We hope to continue working with the Salvation Army after they work out staffing concerns.**

Future Maintenance.

- c. Consider future needs the manse may have such as floors, carpet, windows. – **Board would like Pastor Deb to get quotes on flooring options at this time.**
- d. 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. – **remove**

Future project ideas

- e. Improve parking lot
- f. Bury outside downspouts.
- g. Replace pew seat cushions.

Trustee Work to be done –

1. Church soffits need to be refilled with foam – Lori
2. Birds nest in bricks by raised bed area. – Lori
3. Dirt around front of the church along the sidewalk - Lori

NEW BUSINESS

1. Use of PowerPoint in the Sanctuary – **Pastor Deb and Katie will start working on when the best time is to start using PowerPoint again during worship.**
2. Pastor Deb’s hours – **Pastor Deb works 9-4p.m in the office (unless out in the community). Hours will be updated on correspondence.**
3. Sunday School – **we are going to hold off on starting Sunday School for a few weeks same as we are with WOW due to Covid concerns.**
4. First Church United in Person Worship/Church guidelines – **Board reviewed our current guidelines and agreed to leave the guidelines as is. Those guidelines are:**

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.*

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER by Pastor Deb

NEXT MEETING October 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. by

Zoom



October

- 1 Darren Brooke
- 3 Troy Myers
- 4 Mark Johnson
- 6 Carolyn Probst
- 10 Christina Newcomb
- 11 Heidi Morrison
- 14 Tricia Lehman
- 14 Alice Thrasher
- 15 James Laughlin
- 20 Janice Stites
- 21 Jaime Galvan
- 21 Jeremiah Smith
- 23 Janey Gingerich
- 24 Shirley Sterner
- 24 Tom Probst
- 25 Brady Elder
- 27 Cale Brooks
- 29 Gia Galvan
- 30 Missy Johnson
- 30 Holly Gingerich



- ❖ Flour
- ❖ sugar
- ❖ canned soups

COMING SOON

Stewardship Campaign

Directory Updates



October

- 13 Bob & Marcy Dewar
- 28 Jeff & Tasha Wiele
- 28 Caleb & Kelly Waters

