



# FIRST CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

November 2021

## Mark your Calendar

November

14<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Dedication

21<sup>st</sup> Hanging of the Green  
following worship

28<sup>th</sup> Advent Begins

December

5<sup>th</sup> Children's Christmas  
Program during worship

12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Cantata &  
readings

12<sup>th</sup> CYG Live Nativity & service

24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service  
9:00p.m.

## Reminder

**Bring Your Loose Coins  
To Church** for the children's  
noisy offering.

**CYG Sunday Nights** at  
FCU 5-7p.m.

**Children's WOW** each  
Wednesday from 5:30-  
7:00p.m.

## From the heart of Pastor Deb

My daily inspiration calendar yesterday was 'it's about relationships, not religion'. How very true! As we listen to members of our church share their stories about what First Church United has meant to them, our hearts are warmed. We are reminded of the positive nature of strong faith communities. Healthy communities that build one another up and offer encouragement to grow and stretch. Lately, I have been seeing individuals step out of their secure spaces and take on new responsibilities or broadening their current ones. Family members are feeling compelled to go just a little bit farther or deeper, moving down the road of their faith journeys. As we begin our stewardship campaign for 2022, I pray that we all take a few more courageous steps to follow where the loving hand of God leads. Beyond what we can give financially, I pray that we are also doing some soul searching to see where God can use our gifts. Talents that are unique to each of us. While you may sing, we do not all sound the same. While you may enjoy artwork, each piece is seen differently in the eye of the beholder. No matter what age or what talent, God continues to have purpose for our lives. We ALL matter in the kingdom of God. Our stories matter. Our lives matter. Our shared gifts matter. Not only what my legacy will be for the future, but what my legacy is right now. Am I taking special care to nurture and build that legacy? Where do my passions lie for this church and God's people? Church family, as we continue to move forward. let us stay focused on God's purpose for our lives and our ministries. Let us continue to give thanks for all that God has done and find ways to grow those relationships and strengthen our faith community. Our cup of blessings truly runneth over . . .

In gratitude and praise for all of you, Pastor Deb

## MUSIC NOTES

There are SO many things to be thankful for this year, not the least of which is worshipping together and feeling blest and inspired by sacred music - live! Here is the Music Ministry's vast and varied November agenda.

**Wed., Nov. 3:**

**Chime Choir - 7:00 to 7:45  
Chancel Choir - 7:45 to 8:30**

**Sun., Nov. 7:**

**An instrumental duet and  
CHANCEL CHOIR  
(Turn your clocks back!)**

**Wed., Nov. 10: (same as Nov. 3)**

**Sun., Nov. 14: CHANCEL CHOIR**

**Wed., Nov. 17: (same as Nov. 3)**

**Sun., Nov. 21, a.m.:**

**"Thanksgiving Sunday"  
CHIME CHOIR**

**Nov. 21, p.m.: Possibly CHIME  
CHOIR during Holiday Open  
House**

**Wed., Nov. 24:**

**Thanksgiving Vacation - NO  
CHOIR REHEARSALS**

**Sun., Nov. 28:**

**First Sunday of Advent  
CHANCEL CHOIR**

## *Lunch Ladies*

We had so much fun just visiting with one another while eating our sack lunches, we decided to continue meeting monthly. Plan on joining us the 4th Tuesday of every month at 11:00 am (or after) in a relaxed atmosphere. Nothing required, just bring lunch for yourself. We meet in the fellowship hall for around an hour and a half. You are welcome to bring a friend or two from the community. They do not need to attend our church. Our next gathering will be Tuesday, Nov. 23rd. See you then.

## *CYG*

We will be hosting a community worship service and live nativity on Sunday, Dec 12th beginning at 4:00 pm. Bring friends and gather together in worship as we support the CYG community and enjoy light refreshments.

CYG will not meet Dec. 12-January

## *Stewardship Dedication*

Our theme for this year is Families and Legacy. Several have been sharing their faith stories during worship. Commitment letters have gone out for the year 2022. If you have not received one, please stop by the office as there are extras on Katie's desk. Once completed, you will need to mail or drop off both forms in the self-addressed envelope for Dinette Myers. One is for the stewardship pledge and the other is to update our records and new directory. If you have a special request or a talent to share, there is a place listed for that as well. Only Dinette will see the financial portion. Reminder if you give through direct deposit, you will need to fill out a new form each year. Please return both forms by Monday Nov 8th so that we can dedicate our pledges on Sunday, Nov 14th. We appreciate your help and generosity in assisting our church ministry needs.

## *Thank you*

Thank you to those who have shared their faith stories during this year's stewardship campaign.

## *Hanging Of the Greens*

Join us Sunday, Nov 21st following worship to begin preparing the church for the Advent season.

## *In Sympathy*

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Jay Steen, the Morrie Noble family, and the Dean Morrison family

## *Community Outreach*

Voluntary Action Council is accepting donations of hats, gloves, socks, and underwear to help people in our community. These donations will be distributed to the schools and Christmas Box program. There is a basket in the church narthex for collection. All items must be brought in by Friday, Dec. 10.

## *Youth In Action*

WOW has been active in preparing the children's Christmas program. We hope you will join us on Sunday Dec. 5 during the regular worship for this year's program.

### WOW Mission Projects

**Locally** – We are collecting cereal boxes for our Food Pantry to help fill the Christmas Boxes.

**Globally** – The children are collecting a Noisy Offering during November for Heifer International to purchase animals for families in other countries.

## WOW

A special thank you to all the helpers who have been pitching in weekly to help make this a successful ministry. Please note that we will not be meeting on November 24th, or December 22nd or 29th due to the holiday break.

### Birthdays in November

1 Chloe Gardenier  
5 Todd Woodburn  
6 Marilyn Ruegsegger  
6 Angie Brooke  
6 Cindy Hambright  
9 Brittney Harned  
12 Holly Jacobs  
16 Emily Reed  
19 Brenda Wright  
22 Scott Brooke  
24 Leon Larson  
25 Brent Parizek  
29 Ken Wright

### Anniversaries in November

3 Todd & Rachel Morrison  
10 Rolo & Jaime Galvan  
10 Brent & Merideth Parizek  
27 Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

### CHURCH RECORD

#### October 2021

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
October 3	\$1,290	35
October 10	\$3,367	52
October 17	\$1,535	53
October 24	\$969	43
October 31	\$1,487	54

# OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

October 7, 2021 6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Call to order by Vice Chair Susan Deahr. In attendance were Margaret Barnhart, Karen Nortman, Brenda Wright, Letha Ottaway, Blaine Kelly, Pastor Deb, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, Secretary Katie Thrasher.

**OPEN IN PRAYER** by Pastor Deb

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET** add – mask consideration. Move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Blaine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brenda, motion is approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Blaine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret, motion is approved.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith reports he paid the annual membership of CCLI, the background check account, Blaine for the new registers, Lee Ann Maas for computer hook ups, the ProLine striping for the parking lot lines, subscription for Childrens worship bulletins. We are above about \$3,000 in receipts from last year and also above about \$15,000 in expenditures. Endowment Interest check came in and is deposited \$5, 486.47. Motion to approve Treasure's Report 1<sup>st</sup> Blaine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen, motion is approved.

Start of September balance	\$6,989.82
Receipts	\$17,733.83
Sub Total	\$24,723.65
Disbursements	\$19,510.03
Ending Balance	\$5,213.62
Board checking balance (\$23,503.88)	

## PASTOR'S REPORT

### ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Manse
  - a. Manse front step railing – **Pastor Deb will speak with Dillon Brooke**
  - b. Extra dirt around Manse east side/retaining wall – **Pastor Deb spoke with Bob Dewar and the retaining wall will need some attention this spring. Extra dirt around the manse is done.**
  - c. Trim around the garage and some other areas – **Pastor Deb will speak with Darren Brooke**
  - d. Dryer – **Darren Brooke fixed the dryer.**
2. Light replacements in hallway, classrooms, food pantry, family restroom, lounge, test outlets – 2<sup>nd</sup> bid by PJ Baltisberger. **Motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> option in the bid by PJ Baltisberger of \$9,165. 1<sup>st</sup> Blaine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Letha, motion is approved. Board moves for Keith to pay the bill out of Watters Fund 1<sup>st</sup> Blaine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brenda, motion is approved. Blaine will speak with PJ to let him know.**
3. Roof/Carport Update – **Blaine has his company working on a drawing of a carport for Ken Morrison to see. Once that is done Blaine will get more information. Blaine will talk with Ken Wright for a bid on the work for the carport/canopy as well.**
4. Bathroom plumbing – tabled.
5. Needs Assessment
  - Mission/Ministry
    - A. 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. – Salvation Army is searching for someone to fill the position and will be in contact when they have hired someone.**
  - Future Maintenance.
    - B. Consider needs the manse may have such as floors, carpet, windows. – update from Pastor Deb. Pastor Deb went to Pine Tree interiors for a sample. Troy came out to get measurements. Troy will submit a bid. Pastor Deb will ask for another bid from someone as well so we can compare options.**

Will be brought up at a later date

- C. Improve parking lot
- D. Bury outside downspouts.
- E. Replace pew seat cushions – **the seats may be unscrewed to be able to be cleaned/replaced. Jodi found a place in Des Moines that does church pews. Pastor Deb will ask other Pastors which companies they have worked with before. Board agrees to table this till January/February.**

#### **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. Christian Education Director position – **The Board thanks Jason for his years of service and dedication. Susan will talk to Jodi and the personnel committee.**
- 2. From our local liaison for Family Resources and Survivor Advocates- I'm writing on behalf of the Prevent Violence Coalition out of Muscatine. We are a group that do various activities and awareness events to help kids in the surrounding counties and one of those things was to build Activity Boxes. These are kind of like a "Little Library" but instead of books, it's a take or leave station for seasonal activities that promote family unity, like bubbles, puzzles, hoola hoops, games, etc... Would First Church United be open to having an Activity Box on site? – **Board asks for more information and will vote via email after they have read about the program.**
- 3. Mask use in the church – **Karen asks the church use masks while in the church to follow the CDC guidelines. We will adhere to current guidelines and revisit this discussion as needed.**
- 4. **Coffee Hour – will ask in a survey if the congregation is ready to start having coffee hour after each service.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED**

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**NEXT MEETING** November 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom

\*Board voted by email to approve Family Resources and Survivor Advocates to place an Activity Box on the church grounds. Katie will communicate with Family Resources and Survivor Advocates about timing and placement.

FIRST CHURCH UNITED  
1100 N. Calhoun St., West Liberty, IA 52776

Phone: Church Office 319-627-2989  
Email: firstchurchunited@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 4:00-6:00p.m.  
Pastor's Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 :00-4:00p.m.

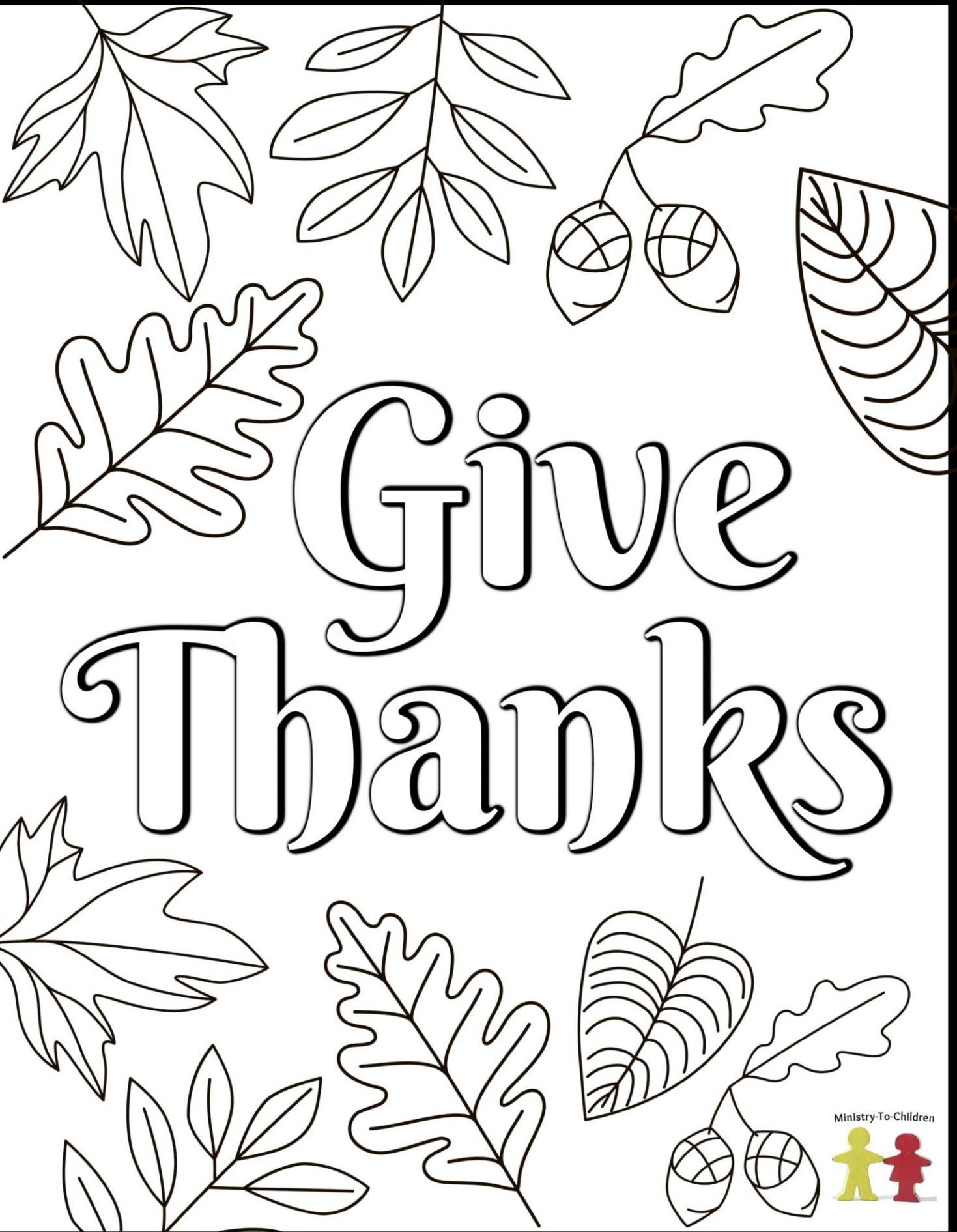


## November 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1.	2. Election Day Pastor Deb out of the office 11/2-11/6	3. 10:00 Ministerial Assoc. meeting WOW 5:30-7:00 Choir Practice Chime Choir, 7:00 Chancel Choir, 7:45	4. 6:00p.m. Food Pantry Board Meeting 6:30pm	5.	6. 9:00 Food Pantry Mobile Clinic 2-4p.m. 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists 9-12, 5-7pm
7. 8:45-9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Duet, Chancel Choir 10:15 Children's Sunday School 5:00 CYG at WLCF – Hayrack ride and bonfire	8.	9.	10. WOW 5:30-7:00 Choir Practice Chime Choir, 7:00 Chancel Choir, 7:45	11. 12:00 Cluster meeting 6:00p.m. Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Aquarius meeting	12. Simpson Home service	13. 9:00 Food Pantry 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists 9-12, 5-7pm
14. 8:45-9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Chancel Choir, Stewardship Commitment Dedication 10:15 Children's Sunday School 11:30-5:00 Take Away Hunger packing event 5:00 CYG at FCU	15.	16.	17. WOW 5:30-7:00 Choir Practice Chime Choir, 7:00 Chancel Choir, 7:45	18. 12:00 Quilt Group 6:00p.m. Food Pantry	19.	20. 9:00 Food Pantry 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists 9-12, 5-7pm
21. 8:45-9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Chime Choir, "Thanksgiving Sunday" 10:15 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Hanging of the Greens following worship Holiday Open House	22.	23. 11:00 Lunch Ladies	24. No school	25. No school Thanksgiving Day 	26. No school	27. 9:00 Food Pantry 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists 9-12, 5-7pm
First Sunday of 28. Advent 8:45-9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Chancel Choir 10:15 Children's Sunday School	29. 6:30pm TTT Christmas Party	30.				

# Give Thanks



**FIRST CHURCH UNITED**  
**1100 North Calhoun Street**  
**West Liberty, Iowa 52776**

*MISSION STATEMENT*

OF

*FIRST CHURCH UNITED*

**God has called First Church United into being as a family, with close and personal relationships, dedicated to God's work and Christ's teachings. We are committed to sharing the good news of the gospel with the local and world communities by reaching out in service to everyone's needs.**