



FIRST CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

January 2022

Mark your Calendar

January

15th Mobile Health Clinic 2-4p.m.

16th Annual Meeting following
the service

25th Lunch ladies 11:00a.m.

Reminder

CYG Sunday Nights at
FCU 5-7p.m. CYG will meet
Jan. 9 at West Liberty
Christian Fellowship.

Children's WOW will
resume Jan. 5 from
5:30-7:00p.m.

No Choir practice this
January.

From the heart of Pastor Deb...

HAPPY New Year's is my blessing prayer for each of you. Even amidst heartache and sadness, happy moments can be found through shared love and joy in community. This year we want to celebrate life in the church as we follow faithfully the Star of our Savior. We want to continue offering hope, warmth and hospitality to all who come through our doors. The winter months can be especially challenging for those who are hurting and alone. In a few weeks we will begin our 13 week GriefShare program for those who have lost loved ones. We will also see the return of our youth ministries, WOW and CYG. I look forward to hearing their energy again as we find new ways to help grow our children's faith. As we continue to use our shared gifts in reaching out to our community, I pray that we will find an abundance of laughter and love along the way. May our hearts ring out with the gladness of Peace and Joy as we move into 2022 with great expectations and hopefulness. We serve a Mighty God, who will do great things through us if we respond faithfully. Let us celebrate and give thanks for these opportunities. HAPPY 2022 - Love Pastor Deb

"Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!" Matthew 25:21 (CEV)

MUSIC NOTES

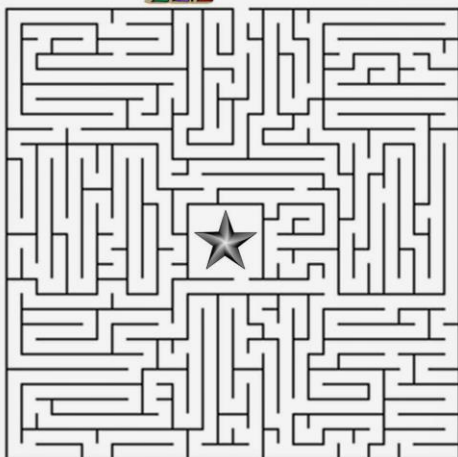
January Chill or a January Thaw, you won't have to worry about whether or not there will be choir rehearsals. We will not sing, play, or even rehearse until Feb. (Let this break be a reminder of how grateful we are to be *able* to have choirs again this year!)

New Year Blessings to All of You!



Christmas Maze

Can you help the wise men follow the star to find Jesus?



<http://sunday-schoollessons.blogspot.com/>

Lunch Ladies

Our next gathering is January 25 at 11:00 am. Bring your lunch and a friend.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes will be offered in the new year for all those in 6th grade and older interested in joining the membership of the church. Please contact the office with their names to help in our planning.

GriefShare

Church community, we are grateful to announce that First Church United will be offering GriefShare classes (at no cost) for anyone in the community who is struggling with the death of a loved one(s). This can be from either recent or past losses. The 13 week support group program is designed to help people heal from the pain of grief. We will begin our first class on Tuesday, January 11th from 6:30-8:00 pm. and run through April 5th, barring any weather changes. Please register online at griefshare.org and type in our zip code to Find a Group or pick up a registration form at the church. We look forward to accompanying you on "Your Journey From Mourning to Joy" program.

Voluntary Action Council

The West Liberty Action Council wants to thank all of the individuals and groups who helped make the annual Christmas distribution successful. One hundred twenty seven families from the West Liberty School District received Christmas boxes December 17-18. Eighty two families with a total of two hundred three children received food boxes and toy sacks. Fruit sacks were given to forty senior citizens. More than two hundred coats and winter wear were distributed December 4-5 at Saint Joseph's Parish Life Center.

This event wouldn't be possible without the help from the following: the Ministerial Association for organizing the church drives for winter wear, socks and underwear, the local schools who conducted food drives, individuals and groups who donated food, toiletries and money to purchase supplies and toys, Star Tree gift donors, the West Liberty State Bank and MidWestOne for the Star Tree locations, Rotary coat drive, Aquarius help with toys, First Church United for the use of their facility, people who phoned recipients to schedule appointments, Lions and Rotary drivers who helped with deliveries, Girl Scouts who bagged personal items, and volunteers who sorted the food contributions and packed boxes. Pam Schnittjer as well as Ron and Rhonda Jensen did a lot of work ahead of time to make sure this event went smoothly.



WOW

WOW (stands for Worship on Wednesdays) kids from Preschool to 5th grade come to participate in games, crafts, a lesson, music and a meal from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We have FUN, FUN, FUN learning about God.

First Church United had their Children's Christmas Program Dec.5, 2021 and would like to thank the children for the "Super" job that they did to make it a wonderful success. We would also like to thank the parents and other church members for making sure the children got to practice, had help with their parts and assisted with the costumes. A special thanks goes to Emily Reed for the great job she did in directing the program and Lisa Murphy for co-directing, the whole team did a great job.

Dec. 8, 2021 was WOW's "Fun Night" for the kids. We watched a movie, ate pizza and popcorn and did some crafts. Thank you, Alice Thrasher, for helping out with the crafts. It was a good time had by all.

WOW is on break for the rest of December and will start meeting again **Jan.5, 2022** from **5:30pm to 7:00pm** to start an exciting new year.

CYG

Thank you for supporting CYG during our Community Worship, Fellowship time, and Live Nativity on December 12.

CHURCH RECORD		
December 2021		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
December 5	\$1,827.25	124
December 12	\$2,402	59
December 19	\$7,814.75	69
December 24		61
December 26	\$903	32

Birthdays in January

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Marvin Irwin | 11 Diane Brown |
| 1 Mary Wendt | 11 Ken Harned |
| 3 Tom Brooke | 12 Lori Brooke |
| 3 Sandy Henderson | 16 Pat Brooke |
| 3 Karen Nortman | 17 Tiffany Schieffer |
| 5 Barb Irwin | 23 Hazel Simon |
| 5 Susan Deahr | 24 Syd Harned |
| 6 Kendall Elder | 26 Gary Hahn |
| 7 Joseph Akers | 27 Scott Barnhart |
| 7 Katherine Brooks | 27 Ryan Noble |
| 9 Tom Brown | 27 Vincent Wolfe |
| 9 Mark Irwin | 29 Bob Dewar |
| 9 Josh Gingerich | |
| 10 Evelyn Wilkerson | |
| 10 Perry Lehman | |
| 10 Samantha Noble | |

Anniversaries in January

- 2 Tom & Carolyn Probst
- 3 Ken & Syd Harned

Sunday School

Sunday School starts every Sunday after the children's sermon in the adult service; and then the children depart to their classroom for about 20min. to learn a lesson and then return for communion in the adult service.

Jan. 2,2022, this Sunday, we will be learning more about the Magi. Each Sunday in January the kids will be learning something new and will have time for a game or a craft. First Church United welcomes all children to participate in Sunday School and hopes that we can enjoy learning about Jesus together.

Sharing Our Faith Together,
Lee Ann Maas
Director of Youth Ministries

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

December 2, 2021 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Board Dean Phelps. Those in attendance were Karen Nortman, Brenda Wright, Susan Deahr, Lori Brooke, Margaret Barnhart, Pastor Deb, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, and Secretary Katie Thrasher

OPEN IN PRAYER by Pastor Deb

APPROVAL OF DOCKET motion to approve the docket 1st Margaret, 2nd Lori, motion is passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES motion to approve minutes 1st Susan, 2nd Lori, motion is passed

TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith reports it was a good month for receipts. Received about \$13,000 in receipts. He also had moved \$2,500 from savings to checking to cover checks early in the month. Had a rebate from our insurance company of \$74 and \$100 check from MidWestOne for Chimes playing at the Holiday Open House. Keith put the MidWestOne check into the Choir and Music supply line. Bills were all paid. Bill for Take Away Hunger was paid, there is money left over and Pastor Deb says CYG will have a packing day in the near future. Manse toilet and dryer were fixed, Keith paid Katie back for purchasing the new office copier.

Almost 95% of pledges have been received. 69% total of contributions have been received. Our expenditures are at about 86% for the year.

Start of November balance	\$2,227.83
Receipts	\$19,490.44
Sub Total	\$21,718.27
Disbursements	\$14,923.23
Ending Balance	\$6,795.04
Board checking balance (\$21,976.84)	

Board discussed 2022 budget - motion to present the budget worked out at tonight's meeting to the congregation 1st Susan, 2nd Lori, motion is passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT November

November has flown by with preparing regular services along with CYG community worship/ live nativity, Blue Christmas, honoring our veterans, Stewardship / Dedication and Thanksgiving services. I feel we are almost back in the church's regular activities with the return of coffee hour, offering plates, and ministry and music programming. The Lunch Ladies group doubled in size this month. Everyone loves the idea of simple fellowship. I am grateful to Jan K for bringing the need before me. Besides my regular office duties and monthly meetings, I have worked with PJ on addressing the electrical needs project, Pam on the Christmas Gift Boxes, Todd for the new outreach window and many others regarding pastoral care, counseling, planning and financial assistance. The craftroom has had new countertops installed and walls freshly painted. CYG and WOW programs have continued to do well. I have been working on the mission trip for CYG (in addition to regular meetings) with the board to get communication out to parents and finances lined up. We held a hayrack ride and bonfire. WOW was busy with our mission projects for Heifer International and Cereal Boxes for Food Pantry, working on our Christmas program and helping Lee Ann to get settled into her new position as Director of Youth Ministries. Father Guillermo and myself have been alternating services at Simpson until others feel comfortable going back in. I also attended the nominations meeting and worked with the music committee on Advent season plans. Bulletin boards were decorated and I helped with Thanksgiving and Hanging of the Greens. I spoke with the newspaper to update our ad for the Latino Culturo page with Advent plans and put an ad in for the Blue Christmas service. Lee Ann has been busy helping me to finish the new banners for display and two weeks ago, I assisted in a colleague's ordination and attended the Jazz Concert at the H.S. to support the CYG kids. Katie and I continue to work on the new format for the newsletter and together we sent out with help from Bill and Dinette, our stewardship mailings and reminders for finances and directory updates. With the growing families, there is much excitement in the air. It feels like we are on the right path.

Respectfully submitted - Pastor Deb Mann

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Manse
 - b. Manse retaining wall – tabled till spring
 - c. Trim around the garage and some other areas – tabled till spring

d. Flooring bid - **Pastor Deb brought in a sample of the flooring from Pine Tree flooring. With a bid of \$16,295. Motion to approve the offer from Pine Tree interiors for \$16,295 1st Lori B, 2nd Margaret, motion is approved. Pastor Deb will ask that they start in January.**

1. Light replacements in hallway, classrooms, food pantry, family restroom, lounge, test outlets – **completed**
2. Roof - leak in the Sanctuary by the window. Insulation in ceiling needed prior to winter?
 - a. Letter of Concern from Syd Harned
3. Carport Update – **Board asks Ken Wright to get ahold of Blaine.**
4. Bathroom plumbing update - **Lori reports that Dillon and Lynch Plumbing were at the church and looked in the pipes with cameras. There is a t-shirt or towel stuck in a pipe at the moment. Plan A- They will jet water into the pipes to see if they can clear it from the outside. Plan B- If that does not work, they will have to go through the church and throughout the building. They would add clean outs if that needs to happen. We hope plan A works.**
5. Activity Box placement on grounds, Little Library discussion - **Board agrees to place the activity box at the end of the church letterboard light up sign. Little library contents will be moved over, and box taken down.**
6. 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. – tabled
 - Future Maintenance.
 - B. Consider windows for the manse.- tabled till spring
 - Will be brought up at a later date
 - C. Improve parking lot - tabled till spring
 - D. Bury outside downspouts.- tabled till roof in Sanctuary is fixed
 - E. Replace pew seat cushions. 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 – done, needs another board inserted though.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Snow Removal bid from Dustin Bowers - Will tell Bowers not to use Salt on the driveway/parking lot.
2021 rates for snow removal
\$195 per trip plowing snow for all of parking lot and sidewalks
\$225 Salt/sand all of parking lot and sidewalks around building
Salt Sand may be subject to change due to supply and demand prices from any salt shortages.
Board proposes we use Dustin Bowers with the 2021 rates without salt on the parking lot and driveway. 1st Susan, 2nd Lori, motion is approved
2. Cross on front of church – light replacement needed. Bid from PJ Baltisberger.
Option 1 - move the bottom 2 lights up - \$400
Option 2 - All new lights with work, equipment rental, materials, hours \$3570
Option 3 - will give as soon as they get the other bid on lights.

Motion for PJ to replace the lights on the cross for \$3570 or below. 1st Margaret, 2nd Brenda, motion is carried.

3. Annual Meeting date – **January 16, 2022. Katie will start announcing next week.**
4. Katie will be out of town January 2-10.
5. Transportation needs for those attending church- **The Ministerial Association was approached with an idea to purchase a van from a company who ended up not using it for \$25,000, 22 person van. Motion to abstain from this offer 1st Lori, 2nd Susan. Board suggests a committee is set up to help with volunteer drivers for those in the congregation in need of transportation. Board will revisit this at a later time.**

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER by Pastor Deb

NEXT MEETING January 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom & in person

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.



January 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1. 9:00 Food Pantry Christmas Box packing in Fellowship Hall 7 th Day Adventists 9-12, 5-7pm
2. 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School	3.	4.	5. 10:00 Ministerial Assoc. meeting WOW 5:30-7:00	6. 6:00p.m. Food Pantry Board Meeting 6:30pm	7.	8. 9:00 Food Pantry 7 th Day Adventists 9-12, 5-7pm
9. 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School 5:00 CYG at WLCF	10.	11. Grief Share 6:30-8:00	12. WOW 5:30-7:00	13. 6:00p.m. Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Aquarius meeting	14. Simpson Home 10:00a.m.	15. 9:00 Food Pantry Mobile Health Clinic at FCU 2-4p.m. 7 th Day Adventists 9-12, 5-7pm
16. 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Annual Meeting 5:00 CYG at FCU	17.	18. Grief Share 6:30-8:00	19. WOW 5:30-7:00	20. Quilt Club 6:00 p.m. Food Pantry	21.	22. 9:00 Food Pantry 7 th Day Adventists 9-12, 5-7pm
23/30. 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School 5:00 CYG at FCU	24/31. Pastor Deb Minister's Institute 1-24/1-25 at CCC	25. 11:00 Lunch Ladies Grief Share 6:30-8:00	26. WOW 5:30-7:00 Pastor Deb Anti-Racist Training at CCC	27. 6:00 p.m. Food Pantry	28.	29. 9:00 Food Pantry 7 th Day Adventists 9-12, 5-7pm

PEANUT BUTTER GOODIES

From Laura Elder (First Church United)

2 lb package vanilla almond bark
1 18 oz jar peanut butter
2 cups mini marshmallows
2 cups unsalted peanuts
3 cups Rice Krispies

--In a large bowl, combine dry ingredients.

--In a separate bowl, melt almond bark. Once melted, add in peanut butter and mix.

--Pour melted mixture over dry ingredient bowl – mix. NOTE: Will need to add more dry ingredients until consistency you want (a little of all).

--Spoon out small chunks onto wax paper and cool until hard.

Makes a large batch. Refrigerates. Freezes well.



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.