**FCU WEEKLY E-NEWS**

Join Worship through Zoom **Sunday at 10:00am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89246438945?pwd=ZEsrdUtTODY2VTBjWVJWSndyZ3gvQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 4643 8945

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| **MARCH 16**  **WORSHIP** | Usher Bill Koellner  Candlelighters  PowerPoint Keith Barnhart  Organist Marianne Phelps  Greet/Coffee Hour  Speaking Elders Dean Phelps & Missy Johnson  Communion Servers Volunteers Needed |
| **MARCH**  **NUMBERS** | March 2 attendance – 66 March 2 giving - $3,407.00 (Incl. Auto Deposit)  March 9 attendance – 64 March 9 giving - $654.00  **Current monthly total – $4,061.00**  **Needed each month - $12,840.58**  A giving tab is included on the church website: <https://fcuwl.org/give/>  During the Lenten season, we will be collecting special offerings for the One Great Hour of Sharing (Presbyterian) and Week of Compassion (Christian Church Disciples of Christ) offerings. Envelopes will be available in the pews and on the front table. |
| **PASTOR OUT** | Pastor Deb will be out of the office Tuesday, March 18 & Tuesday, March 25. |
| **YOUTH REMINDERS** | March 16 – **No CYG** due to Spring Break  March 19 – **No WOW** due to Spring Break  March 23 – Regular **CYG** resumes  March 26 – Camp Bear Creek will visit **WOW**  **Save the Dates: Vacation Bible School offerings for Summer 2025**  June 23-27 @ West Liberty Christian Fellowship  August 5-7 @ First Church United |
| **MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION FOOD DRIVE** | During the month of April, area churches in the Ministerial Association are working together to collect donations for the Food Pantry. First Church United will be collecting specifically Hamburger Helper and Ramen noodle packages. There is table in Fellowship Hall to place donated items. |
| **EASTER LILIES** | For the Easter season, church family members often wish to purchase an Easter Lily or other spring potted plant to decorate the alter and baptistry area. Please contact Three B’s Floral, either by phone or in person, to purchase a flower and have it delivered to First Church United.  Easter Lily = $20 (6-inch container wrapped with a bow)  Other options include: Ivy baskets $25, Hanging ivy basket $35, Azaleas $40, Tulip garden $20, Daffodil garden $20, Hydrangeas $40, Calla Lily $36 |
| **NICHOLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH SOUP SUPPER** | Nichols Christian Church (607 Grant Ave, Nichols) is having their Annual Soup Supper TONIGHT (Wednesday, March 12) from 4-7 PM. The menu consists of soups, breads, veggies, crackers/cheese, and desserts. Cost is free will offering. They will also be raffling off a handmade bowl – tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5.  Proceeds will go towards their 150th Church Anniversary Celebration planned for later this year. *(Flyer attached)* |
| **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** | The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus by Adam Hamilton  Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of the faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from His baptism to the temptations to the heart of His ministry, including the people He loved, the parables He taught, the enemies He made, and the healing He brought.  Join us in this 6 week study during Lent as we grow deeper in our faith and learn more about the life of Jesus through videos and reading material. It is a great way to learn (and have fun) in community. Classes will run through Lent: March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 and 13 (Palm Sunday). |
| **LENTEN NOTES FROM**  **PASTOR DEB** | Lent = a 40-day season within the church that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends right before Good Friday, leading up to Easter morning. It is a time of reflection / prayer / sacrificial giving as we remember the love of God that is poured out through Jesus Christ. His sacrifice on the cross offers us the gift of eternal life. May we honor His sacrifice with our own dedicated efforts.  Two questions for reflection this Lent:     WHERE is God in my life?     HOW would I define my relationship with God?  Possible ideas for Lenten reflections are listed below.   * Join the Lenten 6-week Bible after worship * Pick up a Lenten devotional off the front hallway table and read individually or with friends * Make a dedicated effort to attend the 6 weeks of Lenten worship leading up to Easter on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am * Plan a dedicated time for additional prayer or Bible study * Read devotional material available online, apps, podcasts or in bookstores * Invite a friend or family member to church * Plan a coffee get together to connect with faith community * Journal, meditate or listen to faith-filled music * Ask a trusted friend or pastor to pray about a burden that is weighing heavily on your heart |
| **BINGO NIGHT** | The Congregational Life committee would like to invite you to a fun filled night of BINGO on **March 28**! Pizza will be provided starting at 5:45 and Bingo will start at 6:00.  Participants should bring a white elephant gift for the prize table.  A sign-up sheet is located on the white board outside the church office , or call/message the office and we’ll put your name down for you. |
| **FALL RISK SCREENINGS** | Rock Valley Physical Therapy is offering free balance screenings at their West Liberty location from 4:30-6:30pm on Thursday, March 20. These individual assessments will involve several targeted balances tests followed by a 1-on-1 discussion about what you can do to get moving again! *(Flyer attached)*  Call 319-627-6809 or scan the QR code to reserve a spot. Walk-ins are also welcome! |
| **FOOD PANTRY HOURS UPDATE** | Beginning tomorrow, March 13th, the VAC Food Pantry will be open on Thursdays from **3:00-4:00pm** and 6:00-7:00pm. |