



**FIRST CHURCH UNITED**  
 1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776  
 Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446  
 Pastor, Marian Hart  
 Secretary, Katie Thrasher  
 October 2014



Dear Friends in Christ,

There's a thing going around on Facebook where people are challenged to post three things they're grateful every day for a week. In November, there will be another one for every day, I'm sure. The Apostle Paul says in most of his letters to pray with thanksgiving in all things. So, as I sat here with writer's block feeling crummy physically, I decided to focus on what I'm grateful for.

1. Modern medicine so I can feel better in a few hours.
2. The beauty of fall.
3. The anticipation of Sunday, with our children leading worship for World Communion Day.
4. A surprise visit from baby Wyatt.
5. My dogs.
6. Our cabin.
7. Fulfilling work.
8. My family, which I didn't list first because I hope it's obvious.
9. People who say yes as often as they can.
10. Books.

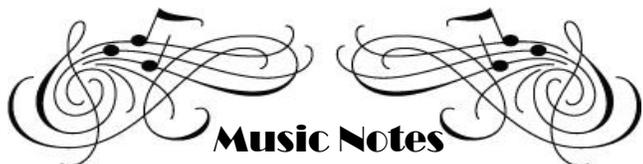
How about you? Have you prayed in thanksgiving today?

Gratefully His, even on the off days,  
 Pastor Marian

<b>CHURCH RECORD</b>		
September 2014		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>OFFERING</b>	<b>ATTEND</b>
September 7	\$2,352.00	76
September 14	\$840.00	58
September 21	\$430.00	50
September 28	\$1,426.00	84

**LECTIONARY**

**October 5** – Exod. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46  
**October 12**- Exod. 32:1-14; Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23; Phil. 4:1-9; Matt.22:1-14  
**October 19**- Exod. 33:12-23; Ps. 99; 1 Thess. 1:1-10; Matt. 22:15-22  
**October 26**- Deut. 34:1-12; Ps. 9-:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thess. 2:1-8; Matt. 22:34-46



October has been referred to as the month when "Nature turns her landscape into gold." What God has created is indeed worth more than gold - it is priceless. The music we have chosen for October worship services is worth a great deal, as well. With this year now well underway, we continue serving our congregation by offering praise through music from both choirs, added instruments, and a Worship Team Sunday.

Wed., Oct. 1: Chime Choir - 6:50 to 7:30

Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

**Sun., Oct. 5: CHIME CHOIR**

Wed., Oct. 8: (same as Oct. 1)

**Sun., Oct. 12: CHANCEL CHOIR**

Wed., Oct. 15: (same as Oct. 1)

**Sun., Oct. 19: CHANCEL CHOIR**

Wed., Oct. 22: (same as Oct. 1)

**Sun., Oct. 26: WORSHIP TEAM**

Wed., Oct. 29: (same as Oct. 1)

**SPIRIT of GENEROSITY- Leaving a Legacy**  
**Prayerfully consider including First Church United in your will. A Charitable bequest is a way in which we can leave a legacy and express our faith and values to the church. The church benefits from gifts that provide for future generations. For questions, please contact Tom Brooke.**



## ROAD TRIP

The October visit to Oaknoll will be on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the church at 11:00 to carpool. We will share lunch, a short bible study, and lots of fellowship.

## Christian Education Director's Report

Hello Church Family!

It has been a wonderful blessing to have been charged with this calling. There is great joy in guiding our young ones toward the love and light of Jesus Christ. We are learning how to be good Christians together. I look forward to growing into further aspects of this position, as well. Thanks very much for all of the support from everyone.

### Kid's W.O.W.

Our first Kid's Worship On Wednesday, (W.O.W.) was a success. We practiced for our World Communion Day performance, sang songs and ate some delicious food together. The next W.O.W. is Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00. Special thanks to Norma Brooks, who has offered to prepare our evening meal that day! The more the merrier, so please bring your children & any friends that may wish to attend. Caregivers may pick up their children at 6:20.

### Sunday School News:

We have begun following a curriculum and structure similar to what the main Service does. We still have fun, sing and dance, play & praise God like children are apt to, of course. However, the lessons, and routine are geared toward teaching children how to be participating, active members of the church. We have even begun taking an offering! So, even if it's just a penny, please send your child to Sunday School with an offering. Introducing them to the blessing of being able to help others through our generosity will help them understand our role as Christians. Sunday School will end at 11:00 each Sunday.

Please have your children attend this upcoming Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, and 30 minutes prior to the Service, (9:30) if at all possible. Even if it's their first time attending this year, we would welcome them! We will be participating during the Service for World Communion Day, and it should be fun and meaningful.

Thank you!

Jason Thrasher

	<b>Sunday School Record</b>	
	<b>September 2014</b>	
Date	Offering	Attendance
September 14th	n/a	12
September 21st	\$3.75	3
September 24 <sup>th</sup> - W.O.W.	n/a	9
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	\$6.40	14

## PW FALL GATHERING

Oct. 4 the Presbyterian Women of East Iowa will hold their annual Fall Gathering at the Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant. Pastor Marian has been on the Coordinating Team for 12 years as the SERRV/Greater Gift volunteer, ordering and selling fair trade goods and foods. This will be her last meeting in this capacity.

Sue Dravis, formerly of Muscatine, will be the guest speaker. Sue will tell us of her recent trip to Palestine. She is a passionate peacemaking advocate for the area. If you'd like to attend, see Pastor Marian for registration information.

## Crop Walk In October

Crop Walk Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Walk begins at the West Liberty Country Club and ends at First Church



United. Join us in helping to stop hunger one step at a time.

## CYG NEWS

Here we go again.....the West Liberty Community Youth Group is back in session!! We ended the summer with another successful mission trip. This year we took 41 people, including chaperones, to Denver, Co where we worked with Denver Urban Ministries. While there we stayed in the basement of a church which did not have any showers. We had to travel a few miles up the road to a local rec center for our daily showers. Our work in Denver was extremely rewarding! Highlights included working at World Vision packing donated clothing to be sent overseas, packaging food at a food pantry and serving over 1200 people at a local soup kitchen. Before heading home, we spent a day white water rafting which was a new experience for all of the youth! Last week, we began our fall session and already have over 50 youth enrolled as of right now. We accept students throughout the year, so please encourage any young person in grades 6-12 to join us on Sunday nights. We have a whole new CYG Praise Band this year and they are doing an awesome job! We have 3 high school "cubes" and three junior high "cubes" again. Pastor

Marian Hart and Pastor Mario Padilla continue to provide our lessons each week and then the youth divide into their cubes for more in depth conversations. We have parents that help to prepare and serve the meals each week and the youth do all the clean up and dishes. We are blessed to be able to have the continued support of our community. Please keep our Community Youth Group in your prayers during the new school year.

Jodi Kelly  
CYG Board Member  
CYG Cube Leader  
CYG Parent

## OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY

September 4, 2014



The monthly Official Board meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Bill Koellner.

In attendance were: Karen Nortman, Tom Probst, Darren Brooke, Margaret Barnhart, Ken Noble, Tom Brooke, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart and Secretary Katie Thrasher.

Those not in attendance were: Syd Harned, Jan McCrabb

**Devotion** – Pastor Marian read from the book Gods Holy People by Ann Weems

**Approval of Docket:** move to approve docket as amended 1st Tom B. 2nd Ken N. unanimously approved by Board.

**Approval of Minutes:** move to approve minutes as written 1<sup>st</sup> Tom B. 2nd Ken N. unanimously approved by Board.

**Co-Chair's Report** – nothing to report.

**Pastor's Report** – Vacation time approved for Sept. 15-21 and Oct. 28-Nov. 2 excluding CYG time each week.

**Treasurer's Report:** Keith Barnhart gave the Treasurer's report.

Starting of August balance	\$ 3,278.43
Receipts	\$ 8,573.95
Subtotal	\$ 11,852.38
Disbursements	\$ 10,761.67
Ending Balance	\$ 1,090.71
Board checking balance	\$995.7

All bills are paid. Insurance premium was lower this quarter. Music Ministry ordered items and had piano's tuned. 13<sup>th</sup> month campaign has helped but a reminder should go out to members. \$1720.53 has been raised so far for the carpet cleaning project. The total needed to complete the project is \$2,405.43

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report 1<sup>st</sup> Tom B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken N. Unanimously approved by Board.

### **Ongoing Business:**

**Carpet Cleaning** – \$1720.53 has been raised as of 9/4/14 as reported by Treasurer Keith Barnhart. Dillon Brooke has done a great job so far!

**Bid to fix windows and doors with leaking or broken glass** – Tom P. reports the bids are in from Marv's Glass. Food Pantry door - \$362.00, N. End of Fellowship Hall windows - \$495.00, West Main Entrance \$192.00, S. Entrance \$506.00. Total is \$1571.00. If we were to replace these the Board agrees the money would come from the Future Maint. of the Church (line #2103)

**Review of Kitchen use-** Bill K will prepare 2 reports for October. One for the newsletter and one for Stewardship Committee calling needs.

**Use of Old Kitchen** – Tom P. capped pipes in Utility room and ground them down to the ground in the old kitchen. Probst's bought a new rug to go in the old kitchen. Pastor Marian cleaned out the stuff leftover from the cupboards but it still needs to be wiped down and cleaned and tables/chairs brought in. The room can then be used for a CYG classroom.

**Fall Clean-Up-** Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> will begin a work week. Board updated the chore list with a few crossed off as completed and a few chores were added. List will be on the buffet for anyone to choose a chore to do for Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business:**

**Elder on Call for October-** Ken Noble

**Presbyterian Meeting at FCU November 14, 2015** – Presbytery of East Iowa has contacted FCU to see if we would be willing to host this meeting. The Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary would be used and a meal would be served. Need to approve expenditures to cover the upfront costs of the meal and use of the building. Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Tom B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken N. unanimously approved by Board.

**Jason Thrasher as C.E. Director** – Motion to approve Jason as Sunday School Teacher and W.O.W. teacher 1<sup>st</sup> Margaret B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Darren B. Unanimously approved by Board. Rate of pay is \$11, with the thought that for every hour spend with the kids 2 hours are needed to prepare. A background check will be done as soon as possible. C.E. Committee will come up with recommended pay, training, hours to be worked per month by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and these guidelines will be carried over into the next calendar year. Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Tom B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken N. Unanimously approved by Board.

**Planters from Depot** – There are two planters at the Depot that need to be removed. Would FCU like to use them? If so Fred's Feed will use their equipment to move them onto the FCU property on new patio. Motion to approve church accepting planters from Steve H. and Rotary 1<sup>st</sup> Tom B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken N. Unanimously approved by the Board.

**Advanced Planning Initiative** – Chuck Coulter from Muscatine spoke with the Ministerial Association about Advanced Planning Initiative. This is helping people get their documents ready for end of life care so Doctors, families, Hospice workers have information when it is needed. Can FCU be the center for training and facilitating to others? Does FCU support the request to pay for 2 people to go through the Advanced Initiative Program? Motion to approve FCU be the center for training and facilitating and having 2 people go through the program (possibly with scholarships from Endowment Fund). 1<sup>st</sup> Ken N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom B. Unanimously approved by the Board. Facilities Use Committee approves either Pastor Marian or Bill K. to be present at the meeting.

**Direct Deposit of contributions from congregation** – Bill K. will look into how this process works.

Committee and Ministry Reports:

Endowment Fund Requests-

- 1) Request from Pastor Marian for \$1000.00 each from Fund D to go towards Camp Wyoming and Christian Conference Center. Both are always in ongoing renovations and both serve the wider church excellently. Move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Karen N., 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret B. Unanimously approved by the Board.
- 2) Request from Pastor Marian and Missy Johnson for \$1000.00 from Fund C. We'd like to expand Welcome Table to reach more of the needy and more of the Hispanic Community. Thinking pride, embarrassment or mistrust might keep folks from coming to FCU. We'd like to set up a pick-up site at the ELC for take-out meals. Move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Tom B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret B. Unanimously approved by the Board.
- 3) Request from Tom Probst for up to \$2500.00 from Fund C. Contribution toward the addition on the West Liberty Fire/Ambulance Station. There are no taxpayer funds used for the project; strictly donations. Move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Tom B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen N. unanimously approved by the Board.
- 4) Request from Music Ministry/Susan Lehman for up to \$450.00 from Beryl Brooke Memorial Music Ministry Fund. Our Chime Choir needs

larger, more dependable lights for our music stands. We hope to buy 10 LED lights with rechargeable batteries. We should be able to purchase the lights with mounting and bulbs for this amount or less, and can report the exact amount at the next meeting or as soon as we are billed. Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Tom P 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken N. Unanimously approved by the Board.

- 5) Request from Music Ministry/Susan Lehman for up to \$400.00 from Beryl Brooke Memorial Music Ministry Fund. Our Chancel Choir folders need to be replaced. They are tattered, frayed, torn, and many are taped together. We would like to buy 25 choral folders with many beneficial features and a good quality that will last many years. The exact amount can be reported at the next meeting or as soon as are billed. Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Tom B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Darren B. unanimously approved by the Board.
- 6) Request from Pastor Marian for \$850.00 from Beryl Brooke Memorial Music Ministry Fund. Reimburse \$105 to Pastor Marian for 1 hymnal for office copy of "Glory to God" and 1 copy of accompanist copy of "Glory to God". Additional accompanist copies (2) \$170.00, online program for PowerPoint downloads \$499.00, \$50 for shipping. Move to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Tom P., 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen N. unanimously approved by the Board.
- 7) Request from Deacons for \$300 from Fund C. For cards and stamps for Deacons outreach. Has been approved by both Board and Endowment Committee.

Margaret B. commends Pastor Marian on last Sunday's baptisms at the Hart Cabin and Cedar River. Kirby Gould will be here Sunday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. She will preach and also answer questions about Endowment funds during the Potluck.

### Ministry Reports: Accepted

Music Ministry Report:  
The Music Ministry of First Church United met in June. We planned our choir year calendar, scheduled organists for the year, and discussed special services and the music plans for those occasions. There are no major changes this year. Brenda Miller & Susie Lehman will continue to share the directing responsibilities for the Chancel and Chime Choirs, with Marianne Phelps accompanying and assisting. Those three, along with Lori Brooke, will continue to serve as organists / pianists. As always, we will collaborate with Pastor Marian Hart to help the

music best serve the purpose of the messages and enhance the services. Some exciting new music has been purchased and prepared for both choirs, choir members received their annual August Letter, and rehearsals begin September 3.

Brenda Miller, Lori Brooke, Marianne Phelps, and Susie Lehman

CHRISTIAN ED. REPORT: Jason Thrasher has come forward as a Sunday School/W.O.W. teacher possibility. Sunday School could start Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> if he is hired. First Kids W.O.W. would be Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Christian Ed. Committee is in favor of Jason being the teacher.

Motion to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> Tom P, 2<sup>nd</sup> Darren B. Unanimously approved by Board.

Prayer concerns shared

Closing Prayer

Next meeting is scheduled for October 2 at 6:30 p.m.

### Kitchen Project Report

The kitchen has been constructed and is in full use by many groups in First Church United. We are thrilled that so many people responded to help financially fund the new kitchen. In addition, some members gave sweat equity during the construction phase. The kitchen is being utilized by many groups such as the Welcome Table, WOW, Food Pantry, VBS, CYG, and Fair Committee to name a few. Members have learned quickly to use of the convection oven, and the dishwasher. What a great time saver the new dishwasher has been for all the groups.

This is a quick summary of the income and the cost for the new construction.

#### Income

One-time gifts	\$40,675.00
Multi-year pledges	\$36,120.00(\$5,600 to be received)
Ryan Trust	\$50,000.00
Memorials	\$19,275.00
Ribfest fundraisers	<u>\$2,926.00</u>
Total	\$149,996.00

#### Expenses

Design	\$7,760.00
Construction	\$104,141.75
Equipment, Cabinets and Carpet	<u>\$37,876.68</u>
Total	\$149,778.43

## Church Workers

October 5

World Communion Day/Chime Choir

### SPEAKING ELDERS:

None needed- communion will be served

Presbyterian Style

### COMMUNION SERVERS:

Joe Myers, Dinette Myers, Mark Johnson, Karen Nortman, Butch Nortman, Jeannine Williams

**USHERS:** Harold & Evelyn Wilkerson

### GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Dave & Roberta Baker

**ORGANIST:** Brenda Miller

**POWER POINT:** Jim Kiwala

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Joseph Delgado

October 12

Chancel Choir

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

### GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Ken & Marilyn Ruegsegger

**ORGANIST:** Marianne Phelps

**POWER POINT:** Chance Thrasher

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Alice Thrasher

October 19

Communion/Chancel Choir

### SPEAKING ELDERS:

Tom Brooke & Mary Larson

### COMMUNION SERVERS:

Joe Myers, Dinette Myers, Mark Johnson, Karen Nortman, Butch Nortman, Jeannine Williams

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

### GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bud Barber & Norma Brooks

**ORGANIST:** Marianne Phelps

**POWER POINT:** Keith Barnhart

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Ryan Noble

October 26

Worship Team

**USHER:** Tom Brooke

### GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bill & Jan Koellner

**ORGANIST:** Lori Brooke

**POWER POINT:** Bill Koellner

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Peyton Murphy

Communion Preparer for October is  
Ken Ruegsegger.



### October

1 Darren Brooke

2 Skylar Wendt

3 Troy Myers

4 Mark Johnson

6 Filmore Melick

6 Carolyn Probst

10 Christina Newcomb

11 Linda Foor

11 Heidi Morrison

14 Tricia Lehman

14 Alice Thrasher

15 James Laughlin

21 Caitlyn Snook

23 Janey Gingerich

24 Shirley Sterner

24 Tom Probst

27 Cale Brooks

28 Bob Larson

30 Missy Johnson

30 Holly Gingerich



6 Mike & Yvonne Gardenier

13 Bob & Marcy Dewar

14 Deepak & Amrita Giri

19 Butch & Karen Nortman

TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

EMILY & JESSE  
*Johnson Reed*

INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THEIR WEDDING

*November*  
8  
2014

3 O'CLOCK  
THE SECREST  
OCTAGONAL BARN  
5750 OSAGE STREET  
*West Liberty, Iowa*

POTLUCK DINNER  
& DANCING  
*following  
the ceremony*



*In the tradition of a barn wedding*

THE COUPLE HAS ASKED THAT YOU  
BRING YOUR FAMILIES' FAVORITE DISH  
AND THE RECIPE TO SHARE  
WITH THE NEWLYWEDS.

THE FAMILY WILL PROVIDE THE MEAT,  
BEVERAGES, TABLE SERVICE  
AND OF COURSE WEDDING CAKE.

KEEPING WITH THE RUSTIC THEME PLEASE NOTE  
THAT THERE IS NO HEAT OR  
AIR CONDITIONING IN THE BARN.  
RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PROPERTY.

SINCE THE BARN IS A HISTORICAL BUILDING  
NO SMOKING OR OPEN FLAMES ARE ALLOWED  
INSIDE OR ON THE PROPERTY.  
PLEASE HELP US RESPECT THE  
HISTORICAL VALUE OF THE BARN.