



FIRST CHURCH UNITED
 1100 North Calhoun Street, West Liberty, Iowa 52776
 Office—627-2989 Activity Area—627-2446
 Pastor, Marian Hart
 Secretary, Katie Thrasher
 May 2016



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write, the sound of gentle rain is speaking to me. A few moments ago I noticed a robin sitting at the bottom of one of our downspouts, letting the water splash her. Would you say that's a bird shower rather than a bird bath? She is an unusual bird who comes back to nest near the church each year, identifiable by several bright white feathers in place of some of her brown ones. While she showered her mate busily feasted on worms in the grass.

Last week while on vacation, I took the opportunity to tromp around in the woods on two separate days at two different sites. Supposedly I was looking for mushrooms, but got sidetracked frequently noticing frogs, birds, and the prolific wildflowers.

While walking Tucker I got the first whiff of lilacs. My favorite violas are blooming everywhere. My transplanted mums, lilies, and tulips have survived another winter.

One day I heard a big thunk in the living room. A robin had flown into our big window. I looked out in time to see her take her last gasps as her mate stood watching, trying to figure out what had just happened. He stayed near her several minutes, then continued to gather grass for their nest. It was one of the most moving things I've ever seen.

Last night 20 of us met with our Holy Cow consultant to receive the results of our church assessment. It was quite interesting. Are you aware that you are a pastor-centric congregation with a ministry-centric pastor? How's that for tricky? At least we aren't too ec-centric. ☺

What do all of these things have in common? The changing of the seasons-- whether they be winter to spring, life to death,

or exploring what God is up to next as a church family. In all instances there is much to be joyful about and celebrate, some to grieve and learn to let go of and celebrate, and much to look forward to with courage, anticipation, and celebration.

We are entering a construction zone for the next leg of our faith journey together. Put on your hard hat, grab your tools, talk to the Divine General Contractor daily, and let's go!

Trying to be Spirit-led,
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD		
April 2016		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
April 3	\$2,299.00	76
April 10	\$2,200.00	74
April 17	\$1,126.00	79
April 24	\$892.00	49

LECTIONARY

May 1 – Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67; Rev. 21:10; 21:22-25:5
 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

May 8- Acts 16:16-34; Ps. 97; Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17,
 20-21; John 17:20-26

May 15 – Acts 2:1-21 or Gen. 11:1-9; Ps. 104:24-34,
 35b; Rom. 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

May 22 – Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; Ps. 8; Rom. 5:1-5
 John 16:12-15

May 29 – 1 Kings 18:20-21 (22-29) 30-39; Ps. 96
 Gal. 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10



"May" the road rise to meet you, "May" the wind be at your back

The Merry Month of May seems full of well wishes as we see folks off - off to college, off for vacation, or (in the case of choir members) off the loft & into the congregation. As we close this year's choir season, we will pay tribute to all the special occasions in May - Mother's Day, Senior Recognition, Confirmation Class, Pentecost, Graduation, and Memorial Day. "May" our tributes truly give honor where honor is due!

May 1: CHIME CHOIR

May 4: Chime Choir, 6:45 to 7:30

Chancel Choir, 7:30 to 8:30

May 8: CHANCEL and CHIME CHOIRS

May 11: Chime Choir, 6:45 to 7:30

(last Chime rehearsal)

Chancel Choir, 7:30 to 8:30

May 15: CHIME CHOIR

May 18: Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

(last Chancel rehearsal)

May 22: CHANCEL CHOIR

May 25: (No Rehearsals)

May 29: SPECIAL MUSIC

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –May 2016

Hello, church family!

It is with great joy that I must inform you that all is well in the Christian education department. Our programming is about to wrap up for the season. We have had a successful series of lessons and activities to help our children further their understanding of Jesus Christ.

Sunday school has been insightful and a lot of fun, getting to know so many new young Christians. The godly play method of teaching continues to really capture their attention. Seeing the joy on their faces when they catch on to the lesson is priceless. We look forward to a worship leading Rendition of Jesus loves me on Mother's Day.

Thanks very much to all parents, grandparents, and family members that help the young children get to and from this program!

We are very impressed at how attendance at our Wednesday service continues to grow! This is a very popular alternative for the youth to worship God outside of the usual 10 AM Sunday service. Sincere gratitude goes to Marian, Susie, Marianne and everyone else who contributes to the food preparation we offer during this program!

The Christian education committee will meet on Wednesday, June 1 at 6:00 in order to plan for vacation Bible school and review the successes and challenges of this past season.

We are so blessed to have such a supportive church community. The future of our church is in good hands, since our youth are so well prepared for continuing our work for Christ.

At your service, Jason Thrasher

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.

THE LENDING TREE

The Lending Tree is now open Wednesday's from 11:30-1:30 and Saturday's from 9am-12pm. Spread the word!



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE- Sacrifice

The more I have thought about stewardship, I contemplate the words of many of the church's great hymns – "Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee"; "All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give"; "Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way; Thou are the potter, I am the clay." I have asked myself, whether I am living out the words of these hymns or have I allowed the world to run my life? This then leads me to think of sacrifice.

In Matthew 26, we find Mary of Bethany giving an expensive bottle of perfume to the Lord, anointing Jesus with it. In doing this, she sacrificed it, made it holy, to the Lord. In Luke 21, the poor widow put all she had to life on into the temple treasury. She took what she had and put it into God's hands. In doing so,

#40 in 17

she made it holy, sacrificed it to God. In Acts 4:34-37, Barnabas “sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet”, for use to those who were needy.

In 2 Corinthians 8:9. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” There are three ideas from this scripture: 1) He sacrificed the spiritual world to living with humanity; 2) sacrificed being with God to being with man; and 3) sacrificed the beauty of heaven to living on earth. In coming to earth, he had nothing and became a servant.

Nothing that is good or godly has ever happened in history of man that was not born out of sacrifice. Farmers and businessmen know as they invest sweat, and tears, not knowing how it will turn out, but each sacrificed to gain a return on investment, many times going without personal things. Our forefathers experienced sacrifice, and many generations later do not know their sacrifices. Similarly, can we remember the sacrifice of our veterans, who served so we might have freedom.

Every generation has new sacrifices to be made, for our families, our churches and our nation. Forty years ago, members of two congregations sacrificed to join together and build a new church called First Church United. Since 1976, many of those saints have gone to be with the Lord. Now, forty years later, a long-range planning committee will look at what the next decade, after a church assessment has been completed, to determine the needs of the church today and tomorrow. This will most likely require some sacrifice of time, talents and financial resources.

**Our prayers of sympathy to
Margaret Barnhart at the loss of her brother.**

**OFFICIAL
BOARD SUMMARY**

April 7, 2016

The monthly Official Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair Bill Koellner. In attendance were: Ken Noble, Joe Myers, Brenda Miller, Margaret Barnhart, Deepak Giri, Susie Lehman, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart and secretary Katie Thrasher. Those not in attendance were: Darren Brooke
Devotion –Pastor Marian asked each to share a special memory of taking communion. Read Hebrews 11:1, 12:1. Read from the Book of Common Worship. Bill K.



and Keith B. spoke the words of Institution and we took communion.

Treasurer’s Report:

Keith Barnhart gave the Treasurer’s Report. Bills are all paid. Missions have been paid the third payment to cover the per capita. Syd Harned is checking with the Kids Against Hunger office to pay for the last food shipment that KAH sent.

Move to approve Treasurer’s Report 1st Joe M., 2nd Ken N., unanimously approved by the Board.

Starting of March balance	\$5,305.86
Receipts	\$9,300.68
Subtotal	\$14,606.54
Disbursements	\$9,565.67
Ending Balance	\$5,040.87
Board checking balance	\$2,955.87

Correspondence: Thank you note from Holly Gingerich for Endowment Fund donation to her Haiti Medical Mission fundraising campaign.

Approval of Docket: 1st Ken N., 2nd Joe M. unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of the Minutes: motion to approve as amended 1st Ken N., 2nd Joe M., unanimously approved by the Board.

Pastor’s Report: March 3-April 7

Office hours kept

Plan and lead worship March 6, 13, 20, three on 27,

April 3 baptism of Kinsley Dean Probst March 27

Plan and co-lead Good Friday service-very lightly attended but 4 people told me it was the best they’ve ever been to

Adult Sunday school

World Day of Prayer March 4

Welcome Table March 5, 19, 26

WOW meals and activities March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6

Lending Tree March 9, 16, 23,30, April 6

Confirmation classes March 6, 13, 20, April 3

CYG co-lead lessons, meals March 6, 13, 20, movie April 3

Assist with commissioning of CRE Don Clark March 6

Women in Ministry lunch and bible study March 8

Gone for President Elect Training for Rotary March 10-12

Camp Wyoming Board conference call March 14

Cluster meeting March 17

Simpson worship March 18

Attended John McKinstrey’s retirement from ministry party March 20

Prep/set up for Easter brunch March 26

Funeral Service for Ken Ruegsegger April 2-date of death March 29, 2016
 Endowment meeting April 4
 Ministerial Association April 6
 Mileage-145
 Pastoral visits-22 (11 were Ruegseggers)
 Counseling-1

I've been asked by the Moderator of East Iowa Presbytery to serve on an Administrative Commission to the Newcomb Presbyterian church in Davenport. I accepted the appointment, qualifying home church and personal life takes priority.

Request for vacation April 19-24.
 TTT Camp Chaplain June 12-17
 Hastings School for Pastor's June 5-11

Motion to approve report, vacation request, and continuing Ed 1st Ken N., 2nd Brenda M. Unanimously approved by the Board.

LENDING TREE REPORT MARCH, 2016

Silverware, clock	\$25.00
Small misc.	.89
Shoes	\$ 5.00
Sewing machine-free by donor's request	
Stove, mirror	\$60.00
Card table, misc.	\$15.00
Lotion, perfume	\$3.00
Couch	\$50.00
Total sales	\$158.89

ONGOING BUSINESS –

-List of items for repair- Discussed list and ordered them in terms of importance.

Church Repair List Spring 2016

1. Food Pantry - clean & paint room & shelving in preparation for inspector.- Needs further evaluation.
- ~~2. Plumbing in kitchen – three basin sink leak – repair – Pastor Marian will test.~~
3. Windows in kitchen - blinds.- Brenda is looking into this.
- ~~4. Caulking PVC pipe running to coffee hour sink. – Ken Noble will inspect.~~
5. Handicap restroom - stool plunger needs to have plastic holder - cannot just sit on floor. - Joe Myers will inspect.
6. Ceiling tile needs replaced - handicap restroom.- will complete on a church wide work day.
7. Ceiling tiles in Fellowship hall needs replaced. - will complete on a church wide work day.

~~8. Carpet torn where new wires for clavino speakers run.~~

9. Baptismal heater broken. (Immersion)- Board asks Butch Nortman to inspect.
10. Cover for lights in choir loft missing (back row). - Choir members will be asked their opinion and Brenda M. will talk with Blaine about options.- Thinking of ideas
- ~~11. Replace emergency defibulator pads & battery – beyond expiration date (call Roger Johnson) – replaced by Roger Johnson on 3/3/16. – Good now till March 2018.~~
12. Lounge - ceiling tiles need replaced.
13. Blinds on both south and west windows need to be replaced.- Brenda M. Brenda is looking into this.
14. Drain in lounge needs cleaned - slow draining.- Darren B. will look into this.
- ~~15. Changing table in nursery needs repaired. – remove left over door on table. Bill and Jan K. will fix.~~
16. Nursery door - remove top of door to prevent finger pinching. - Joe M. will fix.
17. Purple wall in classroom needs painted (light blue to match other blue in room).- will complete on a church wide work day.
- ~~18. Wooden chairs in classroom – move to fellowship closet – chairs not used. – Bill K. will take care of this. – Pastor Marian suggests daycares, grandparents and parents of children in the church are contacted or asked if they would like to have these chairs.~~
19. North East Adult room - replace blinds. - Brenda M. will look into this.
20. Replace computer in office that displays announcements in hallway. – Board asks Richard Hart to look into this job.
21. Downspout back splash areas around the building need to be filled in with dirt and leveled. Bill K. will take care of this.
22. Fire Extinguishers need to be checked. Katie T will call inspectors.
23. Women's bathroom toilet – Dillon Brooke will fix.
24. S.S. room door paneling is splitting.

- May Elder on Call – Bill K.
 - Follow up to kitchen licensing –Arnie H. trained Wednesday, April 6 for Food Safety certification
 - Manse Windows- will discuss during May meeting.
 - Church Assessment – meeting April 26th with Diane McClanahan to discuss the results of the assessment.
 - Long range planning for First Church United- will be able to meet after May. One of the big events to be

discussed will be the 40th Anniversary of the church for the summer of 2017.

- Cradle Roll- Margaret B., Lisa M., and Katie T. are putting the Cradle Roll together after church on April 10th.

- Communion Bread - Margaret B. thanks Mary Larson for trying out Jo Webb's communion bread recipe!

NEW BUSINESS:

-Endowment Requests

1) \$860.00 requested by Jason and Katie Thrasher, Fund B. Chance and Charlie would like to go to Camp Wyoming July 21-August 6.

2) \$340.00 requested by Arnie Hart, Fund B. Synod School

3) \$240.00 requested by Joel and Lisa Murphy, Fund B. You and Me camp at Camp Wyoming.

4) \$1470.00 requested by Jason and Katie Thrasher, Fund B. Thrasher family for Synod School.

5) \$120.00 requested by Jason Thrasher, Fund B. Alice and Jason would like to go to the You and Me Camp over Father's Day weekend.

Motion to approve all Endowment requests 1st Deepak G., 2nd Margaret B., unanimously approved by the Board.

-Necrology Report: Ken Ruegsegger March 29, 2016
Barb Bothell April 4, 2016

-Boy Scouts-Will FCU Charter the troop? There is currently not a Boy Scout troop but there is a group coming up. Would the church be willing to charter the troop? There is an annual fee of \$40 to charter. Motion to begin to charter a W.L. Boy Scout Troop 1st Ken N., 2nd Margaret B., unanimously approved by the Board.

-1 Endowment Committee member needed. The Endowment Committee meets 4 times/year for about 30 minutes. Bill K. offered suggestions and Board agreed. Joe M. will speak with those suggested.

-1 Official Board member needed for a 1.5 year term. Bill K. offered suggestions and Board agreed. Ken N. will speak with those suggested.

-Question about training for Elders. Since there is a difference between speaking elder and Elder, should we provide training? Training will be offered in the fall for those who may begin serving next year.

-Question about difference in cost for the Christian Camp at Newton and Presbyterian at Wyoming. Because of the difference in cost, should the board promote or fund one one year and the other the next year? People

could still go to their preference if paying their own way. Also stress the early bird sign up to prevent church from paying more unnecessarily. Discussion on what we have done in the past, what Endowment does. Endowment accepts wherever the family asks to go. Church encourages and publicizes both camps.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN ED. Hello church family! Here are a couple of pictures from March 30th at our weekly WOW activity. We were able to enjoy the outdoors, our friends, look at and care for our seedlings we started the previous Wednesday that will eventually go in children's garden, and even hunt for leftover Easter eggs. What a great bunch of kids!



ADJOURN

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING May 5, 2016 at 6:30p.m.

Thank you to Bob the tiller, an anonymous flower planter, lawn care guys, kitchen cleaner-uppers, all those who filled out a church assessment and those who attended the Holy Cow meeting.



Birthdays in May

2nd Leona Dewar
4th Jennifer Herrold
10th Mike Phelps
10th Joyce Hahn
10th Katlyn Skubal
11th Blaine Kelly
11th Arnie Hart
12th Adeep Giri
15th Jan Koellner
15th Brad Akers
18th Zach Irwin
19th Pat Nortman
21st Leland Kober
22nd Blaine Williams
23rd Ryan Deahr
27th Andy Nortman
27th Marian Hart
29th Betty Burton

Anniversaries in May

5th Jared & Samira Deahr
7th Filmore & Marjory Melick
19th Scott & Angie Brooke
27th Tom & Janet Woody
27th Jason & Katie Thrasher

Church Workers

May 1

Communion/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dean Phelps & Leon Larson

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Butch Nortman, Karen Nortman, Joe Myers,
Dinette Myers, Syd Harned, Jan Koellner

USHER: Joe Myers

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks & Bud Barber

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

May 8

Mother's Day/Chancel Choir

USHER: Wayne Noring

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Dave & Bertie Baker

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

CANDLE LIGHTER: Alice Thrasher

May 15

Communion/Confirmation/Chime Choir

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dean Phelps & Leon Larson

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Butch Nortman, Karen Nortman, Joe Myers,
Dinette Myers, Syd Harned, Jan Koellner

USHER: Walt Lehman

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks & Dinette Myers

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

May 22

Chancel Choir/Graduation

USHER: Walt Lehman

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Shirley Sterner

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Open

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

May 29

Memorial Weekend/Special Music

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Open

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

Communion Preparer's for May are
Margaret Barnhart & Evelyn Evans