



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

I read an article recently about a study that found when a group meditates on peace, the actual crime rate goes down in that area. So I am going to have us pray for peace each week on Sunday morning. I'm also going to try harder to be a peacemaker in my daily life. This is an invitation for you to do the same.

What will peacemaking look like for us? Perhaps just taking those extra seconds before speaking, restraining from reacting to a Facebook post, or not passing along a post that you know is offensive and wisecracking (FYI that is hurtful), being intentionally kind or patient during a challenging time, making sure you look at both sides of an issue, refusing to make blanket statements or judgments, refusing to place labels on people, being willing to compromise, being willing to forgive, being willing to apologize. Maybe praying the Lord's prayer and asking ourselves how we can be the answer to our own prayer. How can everyone have their daily bread? How can I contribute to God's kingdom coming? You can probably think of a few dozen more.
 ☺

It is crucial for our communities, our nation, and the world to be peacemakers. Have you seen the T-shirt that says, "The hippies were right"? In my opinion, they were on this topic! Peace out y'all!



Shalom,
 Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD

June 2016

DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
June 5	\$1,552.80	65
June 12	\$1,091.00	41
June 19	\$840.00	55
June 26	\$2,233.00	41

LECTIONARY

July 3 – 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps. 30; Gal. 6 (1-6) 7-16
 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10- Amos 7:7-17; Ps. 82; Col. 1:1-14
 Luke 10:25-37

July 17 – Amos 8:1-12; Ps. 52; Col. 1:15-28
 Luke 10:38-42

July 24 – Hosea 1:2-20; Ps. 85; Col. 2:6-15 (16-19)
 Luke 11:1-13

July 31- Hosea 11:1-11; Ps. 107:1-9, 43
 Col. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

August 7- Isa. 1:1, 10-20; Ps. 50:1-8, 22-23
 Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 14- Isa. 5:1-7; Ps. 80:1-2, 8-19; Heb. 11:29-12:2
 Luke 12:49-56

August 21- Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; Heb. 12:18-29
 Luke 13:10-17

August 28- Jer. 2:4-13; Ps. 81:1, 10-16; Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

WORSHIP AT THE FAIR

Join us for worship Sunday July 24, 9:00. CYG band will lead music and we will commission this year's mission trip participants. Meet the new pastor of Cedar Valley and Nichols Methodist churches. Let the praises rise to our Lord in the great outdoor cathedral we call the grove!



To Choirs and Congregation:

Please don't forget that if you are not already a member of one of our choirs but think you might like to be, you are certainly welcome to contact us (Brenda Miller, Lori Brooke, Marianne Phelps, and Susie Lehman, or any current member of the choirs)! At that time, we will get your phone numbers & email addresses so we may contact you with vital information.

Reminder: Chancel Choir sings, and Chime Choir plays hand-held chimes - for this choir you must be able to read notes and rhythms.

All choir members, new and old, should check your email early next month for your annual August eLetter. This will tell you when we'll begin rehearsals for the year and any other information you will need.

We hope to see many of you working at our church's fair stand, and perhaps helping ahead of time with cleaning the stand or preparing meat. (Preparing meat is done in the air conditioning!) Sign-up sheets are still in Fellowship Hall, or you may call Susie Lehman. This is one of the numerous ways our choir members have traditionally demonstrated their diverse contributions to the many charitable activities offered by our church. Thank you!

Blessings to you for a continued safe and happy summer!

Your Music Ministry

#40 in 17

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

Hello, Church Family!

Here's hoping the summer is treating you well! As I write this, it is Independence Day. The Thrasher family returned home from a vacation in Minnesota visiting relatives yesterday. And, along our path, I saw a sign on a Presbyterian church there that read "Thank God we live in a country where we can thank God." I hope we can all take a moment to be truly thankful for the freedom we have to worship our Maker. And, let us rightfully also be thankful for the freedom Jesus gave us through his sacrifice on the cross. We are all blessed beyond measure. And, it is thus our responsibility to use that blessing to spread the good news of, and to do good works in the name of Christ!

- And, so on that note, it is time to start our new season of youth ministry. Please save the dates for:
 - July 31st, 3-7pm at the Barnhart's ponds – We'll meet at the church to carpool at 2:45. Bring your fishing pole, folding chairs, sunblock, and water bottles.
 - Wednesdays in August, 5:30-7, Vacation Bible School!! Location tba.
 - Sundays in August, FCU, approximately 10:15 (Summer Vacation Sunday School)
 - Sunday, Sept. 18th, 10am FCU church service, youth worship leading.

Further details and flyers to last year's attendees, & WOW participants & newspaper articles/announcements will be sent soon. Please spread the word & drum up some support/attendance for this wonderful celebration of God's Word!

At your service,
Jason Thrasher

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship of Time

While praying and thinking about Stewardship of time, we should review what Solomon in his old age wrote:

Ecclesiastes 3:1- 8 (*A Time for Everything*)

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

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!



- ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Principles for the Good Use of Time

Some things for you to consider regarding your time with God.

1. Prayer

- **Rom 12:12**; To pray means to seek communion with God and renew and change yourself and understand what God's will is for you.
- **1 John 5:14-15**; This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Taking time to pray helps us grow in our relationship with God. There may be periods in our lives, when we do not feel like praying, but even then it is good to tell God how we feel and thereby maintain contact with the Lord. Apart from the daily structured time that we spend in prayer, our thoughts may frequently go to God during the day in thankfulness and praise.

2. Reading Scripture

- **Col 3:16; Acts 17:11**; We need to take some time to read Scripture on a regular basis,
- **Josh 1:8** at least once a day, because through Scripture God speaks in a special way to us, keeping the channels of communication open. Scripture allows us to understand God, to meet Jesus, and to discern what is good and what is God's will for us.

3. Sharing the Good News

- **Matt 10:32; 2 Cor 5:20** Taking time to share our story and faith is beneficial to others, for they have a chance to get to know Jesus and/or understand Scripture in a deeper way. We too are

blessed because speaking about God helps us to deepen our relationship with Him.

4. Service

- **Luke 10:25-37; Matt 5:7**; Part of the Christian life includes serving others: family, friend, and
- **Matt 22:37-39** neighbors. Showing love to our neighbors can come in many creative ways, from giving them homemade bread, pie or cookies to watching their children and assisting them in difficult times. Service also includes involvement in various activities and responsibilities in the church such as serving on committees, music, worship services, calling on shut-ins, or visiting in the hospital.

5. Fellowship

- **Acts 2:46-47**; Time spent with others who believe is very important. Eating together, fellowshiping, and being sincere with a glad heart.
- **Heb 10:24-25** We become stronger together than we are alone. In Christian fellowship we find support, encouragement, and our faith is strengthened. We can also be a blessing to to each other.

6. Work

- **1 Thess 4:11** Achieve something in life, so when you leave this earth, we have made a difference.. It provides satisfaction and fulfillment

7. Rest

- **Mark 6:30-32**; Scripture also speaks about rest—even an entire day of rest.
- **Exod 20:8-11** Work for 6 days, and rest on the Sabbath. Rest is important for our health and for being able to function well. There must be a healthy rhythm between work and rest. The Sabbath is given once a week not only for recuperation but also for communion with God, service for Him, and fellowship with family and friends.

As we look at our lives, we need to determine if we are in harmony with God.

Thank you to Marilyn Ruegsegger and Bill Koellner for filling in for me while I was away from the office. You did a great job!
Katie Thrasher

FAIR HISTORY

Please enjoy the following poem written by Ron Brown in 1988 or so:

Fidelis

Some young married people from the Christian Church
founded a Fellowship group back in '47.
The group was small, probably no more than eleven.
They named the club Christus Semper Fidelis, which
means always faithful,
And faithful they were so the name was quite tasteful.

Their goal was to have a food stand at West Liberty Fair.
It has worked out fine, for after 45 years, it is still there.
That first year at the fair in '47, it was terribly hot.
They had cold pop so they sold a lot.
The bottles were in tanks, kept cold by ice.
The profit was very good, which was indeed very nice.

A few years later, our very young kids wanted to help us
in the Stand every day.
Most of the time they were just in our way.
We gave them some money to go on a ride; a few
minutes later they were right back at our side.

All at once they grew older and also quite tall.
Now when they could be good help, couldn't find them
at all.
So we worked many hours and were kept on the run.
But we didn't complain; actually thought it was fun.
Like a family our loyal members worked well together.
Always survived every Fair through good and bad
weather.

Back in the early years, we met on the 2nd and 4th
Sunday.
Sometimes we got carried away with our games, maybe
not getting home until Monday.
We probably partied more than we should, but we did
many things that were for the good.

We painted the Pingrey Sisters' house, who were quite
poor.
They never forgot this good deed, that I am sure.
For many years we had a New Year's Eve party.
Had lots of good, clean fun; never did anything really
very naughty.

Our group now grew larger with the addition of our
Presbyterian friends.
So with more help our long hours at the Fair came to an
end.

After joining together, Liberty Crusaders was our new
name.

The Newcombs are the only active chartered members
still around.

Working at the Fair Stand is still where they can be
found.

It takes so much money to run a church today. So we
spend our money for repair missions, church camps, and
in many other ways.

I think it is rare indeed for a group like this to last so
long. If it wasn't for our Fair Stand, this group probably
would have long been gone.

If the good Lord is willing, my wife and I would like to
help nine more years at the Fair,

For that would make 50 years for us being there.

Wouldn't it be great after we older ones are gone;

That maybe the younger ones will decide to carry on?



OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY

FIRST CHURCH UNITED OFFICAL BOARD MEETING

June 2, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m.

The monthly Official Board meeting was called to
order by Board Chair Bill Koellner. In attendance
were: Brenda Miller, Wayne Noring, Ken Noble,
Margaret Barnhart, Deepak Giri, Susie Lehman, Bill
Koellner, Pastor Marian Hart, and Treasurer Keith
Barnhart. Those not in attendance were: Darren
Brooke and Joe Myers. (Susie Lehman recorded
the minutes in the absence of Clerk of Session
Katie Thrasher.)

Devotion - Matthew 5: 1-12, The Beatitudes.

Open in Prayer

Approval of Docket: Moved and seconded by
Ken and Brenda; unanimously approved by the
Board.

Approval of the minutes: Moved and seconded
by Ken and Deepak; unanimously approved by the
Board.

Treasurer's Report: Keith gave the Treasurer's
Report. The additional \$200 needed for "Take
Away Hunger" was received. Presbyterian and
Christian Missions are paid for May. Fire
extinguishers have been charged and checked.
One Great Hour of Sharing / Week of Compassion
has been paid. There is no interest reported for
May. Move to accept the treasurer's report - Ken,
seconded - Wayne.

Beginning Balance for May	\$339.86
Receipts	<u>\$10,111.77</u>
Subtotal	\$10,451.63
Disbursements	<u>\$8,853.94</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,597.69
Board Checking Balance:	\$1,622.69

PASTOR'S REPORT: May 5 - June 2, 2016

Office hours kept as possible
 Plan and lead worship May 8, 15, 22, 29
 Adult Sunday School
 Lending Tree on Wednesdays and 2 Saturdays
 Helped plant and mulch garden and flowers
 Worship team meeting May 9
 Simpson bible study Tuesdays
 WOW meals May 4 and 11
 Church commission meeting / session meeting
 Newcomb church May 12
 Baccalaureate May 18
 River Bend Food Bank conference May 19
 Simpson worship May 20
 Assisted Living bike rides May 18, June 1
 Pastoral visits - 5
 Mileage - 159
 Community involvement: Meals on Wheels,
 Rotary, 100+ Women Who Care, Farmer's Market,
 TTT

June 5-11 continuing ed. at Hastings School for
 Pastors - Jason preaching June 5
 June 12-17 serving Camp Wyoming as TTT
 chaplain

LENDING TREE REPORT: May, 2016

Year-end surplus from WOW meals	\$230.00
Artificial tree	\$5.00
Couch, chair microwave stand, pots and pans, table, nightstand, chair, bedspread	\$110.00
Sheets, towels	\$9.00
Buffet, bookcase, candleholders	\$60.00
<u>Roaster, box of misc.</u>	<u>\$22.00</u>
Total	\$436.00

Marian will have items from the Lending Tree for
 sale during the City Wide Garage Sale.

ONGOING BUSINESS

List of items for repair:

- Church Repair List, Spring 2016
 1. Food Pantry - clean and paint room and shelving in preparation for inspector. Needs further evaluation.
 2. Windows in kitchen - blinds, film, or awning. Brenda will look into this.
 3. Northeast adult room - replace blinds. Brenda will look into this.
 4. Blinds on south and west windows in lounge need to be replaced. Brenda will look into this.
 5. Handicap restroom - stool plunger needs to have plastic holder (cannot just sit on floor). Joe will inspect.
 6. Ceiling tile in handicap restroom needs to be replaced. Will complete on a church wide work day.
 7. Ceiling tiles in Fellowship Hall need to be replaced. Will complete on a church wide work day.
 8. Ceiling tiles in lounge need to be replaced. Will complete on a church wide work day.
 9. Immersion baptismal heater broken. Board asks Butch Nortman to inspect.
 10. Lighting for choir loft - Brenda will ask Mike Kessler to fix directional ceiling light. If additional lighting is needed she will continue to check on possibilities.
 11. Drains in lounge need to be cleaned - slow draining. Darren will look into this.
 12. Nursery door - remove top door to prevent finger pinching. Dillon Brooke has been called to fix it.
 13. Purple wall in classroom needs to be painted - light blue to match other blue in room. Will complete on a church wide work day.
 14. Replace computer in office that displays announcements in hallway. Deepak has found one to bring in.
 15. Sunday School room door is splintering.
 16. Bell Tower - add flowers where shrubs were taken out.

-July Elder on Call - Ken Noble. Everyone is asked to notify the Elders on Call of anyone needing a visit.

-Follow up to kitchen licensing - when the inspectors come in July, Joe will ask to be licensed for a year rather than one week prior to fair.

-Manse Windows - tabled until August meeting.

-Katie's time off - Marilyn Ruegsegger continues to

help with PowerPoint, bulletins, weekly news and newsletter, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

- Long range planning committee - Brenda reported on 3 areas she would like to address:

1. 40th Year Celebration
2. Worship
3. Making Connections

Marian suggested that a 4th area be "Prayer Warriors" to cover all efforts

- Correspondence - Brett Akers wrote a note that he will be gone June 15-18, so other cleaning arrangements will need to be made.

- Pastor's microphone, sound system - Deepak took microphones that didn't work to West Music & had 3 repaired, added batteries, and returned. Pastor's microphone will need more work or will need to be replaced.

- Baptistery motor sound - no answers at this time.

- Highway clean-up - Thrashers will organize a clean up soon!

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS

CHRISTIAN ED. May, 2016

Hello, Church Family!

I have faith that this early summer is finding you well. We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer full of activities, learning about God, and fellowship. The Christian Ed. committee will meet next Wed., June 1. If you have any input into our upcoming curricula please feel free to let us know. We will be planning summer Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and an earlier-than-usual resurrection of Worship On Wednesday.

We are pleased to report that this past semester's activities were a grand success! Levels of attendance, participation, and depth of understanding of God's word were all very strong in the Sunday School, confirmation class, resurging youth music program, and Worship On Wednesday programs. Sincere thanks goes to Marian, Susie, Brenda, the Murphy's, Harold and Evelyn, and everyone who helped in any way. We are all truly blessed to have each other. Our combine efforts United toward making the world a better place really do secure a more sustainable and resilient future for the young Christians who will become the future leaders of our church.

Your active agent for bringing forth Jesus' kingdom of peace and righteousness.

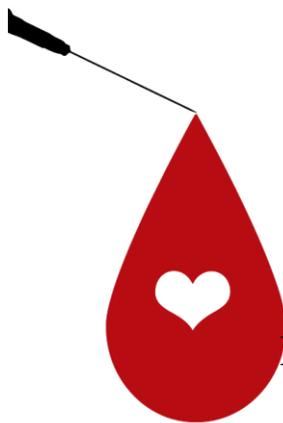
Jason Thrasher

ADJOURN

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: August 4, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. (no meeting in July)



*Give Blood
for
Life!*

**Rotary of West Liberty
Blood Drive**

**Monday, August 1st from
2-7p.m. at First Church United.
Walk-ins Welcome!**

Sympathy to the Tom & Janet Woody
family on the passing of Tom's brother

Church Workers

July 3

Communion

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Bill & Jan Koellner

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

July 10

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

CANDLE LIGHTER: Alice Thrasher

July 17

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

USHER: Dave Baker

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

July 24

Fair Sunday- Worship in the Grove at 9:00a.m.

July 31

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Carolyn Probst

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

Communion Preparers for July are

Tom & Mary Pat Brooke

happy
birthday

Birthdays in July

- 1 Kaden Brooks
- 6 Lisa Newcomb
- 7 Bob Rohner
- 8 Levi Larson
- 9 Calli Jo Deahr
- 10 Kevin Minor
- 14 Wayne Noring
- 14 Bill Koellner
- 14 Joseph Delgado
- 15 JoAnne Akers
- 16 Kurt Simon
- 19 Matthew Kelly
- 19 Patty Laughlin
- 20 Rebecca Kober
- 20 Skylar Simon
- 21 Elizabeth Levai- Baird
- 23 Lexi Stanley
- 24 Hope Pierce
- 25 Corey Herrold
- 28 Letha Ottaway
- 28 Kenley Kirchner
- 30 Janet Woody
- 30 Cassie Miller



Anniversaries in July

- 6th Curt & Lisa Newcomb
- 7th Rob & Brenda Miller
- 11th George Barber & Norma Brooks
- 12th Joshua & Elizabeth Levai-Baird
- 20th Joe & Dinette Myers
- 27th Terry & Chris Kruse
- 30th Leon & Mary Larson

Church Workers

August 7

Communion

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dean Phelps & Leon Larson

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: Katie Thrasher

CANDLE LIGHTER: Alice Thrasher

August 14

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Joyce & Gary Hahn

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

August 21

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dean Phelps & Leon Larson

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

The Murphy Family

ORGANIST: Susie Lehman

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

August 28

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Janet & Tom Woody

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Keith Barnhart

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

**Communion Preparers for August are
Margaret Barnhart & Evelyn Evans**



Birthdays in August

1 Norma Minor

2 Montana Herrold

4 Betty Dean Probst

5 Marilyn Irely

5 Ashley Gardenier

5 Amrita Giri

5 Jared Deahr

7 Aditi Giri

8 Bob Foor

8 Mike Gardenier

11 Marshall Delgado

14 Courtney Crees

14 Dakota Herrold

16 Harold Stagg

19 Wilbert Wendt

22 Madelyn Deahr

23 Hannah Miller

24 Mary Pat Brooke

24 Terri Larson

25 Lenny Larson

25 Rayleigh Reed

26 Todd Koellner

26 Ty Brooks

30 Tom Woody

31 Harold Wilkerson



Anniversaries in August

1st Darren & Lori Brooke

18th Roger & Heidi Morrison

23rd Keith & Margaret Barnhart

25th Wilbert & Mary Wendt

26th Mark & Missy Johnson

27th Joe & JoAnne Akers

All Congregational Gathering
Christian Conference Center

Saturday, August 27—10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Inspiring... Keynote Bill Spangler-Dunning... Combined Choir from our regional congregations... Large Gathering for Worship...
Free... Food... Activities... Lodging in cabins or tents (come Friday or stay over Saturday night)... Childcare... large tent activities
Fun... A "Midway" Activities for all ages... Swim... Inflatables...
5K Walk-Run (sign up with your registration)
Educational... A Varied Ministries Building full of information and ideas for your congregations... Workshops on various topics, i.e., Mental Health issues, The Disciples healthcare company switchover, Elders Training/Ministry, etc.

Be Involved

SHARE YOUR MINISTRY IDEA in a BOOTH at our "Varied Ministries Building" What is happening in your church? What is working? How are you following Christ in your community or world? Sign up at the button below or email Bill Spangler-Dunning: bsdumw@gmail.com

COMBINED CHOIR: Singers wanted from all congregations to serve at Worship Service. Will practice in morning, singing at closing. Sign up with your registration.

MUSICIANS Wanted from all congregations to join together, jam sessions, sharing gifts and ideas. Sign up with your registration.

CAMP OUT: Bring RV's, Tents or stay in Lodge Rooms, Cabins, Chi Rho Huts! All Free. Fri or Sat night— For reservations indicate it on your registration or Call/email Amber: 641-792-1266, adeumw@gmail.com

Retired Ministers' Dinner 5:00 pm Saturday directly after the Gathering! Sign up with your registration.

Gathering Young Clergy for a Cookout on Friday night hosted by Tiff Williams, Assoc. Regional Minister. Sign up with your registration.

REGISTRATIONS are available online or in your church office.

All Congregational Gathering Registration
Saturday, August 27, 2016

Name _____
Address _____
City, ST, ZIP _____
Email _____
Phone Number(s) _____
Church Name & City _____
Children & Youth Attending, Names and Ages _____

CIRCLE any of the following:

Retired Ministers Dinner, 5:00 PM
Young Clergy Cook-Out 6:30 PM, Friday
Join Combined Choir
Share with Musicians
Join the 5K Walk-Run 8:00 AM, Saturday
Onsite Mission Work Project (no skills required)
Musicians Gathering to share

CIRCLE if you want Lodging

at Christian Conference Center: (as available)

Lodge Room (contains 2 queen beds) - Fri? Sat?
New Air Conditioned Cabins (dorm style) - Fri? Sat?
Bringing tent or RV - Fri? Sat?
Chi Rho Country Rustic Hut - Fri? Sat?

Is your church bringing a story/booth/display to share?

Send to: Christian Conference Center, 5064 Lincoln St., Newton, IA 50208