



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



GOOD MORNING CHURCH!

That is how our DOC regional minister always greets a gathering at the Christian Conference Center. More and more as I attend events throughout both of our denominations, worship and workshop alike include personal testimonies. I spend half my working time being church on site in the office at First Church United. That is where my stories usually come from, from people in need who find our doors open and come in for a listening ear, a prayer, some financial assistance, food, a hug, or referral. As I sit here this morning, I wonder what the rest of church is doing today. I think it might be meaningful if we share more often where we have seen Jesus at work, and of course, where we have been able to join Him. So this month's news article is an invitation to be aware of your personal ministry and consider being willing to share with us on Sunday morning. I will start contacting individuals soon.

In the meantime, I'll go first. A man who passes through a couple times a year stopped in to visit and give me an update on how he's doing. Heading to St. Paul with a truck in need of a ball bearing, worried about trying to live on \$733 a month disability check, diabetic, friendly as a big puppy. He asked if I could give him a gas voucher, which I did. Then he said, "You wouldn't happen to have some food would you?" Well, it just so happened that Arnie had told me there was lots of leftover brisket to eat, so I called him and asked him to bring over a couple of sandwiches. He did. Neither action is much, except to the receiver. It is such moments when I feel we are being church.

So I say 'GOOD MORNING CHURCH!' What have you been up to in His service?

Pastor Marian

CHURCH RECORD		
July 2016		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
July 3	\$2,564.00	44
July 10	\$923.00	69
July 17	\$1,032.00	56
July 24	NA	NA
July 31	\$2,705.00	63

CHURCH RECORD		
August 2016		
DATE	OFFERING	ATTEND
August 4	\$6,364.00	47
August 11	\$1,172.00	48
August 18	\$579.00	53
August 25	\$836.00	65

LECTIONARY

Sept. 4 – Jer. 18:1-11; Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18
 Philem. 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

Sept. 11- Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28; Ps. 14
 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Sept. 18 – Jer. 8:18-9:1; Ps. 79:1-9; 1 Tim. 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13

Sept. 25 – Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16
 1 Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31



This year's CROP walk will be Oct. 9. Details coming soon.



Fall in! By the time you read this, we will have had our first choir rehearsals, our first choir meal together, and you should have received your 2016-2017 choir calendar. Hope you haven't missed out! But it's never too late to join in!!

Our meals will begin at 6:00 (clean up at 6:30). Feel free to eat even if you have to arrive late, but it's helpful for us to know to expect you. Chime Choir rehearsals will be at 6:45, and Chancel Choir rehearsals will be at 7:30.

If you did not receive your August letter, or if you are not currently in a choir but are interested in joining us, please let Susie Lehman know and we'll make sure we get all your information to you!

Sun., Sept. 4: SPECIAL MUSIC (No Choirs)

Wed., Sept. 7: Meal - 6:00, Clean up - 6:30

Chime Choir - 6:45 to 7:30

Chancel Choir - 7:30 to 8:30

Sun., Sept. 11: CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Sept. 14: (same as Sept. 7)

Sun., Sept. 18: CHIME CHOIR

Wed., Sept. 21: (same as Sept. 7)

Sun., Sept. 25: WORSHIP TEAM

Wed., Sept. 28: (same as Sept. 7)

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!



#40 in 17

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

Greetings from the Christian Education department.

You will be pleased to know that things are going very well, still. This summer's Vacation Bible school has been a great success! Each week we have had between 24 and 29 children attend. Some who are new to First Church United. We have been successfully spreading the word and love of Jesus to a bright new crop of young Christians. Our regular season WOW programming starts September 7th. Please spread the word that all are welcome to attend. Adults and children, saints and sinners, young and old. Thanks very much to all who are hoping to make it a success. Including, but not limited to: Joel and Lisa Murphy, Marilyn Ruegsegger, Susie Lehman, Jan Koellner, Jodi Kelly, Gary Hahn, and Katie Thrasher

Spread of the word, please, also that Sunday school is in a full swing! :-) We are Learning and playing, and celebrating the word of God and all of his glory.

Thanks very much for all your support. Yours in Christ, Jason Thrasher

CYG NEWS

This year's summer fun night had about 30 youth in attendance, plus 15 or so adults. Round robin volleyball, kickball, and lions and tigers was played. We ate grilled hotdogs, chips, and cookies. The evening ended with a giant water slide, wetted down by Jodi Kelly and her fire truck hose. The water balloons were no match for her!

The CYG Parent's night will be Sept. 11 at FCU. This is a chance for parents (or any adults) to come experience what a typical CYG night is like with games, worship, announcements, lesson, small group discussion and a meal. The announcements part is very important as you will receive the calendar of events, sign up to help with meal prep, and complete your children's registration as needed.

CYG Kickoff will be Sept. 18 at WLCF. All youth grades 6-12 are encouraged to come and bring a friend or two. We will worship, play games, and eat together.

This year's lessons will center around lesser known bible characters, the first being Caleb.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL GATHERING

Registration forms available in the office for Oct. 1st at Bettendorf. Speaker will be Donna Preston from Northern Plains Presbytery, speaking about Dakota Presbytery and Spirit Lake Reservation, ND and the ministries being done in the area to help Dakota people and the Spirit Lake Nation.

Inspiration Call to Elders and Leaders in the Congregations

By Bill Koellner

I attended the workshop for church leaders and elders. The general theme of this workshop was on Leadership/Eldership and Spirituality. A common theme at this workshop was that many churches have a lack of spirituality in their leadership so then it is a challenge to work together as a team. The Elders are the core group of leaders who are to have the most spirituality of any members in the church body. The attitude to serve is transferred to Deacons by Elders which is Faithful Servanthood. Elders represent the Congregation as a whole and are a good indicator whether the Congregation is spiritual.

Leaders should develop a personal life with God. Each person should be able to tell the story when they first knew God. Each of us should be able to know the circumstance when we first knew God was real. Elders and church leaders should be in a regular bible study either independently or collectively. Surveys have been conducted and it has been found that over 90% of those who attend church only hear or read the scriptures just before the sermon on Sunday.

A leader/board member/elder should be able to pray at any given moment if asked. An elder should be able to tell others about their spiritual journey, have a developed prayer life and biblical knowledge and help leaders make decisions using biblical knowledge. Some other key issues that were raised were children should know the basic bible studies, as a minimum, and later in life learn the understanding of each of the stories. God blesses us to be generous. Don't criticize people for what they do, but thank them for what they are doing. People feel they have to have a certain knowledge before they go to

church or Sunday school. We are as a church not out there saving the spiritually lost. A study was done in western United States to the effects to God answering prayer. It was found that people who were prayed with had the greatest response to healing, people who we know and were prayed for had the second greatest response to healing, and the last group was those who we pray for in general had the least response to healing from prayer.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will host their annual Brat Bash on Wednesday, September 28th from 11 am to 1 pm. Location will be Fred's Feed parking lot. Brats, hot dogs, chips, cookies & chips will be served. Hope to see you there!!



OFFICIAL BOARD SUMMARY

August 4, 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, Darren Brooke, Bill Koellner, Pastor Marian Hart, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, and Katie Thrasher. Those not in attendance were: Deepak Giri, Susan Lehman, and Joe Myers.

Devotion – Hebrews 11:1

Open in Prayer

Approval of Docket: Move to approve the minutes with amendment (add Necrology report) 1st Ken N., 2nd Wayne N. unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of the minutes: Move to approve 1st Ken N., 2nd Margaret B., unanimously approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Keith gave the Treasurer's Report. There was nothing out of the ordinary for June. IRS payment for withholding was sent in. Presbyterian and Christian Missions are paid for June and July. Move to accept the treasurer's report 1st Brenda M., 2nd Ken N., unanimously approved by the Board.

Beginning Balance for June	\$1,597.69
Receipts	<u>\$5,957.02</u>
Subtotal	\$7,554.71
Disbursements	<u>\$6,376.44</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,178.27

Board Checking Balance: \$1,203.27

Beginning Balance for July	\$1,178.27
Receipts	<u>\$12,424.14</u>
Subtotal	\$13,602.41
Disbursements	<u>\$12,415.47</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,186.94
Board Checking Balance: \$1,211.94	

Microwave	10.00
Undocumented	15.00
Total	\$123.00

PASTOR'S REPORT: June/July 2016

Plan and lead worship June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 31
Hastings School for Pastors June 5-11, 5 days of Cont. Ed.
Camp Wyoming TTT chaplain June 12-17
Endowment meeting June 20
Bike rides at Simpson June 22, 29, July 6, Aug. 3
Lending tree Wednesdays when in town, same with Saturdays
Christian Ed. Meeting June 23
Simpson worship June 24
Music meeting with choir directors June 30
Funeral for uncle Roy Carpenter July 1
Worship at Heath Manor July 7
Simpson worship July 8
Christian Ed. Meeting July 12
Women in Ministry bible study and lunch July 12
Funeral for George (Bud) Barber July 19-death July 14
Fair stand shopping, cleaning, set up
Work at fair stand July 20-23
Commissioning of CYG mission trip July 24
Synod School July 24-29, 5 days of cont. ed.
Shop and plan for July 31 event at Barnhart's
Bible study at Simpson Aug. 2

Pastoral visits-10
Mileage-40

LENDING TREE REPORT: JUNE/JULY, 2016

Step stool	\$1.00
Toy	1.00
Monkey	2.00
Sled	3.00
Blanket, misc.	20.00
Mixer	5.00
Plates	1.00
End tables	10.00
Cake pan	2.00
Chopper	1.00
Shoes, silverware	5.00
Sled	5.00
Cot, pans	25.00
Rake	2.00
Book case	10.00
Gift wrap	5.00

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. See note below
3. Northeast adult room - replace blinds. See note below.
4. Blinds on south and west windows in lounge need to be replaced. See note below
5. Handicap restroom - stool plunger needs to have plastic holder (cannot just sit on floor). Joe will inspect.- done
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 – Kessler is going to research a different fixture that can handle the movement of the building that have LED lights.
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. Thank you to Deepak for the computer. Katie will see if it works.
15. Sunday School room door is splintering.- Ken N. will look into this.
16. Bell Tower – Bill K. will add flowers where shrubs were taken out next spring.

*#2,3,4- Brenda met with Randy's Carpet and asked for an estimate of a pull down blind without cords. Proposal will be in Board files. Brenda will contact Pinetree Interiors for an estimate on the 2 kitchen windows facing the eastside. She will compare the estimates and decide which one to accept and move ahead with.

-August Elder on Call – Bill Koellner. Everyone is asked to notify the Elders on Call of anyone needing a visit.

-Follow up to kitchen licensing – Kitchen is licensed for a full year under the name “Arnie’s Corner BBQ”.

Anyone can use it under this license. Motion for Arnie to use kitchen 1st Ken N., 2nd Wayne N. unanimously approved by the Board.

-Manse Windows – Bill K. and Marian H. will set up a time to look at windows and further this project.

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

- Board went over Assessment pts from the Holy Cow Assessment results.

- There are four main areas of focus for the LRP.

- A church service to kick it off Sept. 25th

- Some are meeting this Monday to start getting involved and plan the Sept. 25 Worship service.

NEW BUSINESS

-Necrology report – George “Bud” Barber. July 14, 2016

-A church member approached Joe M. about the church eve spouts and down spouts and the damage being created at the base. Member is concerned that this is damaging the brick and would like to see a fix implemented. Not sure who is in that business. – Board discussed and ask that Dillon Brooke look into this.

-The Murphy family asks to have permission to use the lounge and the piano for piano lessons with Al Zimmerman Wednesday evenings. 1st Ken N., 2nd Margaret B., unanimously approved by the Board.

-Brenda M. will speak with Jason T. about using the church piano/music enrichment lessons.

-Jason T. will order age appropriate bibles for those who attend Sunday School regularly in September. The bibles will then be presented to the children in worship.

-Jason T. asks for approval of buying T-shirts and tie dying supplies for VBS/WOW. Motion to approve 1st Ken N., 2nd Brenda M., unanimously approved by the Board.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS

CHRISTIAN ED. August 2016

Hello Church Family!

Greetings from the Christian Education Department on this fine summer day. I am pleased to report that all is well and lively in our youth programming. We kick off VBS today, ushering in a new season of worship. Our Wednesday of Worship (WOW) season was so successful that the kids didn’t want it to end. They clamored for an earlier reinstatement of the program than the traditional post-Labor Day timeslot. So, as we are

here to serve, and spread the good news of Christ, we kindly obliged by combining VBS with the traditional 6pm Wednesday schedule. We anticipate good attendance, and are quite pleased with all of wonderful help offered by our Church Family to make it such a success.

Yours in Christ, Jason

ADJOURN

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: Sept. 1, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Church Workers

September 4

Communion

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Butch Nortman, Gary Hahn, Karen Nortman,
Joe Myers, Dinette Myers, Syd Harned

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Thrasher Family

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Jim Kiwala

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

September 11

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Norma Brooks

ORGANIST: Marianne Phelps

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

September 18

Communion

SPEAKING ELDERS:

Dave Baker & Norma Brooks

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Butch Nortman, Gary Hahn, Karen Nortman,
Joe Myers, Dinette Myers, Syd Harned

USHER: Tom Brooke

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Marilyn Ruegsegger

ORGANIST: Brenda Miller

POWER POINT: Bill Koellner

CANDLE LIGHTER: Open

September 25

Worship in the Fellowship Hall

USHER: Jodi Kelly

GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Ken & Jo Noble

ORGANIST: Lori Brooke

POWER POINT: None Needed

CANDLE LIGHTER: None Needed



Birthdays in September

2 Charlie Thrasher

4 Lewis Morrison

6 Carol Miller

7 Marsha Jacobs

8 Jeanne Hale

9 Kyle Harned

11 Mary Larson

11 Jacob Johnson

12 Maggie Christy

14 Kurtis Minor

16 Dave Baker

16 Ken Noble

18 Kyle Barnhart

18 Marcy Dewar

20 Jason Thrasher

22 Jeanine Williams

23 Rob Miller

24 Curt Newcomb

25 Jasmin Gardenier

26 Addyson Lehman

26th Jim Kiwala

29 Ron Brown

29 Scott Skubal

29 Evelyn Evans

30 Brooklyn Harned



Anniversaries in September

4 Bill & Jan Koellner

9 Ryan & Tana Deahr

14 Bob & Terri Larson

25 Roger & Carolyn Bengé

Communion Preparers for September are
Walt Lehman & Wayne Noring