

**May 2013 Newsletter**  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
1000 Willson Avenue  
Webster City, Iowa 50595  
515-832-2232



*"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." --Proverbs 3:27*

All of us are aware of the Backpacks Against Hunger program in our local schools, which supplements the diet of food insecure students with bags of snacks and easy-to-prepare food they take home on the weekends. The logical extension of this program is a summer lunch program, which would offer a nutritious meal to students who are out of school for the summer. That program will be a reality this year in Webster City! A USDA-sponsored student summer lunch program will start June 10, with meals being served at the Webster City Middle School from 11:30am--12:30pm Monday through Friday. Ideally this program will run until school resumes in the fall, but for the program to be financially solvent the school food service (which will prepare the meals and file for reimbursement from the USDA) has stated that there must be a minimum of 100 students eating lunch daily—and if this number isn't met then the program will end on July 1. The Webster City Ministerial Association is committed to making sure this program runs through the entire summer—but for that to happen we will need your help!

I have "volunteered" First Congregational to be the source of volunteer staff to help with the lunch program during the week of its initial launch beginning June 10. Most of you know I don't normally make commitments on behalf of our church without discussion first, but we need to get organized quickly—and I anticipated that this project would receive popular support from our members. It has! Already several members have graciously volunteered to be a part of our lunch team in June—and I am thankful for that. And while we are not yet sure what all of the volunteer duties might entail, I would encourage anyone else who would like to volunteer to speak with me. Since this is our first year organizing and implementing this program we are feeling our way through it—and we may need help with set up and clean up at the Middle School, possible transportation of meals to ACE and other remote sites, enrichment activities with the kids...there has even been discussion of how we could continue the program with church and civic volunteers and donations if the school system withdraws in July!

We have already seen an incredibly generous outpouring of support for the Backpack program, and I anticipate that kind of support for the Summer Lunch program as well. What makes programs like this (imperfect as they sometimes are) so compelling to so many of us is that they give us the chance to make some measure of difference in a child's life. I needn't tell you that for children these days it truly is "the best of times and the worst of times" (sorry, Dickens). Many children today have access to better education and healthcare, more information, more programs, and more opportunities for enrichment than ever before; the problem is that many do not. A heartbreaking fact is that we as a community are eligible for this government program because over 50% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunches... which means that for many families in our community it is a daily struggle to make ends meet, to put food on the table, to purchase decent housing, health insurance, etc--and children are usually the ones who are the most vulnerable when a family is in poverty. The idea that there will be children who will thankfully receive these free lunches, just as they thankfully receive the food backpacks, is a sobering reminder that not everyone has access to what most of us take for granted: a simple, regular meal.

I needn't tell you that Jesus said "Let the little children come, and do not hinder them." Those words still apply to us! I hope you will support our summer lunch program in whatever ways you can—even if it is only by "spreading the word" and encouraging children to attend who need a nutritious summer meal. In a world that too often seems short of Good News—this is Good News, indeed!

—Pastor Craig



#### TIPS on how to give praise:

- T: True. People can see through undeserved praise, or it may make them expect praise without having to work for it.
- I: Immediate. Give the praise as soon as the behavior occurs, if possible.
- P: Positive. This will make the behavior more likely to occur again.
- S: Specific. Point out exactly what they did right and how it was helpful. Talk about what you saw rather than making judgments.

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

M	8 am – 1:00 pm
T	9 am - 1 pm
W	8 am - 12:30, 1 pm to 4:30
Th	8 am - 12:30, 1 pm to 4:30
F	9 am - 1 pm

#### Church Staff

**Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Pastor**  
 Office: 832-2232 Cell 297-4316  
 Pastor's email: [revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net](mailto:revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net)  
**Michele Omvig: Admin. Assist.** 838-2989  
 Church's e-mail: [fcuccwc@wmtel.net](mailto:fcuccwc@wmtel.net)  
**Sharon Perry: Stephen Ministry Ldr** 832-5435  
**Nancy Shelton: Choir Director** 835-0208  
**Myra Maxon: Organist** 832-3662  
**Mary Van Diest: Pianist** 832-3754  
**Curt/Lorraine McCoskey: Cust's.** 832-5341  
**Myra Maxon: Financial Secretary** 832-3662  
**Luverne Bierle: Church Treasurer** 832-4752

#### ATTENDANCE

Apr 7	100	Apr 14	80
Apr 21	86	Apr 28	78

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 4 - Richard Abbott
- 5 - Kari Rabe
- 5 - Becky Myers
- 6 - Mitchell Downs
- 8 - Dorothy Englehart
- 9 - Jon Reinsel
- 9 - Connie Gustafson
- 11 - Bob Butrick
- 11 - Ina Cormaney

- 11 - Lauren Leman
- 11 - Kelly Midtling
- 11 - Mabel Prescott
- 12 - Heather Butrick
- 15 - Lailah Jean Luevanos
- 15 - Lukah Lee Luevanos
- 16 - Neil Oberender
- 16 - Katie Fox
- 19 - Gretchen Bruner
- 22 - Hayden Butrick
- 22 - Sue Jaycox
- 22 - Lisa Swanson
- 25 - Mike Burtnett
- 26 - Carol Crystal
- 29 - Linda Lahr
- 29 - Jennifer Yungclas



#### birthdays & anniversaries

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 1 - Jeff & Cori Fogle
- 2 - Emily & Troy Stockdale
- 4 - Al & Jan Maxon
- 7 - Craig & Vicki Blaufuss
- 16 - David & Liz Weieneth
- 17 - Tracy & Glenda Wehrhan
- 29 - Dan & Donna Ryherd
- 30 - Joseph & Amy Doolittle



#### MEALS n MORE

#### Meals n More

Please join us for a May Day picnic in Fellowship Hall on May 1, starting at 5:00 p.m. Think Spring!

#### Scholarship Applications

Applications to apply for scholarships are available in the rack outside of Pastor's office. These need to be completed and returned to the church by June 30.

### **Graduation**

We will honor our graduates on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12 during our worship service.

### **Quilt**

The Piecemakers will be placing a "Fat Quarter Antique" quilt which measures 83" by 64" in Fellowship Hall on May 16. Funds raised will benefit Relay for Life. Make sure you stop in, take a look and place a bid!

### **Community Cafe**

Inspired by the recent words of motivational speaker Aaron Thomas at Prem Sahai Auditorium, members of the Power up Youth Coalition are asking people to take part in a Community Café at Whoop-ti-doos & La-ti-daas on May 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. A Community Café is a forum for concerned citizens to gather and share knowledge, generate ideas, explore community issues, and stimulate innovation. Let's connect and listen to each other! Join us-- and contribute your thoughts for strengthening our community.

### **Strengthen the Church – Invest in the Vision**

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregation to the "church" in new ways, your gift will plant new churches awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

On Sunday, May 19 – Pentecost – we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special offering. Direct to local conferences local church ministries and the Stillspeaking ministry, Strengthen the Church gifts help visions become reality. Invest in the vision!

Mission Board

### **Congrats!**

On April 20 Dylan McCoskey finished a successful trampoline season by winning the USTA state trampoline title and finishing second in the double-mini. He qualified for the national meet in both events. This year the national meet will be in Fort Lauderdale, Florida the week of June 17-22. He hopes to improve on his fifth place finish in the trampoline last year.

Good luck, Dylan, we are proud of you!

### **VBS**

Mark your Calendars for Vacation Bible School!

We are teaming up with Asbury United Methodist Church again to hold our annual Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is a World's Fair and the program looks amazing. Save the date for our next planning meeting which will be held on Thursday, May 2 at 5:30 in the basement of the Asbury United Methodist Church. There are MANY, MANY opportunities to donate your time  
Decorations -

Meals - we'll need help preparing and serving meals

Adult Leaders - we need leaders for each session the children attend.

Adult Volunteers - each leader will need a helper!

Kid Volunteers - we need middle school and high school age kids to help us corral the younger ones and take them to each of their sessions

VBS will be held July 8 - 12 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church. The kids attending will be fed supper from 4:30 to 5:00, then we head upstairs for 2 and a half hours of fun! A program from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday will cap off the week.

Please call or email Linda Lahr if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Email: [lahr0575@hotmail.com](mailto:lahr0575@hotmail.com)

Cell: 297-2407

## Summer Camp

Even if it does not feel like it, summer will soon be here and that means camping at Pilgrim Heights! There are opportunities for all age groups. Registration forms are available in the church office and more information is on the bulletin board.



<http://www.pilgrimheights.org/camps/residential-camps>



## Congratulations!

Alexis Byrne is going to attend ICCC in Fort Dodge next fall, and will eventually be going to UNI. Her plans are to become a High School history teacher. Alexis would love to invite everyone out to her house on Saturday the 18th from 4:00 to ?? Her address is 1973 Xavier Ave, Duncombe.



Dan and Donna Ryherd invite you to their daughter Jan's high school graduation reception on Friday, May 17, 2013 from 7-10 pm at 121 White Fox Road; in Webster City. Plans are for all of her brothers to also be in attendance including Mark from Fairfax, VA, Lee of Shenadoah, IA, and Grant, of Grand Forks, ND (a May college graduate of UND)! Let's celebrate!

Graduation from WCHS will be at 2 pm, Sunday May 19th at the WC High School.

Jan will be attending ISU in the fall where she is enrolled in the Greenlee College of Journalism.



## Women's Fellowship May Dinner

Please join us on May 29 at 5:30 p.m. for our May Dinner. Clara Nottbrock will give a presentation. Come enjoy a great meal, learn about Clara and learn how Women's Fellowship supports the church and the community.

## Thanks

It is hard to believe but I have now been working for this congregation for one year. I feel very fortunate to call this my job. Thank you for making this such a lovely place to work.

Michele Omvig

## Women's Fellowship Spring Thrift Sale

Again, what a huge event.

Thank you to each of you who helped donate, sort or unbox items, clean-

up and haul the leftovers, bring food for workers, or work during the sale. We are especially grateful to those men who hauled the items from the basement. This project could not be done if not for each of you.

As a result, we have again raised approximately \$1,700.00+ to help fund the gifts we give at the end of the year to deserving organizations in this community and around the world.

You are this church in action.

Thank you all so much!!!

Cindy Henning

Chairperson, Thrift Sale



***Next Sale Sept.  
28***

## Christ Caring for People through People

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen to you, care for you, support and encourage you, and pray with and for you. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through. Stephen Ministers are Christian friends who are here for you no matter what life problem you are facing--loss of home, loss of job, discouragement from life issues. If you

or someone you know is facing a crisis--large or small--and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: Pastor Craig or Sharon Perry. **Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!**

## Pastor's Report of the Northwestern Association Annual Meeting April 20

This year's annual meeting was held at Union Memorial Church in Milford from 9 am-3:30 pm. The morning sessions were dedicated to worship and programming: Nicole Havelka, Iowa Conference ACM for Leadership and Faith formation, shared with us some initiatives of the Iowa Conference in fostering new leadership in our churches, including the new lay education initiative called Pathways, which is a 4 year hybrid curriculum helping identify, form, and authorize future licensed and ordained clergy in the Iowa Conference. Nicole also explained her work with the Certification School for Progressive Christian Youth Ministry and her work with youth and youth leaders throughout the Conference. Because of budget cuts Nicole's position will terminate in the fall unless substantial donations are made by churches and individuals; if you wish to make a donation to continue her work, please contact the Iowa Conference or speak with me. Following an excellent lunch, we gathered for the annual business meeting of the Association. Certificates of licensure for licensed Pastors were given out (our Association has a large group of gifted licensed pastors) and we heard reports from Rich Pleva and Tony Stoick, who will be retiring after the Recharge event in Ames June 7-8. The Conference is conducting interviews to find Tony's replacement, and Rich reported that he is excited about the quality of the applicants. Our new



treasurer, Dorothy Denny, gave a disturbing Treasurer's report on the state of our Association finances. The last treasurer did not pay over \$7000 of financial obligations in 2012, and so we are required to pay them this year along with our current budgeted items. When all present and past obligations are met we will have less than \$200 in our account. The proposed budget for 2013-2014 that was adopted estimates \$10,500 in income and \$10,350 in expenses, leaving little cushion if our projected income falls short. With great reluctance the gathered voted to remedy our financial picture by raising the per member levy that the Association charges member churches, from \$2 per member to \$3 per member in 2014. The other important piece of business was a vote on the proposed Conference Committee For Authorized Ministry (CCAM). This committee will consist of Conference-wide church members who will be elected for 5 year terms, and their role will be to Conduct Fitness Reviews of Clergy, Grant Privilege of Call to pastors outside the UCC who are serving UCC churches, and to grant authorization for Ministry to those seeking to enter into licensed or ordained ministry. This will reduce the workload of the NW Assn Committee on Ministry to support functions of pastors and churches, information reviews, transfers of standing, and renewal of licensure for pastors. This proposal was approved by the delegates. The meeting finished with the installation of the new slate of officers and committee members, and I want to congratulate Joyce Gelhaus for agreeing to serve on the Committee on Ministry. While the meeting was long and at times tedious, it was a blessing to be able to work and worship together with a variety of faithful people who love their churches and "the Church."

—Pastor Craig

## **KLAB**

On Wednesday, April 24, Pastor Craig and Wil Groves took the KLAB kids out to pick up trash and tree limbs.







### **Last Day of KLAB**

May 15 is the last day of KLAB until the fall. A special celebration is being planned, more details to come!

### **Last Day of Sunday School**

May 19 will be our last day of Sunday School until the fall. We want to thank Laurie Epps, Carol Crystal, Todd & Katie Sonsalla and Leah Maass for leading our 2012-2013 programming.

### **Spinach Tart**

8-inch deep tart pan, lined with flaky pie dough

9 ounces fresh spinach

4 tablespoons butter

1 onion, finely chopped

2 heaping cups grated Cheddar cheese

2 whole organic eggs, plus 2 yolks

2/3 cup heavy cream

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 400°F. Place lined tart pan in oven and bake for 10–15 minutes. Gently cook spinach with half the butter, until wilted. Remove from heat and chop finely. Heat remaining butter and cook onions until soft. Spread spinach and onion over bottom of pie crust. Pulse together cheese, eggs, yolks, cream, mustard, and seasoning. Pour over spinach and onion and return to oven for 20–30 minutes, until top is golden. Turn off heat and leave on the bottom shelf for 5 minutes. Serve with a green salad.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Webster City, Iowa**  
**Cabinet Meeting-April 9, 2013**

**Members Present:**

Moderator- Dale Olson  
Vice-Moderator-Verna Bierle  
Treasurer- Luverne Bierle  
Finance Sec.-Myra Maxon  
Finance-  
Christian Ed-  
Staff/Parish- Luverne Bierle

Pastor-Rev. Craig Blaufuss  
Trustees-Bruce Perry  
Women's Fellowship-Dalene Schlitter  
Mission-Lorraine McCoskey  
Worship-Holly Riemenschneider  
Evangelism-Nancy Shelton  
Substitute Clerk-Dalene Schlitter

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Moderator, Dale Olson. All of the following were accepted with a motion by Luverne Bierle and seconded by Bruce Perry: 1-minutes of the last meeting, no corrections: 2-Ministers Report by Craig that on Wed., April 10<sup>th</sup>, he would be meeting with the Ministerial Association in town to talk about the summer food program which will be from June 10<sup>th</sup> thru Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>. Our church will be responsible to help one week. It is possible that an enrichment program such as Dental and Eye Screening, Out Door Games, and perhaps a Day Pass to the swimming pool will be added to the free meal program: 3-Proposed agenda had nothing added to it. Motion carried. Luverne gave the treasurer's report. He reported that 24.9% of the budget has been collected to date. March offering was \$23,158.62 and expenses were \$18,236.99. Luverne moved and Bruce seconded to accept the report. Motion passed. Marjorie Groves will attend the Association Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> at Milford, IA. Someone else will be asked to attend the Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting as she will not be able to attend. The stove in the kitchen was checked out by Black Hills Energy and found to be working fine. Black Hills Energy will be meeting with the Trustees to present a Maintenance Contract that they thought our church might be interested in. As Dale will be gone for the May meeting our vice-moderator, Verna Bierle, will be conducting the meeting.

**Reports of Pastor and Boards**

**Pastor's Report:** A special word of thanks to Dale Olson for leading Matins and the Easter sunrise service. Also thanked the St. Louis Mission team for hosting the Easter brunch. It was a fundraiser for the missions they will be serving while in St. Louis. The Webster City Ministerium is seeking volunteers for the summer lunch program in WC. A core group of 5-7 people who will preside over the management of the site, direct volunteers, and deal with whatever issues arise during the summer. In addition, each church will be asked to provide volunteers to help serve and cleanup each week of the program. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with him. The Renovation/Preservation group has finished their discussion/evaluations of the congregational survey and will present their finding to the trustees in May. Adult Sunday School program continues its multi-week study of world religions. Wil Groves gave a picture presentation of sights in the Holy Land to KLAB. Six Stephen Ministers are currently matched with care receivers. They have met with Theo and Terry Boman for a discussion about funerals and caring for the bereaved. They also met at Van Diest Medical Center for a discussion with staff about hospital visitation and care. New speakers have been installed in the sanctuary and a new SD card recorder to record the



worship services. Now our recordings will be digital Mp3 files, allowing services to be edited and then burned to CD's, emailed, and uploaded to our future website.

**Mission Board:** OGHS offering taken on March 10 totaled \$1,022.00. \$141.00 was collected for Kids Against Hunger. 540 packages were filled which will feed 3,240 kids. Pastor Brian Kirk has contacted Pastor Craig to see if the St. Louis Mission group could possibly come on Sunday, June 30. Pastor Craig will check with the group. Lorraine McCoskey has planned a meal of maid rites, potato salad, baked beans and bars to serve Beacon of Hope on April 17. She is also in charge of the D/SAOC cake auction. Stephanie Hill is preparing a paragraph about the Mission Board and its function. This will be used on the church website and other media as deemed appropriate. Pastor Craig will be using a video to provide information on Mission 4/1 Earth. Church members are encouraged to help with the city tree planting. Discussed cleaning up our church properties. Ginnie Veach has taken information on the Ice Cream social to be put on the Table Tents. She reported that the cast of "Nunsense" will provide the entertainment for the social. The Summer Food Program will be held June 10 thru August 9. Churches and other organizations are being asked to help with Site Management. The library and Fuller Hall are being looked at for enrichment possibilities.

**Staff/Parish Board:** Officers are: Chairperson-Kolleen Taylor, Secretary-Shirley Yungclas, Cabinet representative-Luverne Bierle, alternate to cabinet-Glenda Wehrhan. Future meetings will be held on a "need to meet" basis at 5:45 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Staff members may express concerns to any board member, however, individual board members were assigned as liaison to staff personnel as follows: Pastor Craig-Luverne Bierle, Choir director (Nancy Shelton)-Sherry Leksell, Custodian (Curt McCoskey)-Mark Vance, Administrative Assistant (Michele Omvig)-Glenda Wehrhan and Organist (Myra Maxon)-Shirley Yungclas. As Michele has been employed by the church for one year, Glenda will be visiting with her about a vacation. A reception honoring Clara Nottbrock, the German exchange student, who has been a part of our church family this school year, is planned for June 2 after church. Staff position job descriptions need to be updated. A Staff/Parish manila file containing some historical information needs to find a safe home. The board will serve the coffee after church on April 21.

**Evangelism Board:** The Hospitality Committee meets once a year. These six individuals each take 2 months to find ushers and greeters for each Sunday. Greta Oberender schedules adult nursery attendants for the entire year. Hospitality is in charge of the children's bags that hang in the rear of the church. Vicki Blaufuss last cleaned out the bags and sharpened the pencils. The board discussed the condition of the nursery. It is undetermined who is in charge of washing toys, throwing away broken or soiled toys, or who keeps the baby play pen clean and sanitized. Pastor Craig reported that the publicity committee is gathering information for the web page which should be up and running by June, 2013. Each Board is asked to write in a conversational manner a short article, a description of their function and purpose. Stephen Ministry is looking for the next Stephen Leader. Trinity Lutheran Church has asked about the possibility of having our Stephen Ministry train their next group of Stephen Ministers. Pastor Craig continues the bible study at Southfield. He also told about the summer school lunch program that churches and community clubs are being asked to participate in. Each church would provide volunteers for one week to help with the program. This is a separate program from the Back Pack Program and does not replace it. Cards continue to be sent to our church family for various occasions. Reminder that people should be signing the attendance cards during church service. A

discussion was held on how to encourage our active and inactive members to be more involved. The board's task force will be giving their recommendations to the trustees at their May meeting. Money will be sent to the Ecumenical Human Needs Committee as soon as possible. Clara Nottbrock is the guest speaker at the Women's Fellowship Dinner on May 29. A reception for her is being planned after the June 2 church service.

**Trustees:** No report

**Women's Fellowship:** No report

**Christian Ed:** No report

**Finance Board:** No report

The next cabinet meeting will be Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Mary Van Diest, Church Clerk

**9:00 A.M. ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**9:15 A.M. YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**10:30 A.M. WORSHIP**

### **Treasurer's Report**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH</u></b>	<b><u>YEAR TO DATE</u></b>
Pledges and Offerings	\$23,158.62	\$45,681.97
Other Income	1.33	4.49
Memorial/Special Income/Interest	2,141.54	4,641.36
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$25,301.49</b>	<b>\$50,327.82</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
Outreach and Mission	\$1,417.00	\$4,273.96
Pastoral Services	10,316.93	20,751.70
Maintenance and Repairs	3,707.65	9,287.09
Church Office	2,161.65	8,163.84
Music Ministry	589.58	1,768.74
Christian Education	0.00	(117.50)
Local Ministry	0.00	0.00
AGAPE Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00
Misc. Expenses	44.18	388.06
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$19,236.99</b>	<b>\$45,515.89</b>

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**Address Service Requested**

God is still speaking  
to everyone in the home of:

