#### November 2013 Newsletter

First Congregational United Church of Christ 1000 Willson Avenue Webster City, Iowa 50595 515-832-2232 http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/



Pastor's Voice

Recently I was out walking my dogs in Graceland cemetery, when suddenly a jolt of electricity shot through my right hand. I looked down and saw a sweat bee in the process of stinging me! I furiously shook my hand to shake off the bee, who fell to the ground stunned. If you've ever been stung in a sensitive place you know how painful it is, and as the burning sensation radiated through my hand I fought down the urge to go over and stomp the offending bee to death in retaliation for his offense. Instead I glared at him lying on the ground, wondering what in the world had gotten into him for this unprovoked attack....until he oriented himself and flew off, to feed and swarm—and possibly sting—another day.

As I continued my walk and rubbed my sore hand, I remembered a story told by Mark Nepo of an Indian sage who went to the Ganges river to pray. One day, noticing a poisonous scorpion struggling in the water, he cupped it in his hands and carried it to the shore. As he placed the scorpion on the ground, it stung him. The next day when he was in the Ganges praying, he saw the scorpion again struggling in the water, and again he carried it to safety—and again he was stung. The third day he returned to the Ganges and AGAIN saw the scorpion flailing in the water, and as he went to lift it out the scorpion said in exasperation "Why do you keep lifting me? Can't you see that I will sting you every time, for that is what I do?" And as the sage cupped his hands around the scorpion, he replied: "Because this is what I do."

There is a lot of meaning in this story, but what struck me after my run-in with a sweat bee was that I, like the Indian sage, express who I am by what I do--in ways that bees and scorpions cannot. I can do more than fall back on instinct, or react in predictable and time-worn ways to what is going on around me, for I have been given the freedom and responsibility to choose how I will respond to every person and every event in life. So it is with each of us. Each choice we make implies "this is what I do, because this is who I am"...and while our choices don't exhaust or delimit our identities, they do reveal who we are in that moment. When we are stung by bees, scorpions, or unkind words, it is an opportunity, albeit a painful one, for us to choose *who we are* in our response. When we are in our response. *Even in situations that seem impossibly difficult, painful, and challenging... even in those moments (especially in those moments!) we are given the opportunity to give witness to who we are, by how we choose to respond.* 

Jesus showed us the truth of his being—who he was, and is—as he consciously chose his responses to the world around him. His conscious choice to come into this world, to become flesh among us, certainly showed us that he was willing to undergo painful experiences for our sakes. When he renounced the "normal" life of a Jewish peasant in order to become a wandering teacher and healer; when he choose to share the pain of the sick, the poor, and the sinful rather than isolate himself from them; when he chose to share his light with those whom John the Evangelist claimed "hated the light"; even when he chose to forgive those who "stung" him with a Roman scourge and Roman nails…he revealed the mystery of who he was; a "revelation" that still continues to inspire and create wonder in us. And while we may not choose to respond to every person and situation as Jesus did, his example reminds us that we are graced with the power to choose consciously how we will respond to all that happens in our lives…and in our choices we give the gift of *ourselves* to others, and to the world.

November 28 is Thanksgiving Day, and on that day we're given the opportunity to give thanks for all the blessings God has bestowed in our lives. Typically our "thanks" are reserved for all the blessings we can count, which loosely translates into the abundance of good things and good people in our lives. Perhaps this year we might try something different, and offer our thanks for the opportunities—even the difficult and painful ones-- that give us the chance to know and express *who we are* through our conscious choices. And while I'm not sure that I will be offering thanks for my bee sting (which still hurts, by the way), I am thankful that it gave me the opportunity to see my reactions, to wrestle with my urge to give pain for pain, and to remember that ultimately I don't control life, but I do control who I am and how I choose to respond to life. That "food for thought" may be the only non-fattening item on the menu for Thanksgiving! It may also be the most profound blessing we have to celebrate.

May your Thanksgiving be blessed—and may you be a blessing to others through your choices!--Pastor Craig



Time is valuable – even when it's free.

To understand the value of one year: ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To understand the value of one month: ask a mother who has a premature baby.

To understand the value of one week: ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To understand the value of one day: ask a daily laborer who has 10 kids to feed.

To understand the value of one hour: ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To understand the value of one minute: ask a person who has missed the train, bus, or plane.

To understand the value of one second: ask the person who has survived an accident.

To understand the value of one millisecond: ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics. Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have!

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

- M 8 am 1 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

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 3 Bob Maass
- 4 Chase Berhow
- 5 Kathy Theobald
- 5 Christie Halliday
- 5 Joely Gilbert
- 5 Dominic Stark
- 6 Brennan Myers
- 6 Amanda Kalkwarf
- 9 Kristy Fortune
- 9 Keith Holdgrafer
- 12 Marc Reinsel
- 13 Holly Riemenschneider
- 13 Katie Sonsalla
- 14 Emily Maass
- 17 Kylee King
- 18 Donna Ryherd
- 19 Shelby Fogle
- 20 Jon Follett
- 20 Laurie Smith
- 24 Maggie Kennedy
- 25 Diane Vasquez
- 26 Zachary Thomas Midtling
- 26 Andrew Wehrhan
- 27 Susan Leman
- 27 Glenda Wehrhan

- 28 Jake Van Diest
- 29 Mark Ryherd



Anniversaries and Birthdays

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 21 Mark & Deb Carlson
- 22 Tom & Holly Riemenschneider
- 25 Arden & Dalene Schlitter
- 29 Ray & Diane Vasquez

## **Church Staff**

Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Pastor Office: 832-2232 Cell 297-4316 Pastor's email: revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net Michele Omvig: Admin. Assist. 838-2989 Church's e-mail: 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

September 29	90	October 6 77
October 12	66	October 20 82
October 27	81	

#### WEBSITE

Make sure to visit our website at http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/

The more traffic we get the easier it will be for people to find it.

The website has our newsletters, pictures of events, information about our church and more.

#### Pecans

Pecans are here! They are \$9 a bag; checks can be made to Haystack Circle.

## **Kids Against Hunger**

Sunday, November 3 is the day to go to The Bridge and help measure, weigh and seal packages with rice and other ingredients for the Kids Against Hunger program. We will meet there at 1:00 and generally are done in an hour or so. This is an activity that any age can participate in and allows you to give of your time to help others.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2013 immediately following worship to vote on the proposed 2014 budget.

#### **MEALS N MORE**

Join us for Meals N More on November 6 at 5:00 pm. It is hosted by Mayflower Circle.

#### **CROP Walk**

A big thank you to all who walked, donated, or in some way supported CROP walk here in WC. A great big huge thank you to Mabel and Marjorie Groves for their organizing, promoting, and general oversight of getting CROP going again here in town. \$1,712.56 was taken in as well as 47 jars of peanut butter. As announced earlier ¼ of the funds collected went to UDMO which equaled \$428.14.

Thanks again from the Mission Board





## Thanks

UDMO would like to thank you for your donation from the CROP walk. UDMO would also like to thank you for the opportunity to receive donations from your garage sale. Your support in the community is greatly appreciated. UDMO Staff

## Thanks

I want to thank everyone for their cards and other expressions of appreciation during Clergy Appreciation month. I'm not sure why clergy get a month of appreciation when just about everyone else gets a day (if that), but I am humbled and grateful for your appreciation, and thankful for our shared ministry here at First Congregational, which is now in its 4th year! May God continue to bless our church with a desire to love and serve others in the way of Jesus. --Pastor Craig

#### THANKS!

We would like to thank everyone who supplied us with used blue jeans from the Thrift Sale and beyond! They are being used to make rugs.

Duane & Cheryl Meinders (Michele's parents)

## Thanks

Where do we begin to thank our family, our friends, and our church family for the many kindnesses shown to us during Audrey's surgery and recuperation? Thank you for the cards, flowers, visits, food and especially the prayers. They have helped so much! Recovery seems slow but it is progressing. God's blessings on you. Dick & Audrey Burtnett

#### **Saturday Evening Service**

We will have Saturday evening services on November 9<sup>th</sup>. When we have Saturday services there will be no Sunday Worship Service, and Sunday School will be held Saturday night after the Children's Message. Also, there will be no Fellowship Coffee after the Saturday services.

## Snacks for KLAB

KLAB is off to a great start with 14 young people participating! That's a lot of energy and enthusiasm—and a lot of appetites. We have been serving snacks at KLAB, and we are looking for volunteers to help provide snacks for our weekly programming. It can be homemade or store-bought treats; we need enough for 14 children. If you would like to provide treats for a week, please contact the church office or Pastor Craig.

#### Make a Difference

Eight hardy souls turned out on Saturday, October 26 for our part in Make a Difference Day. We picked up 8 bags of trash and the area from Tassler Pallet to the Grid Iron is a bit cleaner than it was prior to that Saturday. Thank you Jane Klaver, Don Bruner, Donna Ryherd, Curt, Lorraine & Dylan McCoskey, and Dale & Gayle Olson. Your help was appreciated! Mission Board



## **Community Thanksgiving service**

Webster City's Community Thanksgiving service will be held Sunday, November 24 at 7 pm –right here in our own sanctuary at First Congregational UCC! The WCMA has asked our newest clergy member, Rev. Michael Slininger of Faith UMC, to deliver the Thanksgiving message, and other members of the WCMA will participate in the service as well. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other members of our town to worship together and offer thanks to God for all of our blessings.

#### All Saints Sunday—November 24

All Saints Day is a time to remember those departed "saints" who have shaped and blessed our lives in so many ways. On Sunday, November 24, we will observe All Saints Sunday during worship by reading the names of our departed congregation members who have died in the past year. Following their remembrance, individuals and families will be invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to light candles in memory of loved ones and friends who have departed. The departed saints of this congregation whom we will remember during this year's All Saint's Sunday are: Warren Worthington, and Larry Olmstead.

## **Advent Begins—December 1**

Hard to believe, isn't it? Advent is just around the corner! Sunday, December 1 is our first Sunday in the season of Advent, and we are again asking for volunteers (families or groups of friends) to lead the Advent Candle Liturgy. If you are willing to help with this important part of our Advent worship please sign the sheet that will be posted by the church office.

#### **Adult Education on Sunday Mornings**

The Adult Education class has begun a new series of forum-based discussions where participants are encouraged to bring their questions, share their beliefs and experiences, and examine resources that will shed light on the important topics of the day. Recently we have been discussing the great question of "Life after Death", and we are exploring how religion, science, contemporary culture, and participants' personal experiences engage this idea. If you want to participate in a lively and informative discussion of topics that are important to the life of faith in our modern world, please join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am. The coffee pot will be on!

#### **Decorate!**

Come join in the HANGING OF THE GREENS, to be held after worship on December 1, the first Sunday of Advent. Everyone is invited to help decorate our church for this wonderful time of year! Pizza will be provided for volunteers.

#### Thrift Sale

Our fall thrift sale was held in September. We raised approximately \$1,300! A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this happen. From planning to donating to sorting to purchasing to cleaning up, we thank you all.



## **KLAB Halloween Party**

On October 30 the KLAB children were treated to a Halloween party.

A rousing game of SPUD ball was played outside...



Halloween goodies were enjoyed...



A Body Part Scavenger Hunt... (eeeek!)



A game of Ring-Around-the-Rat/Food Challenge was played



Mummy contest! (only slightly messy)



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Webster City, Iowa Cabinet Meeting—October 8, 2013

Members Present:

Moderator----Dale Olson Vice-Moderator----Treasurer----Luverne Bierle Finance Sec. ----Myra Maxon Finance----Duane Vavroch Christian Ed----Staff/Parish----Luverne Bierle Pastor----Rev. Craig Blaufuss Trustees----Joyce Gelhaus, Bruce Perry Women's Fellowship-----DaleneSchlitter Mission----Worship----Evangelism----Donna Ryherd Clerk Protem----Myra Maxon

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Moderator, Dale Olson. Pastor Craig Blaufuss shared a Lakota prayer. Duane Vavroch moved, Bruce Perry seconded, that the current agenda be accepted. Motion carried upon vote. Luverne Bierle presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported the September income was \$18,198.00 and expenses were \$18,692.79. He moved that it be placed on record for audit, Dalene Schlitter seconded the motion. It carried upon vote. Myra Maxon reported that the Attorney General's office is contacting Division Imaging. The 2014 budget was presented by Duane Vavroch. After discussion, Luverne moved, Duane seconded that the budget be presented to the Congregation on Nov. 3, 2013. Motion carried upon vote. The Cabinet then reviewed the proposed changes to the Active and Associate list of members. There were minor changes to the list. Dale Olson asked Luverne to remind Verna Bierle that she should convene the nominating committee to begin work for the 2014 committees and boards. It was noted that Mabel Prescott would like to teach members of the congregation on how to use the defibrillator before she leaves for Florida for the winter. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

## **REPORTS OF PASTOR AND CABINET**

Pastor's Report: There will be "Second Saturday Worship" services on Oct. 12th and Nov 9th beginning at 5:00 pm. After the children's message, children will be dismissed to their respective Church School classes for a lesson while the worship service continues. There will be no Sunday School or Worship on Oct. 13th or Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, we will observe All Saints Sunday. Advent begins Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and on Dec. 8 the Christmas program will be held. The Chili Cook-off for RVTV was a good opportunity to promote our church. As our church website still does not appear when a Google search for "Churches in Webster City" is conducted, the Public Relations committee has asked to me to contact Darcy Swon about the cost of getting our page to appear on the Google search engine. This committee met with Pete Gardner of Webster City Living who gave several advertising strategies to the committee. The Webster City Ministerium met and decided to offer the traditional Community Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Host church to be announced later. As Black Hills Energy will no longer be leading the Warm Hearts Warm Homes program that program will not be available in Webster City this year. The Eastern Cluster subcommittee met with Rev. Marie Paterik, an intentional interim, and representatives of the Congregational Church in Humboldt for discussion of their congregational health and vision for the future. In November will be meeting with the Congregational Church in Eagle Grove and their Pastor Jim Cunningham. Adults will be finishing their study of World Religions on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. The next sessions will be group discussion on topics provided by class members. Fifteen students are in KLAB this year. Thanks to Cindy Henning for the bright

orange KLAB banner displayed by the church on Wednesdays. The children are studying the story of Joseph from Genesis. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board if you wish to provide snacks for KLAB. Shalom Circle will meet at 7:30 pm, Thursday, Oct. 10th in East Chapel. Mission Board has resurrected the CROP Walk in Webster City. It will be hosted by our church and participants are to meet at the Brewer Creek Shelter on Oct. 13th at 2:00 pm.

**Evangelism Board:** Stephen Ministry currently has 7 matches. Another leader will be trained in early 2014. Wilma Reinsel updated us on cards sent and Mabel Prescott on Parish Nurse visits. We will serve a simple coffee on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> after worship. Our goal is to do several picnics in the summer of 2014. Discussion was held on nametags and nursery cleaning. Donna Ryherd will check on these and report back. Hospitality ushers should have temporary name tags to give visitors. The Board will meet on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

**Christian Ed Board:** The Worship Board attended our Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to question the impact of Sat. evening church services on Sunday School. Discussed holding classes during church service, possibly beginning right after the children's message. Reviewed the budget and submitted for the year 2014. Don Bruner shared his experiences at VBS and submitted a copy of expense breakdown. Voted to send Asbury Methodist half (\$325.00) of the total expenses and will continue this sharing arrangement. He will find out if Faith United Methodist might also be interested in joining. Pastor Craig suggested the board continue to send cards to the children as reminders that we are here and we care about them. There is currently no leadership for SYF/SYF at this time, although we have several students eligible to participate who are too old for KLAB. The Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, during regular church service. Next meeting will be Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, following church and we will continue to meet on the second Sunday of each month following church service.

**Trustees:** Two contractors have been contacted to get plans and estimates with the renovation and preservation of the church. One more will be contacted to get an estimate. When the plans and estimates are received, we will have a meeting to go over them. Mark Trueblood is trying to figure out if anything can be done with the air system in Fellowship Hall. He is also looking into the heating problem of Pastor Craig's office. Bathroom renovation ideas were discussed on the men's, women's and family bathrooms. Chris McNeal cleaned straw from the fan in the women's restroom. There will be a screen installed on the outside of the vent to prevent birds from bringing in the straw. We are setting up a preventive maintenance contract with Mark Trueblood. No signs of the bats recently.

**Worship Board:** Communion schedule as follows: Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> all by intinction On Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, served in pew at the Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm. There will be no midnight service on Christmas Eve. Pastor Craig will make sure that disposable cups and gluten free wafers are ordered. Holly Riemenschneider will purchase wine and grape juice. The person in charge of serving Communion needs to check supplies (wine and grape juice) and purchase the bread each month. Dale Olson will be reimbursed for leading morning worship and worship at the nursing homes when he was on vacation. As Pastor Craig will be gone on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, will need someone to fill the pulpit on that date. See the Pastor's report for the discussion and decisions on the second Saturday evening services. Nancy Shelton, the Hospitality Board, Christian Ed. Board and Myra Maxon have been contacted about these changes.

**Mission Board:** Finalized the menu for Meals 'n' More for Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mark & Connie Gustafson have confirmed their attendance and will be sharing their dream of opening an orphanage in

Haiti. CROP Walk will be Sunday, Oct. 13. The pickle jar will be out at coffee on Sunday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> for CROP. Next meal for Beacon of Hope will be Nov 20<sup>th</sup> with Ginnie Veach in charge and Stephanie Hill in charge in Jan. The NIN offering will be received on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. Kids Against Hunger packing will be held at The Bridge on Sunday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm. Gayle Olson will take care of getting the info out and a sign-up sheet. Make-a-Difference Day will be Saturday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. We had a discussion about doing another clean-up of an area of the city and issuing a challenge to other churches and service clubs to do the same. Gayle will talk with Kent Harfst about areas that he would see as a priority to clean and try to get the info out to others. It was decided that we would do an area that day no matter what others in the community decide to do. We decided that the Alternative Giving Fair was a project that we wish to continue during this Advent season. Possible organizations would be: Heifer Project, CWS Hygiene kits and blankets (Stephanie Hill), Beacon of Hope (Karin Yungclas), UDMO angel tree (Gayle and Lorraine McCoskey), Stepping Forward (Romanian orphanage), Holy Joe's, Ft. Dodge animal shelter (KLAB). Will discuss with Women's Fellowship about incorporating a SERRV consignment sale also at this event. The next meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

**Staff Parish**: A family memorial celebration of the life of Jennifer Anderson will be held at Briggs Woods beach on Sat. Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Salary updates and the budget have been presented to the Finance committee. Custodian Curt McCoskey will be interviewed by board members Luverne Bierle and Mark Vance. Kolleen Taylor contacted the Pension Board and the Iowa Conference regarding compensation , pension and percentages for Social Security and insurance on Pastor Craig and verified we are in the guidelines. The board will be present for the Congregational budget approval meeting on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> to answer possible questions. Michele Omvig's contract regarding vacation time will be reviewed. The next meeting will be Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**Women's Fellowship:** Reported that approximately \$1300.00 was raised at the fall thrift sale. The spring sale will be April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Gayle Olson, Nancy Shelton and Cindy Henning will organize and order items for a consignment SERVV Sale during the Alternative Giving Sale beginning Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Morning Star has completed their kitchen cleaning duties: other circles have plans to complete their assigned tasks. Thanked Mabel Prescott for donating a microwave for the kitchen. Reminded everyone that those using the kitchen are responsible for emptying the garbage cans if they put anything smelly or food in them. Dalene Schlitter will schedule funeral meetings. Mayflower will serve Meals 'n 'More on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Providence will serve the coffee after church on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> (condiments, drinks and dessert as this is the Rotary Turkey dinner Sunday): Mayflower will serve after church coffee on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Mabel Prescott will coordinate the Choir Welcome Back function for Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. Fruit and meat/cheese will be served. A tentative date of Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at noon for the Christmas Luncheon has been set. Hosts are Morning Star and decorations are Haystack circle. Haystack Circle will have pecans for sale the week of Halloween.

Next meeting: Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

Mary Van Diest, Church Clerk Myra Maxon, Clerk Protem

#### Pastor's Report—Iowa Conference Annual Business Meeting

Our Conference's Annual Business meeting held Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at Ames Congregational UCC. The event was well attended, and ACUCC did a great job of hosting those who gathered to work through a rather light docket of conference business. Here are the highlights:

We installed our new Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Brigit Stevens, who will oversee the various Association Committees on Ministry, the Covenanted Communities of Pastoral Excellence (CCPE), Pathways (the program for lay education and licensed ministry) and the new Conference Committee for Authorized Ministry (CCAM).

We heard the Report of Rev. Rich Pleva, Iowa Conference Minister, who admonished us to focus on cultivating faithful discipleship on an age of declining church budgets and church membership. In his report he noted that the Conference is exploring the use of Adjunct Staff to fill specific roles: Katherine Mulherin will work with young clergy, Laura Arnold will administer Pathways, and Samantha Houser will coordinate youth programming in the wider church. He also noted that next year in the Iowa Conference: churches will have access to demographic community data through a site called "Missionsite" that can help with invitational evangelism, a fundraising seminar will again be offered, and a program called New Beginnings will help congregations discern their future.

The articles of Incorporation of the Mayflower Home were amended to allow the Mayflower Board of Trustees to be able to nominate six of the eleven candidates who serve on the Board of Trustees. This allows the Mayflower Board to choose whom they deem most capable to serve, rather than leaving this decision entirely up to the Iowa Conference Board of Directors. An amendment to the Iowa Conference By-Laws was submitted that requires that the Conference Board of Directors prepare a budget which must be approved by the delegates at the Annual Meeting. This corrects an oversight in the By-laws that essentially stated the Board could create and approve its own budget without consent of the delegates at the Annual meeting. The other change to the By-Laws was to include a passage about the Annual meeting notification to clergy and churches: a first class mailed notice must go out to each church and clergyperson 30 days before the meeting. Both amendments passed. 2014 Ministerial Compensation Guidelines were also approved.

The presented 2014 Iowa Conference budget showed a total of \$890,100 as projected operating income, and \$884,505 in projected expenses, leaving the Conference with a \$5595 surplus at the end of 2014. 34% of our OCWM Basic Support is being forwarded to the National Office. The 2014 Budget was approved unanimously—if you wish to review it I will be happy to provide you with a copy.

Finally, the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors, General Synod, and the CCAM presented by the Nominating Committee was approved as presented, with no additional nominations coming from the floor.

In my opinion it was a good idea to de-couple the business meeting of the Conference from the programmatic portion (the programming was offered at the "Recharge" event in June), because it keeps each meeting shorter and more focused. I am appreciative of the many capable clergy and committed churches that make up our Conference, and I am proud to be a part of the portion of the body of Christ in Iowa known as the United Church of Christ! –Pastor Craig

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP
10.30 A.M. WORSHII
9:00 & 9:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

INCOME	SEPTEMBER	YEAR TO DATE	
Pledges and Offerings	\$18,198.00	\$123,284.24	
Other Income	175.80	678.71	
Memorial/Special Income/Int	erest <u>7,741.89</u>	31,444.21	
TOTAL INCOME	\$26,115.69	\$155,407.16	
EXPENSES			
Outreach and Mission	\$1,417.00	\$13,387.96	
Pastoral Services	10,126.93	62,227.20	
Maintenance and Repairs	3,979.06	25,803.82	
Church Office	1,822.52	19,728.12	
Music Ministry	589.58	5,446.22	
Christian Education	339.85	359.33	
Local Ministry	242.18	2,822.18	
Mem. Funds Distribution	0.00	25,352.86	
Misc. Expenses	175.67	2,412.51	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,692.79	\$157,540.20	
Difference	\$7,422.90	(\$2,133.04)	

# **Treasurer's Report**

First Congregational United Church of Christ 1000 Willson Avenue Webster City, IA 50595

**Address Service Requested** 

God is still speaking to everyone in the home of:

