

April 2014 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
515-832-2232
<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>



At a recent Pastor's retreat hosted by the Iowa Conference, Rev. Ben Guess, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, shared with the group the new vision plan of the U.C.C. at the national level. This vision plan includes:

A Core Purpose statement: "Drawn together by the Holy Spirit, we are a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church, joining faith and action. In covenant with the church in all of its settings, we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Our U.C.C. Core Values: "Continuing Testament" (our faith is 2000 years old. Our thinking is not. God is still speaking),"Extravagant Welcome"(no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here), "Changing Lives" (never place a period where God has placed a comma).

Our B.I.G.S. (Bold, Inspirational Goals): 1. Bold, Public Voice, 2. Welcoming, Reachable Congregations, 3. Engaged Discipleship, 4. Excellent, Diverse Leaders.

Now you may be thinking that this new vision plan is really nothing new, and in a sense you would be right—these have been hallmark U.C.C. values since its inception in 1957. The purpose of this new vision plan is to tighten our focus on who we are as a *denomination, and as individual churches who claim a covenantal relationship with that denomination*. In other words, this vision plan is a tool for all of us to use to help us keep our focus on why we really exist as a church of the United Church of Christ, and to help us cultivate best practices that ally ourselves with our identity as a U.C.C. church. Rev. Ben reminded all of us who gathered at the retreat that in an age of shrinking resources the U.C.C. can no longer afford to be fuzzy or unclear about its core identity and purpose if we plan to engage in meaningful ministry in the world...and I believe that is true of our local church as well. As we experience shrinking resources of dollars and members here in Webster City it is important that we continue to focus on ministries that matter—ministries that are faithful to the gospel, engage our passion, offer service to others, AND align us with our denomination's vision and goals.

This fall the UCC is rolling out a new denominational initiative called "Reading Changes Lives." This will be an aggressive, sustained all-church literacy campaign to reverse the looming disparity affecting children and youth who are overlooked because of race, economic marginalization, and/or learning style. This is people-to-people ministry at its best, and it will allow us to practice our "Extravagant Welcome" and to help "Change Lives"... while connecting us to the core vision and purpose of other U.C.C. churches. I hope you will give serious consideration to being a participant in this ministry as it unfolds over the next year and beyond.

Friends, in a scant 20 days Easter will be here. It is the yearly reminder that our church—and all churches of the Christian tradition—are founded on the miracle and the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. All you need do is look around you, open a newspaper or magazine, or surf the web to realize that the world still greatly needs such a miracle and such power if it is going to resurrect into the kind of world God envisioned from the start. We have a part to play in that resurrection, but it will take our BIGS for that to happen: our bold voices, our ability to be welcoming and reachable, our engaged discipleship—and yes, our excellent leadership. That's quite a challenge! That's quite a call! Could we expect anything less from Jesus? Does Jesus expect anything less from us?

--Pastor Craig

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 2 - Rolf Yungclas
- 2 - Karin Yungclas
- 2 - Scott Sjoberg
- 3 - Dorothy Stearns
- 4 - Sherry Leksell
- 5 - Jessica Paterson
- 9 - Wil Groves
- 9 - Lynn Leksell
- 15 - Jonah Alan Fiala
- 15 - Cori Fogle
- 15 - Lorraine McCoskey
- 15 - Becky Barrett
- 16 - Jacob Lahr
- 17 - Alaina Holdgrafer
- 18 - Shelby Brim
- 19 - Christy Fiala
- 19 - Arden Schlitter
- 20 - Gen Carroll
- 22 - Lauren Christine Stirling
- 25 - Hailey Marie Brim
- 26 - Patty Yungclas



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 4 - Alan & Karin Yungclas
- 17 - Bob & Leah Maass
- 28 - James & Gretchen McGlynn

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

ATTENDANCE

March 2	58	March 8	68
March 16	75	March 23	72
March 30			

MEALS N' MORE

Our next Meals N' More is Wednesday, April 2 at 5:00 pm.



Why you should love beans and legumes:

They're interchangeable with beef as a source of protein.

They're high in soluble fiber, the kind that can lower bad cholesterol.

They have no saturated fat, unlike red meat.

They're a complex carbohydrate and can help control blood sugar levels in people with diabetes.

They can help with weight loss because they keep you feeling satisfied longer.

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

Come to Easter Breakfast

Christian Ed will be hosting an Easter breakfast and activities on April 20th. A "Son-Rise" service will be held in the sanctuary from 8:30 to 9:00 am. Activities will be from 9:00 to 9:30 am and breakfast from 9:30 to 10:00 am. There will be no Sunday school that day. Come join us for fun and fellowship on the day Jesus rose.



Children's Books Needed

Children's books are wanted for the summer meal program and book give away. If you have any young people's books to spare please bring them to the church office or to Pastor Craig.

Meetings

Christian Ed will have their meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Next meeting will be April 2, 2014

Thrift Sale April 25 & 26

Spring Cleaning and Sorting

- **SORT**
- **CLEAN**
- **REDUCE**
- **RECYCLE**
- **DONATE**



On Friday & Saturday, April 25 & 26 the Women's Fellowship will be conducting their semi-annual Thrift Sale.

Beginning Wednesday, April 23 we will be accepting those items cluttering up your lives. If you need assistance transporting your items, call Cindy Henning.

Please note that the organizations we donate to after the sale have restrictions on what they are taking. We ask you to help us by bringing only items that are clean, complete, and in good repair. Ask yourself, would I want to purchase this item, before you bring it to donate. We will no longer accept TVs because do not

have anyone to take them after the sale. If you have questions contact Cindy Henning at 515-297-0422.



Auction

Congo members are also enthusiastic fans – this year the Mission Board would like for you to be a fan of the Domestic Sexual Assault Outreach Center (DSAOC). To support their mission, we will be collecting items for a super cool, tailgating cooler that will be the must-have at their live auction during their April 12th cake auction.

What NEW items can we fill our cooler with??

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Large cooler | Condiments |
| Stadium Chairs | Nerf Footballs |
| Marinades | Nonperishable food items |
| Grilling Utensils | Mini-grill (donated!!) |
| Aprons | Fun hot pads |
| Bean bag games | Flashlights |
| Flyswatters | Table cloths |
| Stadium Blankets (With or without team logos) | |
| Team logo items | Fareway gift card |
| HyVee gift cards | Insulated Cups |
| Gift Certificate to t-shirt shops | |
| Sports banners | |



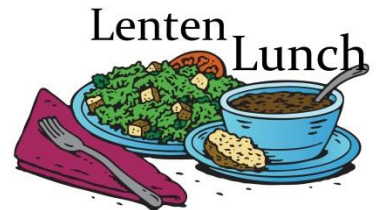
Camp

Pilgrim Heights camp schedule is up on the bulletin board. More information and registration forms are available in the church office.

Lenten Luncheon

The women of Asbury Church wish to invite you to the annual community Lenten Luncheons. The luncheons continue on Tuesdays through April 15. Serving will begin at 11:45 followed by a short devotion.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or let Michele know by Monday noon previous to the luncheon you are attending.



2nd Saturday Worship

Please note, we will NOT hold a Saturday evening service in April.

Almost Home

Join Almost Home for a night filled with fun, laughter, and memories you won't forget! Saturday, April 5 from 7:00—11:00 pm they are hosting a "Fur Ball" tickets are \$20 each or \$35 per couple in advance, \$25 each at the door. The evening will include complimentary appetizers, music and dancing, a photo booth, auctions, games and prizes, raffles and more. Call 515-955-8343 for more details.

Thanks

■ Upper Des Moines Opportunity would like to thank you for your monetary donation. Your support in the community is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jamie Ragland

■ Dear Friends at First Congo, Partnerships have always been the way humans have used to get the most for their efforts. I'm grateful for your partnership with the churches of the Iowa Conference. Your generous OCWM contribution of \$17,550 during 2013 has assisted UCC churches across the state to follow Jesus more faithfully. Thank you and God bless you!

Rev. Dr. Rich Pleva
Conference Minister

■ I want to thank the church family for the cards, flowers and visits and especially the prayers I received following my surgery. It was deeply appreciated.

Richard Burtnett



Recipe

Dip by Gayle Olson

1 can tomato soup

1 box lemon jello

1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese

1 cup mayonnaise (recipe says Not Hellman's)

Onion

Green pepper

Celery

Heat soup then add dry lemon jello. Stir till dissolved and then add cream cheese and stir till it is melted and mixed thru. (This is after the soup has been removed from the heat.) Stir in mayo and mix thoroughly. Add chopped onion, gr. pepper, and celery - I added about 1/4 c. of each, but could add more or less according to your taste. Refrigerate and serve with crackers.

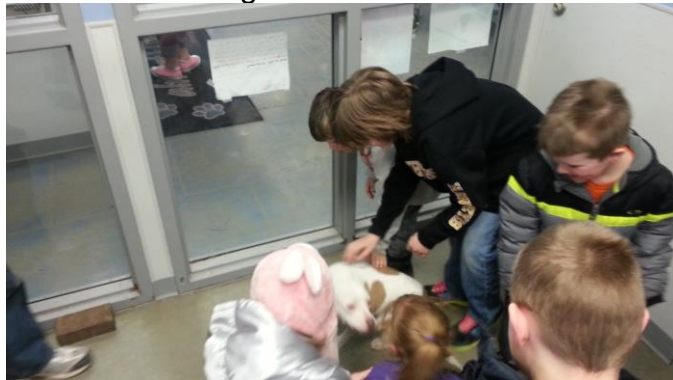
On March 26 the KLAB kids visited Almost Home in Fort Dodge



Getting Blown Away



Learning About Almost Home



Petting Gretel

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Webster City, Iowa
Cabinet Meeting-March 11, 2014

Moderator.....Verna Bierle	Pastor.....Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Vice-Moderator....Luverne Bierle	Trustees.....Tom Riemenschneider
Finance Sec.....Myra Maxon	Women's Fellowship.....Dalene Schlitter
Finance.....Duane Vavroch	Mission.....Ginnie Veach
Staff/Parish.....Dalene Schlitter	Worship.....Holly Riemenschneider
Christian Ed.....	Evangelism.....Laurie Epps
Clerk.....	

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Moderator, Verna Bierle. Pastor Craig Blaufuss opened with a meditation and prayer. The minutes of last meeting and board and committee reports were open for review and discussion. Tom Riemenschneider reported that Schlotfeldt Engineering had been contacted about the remodeling project. The engineering company spent several days at the church working with the trustees. They are very familiar with church remodeling and will have some definite plans in about 2 weeks. They will have several views of their plans and a rough estimate of money that these will cost. Then it will be up to us to present the plans to a contractor for their estimate and then move forward with presenting the plans to the congregation. We also had a roof water leak on the flat roof addition to the church. Jaycox came and built up the flashing so that the water could not leak into Fellowship Hall. The trustees will contact our insurance company to see what coverage we have for this. Laurie Epps gave a brief report on Evangelism. Most of the Stephen Ministers now have matches, the Grief Group is going well and Donna Ryherd is going to clean all of the chairs in Fellowship Hall and is requesting help with that. Duane Vavroch moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting and the board and committee reports. Laurie Epps seconded. Motion carried. Luverne Bierle gave the treasurer's report. The offering total for the month of February, 2014 was \$17,244.37 and the expenses were \$14,839.65. Luverne moved and Laurie Epps seconded to put the report to audit. Motion carried. Myra Maxon reported that the foot pedal board of the organ needs to be replaced. She will receive the exact dollar amount of this replacement but thought it would be less than \$5,000.00. She would like to take this money out of the Cliff Doty Memorial Money. It was agreed that we would not like to see that CD broken but would use the interest from that money plus money from the general fund until that CD comes due and then we would decide if we needed to replace general fund money. The Finance Board will also be asked to approve this. The Active Membership List and the Associate Membership List were then gone through. Minor changes to each list were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Clerk Protem: Dalene Schlitter

Reports of Pastor and Committees:

Pastor's Report: Led a short Ash Wednesday service at Southfield and in the evening held a service in East Chapel. The theme for Lent is "Making Room for God". There will be no Saturday service in April because of Holy Week. Attended a workshop on February 14 that outlined the work that Committee on Ministry are to be doing. The NW

Association CoM will hold the annual relicensing event for licensed clergy March 15 at Primghar. Will be attending a Pastor's retreat in Newton on March 25-26 to network with other Iowa UCC pastors and visit with Ben Guess, the director of UCC communications. The annual "Recharge" event will be held June 6-7 in Ames. Krista Tippet will be the keynote speaker at this event. The Adult Christian Ed class continues their study of "Healing". They are now studying human energy fields, "vibrational healing", and Healing Touch. Kathy Vaughn, a Healing Touch practitioner, attended a session and shared her insights into Healing Touch. She has offered a 50% discount to UCC members for a Healing Touch session. Kathy Getting will present a program on the issues surrounding medical marijuana to the adult class on Sunday, March 30—everyone is welcome to attend. KLAB is studying the parables of Jesus. They plan to visit Almost Home animal shelter on Wednesday, March 26. A huge thank you to everyone who has provided treats for KLAB. VBS will be held July 28-August 2 at Asbury UMC using the same evening format as last year. Currently 8 Stephen Ministers are matched with care receivers. There will be a Stephen Ministry morning retreat on Saturday, April 5, beginning with a tour of Foster's Funeral home and a discussion on grief and death led by Bob Erickson, and finishing with devotions and a luncheon at the church. Vicki and the pastor are hosting the "Night in Ireland" for Meals 'n' More on March 12th. The Women's Lenten Lunches begin March 11, hosted by Asbury UMC. Our church will lead the program on April 1st.

Finance Board: Tracy Wehrhan is the newly elected chairperson, Duane Vavroch is cabinet representative and Dale Olson is secretary. Tracy will call meetings as needed with a tentative schedule of a meeting in April-May to review scholarship application, third week of July to review completed scholarship applications, with the Scholarship Sunday in August.

Evangelism Board: The board consists of the following: Laurie Epps-chair; Sharon Perry-Secretary; Nancy Shelton-Cabinet Rep.; Wilma Reinsel-stewardship and cards; Laurie Epps-spotlight series; Donna Ryherd & Dawn Holdgrafer-summer picnics; Craig Blaufuss-Pastor; parish nurse rep.-Mabel, Holly, Joyce, Mary; Stephen Ministry rep.-Sharon Perry; public relations rep.-Curt McCoskey; hospitality rep.-Carol Crystal. The board is interested in helping with the care center Sunday afternoon church services. The next ones are scheduled for April 6, June 22, August 31 and November 9th. They will start at 1:15 pm at Windsor Manor, 2:00 pm at Crestview and 3:00 pm at Southfield. Wilma continues to send cards of condolences, congratulations, get well and thinking of you to our community and church members. The summer picnics are scheduled for June 15th, July 13th and Sept. 7th. Picnic chairpersons will coordinate and let the rest of committee know their responsibilities.

Treasurer's Report: The February offering was \$17,244.37 and expenses were \$14,839.65

Worship Board: They welcomed new board members Cindy Henning and Linda Lahr. The officers for the board are chairperson-Gretchen McGlynn; secretary-Linda Lahr; cabinet rep.-Holly Riemenschneider and cabinet rep. alternate-Cindy Henning. The schedule for communion is as follows: March 2nd (intinction)-captain-Gretchen with Cindy and Holly as helpers; April 6th-no communion will be served due to communion being served at two other services in April; April 17th (intinction)-this is Maundy Thursday, with Cindy as captain and Gretchen as helper; April 20th (pew)-this is Easter Sunday with Troy Stockdale, Linda, Cindy and Holly all helping; May 4th (intinction) with Troy as captain. The board went through where the supplies are stored for communion and what needs to be done for preparation. Gretchen will make sure all items are in

supply for the appropriate Sunday. There will be no Saturday service in April. The board will be talking in the future about the possibility of only doing the Saturday services seasonally as they are not as well attended in the winter months as they are in late spring, summer or early fall. There will be no Matins this year due to poor attendance in the past. Craig will be checking on the palms for Palm Sunday—who orders and how they are ordered. The board will need to find a substitute to fill the pulpit on the Sunday after Christmas and possibly for June 28th. Pastor Craig would like the board to think about ways to freshen up our services due to attendance declining the past few months and bring these suggestions to the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday April 10th at 7:00 pm.

Finance: No report.

Staff/Parish: No report.

Trustees: No report.

Women's Fellowship: No report.

Mission: No report.

Christian Ed: No report.

The next cabinet meeting will be Tuesday, April 8th, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Van Diest, Church Clerk

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

Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges and Offerings	\$17,244.37	\$27,919.31
Other Income	472.33	648.52
Memorial/Special Income/Interest	1,199.95	3,357.93
TOTAL INCOME	\$18,916.87	\$31,925.76
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Outreach and Mission	\$1,583.33	\$3,166.70
Pastoral Services	5,650.41	10,765.82
Maintenance and Repairs	2,404.23	4,960.19
Church Office	4,140.39	5,868.51
Music Ministry	618.42	1,208.00
Christian Education	0.00	28.99
Local Ministry	(5.00)	1.42
Mem. Funds Distribution	614.49	1,488.01
Misc. Expenses	447.87	805.99
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,454.14	\$28,293.63

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:

