

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



“Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”---Luke 10:41-42

If Jesus was here today, and said to you: “You are worried and distracted by many things! There is need of only one thing”...how would you react?

Would you feel disbelief that someone was telling you that all of your worries about your family, your friends, your neighbors, your car, your house, your bills, the state of your health and the state of the world don’t have to consume your day to day existence?

Would you feel resentment that someone was implying that all of your hard work, all of your struggles, all of your effort to do right, to help, to make a difference in the world...all of that was wonderful, but ultimately not enough to be the foundation of your life?

Would you feel a sense of wonder that there could be a way to live that is so different from the norm--a way to live NOT based on our endless reactions to the endless worries and distractions of life? Would you feel a sense of wonder at the suggestion that anyone could live life based on one need and one need only—the need for God?

If you choose to take Jesus’ words to Martha seriously, then you realize just how countercultural and counter-intuitive they are! For in a world that is absolutely filled with worries and distractions of every kind, for Jesus to suggest that there really is only ONE need--the need for God—sounds simplistic, naïve, even delusional. Can you imagine putting the need for God ahead of eating? Ahead of preening ourselves every day to make sure we look good? Ahead of making sure we are appreciated and respected in the eyes of our peers, our coworkers, our family and friends? Can you imagine putting the need for God ahead of “getting ahead”; ahead of our chase after security, or ahead of all the neat stuff that lurks out there just waiting to go home with us? Can you imagine putting the need for God ahead of our own problems and worries? Can you imagine what would happen to us if we would do this? Of course you can....which explains why so few take these words of Jesus seriously.

But what if our imaginations are WRONG about this? In our adult Sunday school class we are studying mysticism, and we have listened to some testimonies of contemporary mystics whose spiritual experiences have changed their lives. Do you know what the one common denominator was in all of their stories? It was a pervading sense of PEACE...a “peace that passes all human understanding” that carried with it the ultimate reassurance that no matter what happens in this world of form and matter, in the words of the mystic Julian of Norwich “all shall be well.” Can you imagine THAT-- experiencing a pervading sense of peace in our peace-starved lives? Could it be so?

Jesus taught that it was indeed so, and his life revealed the truth of his teaching. And the contemporary mystics also claim that it is so...even though they didn’t realize they had a need for God *until* their mystical experience, which showed them that **what they had been missing in their lives was the very key to what life was all about: an abiding connection to a transcendent power whose very presence CHANGES EVERYTHING.** How’s that for some “Good News?” Isn’t that the Good News Jesus came to proclaim? Isn’t that the Good News we should be choosing as our “better part?”

I don’t need to tell you that as long as we draw breath, all the worries and needs of the world will circle around us wanting to assume their customary place at the center of our lives. And as long as we draw breath, Jesus’ words will call to us: **“You are worried and distracted by many things. There is need of only one thing.”** Will you take Jesus’ words as the *Gospel*? Will you let the mystics of every tradition preach this Good News to you? Will you risk standing your life on its head and make your one need the need to connect to God—and focus on *this* need above all else? The choice is yours...the choice *has always been, and always will be, yours.* —Pastor Craig

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:

1 - Kay Harfst
3 - Clark Mowry
4 - Sierra Myers
4 - Karinne Tudor
5 - Jaylyn Marie Bahrenfuss
6 - Bill Shelton
7 - Alison McFadden
8 - Logan McCoskey
9 - Dawn Holdgrafer
10 - Gayle Olson
11 - Courtney Clum
12 - Marlin Abbott
12 - Nancy Shelton
13 - Kevin Brim
13 - Karen Weir
13 - Ashley Wood
14 - Larry Brim
15 - Richard Tudor
15 - Jim Henning
16 - Ethan Anderson
16 - Jack Thurman
16 - Emily Stockdale
20 - Charlene McKee
22 - Chase Wagoner
22 - Chelsey Wagoner
27 - Gabrielle May Larson
27 - Jesse Reinking
27 - Travis Stearns
28 - Karl Heimberger
28 - Tom McKee
29 - Joel Bruner
29 - Alex Wood



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

5 - Bud & Carol Crystal
5 - Rick & Mary Ruppel
9 - Nate & Linda Lahr
10 - Scott & Juli Jaycox
21 - Scott & Jessie Bailey

ATTENDANCE

September 7	63	September 13	69
September 21	76	September 28	76

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



PARISH NURSE NOTES

An opportunity to reduce stress for good

- Organize your life. Use schedules and to-do lists.
- Create. Find an activity to express your imagination.
- Take time-outs. Put down the smartphone and go for a walk, read a book, meditate.
- Open your mind to new possibilities. Change something about your life.
- Balance. Make sure one area of your life isn't occupying too much time.
- Engage. Have a few close relationships with others, do things together.
- Rest. Enjoy the benefits of 7-8 hours of sleep every day.

Treats

Looking for treats and novelty items for an October 29th Halloween party for all youth. Please contact Pastor Craig or Vicki. Thank You.

Coats for Kids

UDMO is offering a program to supply coats for needy children, up to age 18. You can pick up a tag with info on what size coat to purchase at Mornin' Glory. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Thrift Sale Oct. 3rd & 4th

Fall Cleaning and Sorting

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

On Friday & Saturday, Oct. 3rd & 4th the

Women's Fellowship will be conducting their semi-annual Thrift Sale.

Beginning **Oct. 1** 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.

Thanks!

Church Family

Way back in June you collected a whole choir loft full of paper goods that were delivered to UDMO the first of July. They were very appreciative of all the things collected, and Mission Board wants to add its thanks for all of your support for this project. Thank you!!!



Dear Friends of Iowa Conference,

Join us...an opportunity to learn more about the Iowa Conference and make decisions that link our local churches, our associations, our committees and commissions, our Conference, and the national UCC setting. We will elect leaders, consider a budget and hear reports. Please join us!

A day of worship, lunch gathering, and plenary.

2014 Annual Meeting

Date: October 11, 2014

Location: First Christian Church, 2500 University Ave, Des Moines 50311

Time: Register = 9am
Worship/meeting = 10am - 3pm

Cost: only \$25/person includes lunch



Grief Support Group

"How Will I Get Through The Holidays?"

November 2, 9, and 16th 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Grief Support Group is open to anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one.

Pre-Enrollment Preferred, but not required

Call to enroll: 515-832-2232

CROP Walk

Keep your calendar open for October 12 at 2:00 pm for the CROP walk at Brewer Creek Park Shelter. You may bring monetary donations that day or sign-up at www.crophungerwalk.org to donate early. They are also accepting jars of peanut butter and bar soap.

African Children's Choir

Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 pm the African Children's Choir will perform at Prem Sahai Auditorium. A free will offering will be taken, proceeds will go towards orphanages in Africa.

WARM HEARTS WARM HOMES WINTER WEATHERIZATION 2014

Central Iowa RSVP, in partnership with a number of community organizations, will be coordinating the **Warm Hearts Warm Homes Winter Weatherization Program** in Hamilton County for 2014. We have set the date for winterizing homes for **Nov. 15, 2014**, from 8:30 to noon. We need people who are willing to work. There is a sign-up sheet on the Mission Bulletin Board. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Here's to a successful weatherization program!

Becky Koppen

Central Iowa RSVP North

515-832-2525

rsvphamco@cirsvp.org



Meet the Confirmands

My name is Luke Rohmiller and I am 15 years old. I love anything active or involving physical activity. The sports I participate in are: football, wrestling, soccer and MMA/boxing. In school I am working to become either a civil or electrical engineer or possibly a teacher. I currently work at Fuhs Pastry Shop. Outside of sports and jobs I enjoy writing stories and

reading books such as autobiographies or biographies about sports or fiction.

My name is Jackson Leman. My parents are Susan and Rod Leman. I have a sister who is 16, her name is Lauren. I am an eighth grader at Webster City Middle School. I play basketball and I run cross country. I am 13 years old. I turn 14 next year in March. I have lived in Webster City all of my life. One of my favorite things to do is watch football. I like to watch the Minnesota Vikings.

My name is Kayla Nelson. I have two dads; their names are Marvin and John. My dad Marvin has a girlfriend, her name is Cathy. I have two brothers; their names are Tyler and Nick. We have one dog name Buddy. I go to Webster City Middle School. I am interested in sports and cooking. My hobbies are playing basketball. When I grow up I want to own my own restaurant.

I am Dylan, I have 1 pet, I have 4 siblings. I live in Webster City. I am in 8th grade. I have A's and B's. I hope to get the best education out of confirmation class. I have been connected for 12 years.

Angel Cards

We had 15 children at our September 10th Wednesday after-school program "Kids Learn About the Bible" (KLAB). Our kids made these caring cards as part of the Angel to Angel program sponsored by Church World Service. These cards will be sent to detained mothers and children at the Artesia Family Residential Center in New Mexico.

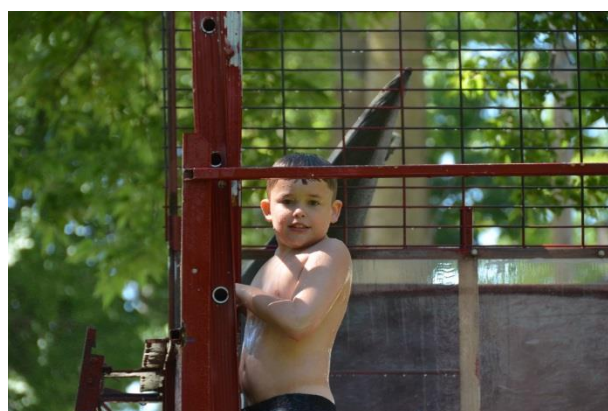
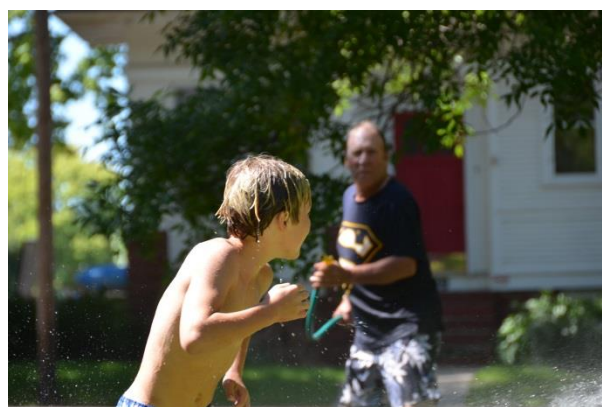


Haunted House!

KLAB is hosting a HAUNTED HOUSE...and you are invited! On Sunday, October 26, KLAB will have a "haunted house" set up in the catacomb of the church, and following our church service you can go downstairs and get the devil scared out of you by costumed ghouls, music, lights, fog, and Halloween props. And to keep with the Halloween theme, our Sunday worship service that day will be a "Children's Sabbath." Kids of all ages—you are encouraged to wear your Halloween costumes to church!



Rally Day, September 7, 2014



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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – September 9, 2014

Members Present:

Moderator-----Verna Bierle
Vice-Moderator-----Luverne Bierle
Finance Sec.-----Myra Maxon
Finance-----Duane Vavroch
Staff/Parish-----Dalene Schlitter
Treasurer-----Luverne Bierle
Christian Ed.-----Vicki Blaufuss

Pastor-----Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Trustees-----Tom Riemenschneider
Women's Fellowship---Joyce Gelhaus
Mission-----Ginnie Veach
Worship-----Holly Riemenschneider
Evangelism-----Wilma Reinsel
Clerk-----Mary Van Diest

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by the Moderator, Verna Bierle. Pastor Craig Blaufuss opened with a meditation and prayer. Luverne Bierle moved and Vicki Blaufuss seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed. Motion carried.

Reports of Pastor, Boards and Committees:

The board and committee reports were open for discussion and review. Representatives of each board and committee gave a brief overview of their reports. These reports are detailed in the next section. Tom Riemenschneider for **Trustees**, reported that at their Aug. 20th meeting, Wayne Schlofeldt attended and answered questions on the renovation. Gretchen Bruner made a motion to have Wayne do a 3D presentation for the congregation. Motion was seconded by Bruce Perry. Motion was approved. The trustees prioritized the areas considered for renovation as follows: 1-cooling and ventilation modification (this is being done now and will not be part of the renovation); 2-stairway and stairwell renovation; 3-men's and women's restrooms; 5-basement hallway and ceiling; 6-basement meeting room/media room. He has asked each committee and board to discuss and prioritize these items and report back to the trustees by Sept. 30th. Additional items needed are signage, carpet and coat rack.

Pastor Craig Blaufuss reminded that the Adult Education Class will begin Sunday, September 21st and will study "Mysticism and Mystics". He reported for Stephen Ministry that another series of Grief Support meetings began Sept. 7th with 2 attendees. The Stephen ministers have reviewed the unit of Boundaries in care giving. Plans are being made by Sharon Perry for a field trip to Fort Dodge with a focus on mental health resources. Currently six Stephen Ministers are matched with care receivers. Luverne Bierle, **Treasurer**, gave the Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2014 as follows: August offering \$17,784.00, other income \$56.34 and August expenses were \$21,586.90. Luverne moved and Vicki seconded that the report be put to audit. Motion carried. Vicki Blaufuss moved and Ginnie Veach seconded that all board and committee reports be accepted. Motion carried upon vote.

Reports of Pastor, Boards and Committees:

Pastor's Report: Several ice bucket challenges for ALS were held at the church picnic on Aug. 24th at the Barn. Thanked all the many volunteers who helped make Rally Day a fun and meaningful day. There were plenty of games for the kids and adults, a child-centered worship service, a potluck with fabulous food and a finale with some wild water sports. The Warm Hearts Warm Homes weatherizing of homes will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15th, from 9:00 till noon. Washington Lutheran of Duncombe will lead the 2014 CROP WALK which is scheduled for Sunday, October 12th. More details will be released as they are made available. KLAB began Wednesday, September 10th. There is a sign-up sheet for snacks for the children. They will begin the year studying Samson and King David. They will also take part in the Angel to Angel program sponsored by CWS, which sends cards of care to refugee children.

Trustees: At the August 20th meeting, the following were discussed: 1-a complaint from M. Murphy about the mowing on the large lot adjacent to hers that has caused some property damage; 2-are in the process of working on the budget and consequently will look at contracts and get new bids for services rendered; 3-approved agreements to use the kitchen and fellowship hall on Jan. 8th, 2015, by Donna

Ryherd, and for Dalene Schlitter the same on September 4, 2014 from 8:30-11:30 am. Discussion was held on the usage of the large lot and wondered if it would be beneficial to the church to put it on the market for sale. The ash tree by the west door has been taken down. Discussed the cost and financing of the renovation project. At the September 3rd meeting the following was discussed: 1-there was discussion on the empty lot. It is zoned as R3 and would need to be surveyed. As lots are not selling at the present time, it was decided not to do anything with the empty lot at this time; 2-There were four mowing bids that were reviewed. Bruce Perry made a motion that we have Mike Burtnett finish the mowing this year and have Tony Jones start snow removal @\$40 each time cleaned and \$40 for each time mowed. Motion was seconded by Stacy Wearda. Motion approved. 3-Mark Trueblood brought the proposals on the renovation and repair of the air system in fellowship hall. Les Ploeger made the motion to go ahead with the proposal for fellowship hall and second floor. Motion seconded by Gretchen Bruner. Motion was approved. Tom will contact Tracy Wehrhan, Finance Committee chair, that the trustees wish to meet with him as soon as possible to review the financial options for the renovation.; 4-in reviewing the budget decided to increase the maintenance and gas expense, decrease office supplies and lease and maintenance agreement and keep insurance, electric, phone and office equipment the same. Next meeting will be held after meeting with finance.

Women's Fellowship: Verna Bierle gave the Women's Fellowship Treasurer's Report: Old Balance was \$3,910.35, new balance is \$337.54 and \$1,734.89 in the Alverson Trust. Cindy Henning shared thank you cards from Kay Harfst (Keep Iowa Beautiful), Crimestoppers, Webster City Free Clinic, UDMO, Webster City Ministerial Assoc. and from Barb and Howdy Stearns. Cindy Henning reported the Thrift Sale will be Oct. 3rd & 4th. Signage will be posted in members' yards during week of sale to help advertise the sale. The price was raised to \$3 per bag in the fall of 2013. Gayle Olson and Karin Yungclas from resource have chosen "Half the Sky" for this year's study. The SERRV Sale will be handled by Gayle Olson and Cindy Henning. This will be a catalog sale. Each circle is asked to refer to the program book for their responsibilities when cleaning the kitchen. The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 3rd instead of Nov. 4th. Joyce Gelhaus will contact a singing group from the UCC church in Jewell for the Christmas Luncheon. After contacting them for availability, she will set date for the luncheon. The circles are encouraged to sign up for KLAB, Worship Coffee and Meals'n More. Mabel Prescott will contact Nancy Shelton as the best time for a welcome back treat. Carol Crystal requested we encourage those who are able to sign up for nursery helpers on Sunday mornings. Items for the Thrift Sale may be brought to the church, starting Oct. 1st. Thrift Sale work days are Oct. 2nd from 6:00-9:00 pm, Oct 3rd from 1:00-3:00 pm. The Thrift Sale begins on Oct. 3rd from 3:00-6:00 pm and on Oct. 4th from 8:00-12:00 pm. The next Executive Board meeting is on Oct. 7th at 5:00 pm.

Christian Ed: Curriculum was ordered and is here for this year's Sunday school classes. Will check with Todd Sonsalla to see if he has ordered the DEVO's for the teen class. Leah Yungclas will make a list of candle lighters at the first regular Sunday School class and turn it in to Michele to place in the weekly bulletin. The ages for acolytes will be 4th thru 8th grades. The decision was made to table the checking of the books on the book shelves in Fellowship Hall until a decision about renovations has been made. After that the books will be checked and one book shelf will be placed in Leah's classroom. The broken couch from the teen room has been removed and replaced by three chairs donated by Leah Maass. The confirmation class will be on Sunday evenings from 5:30 till 6:30 pm. Final plans for Rally Day were made. Linda Lahr will help Pastor Craig with the games. All games, both for adults and children, will begin at 9:15 am. Kaleb Sterler will be doing a chair cupcake walk, Jane Klaver an adult fish pond. Bingo will start after the noon meal clean up. Todd and Katie Sonsall will be doing a cup cake walk outside with the youth, Jenna Short will do face painting and Jan Maxon will be attending the fish pond for ages of birth to 8th grade. Fifty Rally day postcards were sent to youth of the church and youth who have no home church. The proposed budget for next year is: VBS- \$400.00, Curriculum-\$200.00, KLAB-\$250.00, Sunday School-\$50.00, Graduation-\$200.00, JYF/SYF-\$100.00 and Campers Scholarship-\$50.00. The next meeting will be Oct. 1st at 7:15 pm.

Evangelism: Rev. Craig identified 8 families in the church experiencing health or personal crises. He has contacted each of the family members who are trying to deal with their problems. Wilma Reinsel continues to send cards to members of our congregation. Three individuals are enrolled in grief counseling which is held on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 pm. There are openings for three in Stephen Ministers. There will be no July picnic. The next picnic is scheduled for Oct. 19th. Carol Crystal reported

that Hospitality is looking for ushers and greeters for each month. Evangelism will not meet in August. The next meeting is Sept. 9th at 6:15 pm.

Mission: The Warm-Heart-Warm Homes program will take place on Sat. Nov. 15th. Volunteers are needed for a team from our church. Next Beacon of Hope meal is Wed., Sept. 24th. The Duncombe Lutheran Church has agreed to head up the Crop Walk for Oct. 12th. Neighbors in Need offering will be received on Sunday October 5th. Will ask the congregation if there is an interest in a mission trip for next summer. The next date for packing back packs for WC schools' week-end Back Pack program is Jan. 22nd, 2015 at 6:30 pm. Discussion was held on the need for clothing for the children crossing the border from Mexico. Will discuss with Women's Fellowship, if items from the upcoming Thrift Sale could be selected before the sale starts to send to these children. Karin and Al Yungclas would get these items to their daughter Allison, who would supervise their distribution. Discussed if there is a way our church can be involved in the UCC Literacy Initiative. Looking at a way we can help provide books for families of children 6 months to 5 years to encourage reading with the children.

Staff Parish: Tracy Wehrhan from the Finance Board sat in on the budget discussion to answer questions regarding the budget items that depend on salary increases as insurance, retirement, social security, workman's com. etc. He will work with Administrative Assistant Michele Omvig on final budget figures. The Board voted to offer a 3% increase to all employees for the coming year. Figures will be completed and presented to the Cabinet at their next meeting. Staff reviews will be conducted by teams of two within the next 30 days as follows: Pastor Craig Blaufuss-Greta Oberender and Glenda Wehrhan; Administrative Assistant-Michele Omvig-Glenda Wehrhan and Greta Oberender; Organist-Myra Maxon-Dalene Schlitter and Shirley Yungclas; Choir Director-Nancy Shelton-Shirley Yungclas and Dalene Schlitter; Custodian Curt McCoskey-Mark Vance and Luverne Bierle. Budget figures will be finalized by the end of October. The next meeting will be Oct. 1st at 6:00 pm.

The next Cabinet meeting will be **October 14th at 7:00 pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Van Diest, Church Clerk

Treasurer's Report

INCOME	August	YEAR TO DATE
Pledges and Offerings	\$18,329.00	\$112,265.40
Other Income	6.65	1,023.87
Memorial/Special Income/Interest	1,169.88	20,605.59
TOTAL INCOME	\$19,505.53	\$152,027.54
EXPENSES		
Outreach and Mission	\$1,583.33	\$13,125.69
Pastoral Services	5,487.91	53,717.54
Maintenance and Repairs	11,332.68	39,042.09
Church Office	2,021.60	19,137.89
Music Ministry	604.00	4,832.00
Christian Education	31.30	792.74
Local Ministry	175.00	2,430.42
Misc. Expenses	351.08	2,842.16
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,586.90	\$167,620.35

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:



October