

June 2015 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
515-832-2232
<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>



If you were in church for Confirmation Sunday you heard our Confirmands present their faith statements, which concluded with their answers to the questions: What do you want from your church? What will you do for your church?

Those are good questions for all of us to wrestle with as we think about the future of our church here at 1000 Willson Avenue--for how we answer both of those questions will to a large degree steer our future course. My guess is that we all have an idea of what we want from our church, even if we haven't taken the trouble to compose a formal list. Here are some possible answers based on my observations of our church life:

"I want a gathering of friendly people who know each other, care for each other, and really want to be a 'church family'."

"I want a place where I can grow my faith through thoughtful Christian Education programming, book studies, inspired preaching, and special programs and topical studies."

"I want an intimate, active, and mutually supportive Women's Fellowship."

"I want a church that is active and involved in the wider community and the world through the support of benevolences like UDMO, DSAOC, and OCWM, and through "hands-on" outreach ministries like serving meals at Beacon of Hope or volunteering as a Stephen Minister."

"I want a community of faith that cares about my children and provides effective programs and activities for them."

"I want attentive, wise, and caring leadership."

"I want a church that is unashamedly U.C.C.—progressive, relevant, and open to all."

"I want opportunities to 'make a joyful noise' with my musical gifts, and I want our music to be inspiring and appropriate."

"I want an attractive and updated church facility."

All of these are good things to "want" from your church, and while the list certainly isn't exhaustive I imagine you can find an item or two above that speaks to your heart about what you value most in this church.

Of course the difficult part of this exercise, both for the confirmands and for us, is the work of naming what we are willing to do for our church. Yet I would remind you that nothing on our wish list for our church will come to pass without our willingness to work and "do"....

And what makes our situation even more challenging is that we are not a large church with a large pool of members to draw work, energy, and expertise from. I've said it before and I'll say it again: smaller membership churches live or die by the work and contributions of all of its members, not just a few. Needless to say, that means each of us must get involved with the work that creates what we want from this church...

But it also means that each member has to see beyond their "want" list to the needs of the whole church, prayerfully listen and discern where God, the giver of all gifts, is calling us to serve...and then move beyond our comfort zones and serve where we are most needed-- so that this church, the body of Christ on Willson Avenue, can remain an effective and faithful witness to the Christian values and commitments that we hold most dear. This is a tall challenge, but one that we must take seriously for the sake of our witness, our ministries...and our future.

As you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Christian Education Board is searching for Youth Leaders and Teachers for our High School Plus group. We are currently blessed with a large group of children in this church, and for the younger children we have teachers and KLAB leaders...but for our High School aged youth and above we currently have no leadership or teachers. It is heartbreaking for me to consider that we will have no programming to offer our confirmands when they return in the Fall! If we want to keep our youth and not have them fall away due to disinterest, then we must provide leaders and opportunities for them to stay active and involved in this church. **PLEASE PRAY ABOUT THIS—AND SEE IF GOD ISN'T CALLING YOU TO BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLES' LIVES! —**

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

ATTENDANCE

May 3	78	May 10	103	May 17	92
May 24	74	May 31			

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
Dale Olson: Stephen Ministry Ldr 839-5619
Choir Director
Melissa Hindt: Organist 209-8087
Mary Van Diest: Pianist 832-3754
Curt/Lorraine McCoskey: Cust's. 832-5341
Tracy Wehrhan: Financial Secretary 297-0370
Luverne Bierle: Church Treasurer 832-4752



Simple secrets to being a SUPER DAD.

Be a team. Respect and support your children's mother.
Spend time with your children. Tell them they are important to you.
Chat often. Praise them and take time to listen to their problems and ideas.
Guide with love. Children need guidance and discipline to set reasonable limits.
Show affection. Children need to know they are wanted and loved by their family. Give hugs.

Scholarships

The Finance Board will be receiving scholarship applications until June 30th. Applications will be available from the church office after May 3.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 1 - Tyler Mosbach
- 2 - Aaron Olson
- 2 - Lee Ryherd
- 3 - Marjorie Gescheidler
- 3 - Peyton Heslop
- 4 - Virginia Veach
- 4 - Grace Larson
- 6 - Rick Ruppel
- 7 - Jan Breen
- 7 - Brett Downs
- 8 - Trey Thompson
- 9 - Pamela Heimberger
- 9 - Stacy Wearda
- 10 - Daron Harris
- 10 - Kennedy Kay Harris
- 10 - Savannah Remington
- 12 - Abby Fiala
- 13 - Dalene Schlitter
- 13 - Sandi Weieneth
- 14 - Amanda Lahr
- 14 - Zachary Lahr
- 14 - Livia Oberender
- 15 - Alexis Byrne
- 16 - A.J. Weieneth
- 17 - Dona Jaycox
- 18 - Bailey Fogle
- 19 - Mark Gustafson
- 19 - Wilma Reinsel
- 21 - Wade Nelson
- 22 - Jackson Kesler
- 22 - Katherine Kesler
- 26 - Lynn Jaycox
- 28 - Jack Van Diest
- 29 - Jim Downs
- 30 - Katie Holdgrafer



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 2 - Emily & Troy Stockdale

5 - Travis & Tresa Stearns
5 - Mike & Christa Stirling
14 - Duane & Mary Vavroch
15 - Dick & Audrey Burtnett
17 - Caryl & Verie Hollingshead
20 - Marcy & Wade Nelson
23 - Daron & Kelly Harris
23 - Ed & Ann Latham
26 - Howard & Barb Stearns

Thanks

On behalf of the Women's Fellowship and Funeral Committee, I would like to thank all men and women that helped in any way with the recent memorial services. Thank you for providing food, helping in the kitchen, washing dishes, directing traffic, setting up, cleaning up and anything else you did. This all helped everything go smoothly as we served the families and people attending the service. This is all greatly appreciated,
Joyce Gelhaus Women's Fellowship
President

Olde Fashioned Ice Cream Social

This year it is our church's turn to host the annual ice cream social that we sponsor jointly with Faith Methodist Church. It will be held June 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The cast from the musical Spamalot, presented by the community theater, will perform selections from it. The free will offering will be given to UDMO and ACE this year. Early in June there will be a sign-up chart in Fellowship Hall asking for homemade ice cream, bars, toppings and workers. Each year your support of this event is great and we really appreciate your response.

The Mission Board

City Cleanup Volunteers Needed

Webster city has declared the month of June to be "Clean-Up" month for our community, and the city is sponsoring a city-wide cleanup on June 5 and 6th. This year there will be no curbside pickup of items; instead, the city will place dumpsters at the Webster City Middle School where residents can drop off their items for disposal from 10am--4 pm. The city is requesting volunteers who will help gather and haul items for disposal from households who

have no transportation, or from the elderly who cannot load and dispose of the items themselves. If you would like to volunteer to assist with this cleanup please contact City Hall.

Summer lunch program at Webster City Middle School begins June 8

The Webster City Middle School will again host the free summer lunch program, beginning Monday, June 8th at the WC Middle School from 11:30a.m.--12:30 p.m. and ending Thursday, July 31st. First Congregational will be leading off the program as the volunteer staff for the week—and we need your help! We need at least 8 volunteers each day to help make the lunch program flow smoothly, interact with the kids, and help with enrichment and recreational activities. Volunteers need not work all week long—smaller commitments of time are welcome. This year the Volunteer Coordinator from our church is Gayle Olson. If you would like to volunteer there will be sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the church office. Thank you!

Teacher and Youth Leaders Needed for High School Plus

On May 24th First Congregational confirmed 3 of our youth in the Christian faith, and now we need to continue to provide teaching and programming opportunities for them! The Christian Education Board is looking for members who want to work with our High School and College-age youth. For the 2015-2016 year we need 1.) a High School Plus Christian Education teacher, and 2.) Young Adult Ministry (YAMS) coordinators who will lead fellowship and mission programming for this group. Is God leading you to love, mentor, and serve our High School Plus youth? Please prayerfully consider this important work of ministering to our young people, who need this church—and us!

Third Saturday Worship services begin June 20th.

Remember the Second Saturday services held on the second Saturday of the month? They're back—except now they will be scheduled on

the THIRD Saturday of the month, beginning at 5 p.m. (The services were moved to the third Saturdays due to many scheduling conflicts with second Saturdays). Like last year's Second Saturday services they will continue to be more informal, and they will incorporate more contemporary music. Also like last years' Saturday services, there will be no Christian Education programming offered that day, and there will be no refreshments after the service. Our first Third Saturday service begins June 20th. Join us!

Congratulations to our Confirmands

On Sunday, May 24, Kayla Nelson, Jackson Leman, and Dylan McCoskey were confirmed into the Christian faith and became the newest members of our church. Congratulations and well done!



VBS is coming!

Mark your calendars on July 6-10 for our joint VBS program, to be held at Asbury UMC. This year we are reverting back to an afternoon schedule (1-4 pm), and we need volunteers to help with: Music, Crafts, Story time, Science, and Games! There is a sign up sheet in fellowship hall.

Relay for Life

The Piecemakers have once again provided items to raise funds for Relay for Life. The bidding has already begun so make sure you stop in before June 14 to place your bid on one of these lovely handmade items.



Autumn Wall Hanging with hanging rod
34" wide by 36" long
Minimum bid is \$35

Winter Wall Hanging with hanging rod
36" wide by 44" long
Minimum bid is \$35

3 separate Autumn Aprons with 2 Pot Holders each

And recently added.....

½ Christmas Apron with 4 Pot Holders

Full Christmas Apron

Minimum bid on each apron is \$25

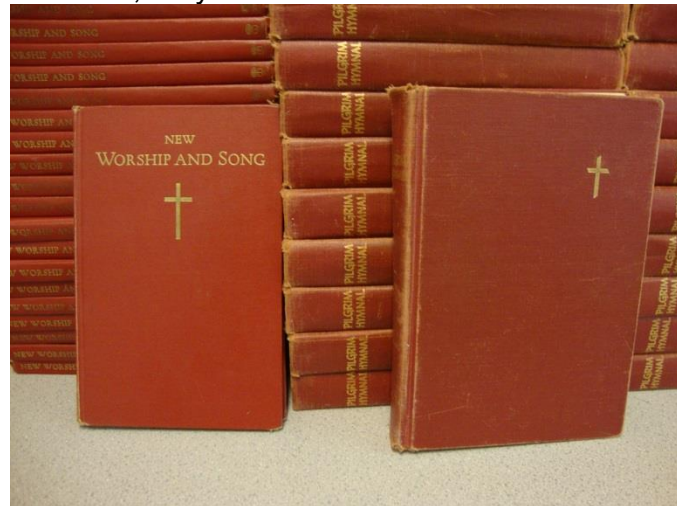
Beacon of Hope

Karen Yungclas presented a \$250 check to the Beacon of Hope men's homeless shelter in Fort Dodge. The gift was part of the year -end distribution of benevolences from the Women's Fellowship.



A Piece of History

We have over 40 of the small "New Worship and Song" books, copyright date 1942 and over 70 of the "Pilgrim Hymnal", copyright date 1963. A few of each item have already been set aside for church history purposes but the rest are free for the taking. If you would like one, or know of someone who would, please take one, they are in the church office.



Thanks

Congregational Women's Fellowship,
Thank you for your generous donation of \$250 to the Webster City Free Clinic. This money will be used to purchase medication and diabetic supplies for our uninsured patients.

Sincerely,

Joan Hisler – Clinic Manager

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – May 12, 2015

Members Present:

Moderator-----Luverne Bierle	Pastor-----Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Vice-Moderator----	Trustees-----Tom Riemenschneider
Finance Sec.-----	Women’s Fellowship-Joyce Gelhaus
Finance-----Tracy Wehrhan	Mission-----Ginnie Veach
Staff/Parish-----Dalene Schlitter	Worship-----Holly Riemenschneider
Christian Ed-----Vicki Blaufuss	Evangelism-----Laurie Epps
Treasurer-----Luverne Bierle	Clerk-----Mary Van Diest

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Moderator, Luverne Bierle. Rev. Blaufuss opened with a meditation and prayer. Tracy Wehrhan moved, with a second by Dalene Schlitter, to approve the meetings of the April 14, 2015 meeting as printed in the May newsletter. Motion carried. Committee and board reports were open for review and discussion. From the Trustees Tom Riemenschneider reported that the sump pump failed and as a result water entered the elevator pit. Consequently the elevator is not functioning. The sump pump and elevator are in the process of being repaired. The Trustees are hopeful that the church will just have to pay the deductible and that insurance will cover the rest of the cost of repair. Vicki Blaufuss from Christian Ed reported that someone has volunteered to teach the pre-k church school class this fall. A teacher is still needed for the teen class. There is some confusion on the date of the summer picnic potluck. An email will be sent to all with the correct date. Joyce Gelhaus, representing the Women’s Fellowship, thanked the men and women for serving the luncheons at the recent funerals. The KLAB lock in has been cancelled but will be rescheduled. Luverne Bierle gave the treasurer’s report for April 30, 2015. April offering was \$17,741.00 and expenses were \$11,275.61. Vicki moved that the report be put to audit. Under pending business Holly Riemenschneider and Joyce Gelhaus have been learning some of the responsibilities of church administrative assistant, Michele Omvig. The Renovation Committee reported the proposal on the renovation has been signed and sent in. August 15, 2015 is the date when the renovation will be completed. Joyce Gelhaus is doing the landscaping around the church. Holly and Vicki moved that the membership list be reviewed as prescribed by the church’s constitution.

REPORTS OF PASTOR, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Pastor’s Report: Thanked everyone who helped prepare, cook, serve, clean and otherwise assisted with all of the memorial services we have held in the last 2 months. It has been difficult to say goodbye to Charles, Myra, Rose and Nancy, but we have honored them well, and we will continue to cherish their memories and keep their legacies alive in this church. On May 10th we honor our graduates and mothers; on May 17th we will honor our students and teachers/assistants for Promotion/Participation Sunday; on May 24th we will hold Confirmation and the observance of Pentecost; on May 31st we will begin summer worship hours with service starting at 9:30 am. Melissa Hindt will be our organist/accompanist through the summer months. The music committee will evaluate her ministry with us after this period. We continue to need musical offerings for the summer months-if you are willing to offer your talents please contact the music committee. On April 29th the KLAB students toured Almost Home Animal Shelter in Fort Dodge and presented them with a check from our fundraiser at Christmas. May 6th was the last day of KLAB before the summer recess so a treat to the Dairy Queen was in order. Friday, May 8th, will

be the KLAB lock in at the church. We also plan to hold a few special KLAB events during the summer. Confirmation will conclude with a tour of the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend on May 9th. On May 17th we will review the confirmands faith statements in class and on the 24th the confirmands will be confirmed during worship. The Adult Education Class is still doing short topical studies; have finished exploring “toxic beliefs”, and finished with a short study of the Shroud of Turin before summer recess. Approximately ten people attended the 3 session series on Poverty in America. Plans are continuing for the Webster City summer lunch program. It will begin on June 8th and our church will be the lead-off group of volunteers. Many books have already been received to give to the recipients of this program. Gayle Olson will be our volunteer coordinator this year. Pastor Craig will be part of the Webster City High School Baccalaureate service on May 13th.

Staff Parish: Met on April 8th with 5 members and Pastor Craig present. Old Business: The safe-church policy committee will meet later in the month when time allows; Nancy Shelton has received salary through the end of March; Rosine Kennedy is rehearsing with the choir and will lead them at Myra Maxon’s memorial service; Anne Serve-Ose will continue rehearsing with the young people on the ORFF instruments until the end of April; Josie Greenley will continue as organist on an interim basis until the end of May. It was voted to pay her \$100 per week (\$75 per Sunday on the organ and \$25 for each choir rehearsal). This followed discussion about present salaries for organists and choir directors in general and how it pertained to our church. New Business: Michele has requested that someone be found who can be instructed in accessing the computer files should the need arise; a new job description/benefit package for organist will be worked out after some preliminary information is gathered. Next meeting date will be Wed., April 29th at 5:15. Met on April 29th with six members and Pastor Craig present. Old Business: The ad hoc task force will be working on a safe-church policy in May. Josie Greenley will be organist one more Sunday in May, Shelby Janson will play two Sundays in May and Melissa Hindt will be starting on May 31st as full time organist; Holly Riemenschneider and Joyce Gelhaus will spend time with Michele Omvig, Administrative Assistant, to learn her duties and to provide assistance if needed. New Business: Motion was made by Dalene Schlitter and seconded by Greta Oberender to pay Karin Yungclas an honorarium for directing the choir during Sunday services with the amount equivalent of director Nancy Shelton’s salary for the month of May. Motion carried; a new job description/benefit package for position of Choir Director will be done prior to the fall choir start-up. Next meeting date is Tuesday, June 16th at 5:15 pm.

Evangelism: March 10th meeting: there are openings for matches in Stephen Ministries (postcards are on the table outside the church office to be mailed or handed out to someone you know that might be in need); Grief Support session will start on April 12th for 6 weeks with Al Fiala and Ginnie Veach as leaders; Pastor Craig will work with our Parish Nurse to establish an annual (or semi-annual) training schedule on how to properly use the defibrillator; will continue to offer nursery during worship service for children 6 years old and younger with the adult nursery volunteer being at the south door so that Pastor Craig will be able to point out whoever is the volunteer to escort the children to the nursery; the nursery has been relocated to a smaller room at the base of the east outside exit stairs (down stairs at the end of the hall); the Piece Makers have moved into the former nursery room; a big THANK YOU to Carol Crystal for facilitating this move and to move, clean, sort and a much needed downsizing of the nursery toys; the greeters at Sunday morning service will also be asked to usher during the service as it has become difficult to get enough volunteers for each service; will host the coffee after church in March and on May 3rd; will host Meals ’n’ More on May 6th with a “Mother Knows Best” theme based on potluck; all those participating are asked to bring a dish with the recipe; Worship

Service at the care centers will be hosted by our church in May, July, September and November (Windsor Manor at 1:15 and Southfield at 2:45); the family picnic is currently scheduled. Next meeting is April 14th at 5:45 pm. April 14th meeting: attended by 7 members and Pastor Craig; the new Grief Support session has started; Sharon Perry has asked for cookie donations for this group so the leaders and care receivers have a little something to snack on while they meet; Carol reported the kids Activity Bags have been cleaned, washed and refilled with fun items; this will be done once a month with Marjorie Groves offering to do it in May and Sharon Perry in July; clarified the greeter/usher duties—at beginning of worship will have two people as greeters and two people as ushers—for the offering and after services the two greeters will also perform usher duties; a big THANK YOU from Carol for all those who have helped at the recent memorial services; board will host the Fellowship Coffee on May 3rd; hosting the final Meals and More on May 6th with a “Mother Knows Best” theme based pot luck; Family Picnic scheduled for July 12, 2015 with outdoor morning worship (10:30 am) at Shelter #2 at Briggs Woods followed by pot luck picnic; July 10, 2016 is date set for annual church picnic at the Barn at Briggs Woods.

Board of Trustees: Met on April 21 with 5 members and Pastor Craig present. A request was made for church usage for piano lessons. It would be for four weeks and the teacher would come here, so it would be for profit. Pastor Craig did find it in church policies that since it is for profit it cannot be held in the church. Request denied. The coat rack has not been finished. The Finance Board wants the roof repair done before winter. Widick Roofing has entered a bid for \$5,821. Les Ploeger moved and Gretchen Bruner seconded to go ahead with the roof as long as it does not interfere with the financing of the renovation project. Motion approved. After discussion, it was decided to keep the door widening in the renovation as planned. A handicapped button for the west entry door will be researched. Jensen Builders will give us a bid for the ceiling and lighting in Fellowship Hall. It was agreed to use Tracy Wehrhan as a reference during the renovation. Signage will wait until after the renovation is completed as will the carpet. Joyce Gelhaus presented a landscape plan for the west side of the church. Motion made by Les and seconded by Bruce Perry to allow Joyce to go ahead with the landscaping. Motion approved. Tom Riemenschneider will check with Wayne Schlofeldt on the Fellowship Hall restroom door. Gretchen Bruner requested use of Fellowship Hall for P.E.O. on Sept. 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Les made a motion to approve and was seconded by Bruce. Motion approved.

Finance Board: Met on April 19th. Five members plus Pastor Craig were present Duane Vavroch was elected chairman, Tracy Wehrhan the cabinet representative and Don Bruner the secretary. Luverne Bierle, church financial secretary, gave an update of church finances, future income expectations and upcoming expenditures. Motion was made by Tracy, seconded by Don and unanimously passed to sell our \$25,000 Apple bond to finance the remainder of the coming renovation project. The roof repair needs to be done before cold weather this fall. This will be from the Building Fund account. The scholarship forms that were used last year will be used again this year.

Mission Board: The board welcomed Charlie Kenville to his first meeting. He replaces Diane Vasquez who resigned due to health issues. Thanked the congregation for their generous contributions to the Shoeman Water Project. The shoes will be delivered in June to St. Louis. No decision has been made on a Mission trip for this summer. Will continue to look for opportunities to be of service. Karin Yungclas will be in charge of the Beacon of Hope meal on May 27th. The Strengthen the Church Offering will be collected on May 24th. Inserts and envelopes will be provided in bulletins and pew racks. Jan Maxon is in charge. A group picked up trash at the hill east of McDonalds/K Mart. The annual Olde Fashioned Ice Cream Social will

be June 17, 6:00-8:00 pm at UCC. Karin Yungclas and Ginnie Veach are our representatives and will work with the committee from Faith Methodist Church. Homemade ice cream, bars, and servers will be needed. On May 31st sign up charts will be available for this function. The pickle jar raised donations of \$166 to be given to Special Olympics. Gayle Olson will coordinate our volunteers for the free lunch program from June 8-12. These will be served through July. Mary Vavroch is our church's captain for Relay 4 Life to be held on June 27th. UCC is scheduled to donate to UDMO during the month of July. Next meeting will be June 4th at 5:00 pm.

Women's Fellowship: Executive Board met on May 5th. Pastor Craig reported that Helen Nessa has moved to Southfield. Verna Bierle gave the treasurer's report: Old Balance-\$2170.07-New Balance \$3599.49—Alverson Trust \$1735.52. She reported there would be \$2000 for resource to distribute at May dinner after \$1000 goes to OCWM. Shirley Yungclas continues to send get well and sympathy cards. The Spring Thrift Sale went well. The fall sale is Sept. 25th and 26th. The May dinner is May 20th with a \$6.00 charge for the meal. The circle reports are to be given to Cindy Henning and Joyce Gelhaus. Mabel Prescott will present the program following dinner. The planters have been planted and will be watered as follows: June (Providence), July (Mayflower), August (Haystack) and Sept. (Morning Star).The program worksheets are to be returned by the end of May. Only have members fill out the Women's Fellowship Survey if there are changes to be made. Many thanks to all who have helped to prepare and serve the dinners after the recent funerals and for helping at the thrift sale. After serving the funerals, it became evident we need about 3 shorter tables for certain areas in Fellowship Hall. We will ask Memorial Committee about purchasing these tables. Mabel Prescott will follow-up on purchasing more water pitchers to place on each table. Cindy Henning will look for Oneida brand silverware to purchase additional spoons and forks. On Feb, 16th, 2016 UCC will provide the program at the Women's Lenten Luncheons. Piecemakers work Day is May 28th at 9:30.

The next Cabinet meet will be on June 9th, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.
Respectfully submitted
Mary Van Diest, Church Clerk

Treasurer's Report

INCOME	April	YEAR TO DATE
Pledges and Offerings	\$17,741.00	\$58,233.63
Other Income	7.20	568.69
Memorial/Special Income/Interest	3,801.67	11,982.55
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,549.87	\$70,784.87
EXPENSES		
Outreach and Mission	\$1,583.33	\$5,788.37
Pastoral Services	5,291.08	26,142.37
Maintenance and Repairs	2,443.82	22,223.83
Church Office	2,221.48	11,066.00
Music Ministry	762.50	2,600.00
Christian Education	0.00	170.89
Local Ministry	30.00	67.45
Misc. Expenses	359.99	1,144.54
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,692.20	\$72,304.84

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:

