

July 2016 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
515-832-2232
<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>

“Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones. But Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.’ Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands!”—Isaiah 49: 13-16a

Are you getting forgetful? That was the topic of the care center services this past weekend, and when I asked those who gathered “are you getting forgetful?” ... the response was all smirks and chuckling. (Of course—who isn’t?) I shared with them several examples of my own chronic forgetfulness, including the story of how I once left one of our dogs at the cemetery after we had gone for a walk. (It was a happy ending—she was waiting at the same spot where I had inadvertently left her.) It has always been part of the human experience to forget things, and when you compound that tendency to forget with our increasing lifespans and the vast amounts of information that assail us on a daily basis, it is no wonder that our forgetfulness is epidemic, and an ever-present source of both amusement--and annoyance--to us.

Now in most cases our forgetfulness is not particularly consequential. If I forget something at the store, I simply go back for it, or do without it until the next shopping trip; if I forget a meeting, I apologize and move on; if I forget where I have parked, I simply wander the parking lot or activate the panic button and hope I hear the horn. But sometimes our forgetfulness can have real consequences. Summer is here again, and with it are the reports of parents who have forgotten their children in locked cars, with tragic endings. Are all such parents terrible monsters, and disgraces to parenting? In many cases, no—I don’t believe so. I think many are overwhelmed, overbooked, and so harried and distracted that they even forget the unforgettable...with terrible, life-changing consequences for their children, and for them.

I selected this passage from Isaiah to remind us that even though it is our lot to be forgetful, we are assured that God has not forgotten us. God did not forget the Chosen People in Babylonian captivity, for the prophet was sent to remind them that in spite of their present circumstances they were inscribed on the palms of God’s hands, and they would again know freedom and the joy of a homecoming to their promised land. And God has not forgotten us, for God sent Jesus to remind us that we are *all* Chosen People, eternally remembered and eternally loved—even when it feels as though we are forgotten by everyone else. Each miracle of feeding and healing, each word of grace and hope spoken with love by Jesus was a reminder to the “forgotten” of his day that they were always on the mind—and in the heart—of their heavenly parent. Jesus was even willing to have this Good News inscribed on the palms of his hands by roman nails, which was the terrible cost of bringing this Good News to a world ruled by those whose power rested on forgetting the needs, the rights, and the basic dignity of the majority of their fellow human beings.

Friends, the 4th of July is approaching—the anniversary when we celebrate the Founders’ good news that all men (now all PEOPLE) are created equal, and endowed *by their Creator* with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As more and more people are pushed to the margins by poverty, racism, xenophobia, incarceration, and lack of access to basic human necessities like affordable housing, decent employment and physical and mental health care, we who profess belief in the God who never forgets even *the least of these* should recommit to that Good News-- with our vote, our voice, our activism, and our generosity and devotion to just and benevolent causes. And in our day to day living we should imitate Jesus and incarnate God’s steadfast, un-forgetting love as we remember those who feel completely forgotten. It can be easy to forget that there are lonely and unloved people everywhere in the world, yet it is our calling as Christians to remember them, and to offer them our love, our listening ear, our help, and the good news that they are not forgotten after all. In doing that, we will have made real the promise of the prophet, showing them that they matter...that they are loved...that they are inscribed on the palms of God’s hands—and our hands.

This year, as you celebrate our nation’s independence, I pray that you remember the God who always remembers you with love. And I pray that you also remember to put that steadfast love into service-- in *all* of your encounters with others! That would go a long way toward healing our fractured republic--by helping her citizens remember what makes us, or any nation, great:

Remembering ALL...and remembering LOVE. —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 29 97 June 5 73 June 12 53
June 18 54 June 26 73

Church Staff

Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Pastor
Office: 832-2232 Cell 297-4316
Pastor's email: revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net
Michele Omvig: Admin. Assist. 227-8358
Church's e-mail: fcuccwc@gmail.com
Sharon Perry: Stephen Ministry Ldr 835-7902
Dale Olson: Stephen Ministry Ldr 839-5619
Sunshine Yoders: Choir Director 835-7626
Melissa Hindt: Organist 209-8087
Mary Van Diest: Pianist 832-3754
Curt/Lorraine McCoskey: Cust's. 832-5341
Tracy Wehrhan: Church Treasurer 297-0370
Luverne Bierle: Financial Secretary 832-4752



PARISH NURSE NEWS

Your summer bucket list -

- Buy lemonade from at least one kid's lemonade stand. You'll be encouraging tomorrow's entrepreneurs
- Find a beach somewhere, take off your shoes, and enjoy the sand between your toes.
- Pack a picnic lunch, grab a blanket and a book and find a park
- Eat watermelon and don't worry about the mess. Have a watermelon seed spitting contest.
- Go berry picking; strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, or blueberries.
- Run through at least one sprinkler.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 1 - Katie Short
- 1 - Chris Swanson
- 2 - Ava Stockdale
- 2 - Katie (Kesler) Anderson
- 2 - Barb Stearns
- 3 - Jeff Anderson
- 3 - Samuel Aubrey Thurman
- 4 - Allison Arkland
- 5 - Nicholas Brim
- 5 - Dale Olson
- 6 - Branden Bahrenfuss
- 6 - Jacob Dean Rohmiller
- 7 - Mary Gilbert
- 7 - Susie Brim
- 8 - Duane Vavroch
- 9 - Erica Oberender
- 9 - Jean Mowry
- 9 - Kellie Henning
- 10 - Aspen Pauline Lomicka
- 10 - Jasmine Remington
- 11 - Dylan McCoskey
- 11 - Sadie Anderson
- 11 - Melissa Hindt
- 12 - Caryl Hollingshead
- 13 - Leah Maass
- 13 - Kyzer Patrick Zinnel
- 16 - Verie Hollingshead
- 17 - Anne Prescott
- 18 - Ed Latham
- 18 - Cindy Henning
- 20 - Luke Rohmiller
- 21 - Candy Butz
- 23 - Mike McKee
- 23 - Nate Lahr
- 24 - Melissa Abbott
- 24 - Donald Royster
- 25 - Landen Ploeger
- 25 - Alex Swanson
- 26 - Marian Abbott
- 26 - Scott Jaycox
- 27 - Troy Stockdale

27 - Van Thompson
28 - Riley Nelson
28 - Nicholas Blake Paton
28 - Michele Rexroat
28 – Brenden Ploeger
31 - Jayce Abens
31 - Breanna Lee Bahrenfuss



JULY
ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

13 - Ben & Erin Pullen
16 - Branden & Tracy Bahrenfuss
19 - Al & Christy Fiala
22 - Clark & Jean Mowry
24 - Ron & Vicki Long
26 - Todd & Katie Sonsalla
29 - Colby & Candy Butz

New email address for church

We have a new email address:

fcuccwc@gmail.com.

We will still check the old address to make sure we do not miss anything.

Prison and Released Inmate Ministry: Are You Interested?

Pastor Craig has been in contact with the ministers who are in charge of Church of the Damascus Road at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility and the support team program for inmates who are being released from FDCF. Rev. Carroll Lang and Rev. Paul Stone would welcome having people from our church worship with the inmates at their Wednesday church service or even having you participate in leading the service. You need to register ahead of time to enter the prison.

Another service project possibility is for our church to form a re-entry team of 5-10 persons to assist an inmate for a year following his/her release. The re-entry team would help the person find an apartment, pay the deposit and

first month rent, round up furniture and the like. Team members would take 6 hours of training and need to commit to a year on the re-entry team.

The Mission Board wants to determine if people in our congregation are interested in participating in a prison ministry or released inmate project. We have not committed to a project. If you are interested in this type of project, please contact Pastor Craig (297-4316) or Marjorie Groves (539-4445).

Annual Church Picnic

The Evangelism Board cordially invites you to the Annual Church Picnic Sunday, July 10th.

Last year we tried something a bit different (which apparently prompted literally the hottest day of the year) by having an outdoor church service, followed by a potluck luncheon, and then an hour or so of family friendly games (Family Feud and Minute to Win It). Despite the heat it really was a beautiful day!

Please join us for worship, fellowship, and fun...

- Sunday, July 10th
 - Briggs Woods Park – The Barn
 - Worship Service at 10:30
 - Potluck to follow (11:00 or so)
 - Asking those whom are able to bring a dish (or two) to share
 - If you have a comfortable lawn chair, you might bring that too!
 - Evangelism Board Members will bring water and coffee
 - After we clear the food away we'll have some games to play... or watch... either way it should be entertaining!
- Please join us!

A Challenge for the Congregation

Mission Board asks: "What is the most important meal of the day?"

Your answer: "Breakfast. Everyone know that! Why do you ask?"

Our answer: As you know, our congregation brings food items and paper goods for the UDMO

food pantry all year long but we are assigned two months during the year to do a special emphasis.

One of our months is July and our special emphasis will be breakfast items such as boxed cereals, toaster pastries, oatmeal, raisins, pancake mix, syrup, cocoa mix etc. Beginning Sunday, July 6 we are asking our church family to bring 1 breakfast item each week and place it in the choir loft. Let's see if we can fill that space during the month of July.

Relay for Life

This year, Michele's father, Duane Meinders, donated denim rugs and trivets he wove to raise funds for Relay for Life. These items brought in \$175.00. Thanks to Duane and those who purchased these items. All together we raised \$664 for Relay for Life!

Scenes From Relay for Life June 16



Pecans

Pecans are still available from Haystack Circle. Contact Dalene 835-0636 or Pat Kesler 712-540-0750.

Ice Cream Social

The Mission Boards of Faith UMC and First Congregational UCC want to thank all who participated in the annual Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social on June 15 for their generous response.

Homemade ice cream, bars, beverages and workers were provided by both churches. Entertainment was provided by the Webster City Community Theatre whose delightful preview of their production, "Fiddler on the Roof" pleased all who attended.

Ecumenical Human Needs and Upper Des Moines Opportunities will be the recipients of the proceeds of the social. Thank you!

Linda Johnson and Marcia Caston Faith UMC
Audrey Burtnett and Karin Yungclas Congo

Pet Blessing

Pets are a blessing to many of us. Last year at our September Saturday evening service, we celebrated our pets by having a Pet Blessing. Are you game for another? Cats, dogs, hamsters, birds, goldfish.....you name it, Pastor Craig can bless it. Let someone on the Worship Board know what you are thinking. Shall we have another this year or wait until next year. We need to hear from you. Worship Board members are: Troy Stockdale, Linda Lahr, Gretchen McGlynn, Cindy Henning, Verna Bierle, and Holly Riemenschneider.



KLAB

Our KLAB kids gathered for some summer fun on Friday June 24th, with games and a wiener roast.



New Members

On June 26 we received 4 new members into our church family! (front) Jennifer Brim and Chris McNiel, and (back) Sunshine Yoders and Amani McMurray were taken into membership during our worship service.



Summer Lunch Program

First Congregational once again led the opening week of the Webster City summer lunch program held at the middle school. 8-12 volunteers from the church helped each day, from June 13th through June 17th. We served between 120 to 150 children each day. Thank you, volunteers!



KLAB Lock-In

Once again our KLAB children had a lock-in on June 10 & 11.



FUNERAL POLICIES: FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

JUNE 15, 2016

INTRODUCTION

A funeral or memorial service is a fitting and powerful ritual that marks the ending of a human life, and such services can help those suffering from the loss of death in several ways. Funeral or memorial services bring together the bereaved, and allow the grieving community to comfort and console one another in their common loss. Funeral or memorial services help recall the life of the deceased, and promote thanksgiving for his or her life. Funeral or memorial services recall the promises of God found in scripture and faith, which bring hope and healing to all who are experiencing a loss. First Congregational UCC is committed to helping provide meaningful and consoling funeral and memorial services as a part of its mission, which is to “proclaim the Gospel, nurture and support each other, and show concern for humankind.”

WHEN SOMEONE DIES

In the event of a death, the family of the deceased should contact the pastor or the church office. The pastor will visit with the family to offer condolences on behalf of the congregation and to plan a service, taking into consideration the desires of the deceased and surviving family members. Services for non-members may be held at First Congregational UCC, but only with the current pastor’s consent.

FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE?

A funeral is a service in which the body is present during the service, most generally in a casket, which may be opened or closed. A memorial is a service that is conducted without the body being present, either because the body has been cremated or has been previously interred. First Congregational UCC recommends that individuals pre-plan their funeral or memorial service in consultation with family members, a funeral director, and the pastor. There are forms in the church office to assist with the preplanning of the service, and the church will store the completed forms for future need.

Funeral or memorial services must be coordinated with the pastor’s availability. The family may request a guest pastor or other speaker to participate in the service, with the consent of the current pastor of First Congregational UCC. If the family wishes to have another pastor conduct the service, they must first contact the current pastor, discuss their wishes, and secure the current pastor’s consent. In the absence of the current pastor due to illness or vacation, the family may elect to hold the service upon the pastor’s return, or they may choose to use the designated on-call pastor who is ministering to the congregation in the pastor’s absence.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

First Congregational UCC works closely with funeral directors in order to provide meaningful and orderly funerals and memorial services. Funeral directors have professional expertise to help plan services and burials, and they manage many of

the necessary details so that families are not unduly burdened in their time of bereavement.

Members of First Congregational UCC who choose not to employ a funeral director for funerals or memorial services held in the church must meet with the pastor, who will explain what duties the family must assume in the absence of a funeral director. (see attachment #1)

Non-members of First Congregational UCC who wish to hold a funeral or memorial service in the church must first secure the consent of the current pastor, and must employ a funeral director from an established funeral home of their choice to be present for the service.

MUSIC AND AUDIOVISUALS

The final authority determining the suitability of any music and audiovisual materials for funeral or memorial services rests with the current pastor of First Congregational UCC. Instrumentalists or vocalists may be used during the service, or pre-recorded selections of music. It is the responsibility of the family or the funeral director to make arrangements for all music, and provide any pre-recorded music and audiovisual materials to the church in advance of the service.

VISITATION

Visitation prior to a funeral or memorial service may either be held at the funeral home of the family's choice or at First Congregational UCC. First Congregational UCC recommends that visitation take place on a date previous to the day of the funeral or memorial service.

RECEPTIONS AND REFRESHMENTS

First Congregational UCC is pleased to serve as the host site for gatherings in Fellowship Hall before or after a funeral or memorial service. In the event of the death of a church member, a member's spouse, or the dependent child of a member, a representative of the Women's Fellowship Funeral Committee will contact the family and explain what refreshment options the Women's Fellowship will provide. If the family wishes to have a more elaborate meal than the Women's Fellowship is willing to provide, then it is the family's responsibility to contact the caterer of their choice and make arrangements for the meal to be delivered. It is the family's responsibility to pay for the meal.

Non-members who request refreshments following the service will be served coffee, water, lemonade, and dessert bars at no charge. If the family desires a meal, then they must select a caterer and make arrangements to have the meal of their choice delivered. It is the family's responsibility to pay for the meal.

MEMORIALS

Memorials given in honor of the deceased are a meaningful way to cherish and continue the legacy of a loved one who has died. First Congregational UCC has a Memorial Committee that oversees all undesignated memorials given to the church on behalf of the deceased. The committee can offer suggestions for the use of memorial money, and they will be happy to oversee the selection and purchase of

appropriate gifts for the church. For questions about memorials, or for memorial gift suggestions, please contact a member of the Memorial Committee.

FEES

A current fee schedule for funerals and memorial services hosted by First Congregational UCC is available from the pastor or the local funeral directors. (See attachment #2)

Attachment #1
Duties of a Funeral Director
For Services Held at First Congregational UCC
June 15, 2016

For Visitation:

- Unlock/lock doors of the church
- Receive/ place /arrange flowers
- Arrange photos, displays, and urn (if applicable)
- Display guest book

For Funerals/Memorial services:

- Unlock/lock doors of the church
- Receive/place /arrange flowers
- Arrange/remove photos, displays, and urn (if applicable)
- Display guest book
- Secure musicians, including organist and soloists
- Provide pre-recorded music if desired
- Provide or secure ushers and pall bearers
- Secure video/sound technician
- Set out reserved seating signs
- Make or purchase printed materials/bulletin
- Write and publish obituary
- Contact cemetery for burial
- Escort family into sanctuary/dismiss congregation following service
- Oversee disposition of flowers/plants/memorial following the service

Attachment #2
Fees for Funerals and Memorial Services
Held at First Congregational UCC
June 15, 2016

The following fee schedule has been established by the Board of Trustees for all Funeral and Memorial services held at First Congregational UCC. (Please note that when using prerecorded music, an Audio/Visual technician must be employed.)

Pastor's Honorarium: \$150
Organist/Accompanist: \$ 100
Custodian: \$200
Soloist: \$50
Audio/Visual technician: \$50

Treasurer's Report

INCOME	MAY	YEAR TO DATE
Pledges and Offerings	\$18,401.21	\$79,132.45
Other Income	.00	.78
TOTAL INCOME	\$18,401.21	\$79,133.23
EXPENSES		
Outreach and Mission	\$2,009.34	\$8,342.62
Pastoral Services	5,396.08	32,176.86
Maintenance and Repairs	2,933.14	68,929.85*
Church Office	2,541.39	13,555.95
Music Ministry	850.00	4,650.00
Christian Education	181.63	305.88
Local Ministry	0.00	0.00
Misc. Expenses	16.55	1,266.37
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,928.13	\$129,227.53

*Majority of Maintenance and Repairs expenses are due to the renovation.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – June 14, 2016

Members Present:

Moderator----- Sherry Leksell	Pastor-----Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Vice-Moderator----Al Yungclas	Trustees-----Tom Riemenschneider
Finance Sec.-----Luverne Bierle	Women's Fellowship-Karen Yungclas
Finance-----Dale Olson	Mission-----Lorraine McCoskey
Staff/Parish-----	Worship-----Holly Riemenschneider
Christian Ed-----Vicki Blaufuss	Evangelism-----Sharon Perry
Treasurer-----Tracy Wehrhan	Clerk-----Mary Van Diest

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Moderator, Sherry Leksell. Pastor Craig opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer. Vicki moved and Tracy seconded to accept the board reports as printed. Motion carried. Treasurer, Tracy, reported income for May was \$17,761.21 and expenses were \$13,100.80. Tracy moved to put this report to audit. Holly seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: Sherry reminded everyone that pictures for the church directory would be taken the following week. Tom moved that only members will be listed in the back of the new directory. Al seconded. Motion carried. Tracy reported that the committee to review and rewrite the constitution will have the revised constitution by the Cabinet's August meeting for a review.

New Business: Reviewed the new Funeral Guidelines booklet. Following discussion and a few changes, Tracy moved to accept. Lorraine seconded. Motion carried. On Sunday June 26th, six new members will be received into our congregation. The Cabinet will host the coffee following worship to welcome them. Sherry is responsible for the mints, nuts and ordering the cake.

Reports of Boards and Committees

Pastor's Report: Officiated at the wedding of Nick Oberender and Diana Loutsch on May 28th at Ames UCC. He officiated at the graveside service of Jack Daniels on May 21st, the funeral service for Merv Mourlam on May 26th at Foster's and the memorial service for Helen Nessa on June 1st. On May 15th the church honored our graduating seniors, presented certificated to our KLAB and Sunday School participants, and recognized our teachers and assistants. The choir is now in recess for the summer. Our Sunday morning worship service for the summer begins at 9:30 am and the first Saturday evening service will be at 5:00 pm on June 16th. On June 5th London Clements was baptized during the worship service. There will be an adult baptism in our sanctuary at 3:00 on June 17th. We will take in new members on June 26th, with reception to follow. Todd Edeker will be our pulpit supply pastor on July 17th, 24th and August 28th. Our church is scheduled for the care center worship service on July 24th, but will need to reschedule as the pastor will be on vacation that Sunday. The Funeral Policy Committee has completed the draft of our funeral policy, which now needs to be approved by the Cabinet before being printed in booklet form. The Constitution Committee will meet on June 22nd. Ten attendees attended the annual KLAB lock-in on June 10-11. He reported that it was the smoothest lock-in he has attended. The children were well behaved and helpful in cleaning up. They all had a great time and great snacks. The next summer event will be on Friday, June 24th, from 4:00-6:30 pm at the church. It will conclude with a wiener roast for supper. Another summer date will be scheduled, possibly on August 23rd. The adult education class concluded on May 15th and they will begin in the fall studying the impact of social media on our individual lives, our ways of communicating and our relations with others. Pastor Craig represented the WCMA at the High School Baccalaureate service on May 18th. The Summer Lunch Program begins Monday, June 13th with First Congo taking the first week. The WCMA voted to give the proceeds of the Salvation Army bell ringing campaign (\$2285) to the Ecumenical Human Needs Fund, which has been incredibly busy disbursing funds to people in need. Sharon Perry has been working with Rhonda Masser interviewing applicants and the need has been so great that the funds have almost been completely depleted. According to our Safe Church Policy releases from nearly all minor children have been received so their pictures can be used in our newsletter and on our website. The background checks have been completed for the four adult chaperones for the KLAB lock in. The process is automated via email, takes only a few minutes to complete and results are available within a couple of hours. The cost through Praesidium is \$5 per check. The Stephen Ministry group travelled to Sweet Treats in Jewell for the first June meeting. They continue with the curriculum exploring our spiritual gifts. They continue with five matches. On CoM Pastor Craig and Joyce Gelhaus participated in a statewide day of training for the Committee on Ministry. The focus of the training was on "discernment". A Periodic Support Consultation will be conducted at First Congregational UCC of Fort Dodge on June 23rd.

Worship Board: Gretchen McGlynn, Holly Riemendschneider, Verna Bierle, Cindy Henning, Linda Lahr and Pastor Craig met in May. Gretchen has sent a letter to Sister Act requesting they come this summer if schedule allows. Holly reported that Tulips for Mothers went well, with 50 purchased @ \$ each with 6 left over. Linda will contact Todd Edeker to fill the pulpit while Pastor Craig is on vacation. Gretchen and Holly will be helping with communion on June 5th.

Communion for Pentecost was suspended this year due to many activities during worship. The pew communion for Easter went well. However, due to lack of numbers for Maundy Thursday service, next year we will gather in East Chapel for that service and at this time no Sunrise service is planned. The first Saturday service will be June 18th at 5:00 pm. A discussion was held on another pet blessing service, possibly in Sept. They will ask around for feedback from congregation. Gretchen will help with July 3rd communion and ask for another volunteer when it gets closer. There will be no meeting in June.

Mission Board: Met on May 12th. The spring clean- up around Kmart and McDonalds was done with 14 people. All the garbage bags from Fuller Hall were used, plus a few extras. First Congo will serve the summer lunch program the week of June 13th. The church is also in charge of games for this week which Lorraine will captain. Audrey is in charge of the Strengthen the Church offering for Sunday, the 15th. Beacon of Hope meal will be served on May 18th. The Relay for Life is June 16th from 6:00-9:00 pm at Twin Parks. A coffee will be served on June 5th with the pickle jar out for donations. The church collected \$150 for Special Olympics and \$240 for Ecuador relief. The ice cream social is June 15th at Faith UMC with the proceeds divided between UDMO and Ecumenical Human Needs. The group is looking for new ideas to promote our month (July) to raise items for UDMO.

Mission Board: Audrey Burtnett, Marjorie Groves, Alyssa Kenville, Lorraine McCoskey, Gayle Olson, Karin Yungclas attended the meeting. Gayle is our cabinet representative. Ginnie Veach is chairing the preparation and serving of the July Beacon of Hope meal. Our church will assist with the opening week of the summer free lunch program. Lorraine reported that 12 people are needed each day to assist with set-up of tables, sign-in, trash, clean-up, free books, etc. The helpers can work any number of days. They should come around 11:00 am to prepare for the children's arrival with the meal from 11:30-12:30. Audrey reported that church members gave \$711 for the special collection for Strengthen the Church. Mary Vavroch is captain of our church's Relay for Life Team. She and Joyce Gelhaus will host the coffee fellowship time after worship on June 5th. There will be a silent auction for bidding on the rugs and trivets that Michele Omvig's father has made from blue jeans. Alyssa will make bidding sheets. The bidding will start at \$25 apiece for the rugs. Bidding will take place June 5th through June 15th. Pastor Craig has contacted Rev. Paul Stone and Rev. Carroll Lang for information on possible projects with the Ft. Dodge Correctional Facility and Church of the Damascus Road. Craig asked about Stephen Ministry at the FDCF and learned that a couple from Boone is leading Stephen Ministry training there. Other options are participating in worship at the prison, leading worship or forming a re-entry team of 5-10 persons to assist an inmate for a year following his/her release. The re-entry team would help the person find an apartment, pay the deposit and first month rent round up furniture and the like. Team members would take 6 hours of training on a Saturday, to be scheduled by Rev. Lang. Marjorie will prepare a short article for the church newsletter about prison ministry options to see if people in our church are interested in participating. Karin and Audrey are organizing our church's hosting the ice cream social with Faith United Methodist on June 15th. July is our church's month to collect food for Upper Des Moines Opportunity's food pantry and will focus on breakfast. This will be items as boxed cereals, toaster pastries, oatmeal, raisins, pancake mix, syrup, cocoa mix, etc. People are asked to bring at least one item each Sunday of July to fill the space normally occupied by the choir. On June 26th, the Mission Board will serve a light breakfast before church. Lorraine will bring oatmeal and raisins, Audrey-cereal and milk-Alyssa-cereal, Karin-bananas, Marjorie-orange juice, Gayle-pastry. As there will be a coffee fellowship time after church this will be a light breakfast. Gayle will contact Tom McLaughlin about scheduling a time for our church to package meals in August for Kids

Against Hunger. Greta has suggested our participation in a program to collect various kinds of items often tossed in the trash, which can be sent in for recycling. This will be on the agenda for a future meeting. Next meeting is August 2nd, at 5:00 pm.

Board of Trustees: Met on May 24th with Tom Riemenschneider, Tracy Wehrhan, Holly Riemenschneider, Bruce Perry, Gretchen Bruner, Joyce Gelhaus and Pastor Craig present. Old Business: Ray put up the outside signage. Joyce said Vic will try to have the bulletin boards put up next week. A final bill has not been received from Wayne Schlotfeldt. Tom and Holly purchased a sump pump alarm. After installation the alarm will call several people when it is not working and senses water. Tracy is still after K&H to fix the ceiling fan. New Business: The light over the front door will be checked by K&H when they are repairing the ceiling fan. A new fixture may be needed. Discussed the gutter situation. They put a lot of water over the sidewalk and make it slick in the colder months. It would be expensive to drain the water under the sidewalk. Other suggestions were to have the gutters drain to the back of the church or just make sure we salt the areas well. Will discuss this further in the future. The Trustees will host the coffee after church in the fall when the entire renovation project will be complete. Tracy will fill out the bond letter. The elevator safety inspection had the wrong date. This has been corrected and the fire inspector has been notified. The fire inspector noted that the elevator room needs the sheet rock put back up and new treated wood installed. New fire signage has been placed by each elevator door. The pipes in the elevator room need to be boxed in by 2020. We plan on doing this when we do the wood and sheet rock. We will check with the elevator people boxing in the pipes and what to do with the control box. We will also check with the insurance company to see if they will pay for any of the repairs. Next meeting is Tuesday, June 28th at 7:00 pm.

Women's Fellowship: Met on June 1st with Karin Yungclas, Kay Harfst, Cindy Henning, Verna Bierle, Gayle Olson, Stephanie Hill, Shirley Yungclas, Wilma Reinsel, Ginnie Veach, Amani McMurray and Carol Crystal present. We will be meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month with the next meeting on Sept. 6th. There will be a committee appointed to review the WF Constitution and By-laws and will adjust any of our committees accordingly. The duties were reviewed as understood by the people designated for each office or committee. Duties are as follows: Co-Presidents-Karin Yungclas will be cabinet representative and Kay Harfst will lead the Executive Board meetings; Secretary-Cindy Henning will record minutes at Executive Board meetings and reporting monthly meeting places in the newspaper; Treasurer-Verna Bierle will pay bills, make deposits and maintain checking and savings account. She will collect the money at Thrift Sales, from individual circle donations and funeral donations. Circle Chairs are as follow:-Haystack—Gayle Olson and Stephanie Hill are co-chairs. The past activities are Christmas and Valentine plates, Halloween bags, May baskets, coats for UDMO and pecan sales. Mayflower Circle-Wilma Reinsel and Shirley Yungclas are co-chairs. The past activities include Christmas potluck with games, donations given to the treasury and May Dinner out. Morning Star-Ginnie Veach is chair with Amani McMurray assisting her. Past activities include Christmas at Mary Van Diest with white elephant gifts and collecting items and donations to DSOAC. Providence Circle-Cindy Henning is the chair. Activities are going out to eat for Christmas and May meetings and maintain KIVA account. The following committees and responsibilities are: Calling-Wilma Reinsel and LaVonne Osmundson will call for food for funerals or special meals. Cards-Shirley Yungclas will send cards to those in need. Funeral-Carol Crystal, Dawn Holdgrafer, Leah Maass and Joyce Gelhaus will contact workers and any other items for funerals. Yearbook-Cindy Henning and Joyce Gelhaus will work with Michele on next year's program book. House-Greta Oberender and Mabel Prescott will purchase supplies in the kitchen. Piecemakers-Verna Bierle is leader/treasurer. She would like more members—no experience

needed. Resource-not necessary to obtain circle program this year. Will table for now how money will be divided in May. Continuing Activities—Christmas Dinner will be after worship with the date to be announced. May Dinner—the date TBD and would appreciate men cooking again. Care Center-will host the birthday parties with date to be announced. Sunday Coffees—the Executive Board will divide into 3-4 groups and each serve a coffee with the sign up to be held in the fall. Received thank you cards from RSVP and school backpack program for our donation. Shirley Yungclas sent get well cards to Vicki Blaufuss and Ron Epps; a sympathy card to the Nessa Family. Kay reported for Pastor Craig to lift up Vicki Blaufuss, Charlene McKee and Mary Byrne.

Finance Board: Met on June 12th with Luverne Bierle, Dale Olson, Don Bruner, Duane Vavroch and Tracy Wehrhan present. The May income was better than the preceding month so we were able to cover expenses without transferring additional funds. A discussion was held concerning the bond payment. Tracy explained that part of the payment is reimbursement for bonds bought above par and the remaining portion of the payment is interest that can be used. The board approved to transfer the reimbursed amount of the yearly payments to the brokerage account with Cetera. Tracy will handle this with Michele and will also track the scholarship payments so the correct amounts are credited for each scholarship. We have received a request from AmazonSmile.com to set up an account that can be credited with money from purchases. People using AmazonSmile are asked to choose an organization when they make a purchase and AmazonSmile will credit 0.5% of certain purchases to this organization. More information will follow when the account is set up at which time we will inform the congregation to use this web site instead of the regular Amazon web site. Barb Wollan has submitted the audit report. The Board moved to approve this report. She stated that in general the books are in good shape. She did make a few suggestions on ways to improve our bookkeeping system. Some of these suggestions have already been implemented and the Finance Board will advise Tracy and Michele on how to proceed with the other suggestions.

Christian Ed Board: Met on June 8th with Pastor Craig, Vicki Blaufuss, Leah Maass, Wil Groves and Mary Van Diest. Old Business: discussed programming for the summer months of June and August. On June 24th will meet at the church at 4:00 pm for a KLAB event followed by a wiener roast at West Twin Park ending at 6:30 pm. Tentative plans for August will be a program per John Laird at Briggs Woods, possibly on August 23rd. New Business; Alyssa Kenville was invited to attend the meeting. Due to poor attendance in her class this past year she had suggestions for next year's program. Alyssa will mail a letter to parents with her suggestions. The board approved this matter. Next year there is a possibility of four pre-K students-Ava Stockdale Vada Williams, Alec Tudor and Cora Rose Kennedy. Vicki will compose a letter to the parents with suggestions for time and explained. Vicki will contact Laurie Epps to see if she will continue teaching next year. Leah Maass volunteered to substitute in KLAB next year. Wil Grove stated that even when he makes a schedule for acolytes it is not followed so he will discontinue doing this. The next meeting is August 10th at 7:00 pm to plan for Rally Day.

Next meeting: August 9, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Van Diest, Church Clerk

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

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