

October 2016 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
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<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 everyday 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 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? My neighbor was recently diagnosed with colon cancer that has spread to his liver, and he is now facing a very uncertain future in every way. He will never be cured; barring a miracle he will be on a lifetime of chemo—a life which could last only months, or could continue for decades if he is fortunate. He doesn’t know if he will be able to continue working as he continues to treat his disease; he doesn’t know if he will see his son finish high school or his daughter finish college; he doesn’t know if he will leave his wife widowed before her 50th birthday; he doesn’t know if he will be able to fulfill the hopes and dreams that he longs for on the far side of retirement and into his golden years.

And yet he told me yesterday that his diagnosis is not filling him with dread and worry! He told me that it has reshaped how he views his life, and it has strengthened his faith. He said he knows that God has a plan for him, and he is trusting God and looking to God for strength and guidance now more than ever. He told me that the outpouring of care and support from others has touched him deeply, and he told me that he hopes his closer walk with his Creator and Savior through this disease will in turn remind other people of the promise and power of a lived FAITH that is built on one need; the “better part”...our need for God.

I can’t help but admire his strength and courage, even as I wonder if I could be so strong and so trusting in the midst of such a trial. And I also can’t help but wonder: if he can trust God as he faces the worries of cancer, shouldn’t I trust God as I face the lesser worries of my day-to-day living? That is a good question for all of us!

“You are worried and distracted by many things. There is need of only one thing.” Can you/will you take Jesus’ words as the *Gospel*? Can you/will you make your *one need* the need to seek the presence and the

will of 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

ATTENDANCE

September 3 42 September 11 79
September 18 78 September 25 69

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

Know the symptoms of glaucoma. Glaucoma damages the eye's optic nerve and causes blindness if not treated. Symptoms may include:

- Tunnel vision or loss of side (peripheral) vision.
- Pain in the eye or brow pain.
- Decreased or blurred vision.
- Headache, nausea or vomiting.
- Light sensitivity or seeing halos around lights.



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
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

Kitchen

Any food left in the freezer or refrigerator by anyone should be **dated when opened and labeled for use:** personal, board, or for "anyone to please consume." It is a waste to leave it and have it get "old" just because no one knows its purpose. Use the Sharpie-it does not take much time and will help reduce waste. Please check the current items in storage for use before buying more-(butter, juice, condiments.)

Last Saturday Evening Service for the Season—Sister Act

Our last Saturday evening service for the season will be held at 5 p.m. on October 15, and will feature the musical gifts of "Sister Act," a women's' singing group out of Jewell who know how to make a joyful noise! They will share their gospel message of joy and celebration during the service, and following the service we will hold a reception in their honor in Fellowship hall and enjoy root beer floats provided by the worship Board. If you have never heard Sister Act before, you are in for a treat! Join us in the sanctuary October 15th for a musical celebration with Sister Act!



KAH

Mission Board sends out a great big thank you to the 24 people who showed up on September 25 to bag meals for Kids Against Hunger. In about 45 minutes time we had packaged enough meals to feed 3,240 hungry people. We were told these meals will be used to meet a need here in this country. A special thank you to Isabelle, Molly, Becca, and Dylan for your help - it is awesome to have you join us in this special project.

We hope all of you will join us again in Nov. as we bag up more meals with the other churches from town as a special Thanksgiving project. Thanks again church family!!!!

Amazon Smile

We are now registered with Amazon Smile and it works with Amazon Prime. You simply start shopping through smile.amazon.com and select First Congregational United Church of Christ, Webster City and a portion of your purchase will be returned to First Congregational to be used towards the Clifford Doty memorial fund.

Thanksgiving Community Food Pack Nov. 20

The WCMA and the morning Kiwanis club will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving community food pack for Kids Against Hunger on Sunday, November 20, from 2-4 p.m. at Fuller Hall. This is an opportunity for community members to come together and give thanks to God by helping those who struggle with hunger both abroad, and in the U.S. Each church is being asked to field at least one team of 12-15 members and friends, who will package Kids Against Hunger meals for 1 to 2 hours. We hope to form 6 packing lines at this event, and turn out 18,000 meals from our community!

Neighbors in Need

NIN is a special mission offering that supports works of justice and compassion in the United States and abroad. Two-thirds of the Neighbors In Need receipts support program initiatives and direct grants offered through the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. More directly, Neighbors in Need makes available grants up to \$3,000 twice a year. We will take our NIN offering on October 2.

Pancakes

Lions annual all you can eat pancake day is Sunday, October 9 from 8:00 am to 12:15 pm at the Webster City Middle School. Adults \$8, Ages 5-10 \$4. Under age 5 free.

CROP Walk

Sunday Oct. 9 has been designated as CROP walk Sunday here in Webster City. We will gather at Brewer Creek shelter at 2:00 pm and walk the Brewer Creek trail. The infamous

pickle jar will be out on Oct. 2 and Oct. 9 for those who would like to contribute to this organization which helps feed hungry people. Donations of bar soap and peanut butter will again be welcomed.

Listening Post

A discussion regarding the changes to the constitution will be held Sunday, October 9 following worship. A copy of the constitution showing changes being made will be mailed out to all active members. The constitution will be voted on at the congregational meeting on November 13. Remember that the proposed constitution cannot be amended at our Congregational meeting which makes it important that you attend the Listening Post on October 9.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, November 13 following worship. We will vote to ratify the budget and vote on the proposed constitutional amendments.

Ladies Night

The Women's Fellowship of Community Church of Kamrar invite you to their guest night, Wednesday, October 5. A light lunch will be served at 6:30 pm with program at 7:15. RSVP 836-4732.

Warm Hearts Warm Homes is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, and we are in need of churches and civic group to form teams to do basic home weatherization. The goal this year is to weatherize 32 homes with 16 teams. We will gather for breakfast and instructions at 8:00, go to our assigned sites to work, and finish by noon. If you would like to be a part of First Congregational's team, there is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall. The deadline to register is **October 14**, please sign up today!

Pack the Paddy Wagon

Sunday, October 23 a vintage police Paddy Wagon will be parked in front of Hy-Vee food store in Webster City to take food donations from noon-6 p.m. This event is being sponsored by the Hamilton County Peace Officers Association, and all donations will be split between St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran Churches' food pantries.

Boundary Training October 8

On Saturday, October 8, clergy from the Northwest Association of the Iowa Conference will gather at First Congregational for professional boundary training. The NW Association Committee on Ministry schedules this training yearly so that clergy can fulfill their requirement to attend 6 hours of boundary training in order to maintain their professional standing in the United Church of Christ. The training will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 pm.

Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Webster City will hold their annual installation of officers at First Congregational on Tuesday, October 4th. The installation will last from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. We are pleased to host the Kiwanis clubs in Webster City, and honor the benevolent work they do for the community and for the children of the world!

KLAB Treats

KLAB began September 21, and our KLAB kids absolutely love treats! We are again inviting KLAB parents and our church family to provide treats for our Wednesday after school program. There is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall if you would like to take a week to treat the kids! Please bring enough treats and drinks for 16 children. And please—no "red" colored drinks! -- Thank you from your KLAB leadership team.

Women's Fellowship Fall Thrift Sale

Our Thrift Sale was a huge success again!! Give yourselves a pat on the back. We raised approx. \$1,400 before expenses. These profits along with the Spring 2017 sale will help us give support to many deserving organizations in this community and around the world. I especially want to "Thank" each of you who helped donate, sort or unbox items, clean-up and haul the leftovers, bring food for workers, or worked during the sale. This project could not have been done without your help and support during my personal loss. The next sale will be April 21 & 22, so as you are de-cluttering for the New Year, remember to box those precious items you know someone else will treasure.

Thank you all so much!!!

Cindy Henning --Chairperson, Thrift Sale



Treasurer's Report

INCOME	AUGUST	YEAR TO DATE
Pledges and Offerings	\$14,613.00	\$117,528.45
Other Income	.29	2.46
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,613.29	\$117,530.91
EXPENSES		
Outreach and Mission	0.00	\$9,925.96
Pastoral Services	5,186.08	54,350.61
Maintenance and Repairs	1,897.91	77,225.54
Church Office	2,925.45	21,204.58
Music Ministry	375.00	5,550.00
Christian Education	20.00	381.82
Local Ministry	175.00	525.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00	1,317.07
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,579.44	\$170,480.58

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Webster City, Iowa Cabinet Meeting – September 13, 2016

Members Present:

Moderator-----Sherry Leksell	Pastor-----Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Vice-Moderator----	Trustees-----Tom Riemenschneider
Finance Sec.-----Luverne Bierle	Women's Fellowship-Kay Harfst
Finance-----Dale Olson	Mission-----Lorraine McCoskey
Staff/Parish-----Dalene Schlitter	Worship-----Holly Riemenschneider
Christian Ed-----Vicki Blaufuss	Evangelism-----Laurie Epps
Treasurer-----Tracy Wehrhan	Clerk-----Mary Van Diest

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Moderator, Sherry Leksell. Pastor Craig gave a meditation entitled "If This is Good-by" followed by a prayer. Highlights of the Board reports were given as follows: **Pastor** (Pastor Craig)-a very successful Rally Day was held; **Worship** (Holly R.)-reported they had researched candidates for pulpit supply when Pastor Craig is absent and there will be refreshments following "The Sisters Act" at the Saturday worship service in October; **Trustees** (Tom R.) one bid has been turned in to repair the elevator shaft; **Finance** (Dale O.)-asked the boards to turn in their budgets for the following year-**Christian Ed** (Vicki B.)-excellent Rally Day; **Mission** (Lorraine M.)-the Neighbors in Need offering will be held; **Evangelism** (Laurie E.)-there will be no more Meals 'n' More, the \$675.00 remaining in the fund will be transferred to the church's general fund; **Women's Fellowship** (Kay H.)-Providence cleaned the oven; **Treasurer** (Tracy W.)-the income for August, 2016 was \$12,973.00 and expenses were \$15,608.45. Luverne moved with a second by Vicki to accept the reports of the boards and to put the treasurer's report to audit. Motion carried.

Old Business: Sherry reported that hopefully the directory will be here in a couple weeks. The revised constitution was reviewed again and one addition was made. Tracy moved to accept the revised constitution with the one addition. Luverne seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: Tracy will write a letter to go with the revised constitution which will be sent to church members. There will be a review of the constitution on October 9th following church. Sherry Leksell has offered to go as a delegate from our church to the Iowa Conference meeting. A church credit card will be used by Pastor Craig and Michele for online purchases. The church's website was discussed and the fees charged to keep it up to date. The Cabinet asked that a line item for web site update and maintenance of \$1000.00 be put on the budget.

Reports of Boards and Committees

Pastor's: Todd Edeker filled the pulpit on August 28th while the pastor was on vacation. On August 14th, Scholarship Sunday, five attendees received their scholarships and told us of their future plans. There will be a Saturday service on September 3rd with Holy Communion and on October 15th "Sister Act" will provide the message through their singing for the last Saturday service of the year. Rally Day will be on September 11th. Nine children attended the KLAB "Nature Day" on August 17th from 10 am until 4 pm. During that time they built 9 bat houses for the city, had a wiener roast at Briggs Woods, got to touch country naturalist John Laird's corn snake, did a litter pickup on the way to the beach, and went swimming! Thanks to Wil Groves, Arden Schlitter, Luverne Bierle and Leah Maass for making this day a success. KLAB resumes in the fall starting Wednesday, September 21st. Letters were sent out with a schedule and a required registration form. He is trying to organize a small confirmation class. All Sunday school teachers and substitutes and others who will work with our children were sent volunteer applications to be filled out in accordance with the Safe Church Policy. A meeting to go over this policy with volunteers is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th. The Ecumenical Human Needs funds are severely depleted, and no funds will be disbursed for the majority of September. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the review committees. Please contact the Pastor or Sharon Perry for more information. Another care receiver has been matched with a Stephen Minister so 6 Stephen Ministers are matched. The NW Association CoM clergy boundary training for our association will be held here at First Congregational on Saturday, October 8th beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 3:30 pm. This is a requirement for all clergy—once every 3 years. A delegate is still needed for the October 22nd annual meeting of the Iowa Conference in Des Moines. If anyone is NOT getting calls from OneCallNow please contact the church office. We want to be certain that everyone receives these important updates. With the emailing problems we have been having, Michele has now set up a domain with its own email capabilities. Her new email is: administrative.office@fcuccwc.org.

Christian Ed: Met on August 10th with Pastor Craig, Vicki Blaufuss, Leah Maass, Jane Klaver, Wil Groves, Curt McCoskey and Mary Van Diest present. Rally Day will be held on September 11, with games starting at 9:15 am in the empty lot. Worship will follow at 10:30 am. The games are: 1) Cupcake walk with Todd and Katie leading. There will be a signup sheet in fellowship hall for 4 doz. cupcakes. 2) Dunk tank with water balloons with Wil Groves leading. 3) Candy scramble with Pastor Craig in charge. 4) Relay races will be led by Curt McCoskey. He will prepare the races. A signup sheet will be placed in Fellowship Hall encouraging people of all ages to sign up for the relay games. Mary volunteered to provide the drinks. The lunch has been provided by an anonymous donor. So far we only have one youth for confirmation. Pastor Craig cannot do 1 on 1 according to the Safe Church Policy. The pastor has tried to contact a church family with a child eligible for confirmation, but so far has heard no response. We discussed other options, including rotating adult volunteers to sit in on the class. KLAB will be starting on September 21st. A signup sheet will be placed in fellowship hall for volunteers to provide treats.

Leah Maass volunteered to set up treats on KLAB days. The next meeting will be September 14th at 7:00 pm.

Women's Fellowship: Executive Board met on August 31st. Kay Harfst reported for Pastor Craig giving updates on several members in need of prayer. Matt Byrne had a daughter, Mattie Ann Byrne. She is a new granddaughter of Mary Ann Byrne. Verna Weieneth is at Southfield, Apt. 13. There will be no more Meals 'n' More. Karin Yungclas talked about the various resources for program material if you don't wish to use "Thread of Hope" book. She and Gayle Olson have material, as does the library and UCC devotional site. The kitchen cleaning assignments are in the circle books. Mayflower will have wiping down the racks under the serving counter as part of their duty. The circles are to discuss if there is anyone willing to clean the oven or should we ask trustees to hire it done. Circles are to report back to the Executive Board. Cindy Henning is in charge of the Thrift Sale. Each circle should fill out the signup sheets and return to Cindy as soon as possible. She also explained that any family members or friends are encouraged to come and help set-up or clean-up. The Executive Board members will serve after church coffees as follows: #1-Karin, Mabel & Stephanie on October 9th, #2-Kay, Amani, and Wilma, #3-Carol, Shirley and Greta, #4-Ginny, Verna, Gayle and Cindy. The circles are encouraged to also sign up. It was moved and seconded that Karin be our representative at cabinet meetings. In reference to the prayer chain, Gayle voiced concern that a friend informed her that she no longer gets information through the calling chain, since everything is sent on email. There are several members who do not have computers so do not receive the information. Gayle said she would volunteer to call them, and also check with the office to see who else she can call as well.

Mission Board: Met on September 1st with Rev. Blaufuss, Audrey Burtnett, Marjorie Groves, Alyssa Kenville, Lorraine McCoskey, Gayle Olson and Karin Yungclas. Pastor Craig led the board in prayer after Gayle called the meeting to order. Lorraine gave an update on the cabinet. She reported that major changes have been proposed for the church constitution. The cabinet will review it again at their September meeting and vote on it. When we receive the revised copy, we should read the recommendations carefully. The congregation will vote on it in November. Gayle noted that the church is running short of funds and wondered if Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) commitment had been paid in July Pastor Craig said that paying it would have required cashing a bond. Sunday, September 25th, is our date for packaging meals for Kids Against Hunger. This will take about an hour. Because more of the meals are staying within the U.S., the KAH meals are now more likely to use pasta or beans than rice. Approximately 140 backpacks are being sent home each week, Gayle reports. Our church will pack the backpacks on April 25th, 2017, 6:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church. Karin will chair the planning, preparation, transporting and serving of the Beacon of Hope meal on September 20th. Audrey and Marjorie will assist her as trainees. The menu is sloppy joes, coleslaw, baked beans, chips and bars. We will plan on 50 meals. The cars will be loaded so we can leave the church by 4:15. Alyssa will supply two large cans of baked beans. Marjorie will prepare the sloppy joe mixture at home. Karin and Audrey will fix the coleslaw and embellish the baked beans at the church. TerraCycle: It was decided to start the recycling project slowly with two types of items; dental hygiene (old toothbrushes, dental floss cases, empty toothpaste tubes, and packaging for toothbrushes and for dental floss) and three-ring binders. Marjorie, with Lorraine's assistance, will write up info for the bulletins and newsletter and prepare collection containers for the two collections. Each type of recyclable item has different sponsors and different rules for collection so we'll try to learn more about the various options, the website is –terracycle.com. A photo of Marjorie presenting a check to Catie Peterson of UDMO appeared in the Daily Freeman Journal in late August. The

\$50 goes with the breakfast items that were delivered to UDMO earlier. Pastor Craig received a letter from the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ seeking donations for seminary scholarships. Dale Olson of the Endowment Committee will talk to the Endowment Committee about this. We have agreed to partner with Trinity Lutheran in hosting a presentation by Tiffany Larson on students' use of social media. Pastor Craig reported that Washington Lutheran Church of Duncombe will host the CROP walk. It will be held on October 9th around Brewer Creek in Webster City. Gayle will write up the announcement for our church's participation. Pastor Craig reported that very little information on the Warm Hearts, Warm Homes project has been received. RSVP will organize it. It sounds as if each participating church will "sponsor" a home or two, raise money for materials and handle the repairs. Lorraine will check with Michele to see if the materials have arrived for the Neighbors in Need collection to be held the first Sunday in October. The Ecumenical Human Needs group needs volunteers to serve on the review board. Contact Sharon Perry or Pastor Craig if you're able to help. If you have a Thrivent Financial account or product, you can organize charitable projects and seek Thrivent matching funds. Marjorie asked the Mission Board to start thinking about how we might freshen up or rejuvenate the displays for the Advent Season and Alternate Giving Fair which are designed to raise money for worthy causes and take care of gifts giving. The next meeting will be October 6th at 5:00 pm.

Evangelism: Met on August 9, with Pastor Craig, Kolleen Taylor, Wilma Reinsel, Carol Crystal, Dawn Holdgrafer, Mabel Prescott and Laurie Epps in attendance. Pastor Craig shared concerns for quite a few members in need of our prayer and support. Please remember those amongst us that might have struggles and be in need. Wilma reported 14 We Care Cards have been sent. There are presently five matches working now in Stephen Ministries. One commutes from out of town to receive this kind of help. The parish nurse, Mabel, discussed the success of the defibrillator training and all thought the training went well, as did the May pot luck meal. We agreed to add it to the calendar for next year. A few months ago the Sunday morning ushers merged with the Sunday morning greeters. Volunteers are always welcome. A discussion was held on the annual picnic. In the past couple years extreme heat and thunderstorms have changed the venue back to Fellowship Hall. This will be addressed again in the future. It was unanimous to discontinue Meals'n'More. We will consider possibly scheduling 4 potlucks a year in the future. Next meeting is September 13th at 6:15 pm.

Next Cabinet Meeting: October 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Vicki moved and Holly seconded to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Van Diest, Church Clerk

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:

