

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

Do you remember a song call “My Grown-Up Christmas List?” It’s a song about an adult who is reflecting on the Christmas lists she made as a child, and how her Christmas list has changed now that she is a “grown-up.” Her grown-up Christmas list includes:

**No more lives torn apart**  
**Wars would never start**  
**Time would heal all hearts**  
**Everyone would have a friend**  
**Right would always win**  
**Love would never end**

It’s a beautiful song, isn’t it? Sounds like a good list.

I wonder who will deliver it.

It won’t be Santa—his sleigh isn’t big enough to carry all the cures needed for what ails humanity.

It won’t be big government--they are having a hard time getting anything done.

It won’t be big business--there isn’t much profit in solving the world’s problems.

It won’t be all the non-profits and charities around the world--they don’t have enough resources.

It won’t be the churches, not with our declining memberships and resources.

So who’s left? Well, God of course...the ONLY ONE who could possibly deliver this grown-up Christmas list! But God doesn’t seem to be delivering on our grown-up Christmas lists these days...leaving us with the same unsettling feeling we had at Christmastime when we were 7 or 8, except now we’re not wondering if Santa is real, but if God is real. Because if God is real, then why won’t God give us what we are asking for? Why won’t God “deliver?”

Perhaps God isn’t delivering on our grown-up Christmas lists because God is now treating us like grown-ups, not children; grown-ups who have a responsibility to make their world, not have it magically appear as a gift made by someone else’s hands. Perhaps God isn’t delivering on our grown-up Christmas lists because God has already given us the tools to make earth a paradise. We have the technology, the communications infrastructure, and the resources...we have pretty much everything we need-- except for the will and wisdom of real grown-ups.

And perhaps God isn’t delivering on our grown-up Christmas lists because 2000 years ago, God gave us the gift of a Child who shows us the way to a better world. But even though he came into the world, we weren’t grown-up enough to listen to him, and to take his words into our hearts. Isn’t it time for us to do that?

By the time you read this, we will have already begun the season of Advent—the journey of preparation that is to help us *grow up* as disciples of the God-Man Jesus Christ. This year our Advent would be better spent with less shopping and more introspection; less caroling and more concern; less tidings of comfort and joy and more discomfort and growth. That may not be the message we want to hear during the “hap-happiest season of all”...but if we ever want our grown-up Christmas lists filled, then that is the message we all need to hear.

This year, may your Advent season be blessed as you dream and do, wish and work... not for childish things, but for a better world: a world that needs us to grow into the likeness of the one whose birth we will soon celebrate. That would be the best gift we could give the world this Christmas! —Pastor Craig

## Celebrate Christmas by Worshipping at First Congregational UCC

What better way to experience a deepening of your faith than to spend time in church during the Season of Advent? These are the worship opportunities at First Congregational UCC we will observe in December 2016:

**During each Sunday in Advent**, members of First Congregational will lead us in the lighting of our Advent wreath, and we will sing traditional Advent hymns and Christmas carols.

**On December 18th**, our children will present the Christmas program "The Not-So Silent Night" during worship.

**On Saturday, December 24**, we will hold our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship service at 5 p.m.** Pew Communion will be offered at this service, our choir will sing, and Josie Greenley will be our accompanist.

**On Sunday, December 25**, we will gather to worship at our regular time (10:30 a.m.) for an abbreviated Christmas Day worship service. There will be no Sunday school that day.

**On Sunday, January 1**, we will gather to worship at our regular time, with members of our church leading the service with scriptures and readings. There will be no Sunday School that day.

*Come and share in the beauty and joy of the Christmas season as we worship God and celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World!*

### 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

November 6	75	November 13	57
November 20	83	November 27	85

### Church Staff

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



### PARISH NURSE NEWS

For a happy, sane holiday season...

- Make a list of your holiday traditions. Keep the ones you enjoy and discard the rest.
- Avoid gift-giving frenzies; establish a new tradition for this year's gift exchange.
- Make a shopping plan; set a budget and shop during off hours.
- Relax your holiday standards; leave the perfect homes and parties to Martha Stewart.
- Escape - to the woods, beach or big city if holidays at home are not a happy time for you.
- You don't have to accept every invitation you receive; practice saying "no".
- Save at least one day during the season just for you; have fun or just relax.
- Celebrate the true meaning of the holidays; give your time to the local soup kitchen or a care center.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 1 - Tracy Wehrhan
- 3 - Alexis Tudor
- 4 - Ron Epps
- 5 - Grant Ryherd
- 6- Jamie Roelfs
- 8 - Angelina Brim
- 8 - Pat Kesler
- 10 - Joyce Gelhaus
- 11 - Galene Groves
- 12 - Mark Riemenschneider

17 - Bob Van Diest  
17 - Matt Byrne  
19 - Phyllis Hovland  
20 - Don Bruner  
20 - Jessica Larson-Bailey  
21 - Liz Weieneth  
22 - Ann Latham  
23 - Linda Thurman  
23 - Jeb Long  
23 - Jennifer Van Diest  
23 - Amanda Remington  
24 - Jayd Brown  
24 - Brenda Brown  
25 - Dan Ryherd  
26 - Alan Yungclas  
26 - Benjamin Brincks  
31 - Dawn Kesler

#### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

18 - Sharon & Bruce Perry  
28 - Dale & Gayle Olson  
29 - Bob & Sandi Weieneth  
30 - Lynn & Debbie Jaycox  
30 - Ed & Andrea Mosbach  
31 - Mark & Connie Gustafson

#### **Annual Reports**

It is that time of year again; annual reports from boards and committees need to be turned in to the office by December 17.

#### **Advent**

November 27 was our first Sunday in the season of Advent, and we are again asking for volunteers (families or groups of friends) to lead the Advent Candle Liturgy. If you are willing to help with this important part of our Advent worship please sign the sheet that is posted by the church office.

#### **Myra's Memorial Christmas Caroling and Chili Supper**

You and your family are invited to Myra's Memorial Christmas Caroling and Chili Supper on Friday, December 2nd.

6:00 p.m. Meet at the 1st Congregational. We will divide into 2 groups, one group going to Southfield and one group to Crestview.

7:00 p.m. Return to 1st Congregational for a special meal. Chili, potato soup, relishes,

cheese and crackers will be provided by Stephen Ministry.

You are invited to bring a Christmas treat to share at Myra's Memorial Supper.

This will be a very special way to start your Holiday season. Hope you can come!

#### **Amazon Smile**

We are now registered with Amazon Smile and it works with Amazon Prime. You simply start shopping through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select First Congregational United Church of Christ, Webster City as your charity of choice. A portion of your purchase will be returned to First Congregational to be used towards the Clifford Doty memorial fund.

#### **Christmas Program**

Our Christmas program will be Sunday, December 18 during worship. KLAB kids will be working hard on the "Not So Silent Night." A trio of boisterous shepherds are brought to trial for disturbing the peace. Will the jury convict or acquit? Come see for yourself.

In addition to Wednesdays during KLAB, there will be a dress rehearsal Saturday, December 17 at 9am until about 10:30. Young children below KLAB age and older ones who don't participate in KLAB are invited to come then. There is a spot in the program for them.

#### **Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

The red buckets will be at Fareway and Hy-Vee grocery stores the first three Fridays and Saturdays in December. 1<sup>st</sup>

Congregational UCC will take December 2-3 at Fareway Store, 942 Second St. Our church needs ringers from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. You'll find a sign-up sheet with hourly shifts in Fellowship Hall. Ringers may work as many shifts as they wish -- individually, in pairs or in larger groups. Pastor Craig will have the red kettle, bells and aprons at Fareway for our church's first shift and will come back to count the money with whoever works the last shift of the day. This worthy cause is hosted by the Webster City Ministerial Association. A full 90 percent of the proceeds collected remain in Webster City for local projects. – *The Mission Board*

## Annual Christmas Dinner

On December 11 we will be celebrating the Christmas season with a dinner after worship. The menu includes: ham, cheesy potatoes, green bean casserole, relishes, and peppermint ice cream. No reservations necessary. Free-will donation. We hope to see you there.

## Pecans

Pecans have arrived. Haystack Circle is offering 16 ounce bags of either halves or pieces for \$10.

## Warm Hearts Warm Homes



We helped weatherize multiple houses and apartments this year.

## Poinsettias

The deadline to order your Christmas poinsettias is December 11. There are order forms in the worship bulletins or you may contact Michele at the church office.

## Remember Displaced Syrians with Your Advent Gift

This Advent season, during the week of December 18, the Mission Board is featuring a Global Ministries project not far from where Christ was born.

More than 12½ million Syrians have been displaced from their homes since 2011, five million of them have sought refuge in neighboring countries. Most have witnessed violence and the loss of jobs, homes and loved ones. The number displaced greatly surpasses earlier United Nations estimates and has left relief organizations struggling to keep up with the crisis.

Global Ministries partner, the Greek Orthodox Initiative (located in Amman, Jordan), has seen the impact. The conflict will have long-lasting effects, especially on children who have missed school. Global Ministries partners have responded with summer schools and other aid. Food, shelter, warm clothing and trauma care also are being provided through Global Ministries partners.

Gifts to Global Ministries designated for Syria Relief are used in their entirety for displaced people of Syria (both refugees in neighboring countries and those displaced internally in Syria).

\$25 can provide school supplies and a uniform for a student.

\$75 can provide food and hygiene items for a family.

\$150 can provide transportation for a month for volunteers.

\$500 can provide medical supplies for camp clinics.

We'll have the pickle jar in Fellowship Hall for your donation. If you write a check, please make it to 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational UCC and write Global Ministries or Syria Relief on the memo line. Thank you! –*The Mission Board*

## Missions

The 2016 Alternative Giving Fair is somewhat different from the past. Each week will feature one project.

Nov 27- Dec 4 Local: Winter clothes for Pleasant View and Sunset Heights student needs.

Dec 4-11 International: Stepping Forward Orphanage in Romania. (Members Joyce Gelhaus and Donna Ryherd have connections there.) You have the opportunity to select a student's photograph and donate to support them.

Dec 11-18 National: We'll be collecting items for hygiene kits. Each kit consists of a gallon zip bag, a bar of soap, hand towel, washcloth, toothbrush, nail clippers, and 5 band aids. Postage money is also needed. Let's see if we can assemble 10 or more kits! Check the little tree for reminder slips.

Dec 18-25 UCC Global Ministries Project: Syria Relief. \$25 can provide school supplies and a uniform for a student. \$75 can provide food and



hygiene items for a family. \$150 can provide transportation for a month for volunteers. \$500 can provide medical supplies for camp clinics.

Dec 24: At our Christmas Eve service we will receive the Christmas Fund Offering. This is one of the 5 for 5 UCC offerings to help retired clergy with emergency expenses and to supplement retirement income. See bulletin inserts for stories.

### Directory

The new church directories are available in Fellowship Hall. Make sure you pick yours up.

### Thanks

To Pastor Craig and my church family,  
It is hard to use a plain old "thank-you" when you've overlooked so many truly courageous people and the thoughtful deeds they have performed. It is hard to use a plain old "thank-you" when you get cards, visits, or happy smiles from those who are the ones who deserve prayers. It is hard to say a plain old "thank-you" when you pray for strength concerning your own problems when so many others suffer quietly. It's hard to use a plain old "thank you"...yet I want to say thank you to so many who have blessed me in so many ways. And finally, it's not hard to say thank you to the Father for the constant love and help even in trying times.  
Hope, Blessings and Peace,  
Verna Weieneth

### Thanksgiving Community Food Pack Nov. 20



15,000 meals packed in 2 hours!

### Open Enrollment

October 15 through December 7 is Open Enrollment time for Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage. Contact 832-7769 if you need assistance.

### Ushers

We are in need of ushers for December. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Or, you can contact Linda Lahr at 297-2407 or email

[lahr0575@hotmail.com](mailto:lahr0575@hotmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering. We appreciate your help!

### Thanks

On behalf of D/SAOC's Homicide/Other Violent Crimes Program I would like to thank you for your donation of McDonald's gift cards for our family that has a change of venue trial. Your gracious donation helps us to assist the family through one of the most difficult times in their lives. A simple act of kindness goes a long way and you have touched the lives of so many through your donation. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

Heather Stanley and Maru Harvey  
D/SAOC

### KLAB



During our last week of class before Thanksgiving break, our KLAB kids made Thanksgiving centerpieces to show what they were thankful for. No doubt Izzy's parents are thankful for washable markers!

## All Saints Sunday was November 20



## Webster City Community Chorus to Present Annual Holiday Concert

The Webster City Community Chorus, under the direction of Don Anderson, will present its 30<sup>th</sup> annual holiday concert, "What Child is This?" on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 921 Des Moines St., Webster City.

The concert will feature sacred and secular holiday songs, the Asbury Bell Choir, vocal and instrumental soloists, and piano students of accompanist Jeannie Vandezande.

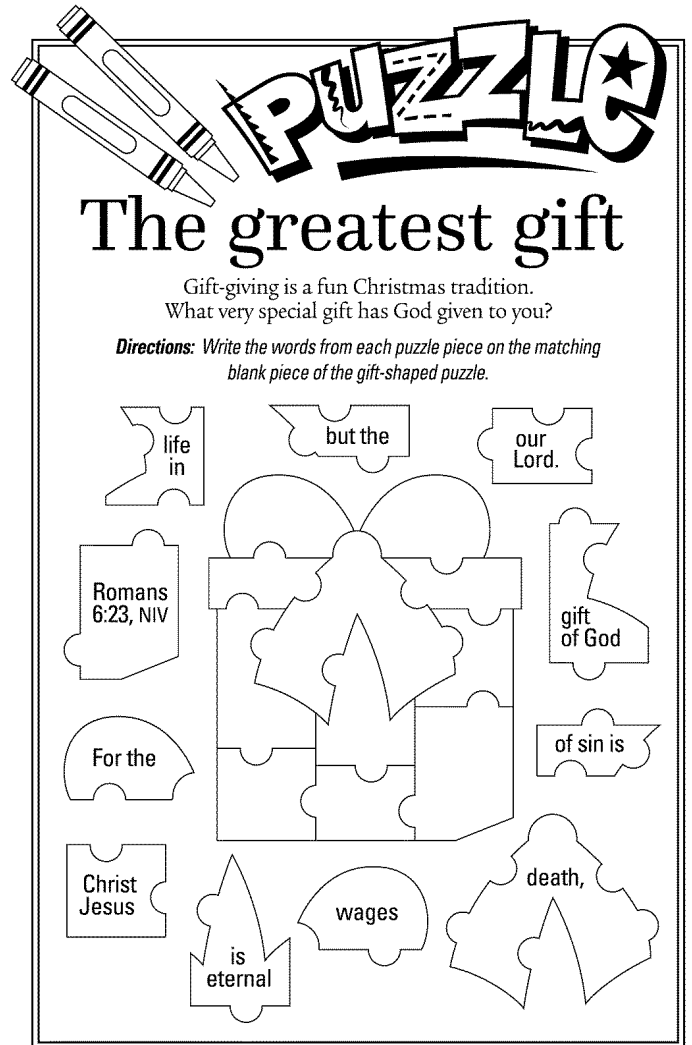
A free-will offering will be taken, which goes toward the purchase of music and other group expenses.

## Christmas at The Bridge

Christmas at the Bridge is a family event on Saturday, December 10 from 9 am to noon to bless the Webster City Community. It is a free event where families come, everyone can pick out a present, make a card, wrap the present and have a snack. No reservations needed! Everyone is invited!

You can help by donating new gifts - \$5-\$10 items, gift cards, wrapping paper, rolls of scotch tape or monetary donations. Donations can be

given to Webster City Church of Christ, 900 Des Moines St.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

## Treasurer's Report

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
Pledges and Offerings	\$19,392.77	\$156,383.22
Other Income	.09	2.93
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$19,392.86</b>	<b>\$156,386.15</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Outreach and Mission	1,583.34	\$14,675.98
Pastoral Services	5,396.08	70,552.40
Maintenance and Repairs	2,068.77	82,884.64
Church Office	2,456.38	27,604.92
Music Ministry	675.00	6,700.00
Christian Education	43.68	486.91
Local Ministry	.00	572.21
Misc. Expenses	5.00	1,370.31
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$12,228.25</b>	<b>\$204,847.37</b>

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – November 15, 2016

#### Members Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Moderator, Sherry Leksell. Pastor Craig gave a meditation "Hell is Other People" ending with a prayer. Highlights of the Board reports were given as follows: **Worship**-\$200 was given to Sister Act which they gave to Kids Cancer Squad; **Treasurer**-Luverne gave the report in the absence of the treasurer-the offering for October was \$17,702.77 (\$3,039.92 of that was designated for 2017 offering) with the October Expenses being \$11,822.66. Vicki moved with a second by Al to accept all board reports.

**Old Business:** As the revised constitution did not pass at the congregational meeting, it will go back to the committee for revisions. There will be an opportunity for those opposed to turn in their suggestions anonymously which will help the constitution revision committee. The church directory will be here on Wednesday, November 16, 2016. They will be on a table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>, for members who ordered one to pick up.

**New Business:** The nominating committee will consist of Al, Karin and Craig. Sherry will speak at church on the 20<sup>th</sup> for volunteers for committees. The annual meeting will be on January 22, 2017 immediately following the worship service. The annual reports of the boards and committees are due in the church office by December 17, 2016. At 8:15 pm Luverne moved to adjourn.

**Next Cabinet Meeting Date—December 13, 2016 at 7:00 pm.**

## **Reports of Boards and Committees**

**Pastor's:** Saturday evening services concluded on Oct. 17 with Sister Act as our musical guests. We led care center services "acapella" on Nov. 13. A big thank you to Don Bruner for leading the singing, and thanks to those who came to help. Nov. 20 will be Thanksgiving Sunday and All Saints Sunday. Letter to family members were sent out inviting them to light a candle in honor of their loved ones who died since last All Saints Sunday. Nov. 27 will be the first Sunday of Advent, with communion and a baptism. Following the service we will decorate the church for Christmas, and then enjoy a pizza and chili lunch sponsored by the Worship Board. During decorating time Pastor Craig plans to host a Christmas craft workshop for our children. Christmas Eve worship will be at 5:00 pm with pew communion. We will observe Christmas Day with a worship service beginning at 10:30 am. We will observe a worship service of lay readings and carols on Jan. 1 at 10:30 am. Rich Pleva, our Conference Minister, will preach at First Congregational on April 2, to thank us for our support of OCWM. We continue to enjoy good attendance at KLAB. We had the Halloween Party on Oct. 26. They have finished studying Solomon and now will focus on Thanksgiving on Nov. 16. There will be no KLAB on Wed., Nov. 23. The rehearsals for a Christmas pageant begin on Nov. 30. The Adult Education Class has finished the study of "Social Media" and is discussing what we will study next. The confirmation class continues to meet twice monthly and supplement our meetings with reading material. On Oct. 28, we visited the Temple Bnai Jeshurun in Des Moines. A member of the temple provided a good lecture on Judaism and the Temple. Our next "project" will be to pack meals for Kids Against Hunger on Nov. 20. A Safe Church Policy meeting still needs to be scheduled for those volunteers who did not attend the Sept. 14 training. From the WCMA-on Nov. 20 from 2:00-4:00 pm, we will meet at Fuller hall to help pack Kids against hunger meals. It is anticipated we will have 4 packing lines for this event. We are again organizing a Salvation Army bell-ringing campaign. Bell ringers will be stationed at both Hy-Vee and Fareway for the first 3 Fridays and Saturdays in Dec. First Congregational will ring at Fareway on Friday Dec. 2 and Sat. Dec. 3 from 1:00-8:00 pm. The status of the Ecumenical Human Needs Fund is in question due to a lack of funds. When more information becomes available the Pastor will report back. The Stephen Ministers have nearly finished with the curriculum exploring our spiritual gifts. Presently 5 Stephen Ministers are matched with care receivers. The Holiday Grief Support series began Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> with 2 participants. Reporting on the Committee on Ministry-the subcommittee for the Eastern Cluster will conduct a Periodic Support Consultation for Pastor Nancy Hofmeister and the UCC church in Rowan on Tuesday, Nov. 29. The only church left in our cluster that needs a PSC is...OURS! Our subcommittee will also meet for a follow-up of our previous Situational Support Consultation with the First Congregational of Fort Dodge on Wednesday, Nov. 16. On Saturday, Nov. 12, 6 volunteers from First Congregational split into 2 teams and weatherized 2 houses and 2 apartments for Warm Hearts Warm Homes. Under Continuing Education the Iowa Conference held an event on Oct. 21, led by Dr. Jennifer Harvey on racial reconciliation and white privilege. It was very thought provoking, and I hope that we can offer the new UCC curriculum on White Privilege as an educational opportunity in our church in 2017. Vicki and the pastor attended the Iowa Conference Annual Business Meeting on Sat., Oct. 22. The Tri-Conference Cooperation proposal which will consolidate the support staff and executive leadership of the Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska conferences did pass! Now the process of implementing this proposal begins, but it will take several months before significant changes are made. The most significant change will be the reduction of our conference staff from 2 ACM'S and 1 fulltime Conference Minister to 2 ACM'S and a shared Executive Minister.



**Board of Trustees:** Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting—Present were Tom Riemenschneider, Tracy Wehrhan, Holly Riemenschneider, Bruce Perry, Gretchen Bruner, Joyce Gelhaus and Pastor Craig. Old Business: 2 bids for the elevator sheet rock work (J&P Builders-\$700 and Jaycox \$450) were reviewed. Gretchen moved, Holly seconded to have Jaycox do the work. There is \$493 for this project from insurance. The sheet rock is done but not down to the floor and it still needs to be boxed around the pipes. —the light for over the northwest door has been ordered—the paint needs to be moved from the old kitchen in the basement to the dungeon. The paint in the dungeon needs to be taken to the Transfer Station —Vic Jelanic is still planning on framing the bulletin boards—the choir room window, which had broken glass, has been fixed—we will not be purchasing a Battery Back-up for the projector at \$150. New Business: worked on the 2017 trustees budget for 2017—will be \$300 less than last year—Holly and Gretchen will paint the outside church sign which has the black paint peeling off—will serve the coffee after church on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>—Michele will order a new clock for the non-working one in Fellowship Hall—looking into a computer upgrade for the office computer and checking to see if an upgrade will work on the existing computers—plans will need to be made on what all needs to be done on the Media Room before the project can start—Tracy will contact Pagel to put a new lock on the office door (which can now be picked open)—now that the renovation is completed the code for the keypad at the west door will be changed—Joyce will work with Pastor Craig to replace furniture in the pastor's study—Joyce will contact Gilbert Flooring about the carpet by the sanctuary door and the fireplace. Next meeting is Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting: present were Tom Riemenschneider, Tracy Wehrhan, Holly Riemenschneider, Bruce Perry, Joyce Gelhaus and Pastor Craig. Absent was Gretchen Bruner. Old Business: cancelled the Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> fellowship coffee as there were not enough people able to help—the new clock is up and working in Fellowship Hall—the outside sign was painted black by Holly and Gretchen. They noticed the door is bent and the wood inside needed paint so Joyce will call Ray Kinnetz to repair and get pricing on new letters—west door key code will be changed. The trustees chose the code and Tom will have Michele change it. We will give the code to those who request it and give to the fire and police station.—the old paint was removed from the dungeon by Tom, Bruce and Joyce. The paint from the renovation was then put in the dungeon cupboard—the computer upgrade is in limbo—our insurance does not require the fire alarm system. It is not hooked up to the fire station. It was decided to do away with the cost of calibration of the present system and buy smoke alarms—Holly will get bids from Ft. Dodge and Joyce from Redekers for furniture for the pastor's office by the next meeting. Joyce will call Gilbert Flooring for carpet samples—Joyce will also check with Gilberts when they are coming to check the flooring under the carpet by the sanctuary door and fireplace. The next meeting is Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> after church, in the media room.

**Staff Parish:** Met on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> with Verna Bierle, Stephanie Hill, Greta Oberender, Dalene Schlitter, Shirley Yungclas and Pastor Craig present. Old Business: Staff Reviews-1. Greta and Stephanie-A) met with the organist Melissa Hindt and questioned why the keyboard in East Chapel is not working (caused by an electrical outage). Melissa needs a substitute for Christmas services. Josie Greenley will play the organ for Christmas Eve and Chris McNeil, as part of a men's quartet for Christmas day music. B) choir director, Sunshine Yoders would like a more decorative music stand and permission to purchase more music Stephanie will follow up with Sunshine on her requests. Dalene is a member of the Memorial Committee and will check on using memorial money for both. Sunshine appreciated the help she received with moving things around and setting up the music room. 2. Verna and Shirley visited with Pastor Craig. He will be instructing Jake Lahr and Kaelyn Butz in a one year confirmation program with many hands on activities. He will also lead the KLAB program. Jake Lahr will work with the KLAB kids and

the ORFF instruments. Discussed some compensation for Jake and Craig's salary and distributions. 3. Dalene and Verna met with Administrative Assistant, Michele Omvig. Her only request was permission to have some kind of saying put on the blank wall above her desk area. She can proceed with checking that out. Otherwise, no concerns. 4. Verna and Dalene reported that Custodian, Curt McCoskey, will accept a raise this year. He is satisfied with the job but commented that it takes a long time to dust the new stair railing. Next meeting will be when needed.

**Women's Fellowship:** Met on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> with Karin, Verna, Cindy, Pastor Craig, Greta, Shirley, Gayle, Ginnie, Wilma, Mabel and Stephanie present. Mary Byrne, Charlene McKee, Patty Yungclas, Sally McIntyre and Verna Weieneth were lifted up in prayer. Treasurer, Verna, reported an old balance of \$2,452.63, distributions of \$250.00, income of \$92.04, and a new balance of \$2,294.67. The savings account has \$1,736.78. Shirley sent sympathy cards to Amani and David McMurray, Joe and Amy Doolittle and get well cards to Patty Yungclas and Mary Byrne. Cindy Henning shared a thank you from Larry and Elaine Brim along with a \$100 check to Women's Fellowship. Old Business: Christmas dinner will be Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> after worship with Haystack circle in charge of food (no reservations will be taken and will set-up for 60), decorations by Morning Star and Mayflower in charge of devotion and Christmas background music. New Business: the January coffee list will be looked at when put on bulletin board; Date to remember: Nov. Circles as follows-Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> is Haystack with Mary Vavroch as hostess; Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> is Mayflower with Audrey Burnett hosting at church; Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> with Morning Star with Holly Riemenschneider hosting in the home of Patty Yungclas and Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> with Providence meeting at 5:30 at the church. On Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> is the congregational meeting; Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> is All Saints Sunday and at 2:00 is Kids Against Hunger at Fuller Hall; Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> is Hanging of the Greens and pizza after decorating and be hosted by worship board. Next meeting of executive board is Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

**Mission Board:** Met on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> with Pastor Craig, Audrey Burnett, Marjorie Groves, Lorraine McCoskey, Gayle Olson, and Karin Yungclas attending. Alyssa Kenville was unable to attend. First Congregational Church had seven walkers for the Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> Crop Walk. Our church raised \$309.00 \$1,700 was the total raised for CROP among all the participating churches. As of this date Pastor Craig isn't exactly sure what is happening with Warm Hearts, Warm Homes. RSVP is organizing the activity. Each group is to do an audit of their assigned home to determine winterizing needs and to see if it's safe to enter. Our church has one+ team so far. The winterizing is to take place on Saturday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. Because of low numbers at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service the WCMA has replaced the service with an ecumenical KAH effort at Fuller Hall, Sunday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, with a goal of four lines and 14,000 meals. Churches involved are Asbury Methodist Faith United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran and 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational. Pastor Craig reported that local Kiwanis KAH organizers will scale back on the number of KAH meal packing events because they can no longer afford supplies required for meals. Salvation Army Bell Ringing will be at Fareway and Hy-Vee grocery stores this year. It will be the first three Fridays and Saturday in December. Our church will take Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fareway. We need to have ringers ringing from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Marjorie will create a sign-up sheet with hourly shifts. Ringers can work as many shifts as they wish, individually or in pairs or larger groups. Pastor Craig will make sure the red kettle, bells and aprons are there and will come back to count the money with whoever works the last shift of the day. Pastor Craig said the Community Christmas Dinner annual event has been cancelled because no one came to the planning meeting. \$1,200 is in the reserve fund but will likely be shifted to a need, such as the Backpack Program. For the Alternative Giving Fair a different need will be featured each week of Advent. Local: the

congregation will be invited to give neutral-color sweatpants with elastic waists (no drawstrings) for the Pleasant View and Sunset pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> graders, size 4-5 through medium. We will also ask for socks and shoes (Velcro) sizes 11 through 1. The set up tree will be in place on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. We ask people to have the sweatshirts, socks and shoes at church Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. International: Donna Ryherd will be setting up her display for the Romanian orphanage by Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. National: Church World Service has need of hygiene kits for the US Karin will list what is needed and do slips for the tree; UCC: Marjorie will research five options from Global Ministries and share them with Audrey. Thanks to Alyssa for putting the grant together and Rev. Rich Pleva for creating a letter of endorsement for the NIN Backpack Grant. Lorraine heads the food preparation team for our Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> meal at Beacon of Hope. Gayle created the menu and signup sheet. Karin is in charge of promoting the Christmas Fund Collection. Pastor Craig says the plug is being pulled on the Ecumenical Human Needs, except for the Morrison Trust, which doesn't need reviewing except for grants. Next meeting is Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**Christian Ed:** Met on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Craig, Curt McCoskey, Wil Groves, Leah Maass, Jane Klaver, Mary Van Diest and Vicki Blaufuss. The birthday list will be updated and sent to Leah Maass. The baptism of Macklin Elkin will be Nov 27<sup>th</sup>. Leah Maass will present the book and the quilters will present the quilt. Christmas plans were made with Wil Groves in charge of the Christmas pageant, which will be held on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. The youth will receive a candy sleigh made by Vicki Blaufuss. The coffee after worship will be provided by the board. Curt McCoskey will bring colored popcorn, Leah Maass will bring juice, Jane Klaver- muffins, Wil Groves- grapes and Mary and Vicki will bring something of their choosing. Alyssa Kenville had concerns regarding her class. She stated she only has two and sometimes three youth. The board will support any decision she makes for the future of this class. Next meeting will be Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm.

Next meeting date for Cabinet: December 13, 2016 at 7:00 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:

