

June 2017 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
515-832-2232
<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>

*"Whoever believes in me believes not in me but the one who sent me. Whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have not spoken on my own, but the father who sent me has told me what to say and what to speak. What I speak, I speak just as the father has told me."-- **John 12:44-50***

Have you ever spent time underneath the hood of a car? Through the years I have spent my fair share of time doing car repairs, and it's fair to say that my abilities began in my younger days when I would help my father work on cars. Whenever I would help Dad with a car repair project I always came away from it knowing that I'd learned something about brakes or radiators or exhaust systems...

And I also came away from those projects feeling that there was more going on underneath the hood than just fixing a vehicle. In the midst of the oil, the rusty bolts, the frayed belts and the broken parts there was, if you will excuse the pun, a transmission going on—a kind of transferring of something important from a father to his son. Dad was transmitting to me his legacy; giving witness to what was most important in his life, so that I might make use of it in mine.

As Father's Day approaches I have been thinking about the ongoing legacy I have received from my father. Like most fathers, he wasn't preachy or wordy about his legacy and his faith—yet it was there, embedded in his life...transmitted to me even when we were working together on cars. I have made a partial list of his legacy, which I have entitled:

"Lessons I learned from Dad while wrenching on cars"

- If you are willing to get involved you may get your hands dirty, but there is no shame in this—and they will clean up.
- If you try things you have never done before, new doors will be opened to you.
- Not all problems can be solved alone, and there is no weakness in asking for help.
- Learning is best when there is a little showing and a lot of doing.
- Devotion to something beyond your self is a sign of high character and maturity.

Fathers' Day is an opportunity for all of us to think about the legacies we have received from our fathers; it is also an opportunity to weigh what kind of legacy we are even now creating and passing on to others. That means we have a dual responsibility in our lives: a responsibility to sift through the legacies we have received and take ownership of the qualities we find the most compelling, and a responsibility to make sure that we are passing on a legacy that honors God, honors what is best in our lives, and honors the lives of those who receive it.

So what legacy are you are transmitting to others? Does your legacy reveal that people and relationships are more important than things? Does your legacy reveal that you treat all people with dignity and respect? Does your legacy reveal that you know how to give, as well as receive? Does your legacy reveal that you have a relationship with God, and are allowing that relationship to transform your life? Does your legacy reveal that you are a Christian—that your life, like the life of Jesus, is a "window" that your Heavenly Father shines through?

Summer is now upon us, and as we plan our summer activities we would all benefit from taking time to think about the legacies we have received, and how we are sharing our legacies with others—especially the next generation. May your summer be richly blessed as you use every opportunity to pass on a legacy worthy of what is best in our fathers...especially our Heavenly Father, whom we have seen in the legacy of the True Son—Jesus the Christ. --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 7 80 May 14 74

May 21 43 May 28 40

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: administrative.office@fcuccwc.org

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

Dale Olson: Financial Secretary 839-5619



PARISH NURSE NEWS

PARISH NURSE NOTES

Prevent mosquito and tick bites this summer

- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks outside.
- Use insect repellent on clothes and skin when outside.
- Check everyone for ticks after spending time outside.
- Take a shower after spending time outside to wash away ticks.
- Protect pets with insect repellent suggested by your vet. Cats and dogs require different repellents.
- Check pets for ticks.
- Check yard weekly for standing water and remove.
- Change water in kids' wading pool at least once a week and store pool on side.
- Use screens on windows and doors to prevent mosquitos and repair holes in screens if needed.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

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



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 2 - Emily & Troy Stockdale
- 5 - Travis & Tresa Stearns
- 5 - Mike & Christa Stirling
- 14 - Duane & Mary Vavroch
- 17 - Caryl & Verie Hollingshead
- 20 - Marcy & Wade Nelson
- 23 - Daron & Kelly Harris
- 26 - Howard & Barb Stearns

Scholarships

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

KLAB summer Lock-In June 2

Hold on to your flashlights—it's the annual KLAB summer lock-in at the church! We will meet at church on Friday, June 2, beginning at 7 pm, for 13 hours of games, snacks, movies, hide and seek in the dark! We will dismiss at 8 am on Saturday, June 3. All children must have signed permission slips in order to attend.

Summer Lunch Program Begins June 12

A USDA sponsored free summer lunch program will be offered to the students of Webster City beginning June 12 and ending on July 25. The program will run Monday through Friday from 11:30 until 12:30 p.m., with the school system preparing the meals and offering the host site. First Congregational will be the first group of volunteers to help launch the program on June 12.

Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, June 4th is Pentecost Sunday—the day we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the first converts to the faith, giving birth to the Church of Jesus Christ. June 4th is also Confirmation Sunday—the day when our confirmands **Jake Lahr** and **Kaelyn Butz** publicly affirm their baptisms, proclaim their faith, and join our church as adult members! Join us June 4 at 10:30 a.m. (the last Sunday before summer worship hours begin) as we celebrate this great day in the life of our church! The choir will sing, Communion by intinction will be served by our confirmands, and following the service the Butz and Lahr families will host a reception in the confirmands' honor.

Summer Worship hours Begin June 11

Mark your calendars! We will begin our **summer schedule of worshipping together at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays beginning June 11**. The choir will be in recess for the summer months, and we welcome musicians who are willing to offer their musical talents during any of our summer services. If you would like to share your gift of music with the church, please contact any of the members of our Music

Committee: Stephanie Hill, Kolleen Taylor, and Sunshine Yoders.

Third Saturday Worship services begin June 17th

We will resume our Saturday evening services on June 17th (the third Saturday of the month), beginning at 5 p.m. Our Saturday services are more informal than our regular Sunday services, and dress is casual—come as you are! Like our previous years' Saturday services, there will be no refreshments following the service, and there will be no Sunday worship services on the weekends of our Saturday services.

Strengthen the Church Offering: June 4

On Sunday, June 4 we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. This offering builds the UCC's future. It funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. Directed to local Conferences, Local Church Ministries and the Stillspeaking Ministry, Strengthen the Church gifts help to create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life is June 22 at Twin Parks from 5-9 pm. The Piecemakers have once again provided a quilt to raise funds for Relay for Life. Minimum bids are in increments of \$5 and bidding ends June 17. \$10 Luminarias can be donated in honor of someone who has been affected by cancer.

Olde Fashioned Ice Cream Social

This year it is our church's turn to host the annual ice cream social that we sponsor jointly with Faith Methodist Church. It will be held June 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The cast from "Church Basement Ladies", presented by the community theater, will provide entertainment. The free will offering will be given to Ecumenical Human Needs and ACE this year. There is a sign-up chart in Fellowship Hall asking for homemade ice cream, bars, toppings and workers. Each year your support of this event is great and we really appreciate your response.

The Mission Board

Thanks

Church Family

Words cannot express what your prayers, caring, and support have meant to us this past month as we were dealing with the loss of Gayle's dad. Having friends that care makes grieving the loss easier. Thank you so much for all of the cards, hugs, and expressions of sympathy that we have received.

Dale & Gayle Olson

Thank you to the Christian Ed Board for the delightful gift of chocolates!!

And thank you to the parents of my Sunday School Class for sharing your precious children with me-it has been an honor!!!

Sincerely,

Leah Maass

Recipe for Scalloped Pineapple (Served at Women's Fellowship May Dinner)

2/3 Cup Butter

1 1/3 Cup Sugar

3 Eggs

3 Cups Cubed Bread (leave crust on if you like)

1 20 oz. Can Crushed Pineapple (do not drain)

¼ Cup Milk

Blend butter and sugar. Add eggs, beating well. Add remaining ingredients, stir together, and bake in a buttered casserole dish at 325 degrees for 1-1 ½ hours, or until browned.

Promotion Sunday On Sunday, May 14, the Christian Education Board recognized teachers, helpers, and students during our annual Promotion/Participation event.





Women's Fellowship May Dinner On May 24 The Women's Fellowship held their annual May Dinner, and presented checks to various benevolences and service organizations. Keynote speaker was Leah Gilbert of DSAOC. The meal was prepared and served by men of the church.



Last Day of KLAB KLAB finished its regular weekly programming with a trip to the Dairy Queen on May 3, followed by a game of SPUD at West Twin Park.



Care Center Birthday parties On May 4 our Women's Fellowship provided refreshments for the residents of Crestview and Southfield care centers. An added treat was the entertainment provided by Katie and Jenna Short, who sang and played beautifully!



Treasurer's Report

INCOME	APRIL	YEAR TO DATE
Pledges and Offerings	\$14,795.47	\$65,087.59
Other Income	.00	1.06
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,795.47	\$65,088.65
EXPENSES		
Outreach and Mission	1,583.34	\$4,749.86
Pastoral Services	5,544.67	27,691.55
Maintenance and Repairs	2,020.70	11,139.43
Church Office	2,328.02	12,243.18
Music Ministry	870.25	3,053.75
Christian Education	7.09	123.99
Local Ministry	30.00	30.00
Misc. Expenses	168.87	695.51
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,552.94	\$59,727.27

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – May 9, 2017

Members Present:

Moderator-----Al Yungclas
 Vice-Moderator---Donna Ryherd
 Finance Sec.-----Dale Olson
 Finance-----Tracy Wehrhan/Dale Olson
 Staff/Parish-----Shirley Yungclas

Pastor-----Rev. Craig Blaufuss
 Trustees-----Joyce Gelhaus
 Women's Fellowship-Karin Yungclas
 Mission-----Lorraine McCoskey
 Worship-----Mary Vavroch

Christian Ed-----Vicki Blaufuss
Treasurer-----Tracy Wehrhan

Evangelism-----Laurie Epps
Clerk-----Mary Van Diest

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Moderator, Al Yungclas. Pastor Craig gave a devotional entitled "Take My Heart" followed by a prayer. Tracy noted there should be a correction to the April 11, 2017 minutes. The Finance Secretary should read Dale Olson not Tracy Wehrhan. Also, Finance should be Dale Olson/Tracy Wehrhan. The minutes stand as corrected. Tracy gave the treasurer's report as follows: April Offering--\$13,755.47 and expenses were---\$11,826.06. Tracy moved and Vicki seconded to put the report to audit. Motion carried.

Old Business: Applications for scholarships are due in the office by June 30th. The Thrift sale made \$1730.00.

New Business: Dale Olson has been voted as the conference treasurer.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Pastor: On Palm Sunday we baptized Mattie Ann Byrne. Maundy Thursday's service was meaningful but so poorly attended that the Worship Board will need to discuss whether we will continue to offer the service next year. Easter Sunday was a special celebration, with about 60 attending the light breakfast hosted by the Christian Ed Board. Mary Van Diest's Easter activities and Easter baskets for children, and a well-attended Easter Service at 10:30 with inspirational music from the choir and organist and message all contributed to make a meaningful service. Dates to remember: May 14th--Promotion Sunday and Mother's Day; June 4th—Confirmation Sunday; June 11th—summer worship hours begin (9:30); June 17th—first Saturday service (5:00 pm). The choir will not sing May 21st or 28th, but will sing June 4th before recessing for the summer. KLAB toured Almost Home animal shelter on Wednesday, April 12, and presented our fundraising check to them. This was the best tour of Almost Home to date—and the Brim family ended up adopting one of the puppies we played with during our tour!! Our final KLAB session before summer recess was May 3rd, with our annual pilgrimage to the Dairy Queen. A date has been set for the **lock-in: it will be June 2nd (7:00 pm) until June 3rd (8:00 am)**. The Adult Education class is finishing the program year with a discussion of the "Good News". The Confirmation Class met April 23rd. They will meet May 7th, 14th, and 21st. On May 30th the class will help serve the Beacon of Hope meal. We will confirm our students on Sunday, June 4th. Currently there are 4 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers. They met on May 4th for our monthly 2 hour session, hearing check-ins and studying the topic of "The Four Needs: What People are Looking For in the Church". The Shalom Circle plan to continue to meet as participants' schedules allow. He reported from the WCMA that the Ecumenical Human Needs Committee received a grant from the Morrison Trust. Declining funds may force them to reduce the amount given to \$200 per family per year. Jolene Hibbing has joined the EHNC as a "screener". ACE is now a stop for the mobile food pantry out of Des Moines. The summer lunch program begins June 12th-July 25th. First Congo has the week of June 12th-16th to host. He reported that the Association Annual Meeting which our church hosted, was the best he has ever attended. Bryan Sirchio, the progressive Christian composer and musician, was the key noter and provided music throughout the meeting. He is a very inspirational evangelist! Leon's catered the noon meal to 36 guests. The donations of bars and other snacks by our church members were very well received. Pastor Craig thanks everyone from the church who donated goodies and offered their hospitality to make this event a success. Items of business worth mentioning: Our Sacred Space summer camps are being organized and promotional materials will be made available when they arrive. There is money available for students who want to attend General Synod in Baltimore this year. The new executive board of the Association seemed interested in organizing some kind of revival event at a central location in the Association and inviting Bryan to again perform at that event. The next Association meeting will be held April 21st at Mayflower

UCC, Sioux City. Details of the CoM Training event are: Pastor Craig, Joyce Gelhaus and 3 other NW Association CoM members attended the AM21 event in Chicago on Monday April 24th through Tuesday April 25th. This meeting was primarily to educate CoM members on the proposed changes to the UCC Manual on Ministry, and to hear feedback on those proposals. There will be 3 other Am21 events held, and so the proposed changes may be modified based on feedback from these meetings. Important proposals include: eliminating licensed and commissioned ministry, and establishing ordination as the sole form of authorized ministry in the UCC. This would mean that all licensed and commissioned ministers will be required to become Members in Discernment (MID, formerly students in Care) and work with local CoM's and Conference staff to develop a plan to move the candidate toward ordination (through more classes, independent study, Clinical Pastoral Education, and an evaluation of work experiences and ministries as "credit" toward ordination requirements). This proposal met with some harsh criticism, as it will affect states like Iowa which use quite a few licensed ministers. There are many unanswered questions concerning small churches and rural churches which cannot afford ordained clergy or are too remote to attract them. Other proposals include a new understanding of the work of the CoM as one of ongoing "discernment" of a potential ministerial candidate, who will be evaluated all along the pathway to ordination based on the "Marks of Effective and Faithful Ministry" and the Ordained Minister's Code. This makes ordination less of a pathway of check-off lists of courses and papers to be turned in and more of a process of evaluating the candidate's movement toward effective ministry through demonstrated outcomes. There will be a mentor assigned to each MID, and the local church of origin will also have a representative working with the candidate along the pathway to ordination.

Worship Board: Met on April 13th with Verna Bierle, Cindy Henning, Gretchen McGlynn and Mary Vavroch. Mary gave an update on the last Cabinet meeting. Al Yungclas will be the person in charge to water the piano. We are currently looking for organist/pianist substitutes. Josi Greenley played on April 23rd, Mary Van Diest on April 30th. Currently we do not have a substitute for May 21st. Anne Ose is not available until after Halloween. Rosine Kennedy is not available. We need to check on what the substitute pay is. All board members need to help in finding possible substitutes. Linda Lahr will be looking for pulpit supply ministers for May 21st and October 8th. The communion servers for May 7th are Cindy and Gretchen. The Music Committee consists of Stephanie Hill, Kolleen Taylor and Sunshine Yoders. They are in charge of finding music for the summer worship services.

Board of Trustees: Met on April 20th with Tom Riemenschneider, Tracy Wehrhan, Joyce Gelhaus, Sherry Leksell, Bruce Perry and Pastor Craig present. Old Business: Tom needs to adjust the fire box so it looks browner; moisture has started to break down the wall on the back stairs, it cannot be painted over; the back wall in the Quilting Room seems to show weakness. It has been looked at in the past but the work involved would be extensive. The trustees will do a walk-thru to examine; Vic wants to be paid for the bulletin boards. Trustees will request \$400 from Memorial Committee for this. Joyce will email the Memorial Committee; Tracy reported the battery and surge protectors have been installed and they all work. New Business: Trustees did a walk-thru of hallway by the boiler room. Tracy will contact Scott Jaycox for a price for drywall, repair work and fix the ceiling in that area. The lawn estimate for the weed killer and fertilizer from Stoney Creek is \$529.00. This is for around the church and the lot. Tony Jones estimate is the same as last years. Bruce made a motion to accept bid, Tom seconded. Motion passed. Kinnetz provided two options for the outside signs. As part of his bid, he will also re-glue the glass to the hinges. New bulbs need to be added to sign. The cost for two panels is \$450.00 and the re-gluing is \$75.00. We will look into switching to LED lights. Joyce will contact Kinnetz to get more information. Stoney Creek estimate to take out and replace the plantings on the south side of the church is \$1664.00. Joyce would like to donate the cost of this for the landscaping. Tom made a motion to approve with a second by Bruce.

Women's Fellowship: Met on May 3rd with Karin Yungclas, Kay Harfst, Verna Bierle, Cindy Henning, Shirley Yungclas, Gayle Olson, Ginnie Veach, Wilma Reinsel, Mabel Prescott and Stephanie Hill

present. Kay read Pastor Craig's report. He shared about those needing our prayers. The May Dinner is May 24th. It is mostly gluten free. Reservations welcome. Verna gave the Treasurer's Report: Old Balance--\$2,568.70, Distributions--\$9.80, Income--\$2,010.00, New Balance--\$4,569.00, Savings Account--\$1,737.18. Sympathy, thinking of you, get well and congratulation cards have been sent. The May Birthday Parties were May 4th. Katie and Jenna Short are singing. The May Dinner will be May 24th. D/SAOC (Leah Gilbert) will present the program. Pastor Craig and men from the church will prepare the meal (gluten free). Mayflower will provide dessert. Providence will do tables. The cost for the meal is \$6.00. Reservations would be appreciated. Thrift Sale collected \$1730.00. WF Survey sheets have been given to circle chairs. The Resource Committee will determine groups needing help this year. We can disburse \$4000.00 this year (\$1000.00 to OCWM). The annual circle reports are to be turned in to Cindy and Kay before June 1st. The circle chair persons are to ask their members about next year program preferences and if they want any changes in the organization for next year.

Evangelism Board: Met on April 11th with Pastor Craig, Kay Harfst, Wilma Reinsel and Laurie Epps present. Sharon Perry and Dawn Holdgrafer were absent. Pastor Craig shared updates and concerns for our members in need of our prayers and support. We are always in need of volunteers to fill the role of Greeters and Ushers on Sunday mornings. Please volunteer early—or late for that matter! If you arrive on Sunday morning and see the need we always welcome the offer to help. Board Member taking the lead in recruiting greeters and ushers are: May/June—Wilma; July/August—Kay; September/October---Sharon; November/December—Laurie. Wilma has filled a fresh supply of Welcome Bags (adults) using bags that were festive for Easter. Laurie will inventory, clean and replenish the Activity Bags (youth). Discussion was held on hosting a Pot Luck in May and whether or not to continue with the outdoor worship/picnic. No action was taken at this time. The next meeting is May 9th at 6:15 pm.

Christian Ed: Met on April 9th. A big thank you to all for a great Easter breakfast and also to Mary for providing the Easter baskets and for Wil helping with the youth activities. Participation Sunday date has been changed to May 14th. During worship the youth will receive certificates for attending Sunday School/KLAB. Bibles will be passed out to any youth that have earned one. Teachers and volunteers will be recognized at that time also. The teachers for this fall are: Pre-K, Kindergarten—Carol Crystal; 1st thru 3rd---Laurie Epps; 4th thru 6th---Leah Maass; 7th and up---Donna Ryherd. Plans for confirmation Sunday will be discussed at the next meeting. Next meeting will be May 10th at 7:00 pm.

Mission Board: The Pickle Jar has collected \$413.00 for Relay for Life and \$100 in luminaries. Relay for Life will be June 22nd. Twelve walkers helped in the spring cleanup. A signup sheet has been set out for 9 volunteers for the summer lunch program for June 12th -16th. The Ice Cream Social will be held at First Congo on June 21st from 6:00-8:00 pm. At 7:00 the Community Threater will perform. Dates to remember: June 4th-Strengthen the Church offering; May 30th---Beacon of Hope meal; July--UDMO month (check to St. Paul's); June 6th—next meeting date at 5:00 pm.

Adjourned at 7:45 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:

