

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

“For unto us a child is born...” --Isaiah 9:6a

Once while driving back to Burlington, Vicki and I passed a convenience store that had this message emblazoned on its sign: “Welcome to our world! Paige Leigh, 7 lbs 15 oz 19 in, born Nov. 15.” In that abbreviated announcement I could feel the excitement, the joy, and the pride of the persons who had taken time to share this good news with the world. A miracle had happened—Paige Leigh was born!

Yet as I drove on, I continued to think about the words on that sign: *“Welcome to our world.”* Welcome, baby Paige, to a wonderful, strange, miraculous, and often tragic world—a world filled with contrasts and contradictions, dark ironies and deep poignancies. Welcome to a world in which you might well receive the doting care of affluent and committed parents, while millions will come into the world unwanted, neglected, or lacking access to basic medical care, nutritious food, or decent housing. Welcome to a world in which you might well enjoy good schools, decent neighborhoods, a promising career, and a stable and happy life, while others will only know those blessings as distant dreams. Welcome to a world in which *“peace on earth, goodwill to men”* is a seasonal slogan, while in that same season violence and bloodshed will continue worldwide, disproportionately affecting the children who become collateral damage in adult conflicts and wars. Welcome, baby Paige, to the world each of us has inherited: a world filled with moments of goodness and greatness, untapped and often missed potentials, and moments of great tragedies and failures.

As we begin our Advent season, I think again about the world that received the infant Jesus 2000 years ago, and I realize that not as much has changed as we would like to think. Then, as now, life was very good for some, but mediocre to miserable for many. The “peace” of Rome was enforced with a sword. Human trafficking was rampant, justice was arbitrary, and what we would now call human rights were essentially reserved for Roman citizens. Some children were cherished and affluent, while many were impoverished, malnourished, and destined to short lifespans filled with menial labor. Then, as now, the world was both wondrous and tragic, and then, as now, it was easier to accept the world as it was, rather than dare to live from a new vision of how things could be.

But in those days a child was born who would grow to manhood and not remain content with the world as it was. He would commit his life to living out a new vision for the world—God’s vision of justice and shalom for all people—and he would ultimately give up his life rather than forsake that vision. And because he saw the vision with such clarity, lived it so completely, taught it with such wisdom, and carried it courageously even to the cross...we continue to celebrate his life as our hope, and our vision for a new world.

As we begin our Advent season, let us hold closely in our hearts the hope and vision Jesus had for our world. Let us take time in the midst of our holiday preparations to do more than just celebrate his birth—let us also continue to further his vision and his work with OUR vision and OUR work. Let us make a real commitment this holiday season to consume less and complain less, and bless more lives with helping and caring acts. Let us use our voices not just to carol, but to call out for more justice and more peace in our world. Let us share our resources with the least fortunate, so that our generosity blesses not only those nearest and dearest to us, but also those who have so little, and need so much.

By opening ourselves not only to the spirit of Christmas but also to the spirit of the Living Christ, we are empowered to give the gift that he came to ask from each of us—the gift of love for all people. By doing this we won’t solve all of the world’s problems—even Jesus couldn’t do that—but we will make the world a bit better for the Paige Leigh’s and the untold millions who inhabit, or will come to inhabit, our earthly home. What could be a better way for us to say “Welcome to Our World!” this Christmas...and beyond!

May your Advent season be blessed, and may you have a joyous Christmas! 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

November 5 66 November 12 70

November 19 80 November 26 56

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**

Curt/Lorraine McCoskey: Cust's. **832-5341**

Tracy Wehrhan: Church Treasurer **297-0370**

Dale Olson: Financial Secretary **839-5619**



PARISH NURSE NEWS

How to spot an impaired driver -

- Wide turns
- Straddling the center line
- Weaving, swerving, or drifting
- Face close to the windshield
- Almost hitting other cars or objects
- Following too closely
- Headlights off at night
- Erratic braking
- Driving slower than 10 mph below the speed limit
- Slow response to traffic signals
- Sudden accelerating or stopping without cause

Pecans for sale

Halves or Pieces, \$10 per bag. Make checks out to Haystack Circle.



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
- 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

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 and Christmas? These are the worship opportunities at First Congregational UCC we will observe in December 2017:

On December 3th, we will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. We will share Holy Communion by intinction, and following the worship service we will decorate the church for

Christmas by hanging the greens. Following the decorating we will enjoy a pizza and chili lunch, sponsored by the Worship Board.

On December 10, we will celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. Following Worship the Women's Fellowship will host their annual Christmas Luncheon. You are invited to attend!

On December 17th we will celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. Our children will present the annual Christmas program during worship, and the Christian Ed. Board will host the coffee to follow.

On Thursday, December 24, we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent with a worship service held in East Chapel at 10:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School that day. At 5 p.m. that evening, we will hold our annual **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship service in the sanctuary**. Pew Communion will be offered at this service, our choir will sing, and we will conclude by singing "Silent Night" in candlelight.

On Sunday, December 31, 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!

KLAB News

Kids—join us for KLAB December 6th and 13th as we prepare for Christmas! Each week we will learn a different part of the Christmas story and enjoy Christmas crafting! Remember—we will not meet December 20th and 27th because we will be in recess for Christmas Break.

Christmas Caroling and Chili Supper

You and your family are invited to a Christmas Caroling and Chili Supper party on Saturday, December 9th. We will meet at church at 5:45 pm and proceed to carpool to Southfield Care Center for caroling. Then we will proceed to Southfield assisted living to carol, and then to Crestview Care Center. Chili, potato soup, relishes, cheese and crackers will be provided by Stephen Ministry. You are invited to bring a Christmas treat to share! This will be a very

special way to start your Holiday season. Hope you can come!

Medicare

Open enrollment is from October 15 to December 7. Make sure you have coverage that meets your needs. SHIP can help you sort things out 832-7769.

Poinsettias

The deadline to order your Christmas poinsettias is December 10. There are order forms in the worship bulletins or you may contact Michele at the church office.

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 16.

Annual Christmas Dinner

On December 10 we will be celebrating the Christmas season with a dinner after worship. The menu includes: ham, cheesy potatoes, vegetable, relishes, and dessert. No reservations necessary. Free-will donation. We hope to see you there.

GIFTS THAT HELP

Wander into any store in Webster City and beyond, and you'll know that Santa Season is upon us. Those of us at 1st Congregational United Church of Christ in Webster City also know that this is the time when we honor the birth of the Christ, the Great Helper, by sharing with those nearby and around the world. Our Alternative Giving Advent Fair again will focus on four causes, charities or needs, with ways the congregation can donate on in honor of folks on their Christmas gift list. Each week, you'll find a table decorated with the theme of the featured group and the way you can contribute.

December 3: **Stepping Forward**, \$20 donation for each Romanian child pictured.

December 10: **Head Start**, winter clothing for students.

December 17: **Puerto Rico relief**, financial gifts to aid disaster recovery.

Thank you and Merry Christmas! – *The Mission Board*

Gimme, Gimme, Gimme!

Does it sometimes seem that the Mission Board always is asking for money? As Advent rolls around, we will again be presenting a variety of needs and causes through the Alternative Giving Fair. Please know that these are opportunities, choices or ideas. As with our year-round requests for money in the pickle jar or an additional check in the offering plate for a special collection, the choice is up to you. Rest assured we appreciate you - whatever charity or need locally or internationally that you support at whatever level of support you choose. During Advent, we'll tell you about the All Cultures Equal Community Center, Stepping Forward Romania, Head Start and Puerto Rico Recovery – and we'll ask you for money or rice and beans or children's clothing. You decide whether you want to help support all or some or none of the requests – just like always. Thank you so much!
– *The Mission Board*

Nothing to sneeze at

More than 60 boxes of Kleenex/tissue were delivered to the Beacon of Hope shelter for homeless men in Fort Dodge. We are thankful for our church's generosity, helping to meet needs large and small. God bless you! Gesundheit! Salud! – *The Mission Board*

The Christmas Fund

Think back to times in your life when a pastor made a difference to you. Do you wonder where he or she is now? Are they still living? Or retired? Are they living comfortably? For 116 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, the Christmas Fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in kindheartedness to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. In 2016, UCC congregations and members generously contributed \$1,562,260 to the Offering. This enabled the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable

arm of the Pension Boards, to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Supplementation of Small Annuities, Retiree Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals and families in need. The theme of the 2017 Christmas Fund Offering is Shepherding the Light, and our goal is to raise \$1.7 million to help support these ministries of light and love. The recipients of these gifts have faithfully served the church and now, in their time of need, we can be the church to them. We invite and encourage you to shepherd God's light and support this year's appeal. Our church's Christmas Fund will be received on Christmas Eve. Last year our offering was \$1,972, can we exceed that gift in 2017?
Your Mission Board

Christmas at The Bridge

Christmas at the Bridge is a family event on Saturday, December 16 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.

Thanksgiving Altar



Treasurer's Report

| <u>INCOME</u> | <u>October</u> | <u>YEAR TO DATE</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges and Offerings | \$18,740.00 | \$147,778.30 |
| Other Income | .00 | 12.03 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$18,740.00 | \$147,790.33 |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | | |
| Outreach and Mission | 0.00 | \$14,778.90 |
| Pastoral Services | 5,544.67 | 72,627.18 |
| Maintenance and Repairs | 1,870.37 | 26,393.21 |
| Church Office | 2,294.77 | 27,328.13 |
| Music Ministry | 589.25 | 5,995.75 |
| Christian Education | 16.05 | 410.05 |
| Local Ministry | 175.00 | 211.39 |
| Misc. Expenses | 82.05 | 920.76 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$10,572.16 | \$148,665.37 |

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – November 14, 2017

Members Present:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Moderator-----Al Yungclas | Pastor-----Rev. Craig Blaufuss |
| Vice-Moderator----Donna Ryherd | Trustees-----Joyce Gelhaus |
| Finance Sec.-----Dale Olson | Women's Fellowship-Karin Yungclas |
| Finance-----Tracy Wehrhan/Dale Olson | Mission-----Gayle Olson |
| Staff/Parish-----Shirley Yungclas | Worship-----Mary Vavroch |
| Christian Ed-----Vicki Blaufuss | Evangelism----- |
| Treasurer-----Tracy Wehrhan | Clerk-----Mary Van Diest |

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Moderator, Al Yungclas. Pastor Craig gave a devotion followed by a prayer. The October cabinet minutes were approved as printed in the church's newsletter. A brief highlight of the Pastor's and Boards reports were given as follows: **Pastor**-As Christmas eve is on Sunday, the 24th, there will be a morning worship service probably in East Chapel and the Christmas Eve candle light service at 5:00 pm. There will be a lay service on Sunday, December 31st, when Craig is away. The church will again be participating in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing-more information will be coming. **Ch. Ed**-Mary Van Diest and Leah Yungclas will direct the children's Christmas presentation on Sunday, December 17th. The board will be serving the coffee following worship. **Finance**-a bond has been sold. **Mission**-the board will again sponsor an Alternative Giving Fair featuring a different mission each week. **Stephen Ministries**-they are currently five matches. **Treasurer**-October offering was \$17,450.00 and expenses were \$9,734.14. The treasurer moved that the report be put to audit. **Trustees**-the kitchen window has been fixed. **Women's Fellowship**-Mabel is waiting for a quote on the dishes. The Women's Fellowship will be serving a dinner for the congregation on Sunday, December 10, following the worship service. Haystack circle will prepare the meal.

OLD BUSINESS: Joyce reported that the trustees will be meeting in a few days to begin preparation to sell the empty lots south of the church. The trustees have talked to the head of the company that is going to repair the stained glass church windows. He believes that the repair will be mid-summer of 2018.

NEW BUSINESS: Nominating committee has begun the search to fill the various boards and committees for 2018. A discussion was held, with Tracy and Dale leading, on the confusion in our

constitution as where dollars for special funds should come-budget or building fund. Pastor Craig and all cabinet members agreed that the Finance Board should write an amendment to the constitution clarifying this problem and bring it to the next cabinet meeting.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Mission Board We met October 19, with Pastor Craig, Audrey Burtnett, Marjorie Groves, Lorraine McCoskey and Gayle Olson attending. Lorraine will oversee the meal to be served at the Beacon of Hope homeless shelter for men on Tuesday, November 28. On October 14, Al Yungclas, along with Craig, Gayle, Karin and Marjorie from Mission Board, replaced sagging food storage shelves at the homeless shelter in Fort Dodge. Several men from the shelter worked with us to remove the food from the old shelves, mark expiration year on the can or package, toss cans or packages older than 2017 and return remaining cans and packages to the new shelves. We are collecting boxes of Kleenex/tissue for the Beacon of Hope. Our church collected \$426 for CROP Walk and had six of the 20 or so walkers. Our walkers were Gretchen McGlynn, Kayla Nelson, Samantha Newman, Mabel Prescott, Mark Vance and Marjorie. The Neighbors in Need collection – totaling \$725 -- was gathered October 1. Sign-up sheets for Warm Hearts Warm Homes are on the table outside Pastor Craig's office. We are sponsoring two teams, with work done November 4. After discussing a variety of groups, we voted to support Head Start, Stepping Forward Romania, All-Cultures Equal Community Center and Puerto Rico recovery for the Alternative Giving Fair, beginning November 26. October 15 a group from the church supported ACE by joining in a fundraising activity there. Craig and Vicki Blaufuss, Audrey Burtnett, Kay Harfst, Lorraine and Curt McCoskey, and Marjorie had fun playing bingo but won nothing. Gayle suggests taking UCC national staff Rev. Traci Blackmon's recommendation to organize a local Vigil Against Gun Violence, remembering victims, December 6-17. The Sandy Hook shooting was December 14, 2012. Pastor Craig will contact the other pastors in town to see if their churches are interested in joining us. Gayle or Pastor Craig will contact the national UCC office for the kit. The next Mission Board meeting will be November 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Mission Board November 9- Advent Alternative Giving Fair: Janet Toering, All Cultures Equal Community Center, says ACE has their major food pantry distribution on December 13. ACE was to be the Advent Alternative Giving focus for Sunday, December 10. Marjorie Groves asked if ACE could be the focus sooner. Gayle Olson agreed to switch Head Start (November 27) with ACE. The new order is: November 27 – ACE. December 3 – Stepping Forward. December 10 – Head Start. December 17 – Puerto Rico recovery. This Puerto Rico focus will raise money for critical – but affordable – items, such as tarps, portable lamps and blankets; Karin Yungclas and Audrey Burtnett will be in charge. We have at least two garbage bags full of boxes of Kleenex collected to go to the Beacon of Hope shelter for homeless men in Fort Dodge. Lorraine McCoskey has the sign-up sheets out for the November 28 meal at the Beacon of Hope. She'll make the chili at home. The rest of the menu includes items that can be delivered to the church ready to go: bars, carrots and celery, loaves of bread made into butter/peanut butter sandwiches. Warm Hearts, Warm Homes: We had one team of workers for the November 4 winterizing event, completed one home and dropped off supplies for a second home. 1000 Kids for Iowa: Pastor Craig reported on the meeting with Joann Mackey October 31. Audrey, Gayle and Karin also attended. Christmas Fund: Audrey is in charge of this 5-for-5 collection. It will be gathered at the service, December 24, 5 p.m. Funding Future Leaders: Marjorie volunteered to oversee this Iowa Conference collection. The statewide goal is \$10,000. The suggested collection date of January 21 would conflict with our traditional January Souper Bowl collection for local food pantries. We'll discuss a February date for Funding Future Leaders at another meeting. The next Mission Board meeting will be Friday, December 1, at 5:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Old Business

- Another bid was received for the work in the basement back hallway. The bids were compared and it was approved to have Neibergall do the work for \$1,500. The work will be done after the first of the year.

- We received a bid of \$345 to update the wiring and move the speaker in the Nursery. It will be done on a rainy day!
- Curt is back to work after his knee surgery.

New Business

- Church use request for May 2018 was approved for Donna Ryherd.
- Pagels have been called to repair the broken kitchen window. It should come in sometime next week.
- Refrigerator in the media room kitchen is not running. Bruce will check the plug in, and then if it does not work, Bruce will haul it away.
- Two lamps have been received for use in the choir loft. We will let choir decide where they want them placed.
- Talked about board members for 2018. Tom and Sherry stay on. Bruce, Tracy and Joyce terms are up. Tracy and Joyce will serve another term and Bruce will not.
- Discussion was held on the letter for the congregation about the stained glass windows. Joyce will write this to be sent out by October 25.

Worship Board Cindy and Linda will serve communion on November 5th with Gretchen and Mary serving communion on December 3rd.

Cabinet Up-Date: Very important that people attend the November 12th worship service. Annual budget, selling of the two vacant lots and restoring of the stained glass windows will be voted on. Cindy will be checking into having the piano tuned.

Pet Blessing is scheduled for October 21st, but due to the predicted weather Pastor Craig will make the call no later than noon on the 21st. (Actually it was decided by Friday noon.)

We are in charge of Fellowship Coffee on October 29th. Mary will bring Rice Krispie bars (Now will be using bars leftover from Verna W. funeral.) Cindy bringing peanuts/corn candy and meat. Verna mints, crackers and cheese. Gretchen apple cider and Halloween napkins.

After discussion it was decided to continue to have Saturday services next year during the months of May – October.

December 3rd will be the first Sunday of Advent so that means the “Hanging of the Greens”. Gretchen will order the pizza from Casey’s, order two gluten-free pizzas from Leon’s, will check on napkins, bowls and plates and bring a gallon of milk. Cindy and Verna will provide the pop. Mary will make chili.

Since Christmas Eve is also on a Sunday, there will be an informal morning service in East Chapel with a regular Christmas Eve Service that night. Communion will be served at both services. No Sunday School on the 24th.

The Sunday service after Christmas, which will be New Year’s Eve, will be led by lay leaders. Craig will prepare something for this service.

Craig will be looking into having a live streaming of parts of the Sunday service on Facebook.

Women’s Fellowship Executive Board New SERRV catalog is on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Mabel Prescott is trying to make contact with Corelle Co. regarding prices for her suggested needs for the kitchen. Recommended pieces are 200 plates, 100 small plates and soup bowls, medium sized serving bowls. Comments shared: use money from savings acct and no mis-matched pieces. While inventorying the dishes, she also counted plastic table covers. We have many different colors, so use them when able. If only 1 color, put on Thrift Sale.

Community Theatre meal – March 24 – Kay Harfst, Ginnie Veach, and Donna Ryherd will coordinate this.

Kitchen Garbage Can – after discussion, voted to drop this item.

Stove – Kay Harfst cleaned the stove.

Funerals – Wilma Reinsel received feedback about the needs for each type of food, ie salads, desserts. We thanked her for the excellent job she does coordinating the food.

Christmas Event – date – Dec 10 after worship - Haystack volunteered to cook the meal and Cindy volunteered Providence to decorate.

Recycling – Please review the sign above recycle bins, especially the items NOT able to be recycled. Anyone wanting to save plastic may do so, but not a definite policy.

Pastor's Report Worship: Our last Saturday Service's Pet Blessing was a wash due to threatening weather, so we held our final service of the season indoors. We will hold a shortened service of worship on Nov. 12 to accommodate the business of the congregational meeting that day. Nov. 19 we will give thanks together to mark Thanksgiving Sunday, and on Nov. 26 we will observe All Saints Sunday. Dec 3 will be our first Sunday of Advent, and following the service we will "hang the greens." Dec 17 will be our children's Christmas program, and on Dec 24 we will hold a 10:30 am service (4th Sunday of Advent) in the East Chapel, and then hold our traditional 5 pm Christmas Eve service in our sanctuary. December 31 will be a lay-led service of readings and carols while I am away on vacation.

KLAB: November will be a light month for KLAB: We held our annual Halloween party on Nov 1, and on Nov 8 no KLAB was held due because school was in recess that day. We will hold KLAB on Nov 15, and there will be no KLAB on Nov 22 due to Thanksgiving.

Adult Education: We are nearing the end of our multi-week study of immigration, and have learned about the history of US immigration and are now studying the economic benefits and liabilities of immigration, both legal and illegal.

Stephen Ministry: We currently have 5 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers. Met on Nov. 2 for check-ins and to study the Stephen Ministers' role in helping others deal with depression (the lesson was cancelled in October.) On December 8 our Stephen Ministers will meet at the Emporium at 6 pm for dinner and our Christmas gathering, and on Dec. 9 we will host a caroling party at the church, beginning at 5:45pm. We will carol the care centers and return to the church for a chili supper. We are offering a 3 week grief support series "How Will I Get Through the Holidays?" on Nov. 19, 26, and Dec 3 from 4-5 pm in the multipurpose room. The series is free but registration is required.

WCMA: We learned that the Ecumenical Human Needs fund has a balance of around \$5700. Rev. Kroona will ask for regular updates of the fund's expenditures. The Backpack fund is sitting at around \$4800, and the Travelers Fund is \$2021. Asbury UMC is helping ACE sponsor a Community Thanksgiving meal, to be held Nov 12, 11-2 pm. Tickets are \$10. There will be another Salvation Army Bellringing Campaign in Webster City during Advent; Rev. Slininger will again organize the event.

MISC: I participated in the Beacon of Hope shelving project on Oct 14, the 2nd Anniversary ACE bingo night Oct 15, and Warm Hearts and Homes on Nov 4. All good causes!

Worship Board Communion: December 3rd will be served by Mary and Gretchen. Christmas Eve morning will be served by Cindy and Linda. The Christmas Eve service will be served by Linda, Cindy and we will need 4 more. Please let Cindy know if you come up with others. Preparation of elements for the Christmas Eve serve will be done immediately after the morning service. Communion servers will also participate in the lighting of the candles immediately after serving communion.

The piano is tuned and the organ is scheduled for tuning. The Choral Society paid for having the piano tuned. Thanks to them for doing this.

Hanging of the Greens on December 3rd. Gretchen will order pizzas, purchase crackers and milk and provide cookies. Mary will make chili. Cindy and Verna will purchase the pop.

New Year's Eve Sunday Service: Layman will lead the service as Craig will be on vacation. Cindy will do the announcements, sharing of joys and concerns, etc.

Josie will be getting back to Cindy on whether she can play the organ for our Christmas Eve service.

Cindy will be preparing the Worship Board report for the Annual Meeting book.

Linda gave an up-date on Cabinet news.

Looking ahead, Cindy and Verna are scheduled to go off the board this coming year.

Christian Ed Board There was a discussion on what will be done for a Christmas program with the youth. Mary volunteered to direct a simple Christmas program on December 17th during worship, which would be put on by the Sunday school youth. Leah volunteered to assist Mary with the program. Information will be sent home with the KLAB youth on November 15, 2017 per Pastor Craig, encouraging them to come to Sunday school for program rehearsals. The board will provide the coffee after the program. Jane will bring her choice of snack, Leah will bring caramel puff corn and Vicki cookies. Curt is unable to participate due to surgery prior to the program. There was also a discussion of who will remain on the board: Jane, Curt and Mary will continue for one more year, and Leah will continue for two more years. Vicki will resign as chairperson, cabinet representative and member. There will be one position to fill in 2018. No meeting will be held in December.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 12th at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Church clerk, Mary Van Diest

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:

