

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

**“God has made everything Beautiful in its own time”—Ecclesiastes 3:11**

Our KLAB kids are exploring the love of Creation (part of the UCC’s “Three Great Loves” campaign), and last Wednesday we “loved” Creation by going on a leaf hunting expedition! The idea was to find a nice assortment of colorful and striking leaves of various sizes that we could use to make “leaf prints” on poster paper. Unfortunately everyone in the area surrounding the church had either mowed or raked up their leaves the day before...leaving a rather small sampling of leaves from which to choose.

Yet in spite of the lack of samples, the exercise had its effect: soon the kids were completely captivated by the hunt and were showing the adult leaders the wonderful variety of leaves they had found. It was a good opportunity for the kids to learn a bit about the differences in the local trees and the leaves they produced. It was also a good opportunity for them to “see” what normally is invisible to them (and to us), which is the miraculous blend of beauty and function which is at the heart of the created order. One source from the University of Washington estimates that the average oak tree produces 200,000 to a half million leaves every year, only to drop them as waste at the end of the growing season. And yet each leaf, like each snowflake in the season to follow, is unique, and each leaf for a few precious days is ablaze with fall’s glowing colors. We can surely understand the trees’ need to produce so many leaves in order to feed itself...but what is harder to understand is why, in the process of dying, does each leaf erupt into such a unique display of beauty? Is such beauty accidental and meaningless? Possibly. But when our young people discovered their beauty, something magical happened. One created species gifted with eyes AND *eyes to see* could see the beauty in another created species, and in that moment there was *communion in the Creation and commerce between species* as dying tree foliage overflowed with a beauty that was joyously received by juvenile *homo sapiens*.

Our deep need to discover and delight in beauty is at the heart of *why* we humans need to see the colors of fall, the twinkling majesty of the starry heavens, migrating geese on the wing, and the colorful tracings of a butterfly’s wings. What may be even more remarkable to consider is that God instills in each part of creation a desire to manifest beauty, and to have that beauty seen and appreciated. To believe that all things, even dying leaves, want to express their innate beauty and have it enjoyed is not necessarily some ridiculous form of anthropomorphism. What such a profound thought acknowledges is that beauty, like love, is an expression of the Divine which permeates all of Creation-- even to the atoms that compose it; an expression of the Divine, like love, that *fills the universe with purpose, value, and joy when it is expressed and received*.

I don’t know if Qoheleth “the Teacher” had this insight in mind when he composed the words in Ecclesiastes 3 naming God as the source of all beauty, but to my mind this is surely God’s plan in making “everything beautiful in its own time”:

***We were created to experience beauty not just to give glory to God, but to also give glory to the Divine beauty in all things that yearns to be expressed and enjoyed.*** I’m not sure if our KLAB kids gave glory to God for the beauty they discovered Wednesday...but they were surely giving glory to the Divine beauty they had discovered in the leaves they happily gathered up on a beautiful fall day. As the days of fall begin to turn into the days of winter’s wonders, may we all take time to see, appreciate, and give glory to the beauty that is all around us: God’s beautiful essence expressed and enjoyed in this beautiful Creation! —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

October 1 66    October 8 51  
October 15 70    October 21 39  
October 29

### Church Staff

**Rev. Craig Blaufuss**, Pastor  
Office: 832-2232    Cell 297-4316  
Pastor's email: [revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net](mailto:revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net)  
**Michele Omvig**: Admin. Assist.    227-8358  
Church's e-mail: [administrative.office@fcuccwc.org](mailto: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

#### Health Awareness Events for November

- Lung Cancer Awareness
- Men's Health Awareness
- Mouth Cancer Awareness
- Pancreatic Cancer Awareness
- COPD Awareness
- National Stress Awareness
- World Diabetes Day Nov. 14
- Anti-bullying Week Nov. 13

### Pecans for sale

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



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

3 - Bob Maass  
4 - Chase Berhow  
5 - Kathy Theobald  
5 - Christie Halliday  
5 - Joely Gilbert  
5 - Dominic Stark  
6 - Brennan Myers  
6 - Amanda Kalkwarf  
9 - Kristy Fortune  
9 - Keith Holdgrafer  
12 - Marc Reinsel  
13 - Holly Riemenschneider  
13 - Katie Sonsalla  
13 - Oliver Sonsalla  
14 - Emily Maass  
17 - Kylee King  
18 - Donna Ryherd  
20 - Jon Follett  
20 - Laurie Smith  
24 - Maggie Kennedy  
24 - Tyler Nelson  
25 - Diane Vasquez  
26 - Zachary Thomas Midtling  
26 - Andrew Wehrhan  
27 - Susan Leman  
27 - Glenda Wehrhan  
28 - Jake Van Diest  
29 - Mark Ryherd



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

21 - Mark & Deb Carlson  
22 - Tom & Holly Riemenschneider  
25 - Arden & Dalene Schlitter  
29 - Ray & Diane Vasquez

### Warm Hearts Warm Homes

The date for WHWH in Webster City is Saturday, November 4, from 8am-noon. We again are hoping to field 2 weatherization teams of 4 workers each! If you would like to volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

### Rich Pleva retirement

A Thanksgiving Celebration for Iowa Conference Minister Rich Pleva will be held Friday, November 10, 2017 at the Embassy Suites 101 East Locust St. Des Moines,

beginning at 6 pm. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Please RSVP by November 1 to jo@ucciaconf.org or 515-277-6369. In appreciation for Rich's ministry among us, please consider a gift of additional funds for new church starts in the Iowa Conference.

### **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.

### **Bless You!**

'Tis the season for sniffles, sneezes and runny noses – and it's no different for the residents of Beacon of Hope homeless shelter for men in Fort Dodge. We ask you to bring boxes of Kleenex (a.k.a. facial tissue) to fill the shopping cart we keep in Fellowship Hall. We'd love to have you fill the cart over and over, if possible. Any size of box or packet of tissue would be welcome, but the flatter boxes or soft packets (as opposed to the cubes) might let us get more Kleenex into the car heading to the Beacon. God bless you! Geshundheit! Salud! – *The Mission Board*

### **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> to vote on the following three items: Proposed budget for 2018, Sale of church property just south of church, To have all the stained glass windows in the church releaded. Absentee ballots are available in the church office.

### **Alternative Giving Advent Fair**

Wander into any store in Webster City and beyond, and you'll know that Santa Season is upon us. Those of us at 1<sup>st</sup> 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 in honor of folks on your Christmas gift list. Each week of Advent, you'll find a table decorated with the theme of the featured group and the way you can contribute.

**November 27: Head Start**, winter clothing for students.

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

**December 10: All Cultures Equal Community Center**, rice, dry beans, office supplies.

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

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

### **Pillowcases**



Three quilt shops are sponsoring "Pillow cases for Puerto Rico" and the members of our Piecemakers quilting group have made 30 pillowcases which will be delivered to the "Mended Hearts" quilt shop.

### **All Saints Sunday—November 26**

All Saints Day is a time to remember those departed "saints" who have shaped and blessed our lives in so many ways. On Sunday, November 26, we will observe All Saints Sunday during worship by reading the names of our departed congregation members who have died in the past year. Following their remembrance, individuals and families will be invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to light candles in memory of loved ones and friends who have departed. The departed saints of this congregation whom we will remember during this year's All Saint's Sunday are: **Sally McIntyre**, and **Verna Weieneth**.

### **Grief Support Group— "How Will I Get Through The Holidays?"**

The death of a loved one is difficult, and the approach of the Holiday Season can be overwhelming to those who are grieving. To help those who are struggling with grief, First Congregational United Church of Christ is offering a 3 week grief support group entitled

“How Will I Get Through the Holidays?” The group will meet at First Congregational on Sundays, November 19, 26, and December 3, from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. in the Multi-purpose room. Registration is required; to register, please call the church office at [515 832-2232](tel:5158322232).

### **Advent Begins—December 3**

Advent is just around the corner! Sunday, December 3 is 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 will be posted by the church office. Note: This is the shortest possible Advent season, for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve!

### **KLAB Halloween Party—November 1**

Great Caesar’s Ghost! We will hold our annual KLAB Halloween Party the day *after* Halloween—on November 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be treats, games and fun—and all KLAB kids are welcome to bring their Halloween costumes to wear!

### **No KLAB --November 8 and 22**

There will be no KLAB on Wednesday, November 8, as students have no school that day due to a scheduled professional development day for teachers and staff. Also, there will be no KLAB on November 22, as that is the day before Thanksgiving.

### **ACE Community Thanksgiving Dinner**

All Cultures Equal, in partnership with Asbury UMC, is hosting a Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 12, 2017, from 11am-2 pm at the ACE building. The menu is a blend of traditional Thanksgiving food and dishes from other cultures, and ACE invites anyone interested to help in the meal preparation. Tickets to the meal are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children 12 and under.

### **CROP Walk**

Thanks to your generosity we donated \$426 to the CROP walk that was held Sunday Oct. 8 at Brewer Creek.

### **Hospice**

Are you looking for a way to fill your free time while giving back to your community? Well, we are looking for you! Gateway Hospice is

growing in the Webster City area and our need for volunteers is too. Volunteers are an important part of our team in providing the best care to our patients. We are looking for kind, caring and compassionate individuals to join our team. No out of town travel required. Volunteer trainings will be held in the Webster City community. For more information about an upcoming training please contact Kelly Langfitt, Volunteer Coordinator at [515-532-2907](tel:5155322907). Gateway Hospice, life changing services when the choice is comfort.

### ***Want to Help? Individuals (and Groups) Needed!***

Texas, Louisiana and Florida hurricane disaster sites are ready for volunteers. Your donations to UCC One Great Hour of Sharing help make possible the local work of the Long-Term Recovery Committee. [ucc.org/disaster](http://ucc.org/disaster)

#### **Texas and Louisiana**

Hurricane Harvey caused widespread flooding and damage across southern Texas and Louisiana, as the slow-moving storm dropped several feet of water throughout the region. Through December 2017, UCC volunteers can choose from two sites.

#### **1. UCC-International Orthodox Christian Charities-NECHAMA Jewish Recovery Services**

Tasks: Flood “Muck & Gut.” Help homeowners prep their home for rebuilding. We tear out dry wall, take out personal possessions and appliances, and clean. Volunteer

Coordinator: Rana Deeba

([volunteercoordinator@ioccc.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@ioccc.org). Phone: 281-221-5046)

Period: Arrive Sunday to begin work on Monday. Depart Saturday. Accommodation: Cots and showers at St. George’s Orthodox Church. No cost. Prepared food provided.

#### **2. Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders:** Denham Springs, Louisiana, or Houston

Tasks: Flood “Muck & Gut.” For general information about the build, contact Bart Tucker at [bartowt@aol.com](mailto:bartowt@aol.com) or call 228-297-8480.

Period: Arrive Sunday to begin work on Monday. Depart Saturday. Accommodation: Cots and showers at FCDR volunteer center. Prepared food provided.

Cost: \$100 per person per week.



## **Florida: Volusia County, Florida (Daytona Beach area)**

Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida Sept. 10, with record-force winds and storm surges. Homes destroyed or suffered major damage. UCC Disaster Ministries partners with VIND (Volusia Interfaith/Agencies Networking in Disasters) to repair/rebuild homes: roofing, gutting interiors, replacing insulation, siding, drywall repair, painting.

Contact: Volunteer Coordinator for VIND.

Email: [volunteercoordinator@floridavind.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@floridavind.org).

Phone: 386-255-5510. Website:

[www.floridavind.org](http://www.floridavind.org).

Period: Arrive Sunday and depart Saturday.

Accommodation: Housing at churches. Cots and kitchen access provided. Bring own bedding; prepare own meals. Bring standard carpentry tools (hammers and cordless screw drivers, etc.)

Cost: \$12/day/person.

Contact Rev. Brice Hughes, [bricehughes@hotmail.com](mailto:bricehughes@hotmail.com), Iowa Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator

## **Amazon Smile**

Don't forget, if you are shopping online use this link to get to Amazon Smile.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-1357070>

If you choose First Congregational UCC of Webster City as your charity of choice all purchases made through Amazon Smile benefit 1<sup>st</sup> Congo.

**On Saturday, October 14, members of First Congregational went to Beacon of Hope to replace pantry shelving and sort through canned goods.**



## **Ye Olde KLAB Gang sprucing up the sanctuary!**



## KLAB Making Leaf Prints



## Treasurer's Report

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
Pledges and Offerings	\$12,792.00	\$129,038.30
Other Income	.00	12.03
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$12,792.00</b>	<b>\$129,050.33</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Outreach and Mission	1,683.34	\$14,778.90
Pastoral Services	11,052.37	67,082.51
Maintenance and Repairs	3,858.60	24,522.84
Church Office	2,468.88	25,033.36
Music Ministry	640.75	5,406.50
Christian Education	36.00	394.00
Local Ministry	.00	36.39
Misc. Expenses	17.00	838.71
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$19,756.94</b>	<b>\$138,093.21</b>

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – October 17, 2017

### Members Present:

Moderator----- Al Yungclas

Vice-Moderator----

Finance Sec.-----Tracy Wehrhan

Finance-----Tracy Wehrhan

Staff/Parish-----Shirley Yungclas

Christian Ed-----Vicki Blaufuss

Treasurer-----Tracy Wehrhan

Pastor-----Rev. Craig Blaufuss

Trustees-----Tracy Wehrhan

Women's Fellowship-Karin Yungclas

Mission-----Karin Yungclas

Worship-----Linda Lahr

Evangelism-----Laurie Epps

Clerk-----Mary Van Diest

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Moderator, Al Yungclas. Pastor Craig gave a meditation titled "Becoming New" from Donna Schaefer, followed by a prayer. Tracy moved and Vicki seconded to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2017 cabinet meeting as printed in

newsletter. Motion carried. Pastor Craig noted that Saturday, October 21, will be the last Saturday worship for 2017. This will be a blessing of the pets. Highlights of a few boards were noted: Mission Board-on Saturday, October 14, the board will be working on food storage shelves at Beacon of Hope; Staff/Parish-Shirley reported that members of the board have met with their respective staff assignments. The board recommends that the staff receive a 3% increase in 2018. Curt McCoskey, custodian, has declined his raise; Treasurer's report—September income was \$10,982.83 and expenses were \$18,918.92. Tracy moved that the report be put to audit with a second by Laurie; Trustees-they are helping Curt McCoskey with his custodial duties following his surgery. Old Business: the piano will be tuned by the Fort Dodge Choral Society before they hold a concert at the church on October 28, 2017. New Business: Donna Ryherd is the chairman of the nominating committee for the 2018 officers and board members. Tracy gave a report on the church's stained windows which are in need of being releaded. The church has 38 stained glass windows (not all are leaded). These windows were installed in 1895-122 years ago!! They have been repaired but not releaded. The windows are presently bulging and could pop out. Many of the glass parts are very valuable. The trustees have talked to and received estimates from several companies which do this work. They recommend the Cathedral Crafts Co. for this project. The Cabinet decided to put this matter on the agenda of the November 12, 2017 congregational meeting to vote on the 2018 budget.

**Worship Board** Communion helpers for October and November set will be Cindy Henning and Linda Lahr. Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> Todd Edeker will be pulpit supply. Linda Lahr will assist with him for worship. Oct. 21 will be Saturday service at 5 pm. A pet blessing will be held in vacant lot. Board can arrive at 4ish to setup chairs, water bowls, and other supplies for the pets. Worship board will serve coffee Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. Linda Lahr shared cabinet will put sale of 2 lots to congregational vote at November budget meeting. They will get a quote on the stained glass windows. Budget reviewed and will ask to remain same as last years. Reviewed line items with Michele about what goes in each. Music Committee expense includes choir music. Chancel Committee includes candles and oil. Supply Minister Expense includes pulpit supply (we haven't had one this year yet). Misc. Church/Worship Expense includes wine, bread, etc. Contact Melissa about days she may need off this fall and also about the music for the Pet Blessing. Next month discuss future of Saturday services and December 3 as it is First Sunday of Advent, Communion, and Hanging of the Greens. Our next meeting is Oct. 12 at 6 pm

**Board of Trustees** Tracy is waiting to get another bid from Mick Neibergall for the back hallway of the basement. The cabinet voted to have a congregational vote on the sale of the lots. It will be the second Sunday in November with the budget vote. Tracy is getting a bid to run wiring for the Nursery. A church use request from Gretchen Bruner was approved. Curt will be off three to four week after his knee surgery. Dylan and Lorraine will do the vacuuming and bathrooms. The Trustees will stop in and check to see what else needs to be done (garbage) until our next meeting. At 7pm Eric Penic from Cathedral Crafts, of Winona, Minnesota came and talked to us about the repairs needed on our stained glass windows. Eric explained how the windows are taken out and how the windows are restored. After Eric's presentation, we discussed how to finance this project. Tracy and Joyce will take our ideas to the Finance Board on Sunday. Next Meeting: Thursday October 19, 2017 7pm

**Finance Board** Tracy and Joyce informed the board of the need to do a complete restoration of the stain glass windows in the church. The normal lifespan of the leading in the windows is 70 to 80 years and the windows are approximately 125 years old. There have been repairs made to the windows in the past but not a releading of the windows. The board discussed several options on how to finance the project and the board was going to investigate these options and be able to present these to the cabinet at their October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The board reviewed and approved the proposed budget as submitted by the boards and this will be presented to the cabinet at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Evangelism Board** Our meeting was called to order at 6:15 with Pastor Craig offering a prayer to center our hearts and minds. Pastor Report / Prayer Chain: Pastor Craig shared updates and concerns for our members in need of our prayer and support. For those of you reading our meeting



minutes, I'm sure you have noticed we do not list names nor their needs. While we hold them – and you – close in thought and prayer, we chose to not share those needs here in our minutes.

**Greeters and Ushers:** 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 Members taking the lead in recruiting greeters and ushers are: • Wilma: May – June • Kay: July – August • Carol: September – October • Laurie: November – December. Welcome bags (adults) and Activity Bags (youth): Wilma continues to refill and refresh our Welcome Bags, sometimes using materials to fit the season, and always to ensure a sweet treat inside. Dawn maintains our Activity Bags for the youth, keeping them cleaned and well stocked. Misc: Reviewed and approved our 2018 Budget with a slight reduction of our Board Expense from \$300 down to \$150. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Next meeting: October 10, 2017 at 6:15 p.m.

**Mission Board** Marjorie Groves reported that 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational UCC of Webster City served 50 meals at Beacon of Hope shelter for homeless men in Fort Dodge on September 26. We made Cheesy Potatoes and Ham casserole and sides. Mike, the lactose-intolerant resident, was pleased that we set aside a serving without cheese for him. Dawn Holdgrafer, Andrea Mosbach, Karin Yungclas and Shirley Yungclas prepared the meal; servers were Stephanie Hill, Jenny Maass, Dylan McCoskey, Andrea and Marjorie. Lorraine and Dylan McCoskey will oversee the Beacon meal November 28. October 14 is our work day for replacing the Beacon food storage shelves. Audrey Burtnett, Pastor Craig, Gayle Olson, Karin and Marjorie from Mission Board will go to Fort Dodge to help. CROP Walk takes off, circling Hospital Hill, on October 8; Mission Board will have the pickle jar in Fellowship Hall that day for donations. The Neighbors in Need collection was gathered October 1; \$645 was given by our church. We are sponsoring two homes for Warm Hearts Warm Homes, with work to be done Saturday, November 4. Pastor Craig will prepare a sign-up sheet for workers. Our church has collected \$2,145 for UCC Disaster Relief, now focused on victims of recent hurricanes. We will feature one group for each week of the Advent Alternative Giving Fair. Various groups were discussed but not finalized. We will see if there is something we can do to help Puerto Rico after the hurricanes and something we can collect for the All-Cultures Equal Community Center. The congregation will be asked to donate boxes of facial tissue for the Beacon of Hope. Upper Des Moines Opportunity food pantry needs peanut butter, soup and Hamburger Helper. The next Mission Board meeting will be October 19 at 5:30 p.m.

**Women's Fellowship Executive Board** Pastor's report: Prayers for Pastor Craig and Vicki for safe travels during their vacation; please lift up those needing healing. State Community Theatre meeting on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Ask your circle members who would like to be on the special meal committee to serve a lunch for about 60 people. Program resources also put in cabinet under bulletin board outside office. Guidepost calendars are there to use. Dishes - Mabel Prescott - will form committee to decide what we would need to buy. Then they will write to Corelle for estimate. Coffee groups : 1 – Karin, Kay, Verna ; 2 – Cindy, Greta, Shirley; 3 Gayle; Ginnie, Wilma; 4. Mabel, Amani, Stephanie. Sign your group up for a date to serve. Request for regular coffee will be handled by maybe making 1 pot to have if anyone asks.

Thrift Sale was Sept 22 & 23. We raised the cost to \$5 per bag. We raised approx. \$1800 before bills.

Kitchen Garbage Can – discussion had on the look of the big trash can in the kitchen and having to lift that lid when throwing things away. Karin presented a few options. Continue discussion at later date. Recycling Guidelines – Discussion held on what we can recycle and what we should wash, ie plastic plates or silverware. Cindy will find out what is recycled by the Trashman. We will continue discussion. Next Exec.Board meeting November 1 at 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**Next Cabinet Meeting is November 14, 2017 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:

