

**June 2018 Newsletter**  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595**  
**515-832-2232**  
**<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>**

Recently I attended a “Mental Health Awareness Day” held at Trinity Lutheran Church which showcased speakers from Youth and Shelter Services, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Central Iowa Community Services (CICS), and our own Hamilton County Social Services and Public Health agencies. It was an intense and eye-opening day for me, as I was not fully aware of the ongoing crisis we are experiencing in our state and beyond with respect to mental illness and its treatment. Consider some of these alarming statistics which were presented to us:

- Each year one in five older Americans experience a diagnosable mental illness such as anxiety, dementia, depression, psychoses, schizophrenia or substance abuse.
- It is estimated that one half of children today have experienced at least 3 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). These childhood traumas have been linked to poor mental and physical health and negative social consequences later in life.
- 79% of the children in America with a mental health disorder do not receive treatment, and yet one half of those who experience lifetime mental illness show a need for treatment by age 14.
- In Iowa, approximately 130,000 people are living with a serious mental illness. Yet Iowa has the lowest number of “state” psychiatric inpatient beds of any state in the nation, and overall is ranked 47<sup>th</sup> for total inpatient psychiatric beds.
- Iowa has only 121 psychiatrists in private practice, which is 1 per 25,000 people.
- In Iowa, 60 % of adults with mental illness did not receive mental health services, and nearly 44% of those untreated did not receive treatment because they could not afford the cost!
- 4,350 Iowans commit suicide annually, which is more than the combined total of vehicle accident deaths and fatal opioid overdoses in our state.

Needless to say, these are startling statistics that are cause for concern, and what is even more alarming is that the state of Iowa simply does not have any state-wide system of mental health treatment to properly care for all of her citizens who are struggling mental health issues. Until that changes, we all must do what we can to help others (and ourselves!) Here are some suggestions -- and resources-- to equip us to help:

**Be an attentive and compassionate listener.** Offering our sincere and attentive presence to another soul is a healing balm that can help them work through a difficult time in their lives. Listening to another’s problems can help them overcome feelings of isolation, and allowing them to voice their concerns and their pain can bring clarity and healing. And if you believe that more help is needed than you can offer, then suggest that they speak with their doctor, pastor, or a mental health professional about seeking additional help. Your accepting and caring attitude can go long way in destigmatizing another’s need for mental health counseling and treatment!

**Understand the negative effects of digital media and the overuse of digital devices.** Limit your use of social media and your time spent on electronic devices, and spend time out in nature and with real people creating real (not virtual) relationships.

**Take proper care of yourself.** Get adequate rest, nutrition, exercise, and recreation, and seek solitude and interaction in balance. Advise others to do the same—and be willing to engage others in healthy relational behaviors!

**Be aware of how our own church ministries can help.** Our **Parish Nurses** not only are concerned about your physical well-being, they are concerned with your mental health and peace of mind as well. Mabel Prescott, Joyce Gelhaus, and Holly Riemenschneider will be happy to visit with you, listen to your concerns, and help you get connected to the resources you need. We also have a **Stephen Ministry** program here at First Congregational that matches a Stephen Minister with a

person going through a difficult time in his/her life due to a death, divorce, loss of employment, relocation, etc. We have Stephen Ministers available now who can be of service to you—or to any member of the wider community who needs a caring, listening Christian friend. For more information, please speak with Dale Olson or myself.

**Be aware of some basic mental health service providers and how they can help.** Here are a few you should know about:

- **Central Iowa Community Services (CICS):** a multi-county service provider for mental health and disability services. CICS has a 24 hour crisis hotline number you should know: it is **844-258-8858**. CICS also has a mobile crisis response team who will provide on-site, face-to-face mental health services for an individual or family experiencing a mental health crisis. They offer many other services as well: please go to their website ([www.cicsmhds.org](http://www.cicsmhds.org)) or ask me for their pamphlet.
- **Youth and Shelter Services:** a community-based organization serving youth and families, YSS offers a range of counseling options for youth and families and treatment options for youth and young adults who are struggling with substance abuse. They have an office in Webster City: **515-832-1061**.
- **Senior Life Solutions:** a program hosted by Van Diest Medical Center which uses outpatient group counseling to help adults over 65 who are struggling with depression or anxiety. **515-832-7813**.
- **NAMI/Iowa:** Iowa chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Health, NAMI is a grass roots, self- help, education, support and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of families who have relatives with a brain disorder (mental illness). This includes families and individuals diagnosed with a mental illness, relatives and friends, professionals, and all who share NAMI's vision and mission. NAMI helps educate and destigmatize the public about issues of mental illness and health, offers programs about mental health, lobbies for mental health legislation, and has established access centers where individuals in crisis can be stabilized and referred for more help. For more information about NAMI go to [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).
- **Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center:** This excellent resource does more than counsel pastors, it is a nonprofit organization providing mental health services to children, adolescents, adults, couples and families. The Center's approach is holistic, integrating mind, body and spirit for healing. To schedule an appointment call **515-274-4006** or email [info@dmpcc.org](mailto:info@dmpcc.org).

Friends, for far too long our culture has hidden, ostracized, and minimized the importance of mental health and the treatment of mental illness. We can—and must—do better! Please join me in praying for those who are struggling with mental illness, and please join me in helping those who need healing get connected to the programs, therapists, doctors and caring individuals they need, so they may find the healing and peace of mind they deserve. –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 6 83 May 13 56  
May 20 74 May 27

## 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  
**Curt/Lorraine McCoskey**: Cust's. 832-5341  
**Tracy Wehrhan**: Church Treasurer 297-0370  
**Dale Olson**: Financial Secretary 839-5619



Be a WISE church - Welcoming Inclusive Supportive Engaged

We know that up to 25% of people in our congregations are affected by mental health challenges. These include people who are grieving the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, a change in living arrangements, divorce, depression, illness, eating disorders, anxiety, PTSD, concern about family or friends as well as more serious brain disorders.

The UCC Mental Health Network encourages us to promote inclusion of all people and their families into the life, leadership, and work of our congregation. Are we a WISE church?



- 4 - Virginia Veach
- 9 - Stacy Wearda
- 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 - Wilma Reinsel
- 19 - Greta Kenville
- 24 - Henry Elkin
- 24 - Charlie Yoders
- 26 - Lynn Jaycox
- 30 - Katie Holdgrafer



- 2 - Emily & Troy Stockdale
- 14 - Duane & Mary Vavroch
- 17 - Caryl & Verie Hollingshead
- 19 - Joe & Jennifer Gilbert
- 26 - Howard & Barb Stearns

### Books Wanted!

Our summer lunch program will begin June 11, and we hope to be able to give away books for the children to take home and read over the

summer months. If you have any books (new or gently used) for elementary and middle school children you would like to donate, please bring them to the church. Thank you!

### Scholarships

The Finance Board will be receiving scholarship applications until June 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications are available from the church office.

### Relay for Life

Relay for Life is June 20 at Stanhope 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 \$10 and bidding ends June 15.

Wouldn't you love to own this colorful cancer awareness quilt made by Pat Kessler? Stop by the display in Fellowship Hall and place a bid on it!



### Olde Fashioned Ice Cream Social

This year the social will be at Faith Methodist Church. It will be held June 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. There is a sign-up chart in Fellowship Hall asking for homemade ice cream, bars, and workers. The cast from "Seussical the Musical", presented by the community theater, will provide entertainment. The free will offering will be given to Ecumenical Human Needs and ACE this year. Each year your support of this event is great and we really appreciate your response.



### **Summer Worship hours Begin June 3**

Mark your calendars! We will begin our **summer schedule of worshipping together at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays beginning June 3.**

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.

### **Summer Lunch Program Begins June 11**

A USDA sponsored free summer lunch program will be offered to the students of Webster City beginning June 11 through July 27. 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 11.

### **D/SAOC**

Saturday, August 4 at Lakeside Golf Course, Fort Dodge D/SAOC is hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Tee'd Off! Against Violence" event. Cost is \$200 per team or \$50 per person. There are multiple levels of sponsorship if you are interested. The tournament will be followed by a silent auction and award ceremony. More information is on the board in Fellowship Hall

### **Opioid Awareness Meeting**

A panel of 6 professionals will speak on Tuesday, June 26, 6:30 pm at Prem Sahai Auditorium. Become informed and learn how to inform others.

### **Third Saturday Worship begins June 16**

We will resume our Saturday evening services on June 16 ( 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.

### **Women's Fellowship Spring Thrift Sale**

Our Thrift Sale was a huge success again! We raised approx. \$2000 before expenses. These profits will help us give over \$5000 to many deserving organizations in this community and around the world,

"Thanks" to each of you. Whether you helped donate, sort, clean-up, haul away, provide food or worked, the Thrift Sale could not get done without YOU. It's a lot of work, but also a lot of fun and fellowship.

The next sale will be Sept. 21 & 22. Hope to see many more of you join the fun.

Thank you all so much!!!

Cindy Henning  
Chairperson, Thrift Sale







### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

Women's Fellowship held their May dinner to wrap up their program year. They enjoyed a meal prepared by Pastor Craig and the men of the church. Joyce Gelhaus gave the program about her recent trip to Israel.

The Women's Fellowship raised money from their semi-annual Thrift Sales, donations, and circle contributions. The 2017-2018 program year earned \$5,000.00 to give to various organizations in our community and the world. Those receiving checks were:

\$1,000	OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission)
\$ 250	Backpack Program
\$ 500	Ecumenical Human Needs
\$ 500	ACE - All Cultures Equal
\$ 300	Gateway to Discovery
\$ 200	UDMO Swim Passes
\$ 300	Free Clinic
\$ 200	Almost Home Pet Shelter
\$ 300	Wings of Refuge Shelter
\$ 200	Crime Stoppers
\$ 300	D/SAOC (Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center)
\$ 250	Webster City Headstart – Your, Inc., Fort Dodge
\$ 500	Funding Future Leaders – UCC Seminary Students

\$ 200 UCC Pastors Discretionary Fund  
Thank You to everyone who helped with our fundraising events throughout the year. We could not have done this much without you.

**A big thank you to the men who prepped, cooked, and served the meal at the Women's Fellowship Spring Dinner!**





## Promotion Sunday was May 20



**Cali wants to remind everyone that the Boone River trail could use a good litter pickup! There are trash bags and gloves available at church for you to use. Please take time this summer to show your love of Creation—and don't forget to take a selfie to share!**



**Stepping Forward Romania has a new Rec Center at their camp this year built by Steve Mather and volunteer crews in 49 days. Basketball, ping pong and indoor soccer this summer for the campers - rain or shine.**



# Now Hiring Program Staff

@  
Pilgrim Heights Camp & Retreat Center

Summer 2018

## Why work at Camp?

- \* Live, play, and work in the great outdoors.
- \* Go on active adventures.
- \* Make new friends
- \* Bank more money than you think — with few expenses.
- \* Become a child's hero.
- \* Learn leadership skills.

Please Contact :

Seth Engelman, Programs Manager  
for an application.

seth.engelman@pilgrimheights.org  
(641) 442-6165

## Treasurer's Report

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
Pledges and Offerings	\$12,991.75	\$53,996.32
Other Income	.00	.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$12,991.75</b>	<b>\$53,996.32</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Outreach and Mission	1,583.34	\$6,333.28
Pastoral Services	5,700.00	28,534.05
Maintenance and Repairs	1,841.49	10,303.90
Church Office	3,036.77	13,596.27
Music Ministry	1,345.38	3,978.49
Christian Education	41.14	85.10
Local Ministry	48.20	48.20
Misc. Expenses	218.49	934.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$13,814.81</b>	<b>\$63,813.73</b>

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting held on May 8, 2018

Members Present:

Moderator: Donna Ryherd

Vice Moderator: Nate Lahr

Pastor:

Trustees:

Rev. Craig Blaufuss

Joyce Gelhaus



Finance Sec.:	Dale Olson	Women's Fellowship:	Karin Yungclas
Finance:	Tracy Wehrhan	Mission:	Lorraine McCoskey
Staff/Parish:	Stephanie Hill	Worship:	Jenny Brim
Christian Ed:	Don Bruner	Evangelism:	Laurie Epps
Treasurer:	Tracy Wehrhan	Clerk:	Stephanie Hill

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the Moderator, Donna Ryherd and asked Pastor Craig to offer a prayer. The April Cabinet minutes were approved with corrections. **Worship:** Flowers for all women will be given out on Mother's Day. Saturday services will be June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup>. Service will begin at 5:00pm. **Evangelism:** Laurie will send out a letter and schedule of ushers by mail. Response should also be via mail. **Christian Ed.:** Possibilities for Sunday school next year will be discussed by the teachers and the Christian Education committee. **Treasurer:** The report is at the end of the minutes. It was moved and seconded to put the report to audit. **Mission:** Sign-up sheets are out for the Summer Lunch Program June 11-15. Book donations are again being asked for. Joyce Gelhaus is the team captain for the Relay for Life to be held June 20<sup>th</sup> in Stanhope. **Women's Fellowship:** The Thrift Sale is coming on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May. A voting survey was sent out and the results are for continuing the co-presidency, maintaining 4 circles but assisting other circles as needed. And the Yearbook will be printed. **Trustees:** Work continues on the grant writing for the stained glass windows. Details are in the attached report. **Staff Parish:** Staff Parish met to discuss a few issues and resolved both situations. **Pastor's Report:** Pilgrim Heights now called Our Sacred Space is no longer for sale. A new board will try to get it going. We (UCC) could go to see the improvements and support it. **New Business:** The Regional Youth Event to be held in Grinnell from June 19-22, 2018 is for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and up. The cost is \$325 and is divided equally between the parents, the church and the association. Laurie moved and Karin seconded the motion that the funds from the church be taken from Christian Ed. The full report of the boards and the pastor's report are at the end of the cabinet minutes.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Stephanie Hill  
Church Clerk

**Mission Board:** Mission Board met April 10, just an hour or so before the Cabinet meeting. Our church's basket for the Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center (D/SAOC) Cake Auction April 14 came together amazingly well, thanks to the generosity of church members and the community. \$669 was donated in the pickle jar. Lorraine and Curt McCoskey, along with Gayle Olson, used this for gift cards and certificates and also were able to get several complementary gift cards and certificates to total around \$1,000 in Webster City meals, lodging, entertainment and other purchases from 16 or so area businesses. Verna Bierle created a beautiful "basket" to be auctioned at the event in Fort Dodge. One Great Hour of Sharing: The 5-for-5 collection, gathered March 18, brought in \$923, Karin Yungclas reported. Gayle has put out the sign-up sheet for our church's April 24 filling of backpacks to keep school youngsters from getting hungry on weekends. Karin has talked with Faith United Methodist to get planning started for the Ice Cream Social June 13. This year the event will be at Faith. Bars are to be made in 9X13 pans. Marjorie will chair the May 22 meal at the Beacon of Hope shelter for homeless men in Fort Dodge and promote collection of boxes of Kleenex for them. The Summer Lunch Program is a go for another year. Our church will oversee volunteers the opening week. We need five to eight helpers each day. The start date is June 11. The Relay for Life will be in Stanhope, June 20. Gayle will ask Joyce Gelhaus to be captain of our church's team. The next Mission Board meeting is Tuesday, May 1, at 4 p.m.

**Mission Board:** We met May 1 with all board members and Pastor Craig present. The April 14 Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center Cake Auction took place on a sleety night, but a large crowd came to Iowa Central Community College East Campus and helped D/SAOC bring in around \$62,000. Our Webster City basket added to the total, and our church was praised for our ongoing participation, Lorraine McCoskey reported. We still want to do a trash pick-up of the Boone River Recreational Trail (Love of Earth), but our original date was snowed out. Plan B is to make garbage bags and gloves available and to ask everyone to choose his/her own time to pick up trash along the trail and deposit the garbage bag in the church dumpster. Gayle Olson said that on April 24, 13 of us filled around 380 bags in 45 minutes to keep school youngsters from getting hungry on weekends. Our church will help with the Summer Lunch Program at the Middle School June 11-15. We are asking for donations of books again. Our church serves the meal to the men of the Fort Dodge Beacon of Hope shelter on May 22. Marjorie Groves will take food to the shelter and will take the Kleenex collected in the shopping cart in Fellowship Hall. Pat Kesler made a quilt wall hanging, using colors



representing the different kinds of cancer, for Relay for Life. The wall hanging will be offered in a silent auction at the church. Joyce Gelhaus is team captain for our walkers. The Mission Board hosts coffee time on June 3, setting out the pickle jar for Relay for Life. This American Cancer Society fundraiser is in Stanhope, June 20. Karin Yungclas and Audrey Burtnett are working with Faith United Methodist Church, solidifying plans for the ice cream social co-hosted with our church. This year the event will be at Faith June 13. The next Mission Board meeting is Wednesday, June 6, at 4 p.m.

**Christian Ed: April 11, 2018** The entire board consisting, of Leah Yungclas, Don Bruner, Jane Klaver, Curt McCoskey, Mary Van Diest and Pastor Craig, was present. Pastor Craig opened with a prayer.

Old Business: We discussed the Easter breakfast and activities for the kids. Approximately 30 attended the breakfast which was held from 9:30-10:15 am. We felt it was worthwhile to do again. We were disappointed in the low turnout for the children's activities (9). They enjoyed the Easter egg hunt and the games. The games used have been stored in the storage room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, to be used again.

New Business: Discussion was held on when to hold Participation Day and to honor graduates. Don offered to contact Luke Rohmiller if he wishes to participate. On Participation Day Children's Bibles will be given to Oliver Sonsalla, Talon Stockdale, Piper Williams, Henry Elkin, Jackson Elkin, Luna Lahr and Jayleen Burgos. An Adult Bible will be presented to Jackson Leman. All of the adults who so willingly work with our children will be recognized. May 20<sup>th</sup> will be the last day of Sunday School and also Participation Day during the worship service. KLAB and church school activities during this summer will be announced at a later date. The board is going to ask the present church school teachers to attend our meeting in May to give us their inputs on the pros and cons of this year and suggestions for the future. Pastor Craig presented information on REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT to be held at Grinnell from June 19-22, 2018. This is for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and up. The cost is \$325/per student with the church paying 1/3, association 1/3 and parents 1/3. See Pastor Craig for the registration deadline. This sounds like a wonderful gathering of like-minded young people. Go online to RYE2018.org at Grinnell to see what a great experience this would be.

Next Meeting is May 9, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Addition on April 17, 2018—Luke Rohmiller will be recognized as a graduate on May 6<sup>th</sup> worship service. We would like him to greet before church, and we will have some kind of recognition during the service. The board will serve the fellowship coffee following church to honor him. We will serve cake for this event. Since we will not meet before this Sunday, we will work out the details via email.

**Finance Board: April 25, 2018** Present: Don Bruner, Duane Vavroch, Nate Lahr, Dale Olson, Tracy Wehrhan Don agreed to be chairman for the current year. Tracy gave the financial update stating that income through March is done about 25% and expenses are up about 5%.

Discussion was held about the income shortfall. It was decided that Dale would draft a letter to be sent to the congregation that included income and expense data for the years of 2016, 2017 and the first quarter of 2018. The letter will include the option for a direct deposit option that the church has available for a member's convenience.

The scholarship process was discussed. It was decided to move the application deadline up to June 15<sup>th</sup> and scholarships will be awarded on July 21<sup>st</sup>. We are hoping for better applicant attendance with the earlier date.

Duane will get a name of a local company to get a quote for the audit.

Discussion was held on having all the church's assets in the bond market. Tracy will contact a local firm to see if changes need to be made to our portfolio.

**Board of Trustees: April 26, 2018** Present: Joyce Gelhaus, Tom Riemenschneider, Tracy Wehrhan, Sherry Leksell, Pastor Craig Absent: Alan Yungclas Guest: Donna Ryherd

Tracy made a motion to approve the minutes from April 4, 2018 meeting, Tom seconded the motion. It was approved.

Old Business: Donna Ryherd updated us on the Grants. We did not meet the qualifications for the Sacred Places Grant. The Union Pacific Grant we can now apply for since we found the tax number needed from the UCC office. We helped Donna fill in some items for the grant which is due the end of May. Donna will also be applying for the Teresa Treat Stearns Charitable Trust which is a grant from this area. This is also due the end of May. There will be also two other local grants that we can apply for in September. Donna also let us know that the Union Pacific Grant is not a matching grant. If people want to donate to the window fund they can, but they need to talk to Tracy first.

Eric from Cathedral Craft informed us that they hope to come and get started on the Stained Glass Windows, the end of May or the first part of June.

Tracy talked to Scott Jaycox about finishing the elevator shaft. He does not know when he will get to it.

Tom talked to Mark Trueblood about the boiler valves if we should be doing them. Mark will flush the valves once a year.

New Business: There were two church usage forms. Dalene Schlitter- Rotary on 6-4-2018 Leah Maass for a family gathering on April 29. Both Church usage requests were approved.

Tony Jones will continue to mow the lawn for the same price as last year.

The estimate for the year for lawn care by Stony Creek Landscapes was approved.

Joyce did the outside spring cleanup around the church.

The dishwasher in the kitchen has leaked twice when it was started up. Tracy and Tom looked at the water heater for the washer after the meeting. It may be a bad seal. Tom will call Mark Trueblood to get it fixed.

Trustees are responsible to inventory the church. We will take pictures of items and set up inventory sheets by the areas of the church. This will be set up at the May meeting.

The dumb waiter door in the fellowship hall is not working. Tracy and Tom fixed it after the meeting.

The doors on the storage area in the west entrance need new hinges. Al will take care of that.

Discussion on selling the Orff Instruments. Sherry will talk to Don Bruner about that. A suggestion was to have the money go to the Doty Fund.

Discussion was held on the request by Headstart to use our church. Joyce will email Headstart with questions to be answered before we can make a final decision.

Next Meeting Thursday May 24, 2018 7pm

**Pastor's Report:** Worship: On April 8 the KLAB kids played the ORFF instruments in worship, led by Anne Sherve-Ose. On April 29<sup>th</sup> we led the Care Center worship services in town, with Don Bruner leading the singing, Kolleen Taylor on piano, and Chesney Fuller and Madison Babington serving as our communion stewards. During worship on May 6 we will honor high school graduate Luke Rohmiller, May 13 we will honor our mothers, May 20<sup>th</sup> will be Christian Education Sunday (we will honor our students and teachers) and May 27 will be our last Sunday worshipping at 10:30 am; June 3 we go to summer hours and worship at 9:30 am. Our first Saturday evening worship service will be held June 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

Weddings: I presided at the wedding renewal ceremony of Baily Fogle Roderick in Grinnell on Saturday, April 28. Katie Holdgrafer and Mason McCarville will be married in our sanctuary on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. The wedding rehearsal will be held in our sanctuary at 6 pm on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Funerals: We were saddened by the death of Dorothy Stearns, who passed on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. We celebrated her life in our sanctuary on Thursday, April 26. Thank you to the women's fellowship for hosting the bereavement luncheon! On Friday, May 4 I officiated at the burial of Ray Bringolf.

KLAB: We have concluded our KLAB program and are now in summer recess! Our trash pickup along the Boone River trail scheduled for April 18 was cancelled due to the weather, and on April 25 we visited Almost Home animal shelter in Fort Dodge and presented them with a check for \$104 that we raised by making/selling cat treats and cat wands. May 2 was our annual trip to the DQ!

Adult Education: We are discussing topics pertinent to faith, and are currently discussing "idols". Our last class session before summer will be held May 20.

WCMA: The Summer lunch program will begin on June 11 and run through July 27, and First Congo will again take the lead-off week of volunteering (June 11-15). We already have several volunteers! The new proposed pack date for the Thanksgiving community food pack is Sunday, November 11. The Morning Kiwanis club is working to raise donations for this event. The estimated cost is \$8000 to pack 30,000 meals. May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Faith UMC Pastor Eddy will lead a worship service to pray for our community.

Stephen Ministry: We currently have 4 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers. We met May 3 for our monthly 2 hour session, hearing check-ins and studying the topic of "how great leaders inspire action." We will try to promote the program in the community by making flyers about our Stephen Ministry program and posting them around town.

NW Committee on Ministry: The date for the NW association Annual meeting will be May 5, to be held at Mayflower UCC in Sioux City. Marjorie Groves and Audrey Burtnett will be our voting delegates. I and several other church members attended a CoM, CCAM, and Board of Directors training event in Sioux Falls, South Dakota April 20-21. Among other topics reviewed was the new manual on Ministry which will be finalized in November, using the UCC Marks of Ministry in guiding the formation of members in discernment, and the legal issues around CoM work. We have scheduled a PSC with Diane Friedericks and the UCC church in Belmond on June 21.

ACE: Janet Toering is no longer working for ACE; the Board of Directors will begin a candidate search to replace her. The Board is also trying to restore the 501c3 status of ACE, but this may take as long as 6 months



to complete. Iowa Central Community College is withdrawing holding ESL classes at ACE in favor of hosting them on their campus.

**Worship Board: April 12, 2018** Those in attendance: Linda, Jenn, Gretchen, Verna and Pastor Craig.

Opening prayer given by Pastor Craig.

Linda gave an up-date on Cabinet: Christian Education having discussion on Sunday School and KLAB.

Evangelism Board discussing church picnic or other ideas. Need ushers. Sherri, Kolleen and Donna working on grant for stained glass windows. Trustees working with insurance concerning listing of property.

Video Licensing: DONE

Mother's Day Recognition: May 13<sup>th</sup>. Will spend \$50 total on a flower for every mother or woman. Linda will contact Hy-Vee and have them delivered on Saturday.

Graduation Sunday: Luke R. will participate.

Promotional Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>. Christian Education Board will be in charge of this.

Saturday Services: June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, and August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

No Pet Blessing This Year.

Summer Worship Hours: Worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. Will begin the Sunday after memorial Day and end on the Sunday after Labor Day.

Pulpit Supply: none so far

Will be in charge of Fellowship Coffee on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Nate Lahr will do some looking into a gift appropriate for handing out to fathers and men of the church for Father's Day.

Pentecostal Sunday is May 20<sup>th</sup>. Will serve communion that Sunday.

Linda will text close to May 6<sup>th</sup> to see who can help serve communion.

Next time have pew communion: fill trays full and do not set bread out overnight.

No meeting in May.

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:

