

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

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. —Psalm 46:1-3

"I have said these things to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" —John 16:33

I am writing this after I have dropped off our Schnoodle Missy at the vet clinic for minor surgery (she is having 12 skin tags removed.) Missy is our "nervous girl"—and she has been that way since she was a puppy. As early as last night she knew something unknown and unpleasant was going to happen, and this morning she was shaking with fear when I carried her to the car for our ride to the vet. The shaking continued when we arrived, and even in spite of Lana's tender care Missy panted and shook nearly uncontrollably with fear. Seeing our nervous girl in such distress always brings distress to Vicki and me, and like good dog-parents we go to great lengths to keep her from stressful situations, which of course isn't always possible.

Naturally I wanted to console poor Missy, and so in the car I kept speaking these reassuring words to her: "it's going to be OK." I could say that to her because I knew that it WAS going to be OK—Webster City Veterinary Clinic has wonderful doctors and staff who give great care to our pets, and she would receive a whole lot of TLC at home when her ordeal was over. I knew these things, but Missy didn't—she could only see a great unknown looming in front of her...which was scaring her half to death.

When I think of Missy's fear, and my own sense of helplessness in trying to reassure her that all would be well, I have to wonder if even God experiences a certain sense of helplessness when God tries to reassure us that all will be well. After all, God KNOWS that all will be well, for God holds all eternity, all life, all healing, and all hope in God's metaphorical hands. And yet God has a devil of a time getting us to believe that--because, like Missy, our vision is limited, our fears are great, and our sense of hope greatly compromised by life "on the ground." If only we had a God's-eye view of Life; if only we could truly know what God knows about our tomorrows and our tomorrow's tomorrows...then we would not shake, or fear, or give into despair. But we don't, and so we fear our unknowns rather than move through them with the confidence and hope of children who trust their parent's voice when they tell us: "It's going to be OK."

This truth reminds me of a story I once heard on the radio of a man who couldn't understand the Christian faith. One night a snowstorm blew up, and outside his home was a flock of birds freezing to death in the blizzard's wake. Filled with compassion, he opened the garage door to let the birds enter for shelter, but they were too afraid to go in, and when he tried to shoo them in, they only scattered in fear. Seeing their fear, the man said to himself: *If only I could become a bird and tell them "go into the garage, and it will be OK"*...and in a sudden moment of realization, he knelt in the snow and began to pray.

In his compassion and his desire to share what he knew with a frightened flock of birds, the man realized God's great purpose in sending to us a divine Word of Hope draped in human flesh--a Man of God who could speak a Word of God in a human tongue to human beings. This Man of God's words of comfort, challenge, wisdom, and hope; his Spirit of Peace that he wishes to impart to a people who know too much fear to be at peace; these blessings are given to us so we can share in the divine reassurance that *all will be well*. This doesn't mean that there will be no troubles, no heartbreaks, no legitimate fears...no snowstorms, or skin tags to be removed. It does mean that the LORD of ALL is reaching toward us with a Word of reassurance and hope that we can receive and trust—a Word that can help us keep the faith that indeed, "it's going to be OK."

By the end of the day Missy will return to our home, and we will soothe her and reassure her that she is indeed OK after her ordeal at the vet clinic. At the end of our days, we will return to our heavenly home and look back on all of our earthly ordeals and wonder why we weren't more attentive to the Word of Hope spoken to us by the crucified Man of God who conquered the world. Until that day, may we, as we face all of our unknowns, hold tightly to the Word of Hope we have been blessed to receive, so that we may share in his promised peace—a peace that assures us in every situation: "it IS going to be OK."

—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 - Katie Short
- 1 - Chris Swanson
- 2 - Ava Stockdale
- 2 - Katie (Kesler) Anderson
- 2 - Barb Stearns
- 3 - Jeff Anderson
- 3 - Samuel Aubrey Thurman
- 4 - Allison Arkland
- 5 - Nicholas Brim
- 5 - Dale Olson
- 6 - Branden Bahrenfuss
- 6 - Jacob Dean Rohmiller
- 7 - Mary Gilbert
- 7 - Susie Brim
- 8 - Duane Vavroch
- 9 - Erica Oberender
- 9 - Jean Mowry
- 9 - Kellie Henning
- 10 - Aspen Pauline Lomicka
- 10 - Jasmine Remington
- 11 - Dylan McCoskey
- 11 - Sadie Anderson
- 11 - Melissa Hindt
- 12 - Caryl Hollingshead
- 13 - Leah Maass
- 13 - Kyzer Patrick Zinnel
- 16 - Verie Hollingshead
- 17 - Anne Prescott
- 18 - Cindy Henning
- 20 - Luke Rohmiller
- 21 - Candy Butz
- 23 - Mike McKee
- 23 - Nate Lahr
- 24 - Melissa Abbott
- 24 - Donald Royster
- 25 - Landen Ploeger
- 25 - Alex Swanson
- 26 - Marian Abbott
- 26 - Scott Jaycox
- 26 - Van Thompson
- 27 - Troy Stockdale
- 28 - Riley Nelson
- 28 - Nicholas Blake Paton
- 28 - Michele Rexroat
- 28 - Brenden Ploeger
- 28 - Presley Halliday
- 31 - Jayce Abens
- 31 - Breanna Lee Bahrenfuss



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

13 - Ben & Erin Pullen
 16 - Branden & Tracy Bahrenfuss
 19 - Al & Christy Fiala
 22 - Clark & Jean Mowry
 24 - Ron & Vicki Long
 26 - Todd & Katie Sonsalla
 29 - Colby & Candy Butz

Summer Giving

It has been brought to the attention of the Cabinet that summer giving is usually below what we need to run the church. This year we have a smaller reserve than we have had in the past. With this in mind we, the Cabinet, ask that even if you aren't able to attend church that, if possible, you try to keep your financial giving on par for the year. Thank you.

Confirmation

On Pentecost Sunday, June 4, Kaelyn Mae Butz and Jacob Thomas Lahr were confirmed in the Christian faith and became our newest church members. Congratulations, Jake and Kaelyn!



What Is That Wild and Crazy Mission Board Wanting Now?

Glad you asked! Our church family is wonderful about helping us with our schemes to help God's children and, as we all did last summer, this July's collection project involves filling the choir loft. Here's how: Trinity's food pantry could use paper products and St. Paul Lutheran's could use pancake mix and syrup, so we ask you to collect these during July. Our tentative title for the promo: Paper and

Pancakes. Please add these items to your shopping list and bring them to the sanctuary: paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, pancake mix, pancake syrup (any flavor). In early August, we'll tally things up. If we have more than enough for the church pantries, we'll take the rest to Upper Des Moines Opportunity. Thank you! ***The Mission Board***

A Reminder about Hospitalization

If you are hospitalized and want the pastor to know you are a patient, please be sure that you, or a relative or friend, contact either the church office or Pastor Craig. Do not rely on the hospital to contact the church or the pastor on your behalf, even if they ask if you wish for them to contact the church.

Receive Church Updates Through One Call Now:

Our church uses the automated phone messaging service OneCallNow, which sends short voice messages with timely reminders to all members. If you have not been receiving these calls and would like to begin receiving them, please call the church office so we can add your phone number to the OneCallNow database.

KLAB summer Lock-In June 2





Summer Lunch Program

On June 12th through June 16th, members of First Congregational volunteered at the Webster City summer lunch program. Thanks to everyone who offered their time and their helping hands to children in our community.

Third Saturday Worship service July 15th

Our next Saturday evening service is on July 15th, 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.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life was June 22 at Twin Parks. The quilt, which the Piecemakers provided, raised \$100, this along with Luminarias and the Pickle Jar brings our total donation to \$583.00.

Thanks

Dear Women's Fellowship,
We are very appreciative of your generous donation to our Webster City Head Start classroom. The \$200.00 will help us provide winter boots, constructive play things, books, and/or supplies.
You're welcome to come visit or volunteer when we are in session, Aug – May. Thank You for your gift to help our communities youth.
Thanks, Thanks, and Thanks, Juanita, Teacher Assoc.
Donna Ryherd, Teacher Assoc.
Janet Mitchell, Head Start, Teacher

Dear Congregational Women's Fellowship:
Thank you for your recent gift of \$300.00. Your support will make an immediate positive impact on the lives and futures of children, youth and families in our community. Should you ever have questions about YSS or how you can continue to be involved, feel free to contact me.
With Gratitude,
Jane Adams,
YSS of Hamilton County Director

1st Congregational Ladies,
On behalf of Crestview residents I want to thank you for hosting our May birthday party. Katie & Jenna presented some wonderful crowd-pleasing music--always a treat for our folks. The homemade cookies were delicious. Happy Spring to you!
Diane Stribe

Olde Fashioned Ice Cream Social

This year it was our church's turn to host the annual ice cream social that we sponsored jointly with Faith Methodist Church. It was June 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The cast from "Church Basement Ladies", presented by the community theater, provided entertainment. The free will offering raised \$706 (before expenses) and will be given to Ecumenical Human Needs and ACE this year. The Mission Board



Treasurer's Report

INCOME	MAY	YEAR TO DATE
Pledges and Offerings	\$10,061.00	\$75,148.59
Other Income	.00	1.06
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,061.00	\$75,149.65
EXPENSES		
Outreach and Mission	3,166.68	\$7,916.54
Pastoral Services	5,328.67	33,020.22
Maintenance and Repairs	1,662.66	12,802.09
Church Office	2,340.60	14,583.78
Music Ministry	740.75	3,794.50
Christian Education	68.14	192.13
Local Ministry	0.00	30.00
Misc. Expenses	23.88	719.39
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,331.38	\$73,058.65

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – June 13, 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-----	Lorraine McCoskey
Staff/Parish-----	Shirley Yungclas	Worship-----	Mary Vavroch
Christian Ed-----		Evangelism-----	Laurie Epps
Treasurer-----	Tracy Wehrhan	Clerk-----	Mary Van Diest

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Moderator, Al Yungclas. Pastor Craig gave a devotional from "The Book of Awakening" followed with a prayer. Tracy moved with a second by Dale to approve the May Cabinet Minutes as printed. Motion Carried. Tracy gave the Treasurer's report for the month of May. The offering in May was \$8,621.00 and expenses were \$11,826.06. Tracy moved with a second by Mary to put the report to audit. Motion carried.

Old Business: Four applicants have applied so far for the scholarships that the church offers.

New Business: Al asked if the church would be interested in preparing and serving lunch for ICTA Convention in March 2018. The matter will go to the Women's Fellowship for their decision.

Pastor's Report: On May 14, we honored our mothers, and presented certificates to our KLAB and Sunday School participants. We also recognized our teachers and assistants. The choir is now in recess for the summer. On June 4th, we confirmed Jake Lahr and Kaelyn Butz. The summer worship services start at 9:30 am with Saturday evening service beginning at 5:00 pm. He thanked Don Bruner and Kolleen Taylor for their leadership of the care center worship services on May 28th. On May 21st we held a worship service with no pastor or organist present. Prerecorded music and a recorded sermon were available on line. Twelve attendees participated at our lock-in which was held on June 3rd-4th. We are planning a swimming event at the Fort Dodge water park sometime in late June/early July. In August we will host another day camp for KLAB, details to be announced when plans are made. The Adult Education class concluded on May 14th. He is open for ideas to study next fall when we resume. From WCMA he noted that the Summer Lunch program began on Monday, June 12th with First Congregational taking the first week. Most of the proceeds of the Salvation Army Christmas Bell ringing campaign (\$2000) went to the Ecumenical Human Needs Fund, which now has about \$14,000.00. Joleen Hibbing is now working with Rhonda Masser interviewing applicants. Rev. Flagg of Asbury UMC has

been visiting with the staff of VDMC regarding spiritual care of patients, and grief counseling. Pastor Craig continues to cover for Rev. Kroona of Trinity when he is away, and he has reciprocated for Pastor Craig when he is away. Four Stephen Ministers are currently matched with care receivers. The Stephen Ministers continue to meet monthly for peer supervision and continuing ed. The CoM will conduct a Periodic Support Consultation at First Congregational UCC of Algona sometime in July. Southfield Bible study will resume on the 3rd Thursday of the month, beginning at 3:00 pm. Plans are to offer a once monthly Bible study to the residents of Crestview, possibly preceding the Southfield study. Pastor Craig is working with Kathy Getting and others in investigating Mentoring Programs matching young people with responsible adults. On May 31st this group went to Fort Dodge High School to speak with Corey Moody, who oversees the BRIDGES mentoring program at the FD School System. They currently match 111 students (mostly elementary age) with screened adults, and those mentorships often last until the mentees graduate from High School. The Fort Dodge school system wisely see the value in these mentorships, and allocates \$ and personnel to continue the program. Kathy's goal is to evaluate potential mentoring programs for Webster City and begin implementing a mentoring program.

Worship Board: Mary Vavroch reported that the board did not meet this month, but conducted business through email. Todd Edeker will be filling in on October 8th for Pastor Craig. Stephanie Hill and Karin Yungclas are in charge of special music for the summer. They will inform Pastor Craig of who is presenting each Sunday. The board continues to work on organist/piano players to fill in when necessary. Substitute pay for organ/piano with choir is \$75, for piano only it is \$70. Summer worship hours begin on June 11th with church at 9:30 am. Saturday evening services will also start in June and will be the 3rd Saturday of the month with the first one on June 17th. The service will begin at 5:00 pm. Confirmants will be serving communion on Sunday, June 4th. The July meeting will be held via email.

Christian Ed: The board met on May 10th with Pastor Craig, Leah Maass, Jane Klaver, Vicki Blaufuss and Mary Van Diest attending. On May 14th certificates will be passed out to all youth that have participated in Sunday School/KLAB. Brandon Lahr, Becca Kenville, Hailey Brim, Isabelle McNeil and Janey Putney will receive adult Bibles. The teachers and helpers will also be acknowledged with a token of appreciation. Jake Lahr has taught Orff all year in KLAB and will be presented a monetary gift. The KLAB lock-in will be June 2nd at the church. Confirmation Sunday will be June 4th. The families of the confirmants will provide coffee after worship Christian Ed board will provide the cake and corsages for the 2 youth. Summer activities will be in late June/early July a swim party. Pastor Craig will check further for an activity for August. The next meeting will be August 9th at 7:00 to plan for Rally Day.

Mission Board: Lorraine McCoskey reported that the circles will be furnishing salads for Relay for Life. She also reported that the Summer Lunch Program has begun and the Ice Cream Social will be next week. The next meeting of the board will be July 18th. The board met on May 9th with Pastor Craig, Audrey Burtnett, Marjorie Groves, Alyssa Kenville, Lorraine McCoskey, Gayle Olson and Karin Yungclas present. Relay for Life-\$413 was collected at the Relay for Life coffee fellowship time on May 7th, hosted by the Mission Board. Another \$100 has been collected for luminaria. The Piecemakers quilting group plans to have something in early June to raffle for a fund-raiser. Backpack Program-Fifteen on the church team completed packing in 35-40 minutes on April 25, thanks to Gayle Olson and Deb Peterson's organizational skills. Spring Clean-up-On April 11th the group picked up trash along the Boone River walking train. Audrey was the point person, sending volunteers out with garbage bags as they arrived. Other workers were Pastor Craig, Jose Burgos, Jill Coons (with Madison and Brayden), Cindy Henning, Marjorie Groves, Chris McNiel (with Izzy) Dale Olson, Donna Ryherd, and Karin Yungclas. They might plan a late summer trail clean-up, when more youth can be involved. Summer Lunch Program-A sign-up sheet for greeters, counters, garbage helpers, cleaners and floaters will be in fellowship hall. If books are donated, the school lunch organizers ask that they be the ones the donors would give their own children or grandchildren, not dirty or torn ones. Our church is responsible for the volunteer team the first week, June 12-16. Ice Cream Social-Will be June 21st, from 6-9 pm at our church. Our co-host, Faith United Methodist, will distribute posters. The Webster City Community Theater presents selections from their summer musical, "Church Basement Ladies," at 7 pm. The two churches encourage their youth to assist people requiring help carrying their ice cream and bars and to help with clean-up. The Mission Board cut bars at 5 pm. Co-chairs Karin and Audrey put out sign-up sheets for homemade ice cream, bars, toppings and workers. June

6th meeting-The Strengthen the Church special UCC collection was taken on June 4, totaling \$694.00. On May 30 members served a meal to 32 men at the Beacon of Hope. The confirmands, Kaelyn Butz and Jake Lahr assisted Pastor Craig, Andrea and Ed Mosback and Marjorie serving the meal. Karin Yungclas, Shirley Yungclas, Ginnie Veach and Andrea Mosback prepared the meal. Our church next serves the men on July 18th Annette Howard, Beacon of Hope staff, told Pastor Craig that the shelter's food storage area's metal shelves are collapsing. She needs help with planning and designing replacement wood shelving, along with providing building supplies. Al Yungclas is willing to be captain and Dale Olson can assist in taking measurements. Shelves could be built here and taken to Fort Dodge. Mission Board will check back with the Beacon to make sure another church hasn't already taken on the project. Pastor Craig's sign-up sheet for Summer Lunch Program volunteers is nearly full. A "boat load" of books has been donated. Our church is responsible for the volunteer team the first week, June 12-16. The Piecemakers Circle has a quilt in Fellowship Hall, along with a Relay for Life silent-auction bid sheet. \$413 was collected in the Relay for Life coffee fellowship pickle jar on May 7th. Another \$100 was collected for luminaria. The Ice Cream Social chairs-Karin and Audrey-reported they need helpers to bus tables plus servers for the social. The proceeds from the social will be divided between All Cultures Equal and Ecumenical Human Needs. Trinity's food pantry could use paper products and St. Paul Lutheran's could use pancake mix and syrup, so these will be collected in the July collection campaign. Like last summer, we'll fill the choir loft. In August the Mission Board will see how much is gathered and whether UDMO will be included along with the church pantries in our distribution.

Evangelism: No report.

Finance Board: Tracy Wehrhan reported that they will meet in July to go over the applicants for the scholarships.

Staff Parish: Shirley Yungclas had no report.

Trustees: Joyce Gelhaus reported that they did not meet in May. The vacuum has been repaired and now has a new circuit board.

Women's Fellowship: Karin Yungclas reported that they are working on the year books.

Dale Olson moved and Lorraine McCoskey seconded to not meet in July. Motion carried.

Next meeting: August 8th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 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:

