

**June 2016 Newsletter**  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595**  
**515-832-2232**  
**<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>**

*"I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God!" --Psalm 40:1-3*

It's nearly summer—and we all know what that means! It's time to get out the maps, get the bags packed, make the reservations, arrange for the pet sitter and the plant waterer...it's time to get out of town for a while to see and experience something new. Isn't that the purpose of a vacation? To VACATE—to leave behind the daily grind, the house, the chores, the schedule, and the familiar sights and faces in order to experience something different...something fresh...something to get us out of our routines so we may reenergize our spirits. A vacation seems to be something our souls need so we don't become stale, bored, weary, or anxious. No wonder we look forward to them!

When I think about vacations, I realize that time spent with God is very much like a vacation. Now that's an interesting idea to consider, isn't it--the thought that connecting with God in prayer or meditation can be a playful, joyous, reenergizing experience? So often when we are trying to connect with God it's out of fear, or need, or even out of a sense of obligation...but isn't it a blessing that we can connect with God simply out of thankfulness, and a desire to share love and time with our Creator—with no other agenda? To connect with God in that way is to be transported out of our routines in order to experience a Presence who is elevating, enlivening, transforming...an encounter that leaves us better rested, more alive, and better prepared to continue on with our lives' journeys. Isn't that the purpose of a vacation? And a vacation with God won't give us the aggravation of lost luggage, Montezuma's revenge, or a pile of bills to pay when we return!

Friends, are you vacationing regularly with God? Don't you need a vacation with God? The cost is only some of your time, some of your effort—what some mystics call the “effortless effort”—and a desire to connect with your eternal Creator in order to receive a renewed spirit. If you are ready for that, then so is God!

—Pastor Craig

### **A Challenge for the Congregation**

Mission Board asks: “What is the most important meal of the day?”

Your answer: “Breakfast. Everyone know that!

Why do you ask?”

Our answer: As you know, our congregation brings food items and paper goods for the UDMO food pantry all year long but we are assigned two months during the year to do a special emphasis. One of our months is July and our special emphasis will be breakfast items such as boxed cereals, toaster pastries, oatmeal, raisins, pancake mix, syrup, cocoa mix etc. Beginning Sunday, July 6 we are asking our church family to bring 1 breakfast item each week and place it in the choir loft. Let's see if we can fill that space during the month of July. We will “kick-off” this giving plan by inviting our church family to a simple breakfast on Sunday, June 26 at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## 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 1 75 May 8 78  
May 15 93 May 22 72

### 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. 838-2989  
Church's e-mail: [fcuccwc@wmtel.net](mailto:fcuccwc@wmtel.net)  
**Sharon Perry**: Stephen Ministry Ldr 835-7902  
**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  
**Luverne Bierle**: Financial Secretary 832-4752



### PARISH NURSE NEWS

#### Tasty Snack-Dip Ideas

- Dip baby carrots and cherry tomatoes in low-fat ranch dressing.
- Dip strawberries or apple slices in low-fat yogurt.
- Dip pretzels in mustard.
- Dip pita chips in hummus.
- Dip graham crackers in applesauce.
- Dip baked tortilla chips in bean dip.
- Dip animal crackers in low-fat pudding.
- Dip bread sticks in salsa.
- Dip a granola bar in low-fat yogurt.
- Dip mini toaster waffles in cinnamon applesauce.



JUNE  
BIRTHDAYS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

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

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

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

**New email address for church**

We have a new email address:

[fcuccwc@gmail.com](mailto:fcuccwc@gmail.com).

We will still check the old address to make sure we do not miss anything.

**New Members**

Reception of Our New Members June 26  
On Sunday, June 26, we will welcome six individuals into our community of faith as members! Chris McNiel, Jose Burgos, Dilcia Franco, Sunshine Yoders, Jennifer Brim, and Amani McMurray have asked to join First Congregational UCC. Please join me in welcoming them to our church and our common life and mission! Following our worship service on the 26<sup>th</sup> we will hold a reception in their honor in Fellowship Hall.

**Christian Ed**

Our next meeting is June 8 at 7:00 pm.

**Pecans**

Pecans are still available from Haystack Circle. Contact Dalene 835-0636 or Pat Kesler 712-540-0750.

**Thanks**

Thank you all for the prayers, cards and flowers I received when I was at the hospital, they were greatly appreciated. Vicki

**Ice Cream Social**

**June 15, 6-8 pm**

The Mission Board is again preparing for the annual Olde Fashioned Ice Cream Social! This year the location is Faith Methodist Church on Superior Street. The committees are asking for donations of homemade ice cream, bars, and toppings. (See the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall.) We'll also need workers! Entertainment will be provided by WCCT with excerpts from "Fiddler on the Roof". The proceeds of the free-will offering will be given to UDMO and Ecumenical Human Needs emergency fund. See you there!

**Summer Lunch Program**

The Webster City Middle School will again host the free summer lunch program, beginning Monday, June 13th at the WC Middle School from 11:30 a.m.--12:30 p.m. First Congregational will be leading off the program as the volunteer staff for the week—and we need your help! We need at least 8-12 volunteers each day to help make the lunch program flow smoothly, interact with the kids, and help with enrichment and recreational activities. Volunteers need not work all week long—smaller commitments of time are welcome. This year the Volunteer Coordinator from our church is Lorraine McCoskey. If you would like to volunteer there will be sign-up sheets in Fellowship hall. Please plan to arrive to the Middle School by 11:15 am, and plan to stay until 12:45 pm.

**Third Saturday Worship services begin June 20<sup>th</sup>**

We will resume our Saturday evening services on the third Saturday of the month, beginning at 5 p.m. Like last year's Saturday services they will continue to be more informal, and they will incorporate more contemporary music. Also like last years' Saturday services, there will be no refreshments after the service. Our first Third Saturday service begins June 18th. Join us!

**Pickle Jar**

The UCC infamous pickle jar will be making a return appearance on June 5! This time around is for raising some money for Relay for Life.

## Remember Beacon of Hope When You Shop

We at 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational United Church of Christ serve a meal at the Beacon of Hope homeless shelter in Fort Dodge every other month – but we'd like to do more! The shelter staff has a shopping list of needs, and the Mission Board will set up a container to collect items you donate. Every time a team from our church goes to the shelter to serve a meal, we'll take the items along to give them. If we fill the container before it's time to go, Alyssa Kenville will drop off the items on her way to work in Fort Dodge. Thanks! – *The Mission Board*



Here's what the Beacon of Hope needs:  
Deodorant and disposable razors  
Laundry detergent  
Pain relievers, such as Tylenol or ibuprofen  
Cough drops and antacids  
Garbage bags (30- and 55-gallon sizes)  
Toilet bowl cleaner, Windex, Pine-Sol  
Paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex  
Copy paper  
AA and AAA batteries



## Scholarships

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

## Summer Worship Services begin June 5

Our summer worship services will begin Sunday, June 5. The time of the summer services will be 9:30 a.m., and the choir will be in recess for the duration of the summer. Summer music is needed! If you, or someone you know, is willing to offer music for our summer services, please let Dalene Schlitter, of the Music committee, know.



## Graduation & Promotion Sunday May 15








Have you seen our new sign? Kinnitz Signs installed it near the West entrance on May 26.



There was a lot of slicing and dicing in the church kitchen on May 25th! Three men joined Pastor Craig and prepared and served the meal for the Women's Fellowship May Dinner. It was a gesture of appreciation for all that the women do for the church.

# *In my* FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS



Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

**What you need:**

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint

**What you do:**

1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same one) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.

### Treasurer's Report

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>APRIL</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
Pledges and Offerings	\$7,698.01	\$60,091.24
Other Income	.20	.78
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$7,698.21</b>	<b>\$60,092.02</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Outreach and Mission	\$1,583.34	\$6,333.28
Pastoral Services	5,396.34	26,780.78
Maintenance and Repairs	3,981.32	65,996.71*
Church Office	2,233.77	11,014.56
Music Ministry	900.00	3,800.00
Christian Education	99.25	124.25
Local Ministry	0.00	0.00
Misc. Expenses	216.83	1,249.82
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$14,410.85</b>	<b>\$115,299.40</b>

\*Majority of Maintenance and Repairs expenses are due to the renovation.

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – May 9, 2016

#### Members Present:

Moderator-----Sherry Leksell	Pastor-----Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Vice-Moderator---- Al Yungclas	Trustees-----Tom Riemenschneider
Finance Sec.-----Luverne Bierle	Women's Fellowship-Joyce Gelhaus
Finance-----Dale Olson	Mission-----Gayle Olson
Staff/Parish-----Dalene Schlitter	Worship-----Holly Riemenschneider
Christian Ed-----Vicki Blaufuss	Evangelism-----Sharon Perry
Treasurer-----Tracy Wehrhan	Clerk-----Mary Van Diest

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by moderator, Sherry Leksell. Pastor Craig opened with a devotion entitled "He Won't Be With Us Long". Highlights from the boards were given by their representative: Worship-will be meeting the following Thursday and tulips were given to moms on Mother's Day; Finance-the applications for scholarships are now available for those interested; Mission-reported that the Pickle Jar donations were dispersed with \$150 to middle school for the Special Olympics and \$250 to Ecuador for relief from the earth quake; Evangelism-a box has been set out for prayer requests, are in charge of Meals 'n' More in May with Mabel Prescott giving instructions on the use of the defibrillator, and the downstairs nursery is open and being used; Women's Fellowship-will be doing birthday parties on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Crestview and Southfield, the May dinner will be May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and the Thrift Sale brought in \$1,800.00. Treasurer's Report-April offering was \$7,698.01 and expenses were \$14,445.48. The total offering to date is \$60,091.25 and expenses of \$60,254.55. Tracy made a motion to put the report to audit with Dalene and Dale seconding. Tracy

reported as the income was down for the month, \$10,000 was taken from bond money to cover the month's expenses. Dalene reported that she and Barbara Wollan have conducted an audit and will be giving some recommendations on simplifying the balance sheet, etc. Al moved and Sharon seconded to accept all board reports.

**Old Business: Constitution Committee** –have met twice and are continuing to meet; **Church Directory**-pictures for a new church directory will be taken on Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-9:00 pm and on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-9:00 pm. Please sign up for a time that is convenient for you; **NW Association** annual meeting-Dalene moved and Gayle seconded to host this on a Saturday sometime in the spring of 2017. Tom reported that Kinnitz put back up the new directory sign that fell down. A private party has donated outside signage.

**New Business:** Dale moved to approve and Tracy seconded to accept the new membership class. Motion carried.

### **Reports of Boards and Committees:**

**Pastor's Report:** Expressed his thanks for the outpouring of support and prayers during Vicki's recent hospitalization. **Adult Education**-continues studying "Eco-Theology" and will continue to meet until summer worship begins on June 5<sup>th</sup>. **CoM**-participated in a Periodic Support Consultation with the UCC church in Sibley, IA which is facing many of the same challenges as other churches-struggling with declining membership, fewer young members and no children, financially stable at the current time but concerned about the future; will be in Urbandale on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for a day of training for the Committee on Ministry. **Constitution committee**-have met and is discussing reducing the number of standing committees. **KLAB**-rented the gym at the Bridge on April 20<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed an active day and on April 28<sup>th</sup> Anne Sherve-Ose led the kids in a final music component. The last day of KLAB was May 4<sup>th</sup> with the annual trip to the Dairy Queen. Unfortunately the pastor could not attend due to his wife's illness but Arden Schlitter and Luverne Bierle worked on short notice to shepherd the kids to the DQ and finished with a day at the park. **Safe Church Policy Committee**-have met to review the policy in order to begin implementing it. Will need to identify volunteers who will be working with youth this summer and get the appropriate paperwork to them to fill out. Will also need to have signed releases from all minor children before their pictures can be used in any electronic media of First Congregational. **Stephen Ministry:** two of our Stephen Ministers have been matched with Care Receiver in the last two weeks, bringing the total of matches to five. Haven't received any referrals from Quakerdale's Hope for Healing. Will continue with the curriculum exploring our spiritual gifts. **WCMA**-the summer lunch program will be offered another year in the same basic format. First Congo volunteers will assist with the lunches the week of June 13. Mike Kroona did mention that they were looking into securing a couple of summer resource students who would lead the games and enrichment activities, but nothing is definite yet. After last year's poorly attended Community Thanksgiving service we are making plans to offer a service project as its replacement-packing meals for Kids Against Hunger. Fuller Hall has already waived its fees for our use of the building, and we hope that the offer of helping to feed hungry people at Thanksgiving will bring in more attendees than the Thanksgiving services. The packing would be held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. **Worship**-on May 15<sup>th</sup> will honor our graduating seniors, present certificates to our KLAB and Sunday School participants, and recognize our teachers and assistants. This will be the last day for Children's Sunday school until it resumes in the fall. **Funeral Policy Committee**-have

met and are in the process of writing a small policy brochure. Trustees have revised the fee schedule for services provided in the course of a funeral, and the Women's Fellowship has revised their guidelines for serving bereavement meals and refreshments.

**Staff Parish:** Met on April 19<sup>th</sup> with Verna Bierle, Stephanie Hill, Greta Oberender, Sharon Perry, Dalene Schlitter and Shirley Yungclas present. After visiting with custodian Curt McCoskey, the Trustees and Curt reviewed his updated job description and it was accepted as presented. The Funeral Policy Committee consisting of Joyce Gelhaus, Greta Oberender, Holly Riemenschneider and Pastor Craig will be meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> to work on this policy. The Safe Church Policy team, of Stephanie Hill, Lorraine McCoskey and Leah Maass will be meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to establish the church policy rules with plans to implement by fall. The staff assignment of custodian Curt will be Verna Bierle and Dalene Schlitter. Under new business the staff parish budget for 2017 needs to include Ann Sherve-Ose, who directs the ORFF instruments for the KLAB kids. This year she is being paid through the organist fund. Staff parish will serve the after church coffee on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Next meeting is June 21, 2016 at 6:15 pm.

**Christian Ed Board:** Met on April 13<sup>th</sup> with Jane Klaver, Vicki Blaufuss, Mary Van Diest, Curt McCoskey and Pastor Craig present. The group discussed the Easter breakfast and the Easter morning children's activity, noting that only 40 people were served breakfast. There was a discussion of just hosting an Easter coffee next year, possibly beginning at 9:45 am. Pastor Craig is going to ask the Worship Board to review the "Son-Rise" Easter morning service (attendance was less than 20) and determine whether it is to continue. Their decision will have a bearing on what the Christian Ed Board plans for next year. Wil continues to schedule acolytes. Vicki will give Leah Maass a revised list with all the youth in Sunday school and KLAB. The last day of KLAB is May 4<sup>th</sup>. No date has been set for the lock-in. On May 15<sup>th</sup> will honor our 5 graduates-Chase Berhow, Lauren Leman, Chelsey Wagoner, Zach and David McMurray. Vicki will order pen and pencil sets with scripture on them to be given to the graduates who will usher and light candles that Sunday. Also on this Sunday, all Sunday school and KLAB participants will receive certificates, and youth who have not received Bibles will receive them. Shelby Brim, Madison Babington, and Savannah Remington will receive adult bibles; Brayden Babington, Cooper Askelson, Haley Brim, Tucker Askelson, Veda Williams, Alex Tudor, and Ava Stockdale will receive children's bibles. Pastor Craig will order the bibles. On this day the teachers and KLAB helpers will be recognized. We need to brainstorm ideas for summer programs for at least one day for the months of June and August. Wil also need volunteers to assist who are willing to give up two days this summer to help with this. Vicki announced that as of June 1<sup>st</sup> she will be retiring from Christian Ed Board (addendum; after further consideration Vicki has decided to continue on the board for the remainder of the term, but will not serve another term). The next meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm to plan summer activities and Rally Day.

**Board of Trustees:** Met on April 28<sup>th</sup> with Tom Riemenschneider, Tracy Wehrhan, Holly Riemenschneider, Bruce Perry and Pastor Craig present. **Old Business:** **renovation**-women's restroom door has been exchanged. Tracy will pay Jensen Builders the \$1,000 that was held back, minus the new mat. This will be the last Jensen bill to be paid. Jaycox has finished all his projects (have not received his bill). Signage for the inside is up and the bill to Kinnetz has been paid. Randy Tempel has finished painting the restrooms and basement hallway and has been paid. The new table has arrived for fellowship hall and the old octagon table was sold for \$25. The final bill from



Wayne Schlofedt has not been received. The two new bulletin boards have arrived and will have Vic Jelinck frame and hang them for \$100 a board. **New Business:** Have changed their meeting time to the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The creeping charlie has been sprayed by Stoney Creek. Tony Jones cleaned up the leaves in the bushes when he mowed the lawn. He will also trim the tree at the SW corner of the church where it is hitting the church. The burning bush under the north window of the pastor's study has died. Bruce moved to replace it with two new short bushes, which are \$45 plus the labor to plant. Seconded by Holly and approved. Tom will fix the loose gutter on the south side of the church. The paint and other supplies (by the basement elevator) from the renovation were put into storage after the trustees meeting was adjourned. Tom and Holly will order on line a sump pump water alarm from Menards costing around \$300. Tracy is getting a man lift to check the ceiling fan in the sanctuary. He will also fix the ceiling in the meeting room kitchen when he has a free weekend. Remodeling of the meeting room will be in the future. The elevator inspection resulted in need for dry wall due to elevator control room flood last year.

**Women's Fellowship:** The nursing home birthday parties will be May 5<sup>th</sup> with Crestview at 2:00 pm and 2:45 at Southfield. Don Bruner will do the program. The May Dinner will be May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm with Pastor Craig and men from the congregation making the entrée. Morning Star will be the hostess and provide dessert. Mayflower will meet at 1:30 pm on May 24<sup>th</sup> to decorate. Circle reports are to be turned in to Cindy and Joyce by the 25<sup>th</sup>. Reporting on the Thrift Sale it was a success with the most ever sold -\$1,800- and some still on ebay. The dates for the Fall Thrift Sale are Sept 30<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. The program worksheet and Women's Fellowship survey for updating are to be turned in by May 27<sup>th</sup> for the book committee. Joyce will update the Funeral Policy. The co-chairs for the next two years are Kay Harfst and Karin Yungclas. They will meet with new chairs/exec board on Wed., June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00 pm to review their proposed duties as co-chairs.

**Next meeting:** June 14, 2016 at 7:00 pm.  
No meeting in July.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 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:

