

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

*When you were buried with Christ in your baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth; for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Col. 2:12; 3:1-3*

What do you make of Ash Wednesday?

I once read an article that spoke of Ash Wednesday being a “holy-day” but not a “holiday”, and I had to agree: we don’t celebrate Ash Wednesday as a holiday the way we celebrate other Christian holidays like Christmas or Easter. No one gets time off work for Ash Wednesday; we don’t give or receive Ash Wednesday presents (unless you count a daub of ashes on your forehead as a “present”); there’s no merry making or partying on Ash Wednesday; there’s no Ash Wednesday greeting cards, or Ash Wednesday carols to sing.

No, Ash Wednesday is definitely not a holiday. It’s an anachronism in some ways, a throwback to earlier times when the faithful would mark themselves with ashes, become somber and penitent, confess their sins and unworthiness, and ask for mercy from a just, fearful, and often angry God. No wonder no one thought to commercialize it and make the day into a holiday! No wonder so many Christians have forgotten it, ignore it, or just don’t take it very seriously.

But I wonder if we lose an important opportunity when we forget it, or dismiss it in an age in which confessions are now fodder for the tabloids rather than food for the soul, and repentance is usually the consequence of getting caught rather than a sincere desire to turn our lives around. I wonder if by being reluctant to take an accounting of our lives and ask ourselves how we are doing—not in terms of dollars, or awards, or votes, or comfort, but how we are doing in terms of growth, faithfulness, integrity, compassion, and service to others --we have somehow lost sight of the purpose of human life when it is lived in a loving relationship with God.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, speaks to my mind of what Ash Wednesday is all about: setting our minds on the “things that are above.” Now perhaps that seems impractical or unimportant when staying on top of things—or even just staying afloat—seems like a full-time job down here on planet earth. But it is the “things that are above” that ultimately hold our destiny as spiritual beings, and on Ash Wednesday we are reminded by a smudge of ashes on our foreheads that *everything we hold dear on this earth will eventually perish*. Every treasure we accumulate will one day be lost; every relationship we hold dear will inevitably change; our own bodies will eventually return to the dust from which they came. Even the stars in the heavens will one day stop twinkling, *leaving us in the end wondering why we were so infatuated with the things that will pass, the things of this earth, and so uninterested in the things that are above, the things that are eternal...*

Things like the love that lives inside each of us that we bury underneath a mountain of needless fears, selfish ambitions, and negative feelings...

Things like the peace that passes all human understanding that we so easily trade for the favor and good opinions of others...

Things like the joy of communion with our Creator that we forsake for the idols and the half-gods that fill our lives.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that the things that are above—love, peace, the empowering presence of God in our lives--are what ultimately matter in human life, and Ash Wednesday reminds us that if we have forgotten the importance of these things because we are so fixated on the things of this world, then we have the opportunity to change; to repent; to choose another Way by setting our minds on the things that are above.

So perhaps we should make Ash Wednesday a holiday after all! We could make Ash Wednesday greeting cards to mail out to our friends that say: *“Hey—are you setting your mind on the things that are above?”* Then we could mail one to ourselves from time to time to remind us, as Paul suggests, that our lives are hidden with Christ in God--not in the things of this world. That way we could keep Ash Wednesday alive in our churches *by keeping the meaning of Ash Wednesday alive... in us.*

March 1st marks the beginning of our observance of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m. in the East Chapel. I pray that each of you choose to use this holy day to help make Lent *your* holy time: a holy time for your growth and renewal; a holy time when you set your eyes, your minds, your hearts—your very lives—on the things that are above.

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

|             |    |             |    |
|-------------|----|-------------|----|
| February 5  | 71 | February 12 | 58 |
| February 19 | 69 | February 26 |    |

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



### PARISH NURSE NEWS

#### PARISH NURSE NEWS

Cut down on your trash:

- Make recycling convenient.
- Take your own cloth or plastic bags shopping.
- Carry a reusable water bottle.
- Find a location where you can recycle electronics.
- Make double-sided copies when you print from your computer.
- Reuse foam packaging or take to a shipping center.
- Instead of discarding gently used items. give them to a charity or a thrift sale.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

1 - Jan Ryherd  
 1 - Lara Yungclas  
 1 - Maxwell Harfst  
 4 - Jordin Smith  
 4 - Vicki Blaufuss  
 5 - John Van Diest  
 6 - Jennie Williams  
 13 - Shirley Yungclas  
 13 - Shirley Hillyer  
 14 - Talon Stockdale  
 16 - Craig Blaufuss  
 18 - Mark Hollingshead  
 19 - Maribeth Martin  
 20 - Verna Bierle  
 20 - Jacob Meinders  
 21 - Colleen Fogle  
 21 - Connie McFadden  
 23 - Todd Sonsalla  
 24 - Garrett Shelton  
 26 - Melody Burtnett  
 28 - Shelly Sjoberg  
 28 - Nicolas Groves  
 28 - Jackson Leman  
 31 - Marcy Nelson  
 31 - Ted Yungclas



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

7 - Robert & Mary Van Diest  
 15 - Curt & Lorraine McCoskey

### Lent Begins--Ash Wednesday March 1

The season of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service, held this year on Wednesday, March 1, beginning at 7 p.m. in the East Chapel. The service will focus on our need for spiritual renewal as we begin our observance of Lent, and it will include the Imposition of Ashes and the sacrament of Holy Communion.

### **NIN Grant Awarded to First Congregational**

On January 31 our Mission Board presented a \$2000 check to Deb Peterson that will benefit the Webster City Schools Backpacks Against Hunger Program. The donation was the result of a grant written to Neighbors In Need by board member Alyssa Kenville. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission program of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. UCC churches take up a yearly offering to support the Neighbors In Need program, and each year grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. Well done, Mission Board! This is the second grant we have received from this special offering in the last 4 years. Thank you for your ongoing support of these special offerings.



## **THRIFT SALE**

**April 21 & 22**

### **Spring Cleaning and Sorting**

#### **Friday & Saturday, April 21 & 22 -**

Women's Fellowship will be conducting their semi-annual Thrift Sale.

**Wed. April 19** - We will be accepting those items cluttering up your lives.

If you need assistance transporting your items, call Cindy Henning – 297-0422 or email [jbhfam@mchsi.com](mailto:jbhfam@mchsi.com).

**Please note** - Bring items that **are clean, complete, and in good repair**. We will **no longer accept older TVs** because there isn't anywhere to take them after the sale.

Thank you for your donations and your help making this fundraiser a success.

### **KLAB POOL PARTY—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18!**



11 KLAB kids met at the Americinn pool on Saturday, Feb 18 for snacks and a swim party.

#### **Labels**

You may not find Labels for Education points on all Campbell soups. They are in the process of removing the logo and expect there will be a limited number of products that contain these labels in stores through August 1, 2017. Once all logos have been removed from the products, UPCs will no longer be accepted. Only UPCs with the *Labels For Education* logo will be accepted and redeemed for points into registered schools' bank accounts. Our church will continue to collect through 2017. Here are some of the products to check for the labels. Campbell's, Pepperidge Farms, Pace, V8, Spaghettio's, Swanson

#### **Amazon Smile**

We are registered with Amazon Smile and it works with Amazon Prime. You simply start shopping through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select First Congregational United Church of Christ, Webster City as your charity of choice. A portion of your purchase will be returned to First Congregational to be used towards the Clifford Doty memorial fund.

#### **Pecans**

Pecans are still for sale. Haystack Circle is offering 16 ounce bags of either halves or pieces for \$10.

### First Congo's Kids to Sing in Church

Join our children in worship on Sunday, March 5 as they sing and "Make a Joyful Noise" under the leadership of Katie Sonsalla. You won't want to miss it!

### Easter Breakfast and Youth Activity

The Christian Education Board invites you to an Easter Breakfast, which will be held on Easter Sunday, April 16, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The menu will be muffins, fruit, and drinks—all provided by the Christian Ed Board. There will also be a planned activity for the youth in the lower level of the church preceding worship. Please join us for Easter breakfast as we celebrate the Good News of the resurrection.

### Lenten Lunches

The first Lenten Lunch is Tuesday, March 7 at Trinity Lutheran. Cost is \$6. There is a sign-up sheet outside the office. Reservations need to be made before noon the Monday before.

### Projection training opportunity

We are blessed to have several capable projection technicians keeping our Powerpoints running smoothly during our Sunday worship services, but we would welcome more volunteers to help with this task. If you would like to learn how to operate our projection equipment, please speak with Cindy Henning our Worship Board chairwoman, or with Pastor Craig, so training can be arranged.

### Spiritual Practice for Lent

Are you interested in cultivating a spiritual practice for Lent? Pastor Craig has led a meditation/prayer group in the past, and is considering offering it again on a weekly basis during Lent. If you are interested, please speak with him.

### Meals on Wheels

Drivers are needed. Will you consider delivering meals for one hour, one day a week? To volunteer, or for more information, contact RSVP at 832-2525.

### Endowment Committee gives \$1500 to Pastor's Discretionary Fund

I want to thank the Endowment Committee for giving \$1500 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in 2017! I received a similar gift last year, and that gift allowed me to give rent assistance,

utility bill assistance, assistance to homeless transients, and assistance with basic prenatal care. In addition, the funds helped offset a portion of the cost of our new picture directory, and have helped subsidize the budget for KLAB. The Endowment Committee can offer this gift again this year because of your generous donations to the Endowment Fund. This is a good time to celebrate the Good News that we have an Endowment Fund—and a good time to remember that the Endowment Fund continues to seek donations to further its missional and benevolent work. —Pastor Craig

### KLAB Fundraiser for Almost Home



Our KLAB kids worked hard making doggy jars filled with homemade dog treats, and their hard work paid off! Thanks to your generous support we were able to sell 14 dog treat jars **in one day** and raise \$120 for Almost Home animal shelter in Fort Dodge. KLAB will visit Almost Home this month to give them a check, and tour the facility.

### Thanks

♦Upper Des Moines would like to thank the Endowment Fund for their generous donation of \$500. Your support in the community is greatly appreciated. We are making a difference with your help.  
UDMO staff

♦Dear Pastor Craig and Everyone at 1<sup>st</sup> Congo Partners are what makes wider church unity possible – and you are partners with my staff and me as we seek to empower UCC congregations to be bold in following Jesus. Your generosity is exemplary and is a wonderful source of encouragement. Thank you and God bless you!  
Rich Pleva – Conference Minister UCC Iowa



## New Furniture



The new couch and loveseat for the pastor's office has arrived! Stop by and try it out. The new furniture was selected by the Trustees and paid for with Memorial funds.

## Treasurer's Report

| <b><u>INCOME</u></b>    | <b><u>JANUARY</u></b> | <b><u>YEAR TO DATE</u></b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Pledges and Offerings   | \$23,964.12           | \$23,964.12                |
| Other Income            | .10                   | 0.10                       |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>     | <b>\$23,964.22</b>    | <b>\$23,964.22</b>         |
| <b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>  |                       |                            |
| Outreach and Mission    | 1,583.26              | \$1,583.26                 |
| Pastoral Services       | 5,328.67              | 5,328.67                   |
| Maintenance and Repairs | 2,260.70              | 2,260.70                   |
| Church Office           | 5,109.62              | 5,109.62                   |
| Music Ministry          | 844.50                | 844.50                     |
| Christian Education     | 84.93                 | 84.93                      |
| Local Ministry          | 0.00                  | 0.00                       |
| Misc. Expenses          | 232.95                | 232.95                     |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>   | <b>\$15,444.63</b>    | <b>\$15,444.63</b>         |

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting – February 14, 2017

### Members Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by the Vice-Moderator, Donna Ryherd. Pastor Craig offered a short devotion and prayer. Vicki moved with a second by Tracy to approve the minutes of the last cabinet meeting as printed. Motion carried. Tracy gave the treasurer's report as follows: January 2017 Offering--\$23,961.12. January Expenses--\$15,444.63. Tracy moved and Dale seconded to put the report to audit. Tracy did highlight that we began 2017 with only \$6,061.72 in the General Cash Fund. In 2016 the church began the year with approximately \$20,000.00 in the General Cash Fund. Highlights from the boards: **Staff/Parish-**

chairman is Stephanie Hill, Secretary-Dalene Schlitter, Cabinet Representative-Shirley Yungclas. They will be meeting on a need to meet basis. Laurie Epps is handling the duties of Chairman, Secretary and Cabinet Representative for the **Evangelism Board**.

**New Business:** Joyce Gelhaus reported that Relay for Life will be held on June 18, 2017. She asked if the church wishes to participate this year or not. Tracy moved that she and Mission Board work together on this project. Vicki seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dale reported that the Endowment Fund gave \$500.00 to UDMO, \$1000.00 to FFL and \$1500.00 to the Pastor Discretionary Fund. A discussion was held on politics/church.

**Next Cabinet Meeting Date: March 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm.**

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

**Pastors:** He reported that he was surprised to see everyone in the center front pews for worship on February 5<sup>th</sup>, which was clergy appreciation week. On Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, he will hold an Ash Wednesday service in the East Chapel. He led care center services on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the 3 care centers. On Sunday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, we attempted to hold our worship service sans an accompanist, with mixed results. Cindy Henning, our new Worship Board Chairperson, will now be the contact person for Melissa or Sunshine if they know they will be absent from worship, so we can schedule a substitute. Our young people, led by Katie Sonsalla, will make a joyful noise for us in worship on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rich Pleva will be in worship, and will offer a message of thanks for our ongoing support of OCWM. Lent begins March 1<sup>st</sup>, and Pastor Craig wishes to resurrect the Shalom Circle during Lent as a spiritual discipline. Those who are interested in being a part of this prayer/meditation circle should contact him, so he can gauge interest and set a schedule. KLAB is studying forgiveness, and has spent 3 weeks making dog treats and containers to be sold as a fundraiser for Almost Home in Fort Dodge. The efforts brought in \$120.00. He gave a thank you to all who supported this mission project. On February 15<sup>th</sup> we will have a post-Valentines' Day party for the kids, and on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, we will host a swim party for the kids from 2:00-5:00 at the Americinn pool. The adult education class is working with the topic of White Privilege. The confirmation class met twice in January and discussed the nature of God and the nature of human beings. On Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, the confirmands and about 16 other adults traveled to the Islamic Cultural Center in Des Moines for a talk on Islam and the observance of their evening prayers. February 5<sup>th</sup> found the confirmands discussing the meaning of Jesus and on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, we will tour the Hindu Temple in Madrid. Confirmation Sunday will be Pentecost Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. The Backpack program continues to be blessed with donations, including a \$2000.00 donation from our own Neighbors in Need that was given in response to a grant composed by Alyssa Kenville of the Mission Board. This program currently has a balance of over \$14,000.00. The summer lunch program will again be offered at the WC Middle School, and the dates of operation are Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> through Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>. The program will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. There are 5 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers. They met on February 3<sup>rd</sup> for their monthly 2 hour session, hearing check-ins and studying the topic of feelings and empathy. The NW Committee on Ministry will meet on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at Trinity UCC in Harley for the annual relicensing of clergy who serve churches in our association. Pastor Craig is still waiting for a confirmed date for us to host the NW Association Annual meeting in April. It will be held either April 23<sup>rd</sup> or the 30<sup>th</sup>. We will secure a caterer for the noon meal, but Pastor Craig will be asking for donations of bars as snacks for the meeting. With the national news focused on immigration and immigrants, All Cultures Equal is offering several opportunities for people to educate themselves and meet with immigrants in our community. There are now monthly meetings on the last Saturday of the month (10:00-noon) designed to allow community members and immigrants to get to know each other better. There is a new community organization called "Better Together", which consists of community members and immigrants meeting in solidarity with immigrants in order to learn more about pressing topics regard immigration. They recently had a meeting to hear a presentation about being stopped by the Police—also the City Manager, the Sheriff, and the WC Chief of Police were in attendance. On Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, Janet Toering will offer a presentation on immigration (facts vs. myths) at First Congregational beginning at 10:00 am, which will be open to the public. This event is being sponsored by the Mission Board. ACE will hold a "grand re-opening" at their facility on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 2:00.

**Worship Board: 1/22/2017 meeting**—Met after the annual meeting with Linda Lahr, Cindy Henning, Verna Bierle, and Gretchen McGlynn present. Mary Vavroch was absent. Board positions volunteered for were: chairperson-Cindy Henning, secretary-Gretchen McGlynn, cabinet representative\_\_\_\_\_, alternate representative to cabinet-Linda Lahr, pulpit supply-Linda Lahr and communion elements-Verna Bierle.

According to the new constitution the music committee falls under our umbrella. Stephanie Hill and Kolleen Taylor have expressed interest in being on that committee. We may want to involve Sunny and Melissa. These two will be contacted to see if this is an option for them. The worship board is in charge of summer music. The proposed meeting dates are for the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. This will be confirmed at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. **2/09/2017 meeting**—present were Linda Lahr, Cindy Henning and Verna Bierle. Gretchen McGlynn and Mary Vavroch were absent. The meeting date and time will be on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. Board positions were filled with Cindy Henning as chair, Gretchen McGlynn as secretary, Linda Lahr as alternate cabinet representative and pulpit supply and Verna Bierle as in charge of communion elements. The position of cabinet representative has yet to be filled. Linda will go to cabinet in February. The music committee which is under the Worship Board will be Stephanie Hill, Kolleen Taylor and Sunshine Yoder. Melissa Hindt will help when available. Their duties will include-1. Inform the Worship board contact when the organist or choir director cannot be there on Sunday. 2. Report to Worship Board who appoints/asks for volunteers members (typically a couple of people, choir director and organist). 3. Promotes the musical development of the church. 4. Responsible for the care of choir robes and collars. (may ask choir members to have their own robes cleaned). 5. Ensure piano is watered. 6. Confirms with Worship Board when the organ and piano have been maintained. Susan Knapp—515-576-4952. 7. Arrange for special music for summer services. Cindy Henning will be the contact person for the music committee. She will also create organist list. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> Rich Pleva will visit and give the message. It is to be determined, if we will have special coffee or dinner. The projectionist list needs some more volunteers. After gathering names of those interested in this, a training session will be arranged. The communion servers for March 5<sup>th</sup> are Linda and Cindy and on April 2<sup>nd</sup> Linda and Cindy (unless Rich Pleva wants to help). Dates to remember are: March 1<sup>st</sup>-Ash Wednesday will be in East Chapel at 7:00 pm; March 11<sup>th</sup>-Immigration talk by Janet Toering at 10:00 am; March 19<sup>th</sup>-worship board will serve coffee, decide food next month; April 13<sup>th</sup>-Maundy Thursday-looking for different ideas for service; April 16<sup>th</sup>-Easter-Christian Ed is serving a coffee hour at 9:30 am, before worship, pew communion; End of April-Norwest Association Annual Meeting which Craig is arranging; May 14<sup>th</sup>-Mother's Day-decide on flowers for mothers; May 21<sup>st</sup>-promotion Sunday; June 4<sup>th</sup>-confirmation with confirmands helping with communion.

**Mission Board:** 2/02/17 meeting. Attending were Rev. Blaufuss, Audrey Burnett, Alyssa Kenville, Lorraine McCoskey, Gayle Olson and Karin Yungclas. Lorraine volunteered to be the cabinet representative and Gayle the committee chairperson. Results of the Souper Bowl were given: earned \$337 for UDMO the plus a \$500 donation from the Endowment Committee. It was noted that only 30 people stayed to eat out of the 60 in church. Next year will offer "soup to go" to those who leave; will offer 3-4 varieties of soup instead of 6 or 7; and put vegies and extras on tables so soup line will move faster. About 54 were fed at the January 31<sup>st</sup> feeding at Beacon of Hope. The next meal will be March 21<sup>st</sup> with Marjorie Groves in charge and will serve scalloped potatoes and ham. Everyone is welcome to attend the White Privilege Study that the adult Sunday class is studying. The Funding Future Leadership Offering will be taken February 18, 2017 2<sup>th</sup>. This new offering sponsored by the Iowa Conference of the UCC, provides scholarship help to persons studying for the ministry. The Endowment Committee allotted \$1,000 to be coupled with the February 12<sup>th</sup> all church offering. The Back Pack Program, which provides weekend food for needy school children is now at \$17000.00. A grant of \$2,000 from the UCC Neighbors in Need was received. Our church will be packing Back Packs in April. Special offering assignments/promotions are—OGHS-March, Lorraine—Strengthen the Church-June 4<sup>th</sup>, Alyssa—NIN-October 1<sup>st</sup>, Gayle—Christmas Fund-December, Audrey. The rugs made and donated by Michele Omvig's dad will be used by the Mission Board as a basis for the D/SAOC basket our church creates for the April 8<sup>th</sup> auction. ACE has long been an interest of the Mission Board. After much discussion about their needs and how we can help Pastor Craig contacted Janet Toering. It was decided to have a meeting with her, open to the community, at our church on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The time will be determined later. Next meeting is March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Bring ideas for the D/SAOC basket.

**Board of Trustees:** Met on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Present were Tom Riemenschneider, Tracy Wehrhan, Sherry Leksell, Pastor Craig, and Joyce Gelhaus. Bruce Perry was absent. Old Business: The check was mailed for the pastor's office furniture on 1/23/17. The furniture will be delivered from Homemakers on 2/09/17 or 2/16/17. The valves on the boilers need to be replaced. Mark Trueblood will put in new ones this spring. We will need to flush the valves on a regular basis. Tom will talk to Mark about this and getting the temperature regulated in the basement Sunday school room. There was a discussion on having an outside Fire Box for church keys which would be needed in case of fire. The police and fire departments will have a

key to the box. The Fire Box will be mounted on the brick by the west door key padlock. A motion was made by Sherry and seconded by Tracy to get the Fire Box for \$400-\$500. Motion carried. Tom will get this ordered. New Business: Curt McCoskey, the janitor, will have surgery on his shoulder 1/28/17. Lorraine and Dylan will be doing the janitorial work. Tom has adjusted the water heater temperature for the kitchen. Joyce will be chairperson and Sherry will be the secretary for the Trustees. Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Next meeting is Thursday, 2/16/17 at 7:00 pm.

**Women's Fellowship Executive Board:** Met on 2/01/17 with Karin Yungclas, Kay Harfst, Cindy Henning, Verna Bierle, Shirley Yungclas, Gayle Olson, Ginnie Veach, Wilma Reinsel and Stephanie Hill present. Karen shared devotions. Kay read Pastor Craig's report about those to keep in prayer including Tracy Wehrhan, Curt McCoskey, Verna Weieneth, Shari Rothrock, Charlene McKee, Gen Carroll, Vicki Blaufuss and Holly Riemenschneider. Verna gave the treasurer's report as follows; Old Balance (12/01/16) was \$2,849.56. Distributions were \$643.61. Income was \$412.62. New Balance (2/01/17) is \$2,618.57 with \$1,736.99 in Savings Account. Shirley Yungclas reported sending get well cards for Ginnie Veach, Tracy Wehrhan, Keith Holdgrafer, Vicki Blaufuss, Karen Weir, Curt McCoskey and sympathy cards to Sally McIntyre family, Jane Klaver and Riemenschneiders. The board thanked the Haystack circle for serving the Christmas Dinner. Women's Lenten Luncheons begin March 7<sup>th</sup> until April 4<sup>th</sup>. Our church is responsible for a speaker on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Please ask in your circles for volunteers or suggestions. Cindy will send a reminder via email to executive board about meeting date. She also talked to Michele and is sending circle dates and times to the Freeman Journal when she sends weekly news regarding church. If you have changes, please let her know asap. There is a change in the program book - Stephanie Hill's email is now [srhill216@gmail.com](mailto:srhill216@gmail.com). Haystack will meet 2/08/17 at 7:00 pm at the church, Mayflower and Morning Star will meet on 2/09/17 at 9:30 am at the church and Providence will meet 2/10/17 at 5:30 pm at the church. For the May Birthday party Cindy will inquire about a possible program but ask within your circles for other suggestions. Three dozen cookies are needed by each circle for this event. Each circle is to ask about ideas in their circles for time, servers, program, etc. for the May Luncheon or Dinner. The circle annual reports will be sent to Cindy and Kay in May. Cindy will send summary reports to circle chairs and to Michele for the newsletter. Dates to serve coffee are—Mayflower on 2/19/17, Haystack on 2/26/17, Executive Board #3 (Carol, Greta, Shirley) on 3/05/17 and Executive Board #4 (Ginnie, Verna, Gayle, Cindy) on 4/02/17. Next meeting is 3/01/17.

**Christian Ed Board:** Met on 2/08/17. Pastor Craig opened with a centering prayer. Plans for Easter Sunday were made as follows: the board will serve a coffee consisting of breakfast items as 9:30 am preceding worship. Jane and Mary will bring muffins, Leah-fruit; Curt-milk; Vicki-orange juice. There will be an Easter activity in lower level at this time for the youth with Mary and Wil Groves in charge. Curt is still weighing the decision to starting a youth fellowship group this fall. Alyssa Kenville wishes not to continue teaching the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and on up class this fall. Another church member is willing to take over that class. Vicki will contact them to see if they are still interested. A birthday and baptism list was updated and passed out to all members. Next Christian Ed Board meeting will be 4/19/17 at 7:00 pm.

**New Business:** Leah Maass, board member and Sunday School teacher, gave a report to describe the lessons being presented and discussed in her class: Recently Four Black Lives Matter supporters kidnapped and tortured a mentally-handicapped white man from a suburb of Chicago. A video was posted on Facebook Live showing the man being beaten and kicked while tied up and then forced to drink from a toilet during which time the attackers are shouting "f\_\_\_ Donald Trump! F\_\_\_ white people!" Police refused to say whether or not the attack would be prosecuted as a hate crime. Our class talked about why people can be so cruel and how to find forgiveness in our hearts for such sins and we prayed for them all. Moses and the Ten Commandments is our current study. The womens' march following President Trump's inauguration was compared to the Israelites and how they kept grumbling after being freed from the Egyptians. We were reminded: "It's easy to let a complaining attitude take over when things are not going our way. As God's children we need to trust that he is in charge and will work things out. Sometimes delays are the fault of our disobedience and sometimes they are meant to help us grow. In either case, grumbling displeased God and should be avoided." The Ten Commandments discussions began as God spelled out to Moses the laws that tell us how to treat Him and others. Then God told Moses that if the people would obey His covenants, their nation would be great and Holy in His sight! We talked about what each of our families has set up for rules at home and how much happier the household is when those rules are followed. In the same respect, the rules and laws of our country are intended to be obeyed because they define our civilization. Without laws our lives and property and general welfare are at risk and those who do not follow the rules should be awarded the punishment described within those rules. And we discussed the illegal aliens who intentionally disobey our laws, but expect to receive the



rights and protections of the citizens who live by the rules and those who immigrated legally. Bullying keeps coming up in all of our discussions and we wonder why adults claim that bullying is bad, but continue to use that activity themselves to intimidate people who do not agree with them. With all of the Blessings God has showered upon our nation, we continue to witness people creating violent demonstrations like tantrums of spoiled children who are never satisfied, vilifying those with whom they disagree and disrespecting the men and women who have pledged their lives to protect and serve our nation. This class will continue focusing on God's Gifts and His intensions for each of us. Our next course of study will be coordinated with the "One Nation Under God" DVD and learning guides.

At 8:10 pm Laurie made a motion to adjourn.

**Next Cabinet Meeting—March 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:

