

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

“For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” –Psalm 139: 13-14

There are two roles in life I would never want: one is being God; the other is being a mother--and if I had to choose between those two, my last choice would be a mother! Now part of the reason for that is because I have a weak stomach for childbirth—I doubt that I could make it through a birth as an observer, much less a participant (ask Vicki about that). But the deeper reason is that I don’t know how mothers can bring a new life into the world that has come from their life, and then literally and metaphorically cut the cord and separate their life from the life of their child. Now I know that fathers play a role in procreation, but no man has a womb; no man has a life grow in him, flesh of flesh, bone of bone. We men supply half the DNA, the pattern of life--but mothers supply all the building materials that make the pattern live!

I am amazed at the great unselfishness that is at the heart of motherhood—a great unselfishness that says *“You will always be part of me, and I have a great love for you that will last as long as I last...but I do not own you, I cannot control you, and I cannot walk your path for you.”* And that is the heart of why I would not want to be a mother. Mothers give their all to be a mother, only to begin the lifelong process of letting go. That to me is asking a lot from a human being--it sounds like mothers are being asked to be like God! And yet that makes sense, for God is very much like a mother:

God creates life--like a mother.

God forms us, knits us together in the womb--like a mother.

God loves us unconditionally—like a mother.

God yearns to protect and nurture us, so we grow healthy and whole--like a mother.

And God never forgets us, even when we forget God-- like a mother.

The difference is that God is...God. God has unlimited power, unlimited wisdom, and unlimited grace to deal with God’s children: to both love them and let them go; to hold them and yet give them freedom; to wish for the best for them and yet not be destroyed when the worst happens to them...or when the worst happens *because of them*. It seems almost unfair that God would give to mortal women such a divine task as motherhood, and yet God has seen fit to share God’s joys and God’s challenges as “Parent” with mothers!

Mothers have always had a blessed but difficult calling, and they surely need our prayers—and many of them! And Mothers, never forget that in this sacred, exhausting, exhilarating and heartbreaking work you have never been alone, and you will never be alone! For your eternal Parent, God—the “Father” who seems an awful lot like a mother—has always been, and will always be, with you: to strengthen you, to give you wisdom, to comfort you, and share your laughter and your tears.

May that Good News help all mothers “keep the faith” as they mother the next generation of US—the wonderful, wayward, humorous and heartbreaking children of God *and* Eve! Happy Mothers’ Day to all mothers—everywhere! --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

April 1 97 April 8 86 April 15 --
April 22 68 April 29

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

Curt/Lorraine McCoskey: Cust's. 832-5341

Tracy Wehrhan: Church Treasurer 297-0370

Dale Olson: Financial Secretary 839-5619



Recipe for Healthy Living

- 5 daily positive thoughts you make about yourself
- 3 balanced meals daily
- 2 healthful, tasty snacks daily
- 2 hugs from someone special
- 2 good daily laughs
- 3 - 6 days of moderate exercise weekly
- 2 handfuls of close friends



9 - Connie Gustafson
11 - Ina Cormaney
11 - Lauren Leman
11 - Mabel Prescott
11 - Eli Imhoff
15 - Rebecca Kenville
16 - Neil Oberender
19 - Gretchen Bruner
22 - Ed Mosbach
25 - Molly Kenville
26 - Carol Crystal
27 - Isabelle McNiel
29 - Linda Lahr



4 - Al & Jan Maxon
6 - Doug & Amani McMurray
7 - Craig & Vicki Blaufuss
16 - David & Liz Weieneth
17 - Tracy & Glenda Wehrhan
28 - Diana & Nick Oberender
29 - Dan & Donna Ryherd

Scholarships

The Finance Board will be receiving scholarship applications until June 15th. Applications are available from the church office. Scholarships will be awarded during the 5:00 pm worship service on Saturday, July 21.

Giving

As Financial Secretary, I feel that you need to know that the Cabinet and boards are doing an excellent job of controlling costs this year. Expenses are about the same as last year. Our giving is down about \$10,000 compared to last year. This amount isn't all that much but, quarterly bills will be due about the time you read this and summer is right around the corner. Why is summer important enough to mention? Giving is usually way down during summer. If we enter summer with a big deficit, we may be in too big of a financial hole to come all the way back by the end of the year. I feel this is something we all need to pray about and ask for God to move us in a good direction for our church. Dale

Summer Lunch

The Webster City Summer Lunch Program will again offer free summer lunches at the middle school for kids 18 and under, starting June 11th. First Congregational UCC will again lead off the program with our lunchroom volunteers. If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall. In addition to a nutritious lunch, we would also like to offer free children's books to our guests! We are in need of new, or gently used, quality children's books. Please bring your book donations to the church. Thank you!

D/SAOC



Cake Auction April 14. This year we donated a Webster City basket. We have always been rated 1 of the top 10 baskets there. Thank you ~ The Mission Board

ACE Roof Leaks

ACE/All Cultures Equal Community Center needs a new roof, costing thousands of dollars. The stop-gap measure, however, is cleaning and a sealant, costing around \$5,000. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to ACE, 1440 Second St., noting "Roof Sealant" on the memo line.

THRIFT SALE - May 18 & 19



Spring Cleaning before Summer!!

Friday & Saturday May 18 & 19 -

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

Wed. May 16 - We will be accepting those items cluttering up your lives.

Contact Cindy Henning at 297-0422 or jbhfam@mchsi.com

if you have Large items

Need assistance transporting items or have Questions

Remember items should be clean, complete, and in good repair.

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

May Dinner

Wednesday, May 23

5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Meal prepared and served by

Pastor Craig and Company.

Reservations would be appreciated by

Contacting the church office at

832-2232 or administrative.office@fcuccwc.org

KLAB Ends May 2

Another successful program year of KLAB is drawing to a close! May 2 will be our last scheduled day of KLAB before summer recess, and we will celebrate by taking our annual pilgrimage to Dairy Queen! We want to express our thanks to Ginnie Veach for serving snacks, and to Wil Groves, Lynn Leksell and Al Yungclas for leading games, and assisting with crafts and "keeping order". We also would like to thank Donna Ryherd and Vicki Blaufuss for working with Ye Olde KLAB Gang. Thanks also to Anne Sherve-Ose who has led the ORFF program and musical component of KLAB. And many thanks to those who generously provided snacks and drinks throughout the year!

Sunday School Ends May 20

Our Sunday school program is in recess for the summer beginning May 27, and we will honor our teachers and helpers and celebrate the program year of Christian Education during worship on Sunday, May 20. Join us in worship that day as we give thanks for the teachers and volunteers who help teach students of all ages more about the Bible, our faith, and our call to discipleship.

Summer Worship Services begin June 3

Our summer worship services will begin Sunday, June 3. 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 speak with Stephanie Hill, Kolleen Taylor or Sunshine Yoders.

RYE 2018

Get ready for the Regional Youth Event of 2018, June 19-22! Grinnell, Iowa will be the host city for a regional youth gathering that will include UCC and DOC youth from 7 states! There will

be inspiring worship, MANY workshops, opportunities for service and social justice work, food, fellowship, and fun! This opportunity is available to youth who have completed grade 6 though high school. The cost is \$325 for this event. Financial assistance will be available—please speak with Pastor Craig for more details.

Windows

The Trustees are still working on grants for the stained glass window repairs. If you are interested in donating please talk to Tracy Wehrhan. The work on the windows will begin at the end of May or beginning of June.

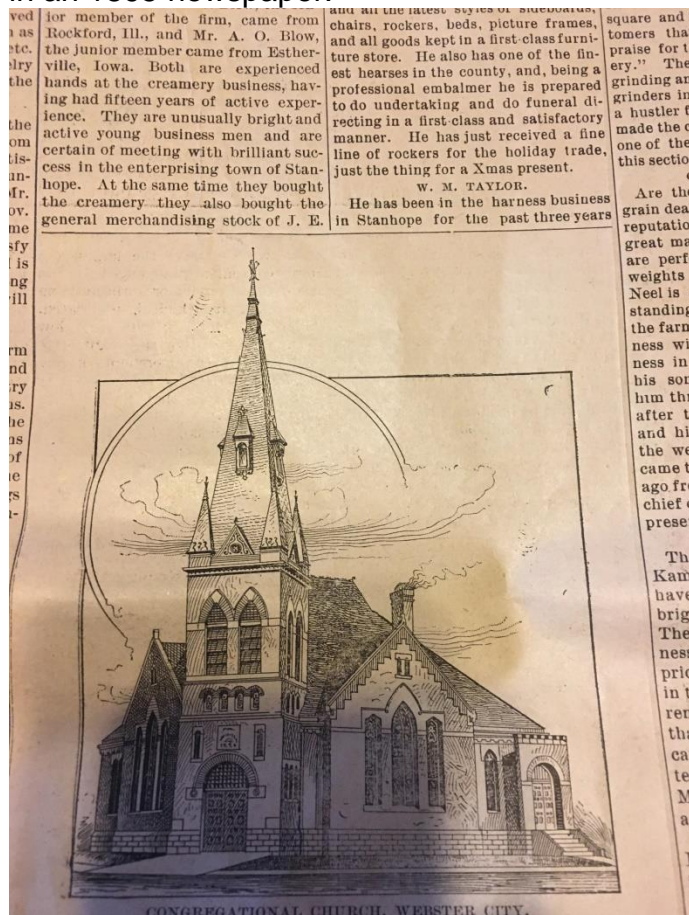
On April 24, 13 members gathered at Trinity Lutheran to pack a month's worth of food for the school backpack for kids program. We packed 380 backpacks in 45 minutes!



On April 23rd our KLAB kids traveled to Almost Home in Fort Dodge to present a donation check and tour the facility. The kids raised \$104 for Almost Home!

History Hunting

Article courtesy of Lynn Leksell. This photo was in an 1895 newspaper.



These glasses were found in the sanctuary in April. They are in the church office.



Take a look in the kitchen and see if any of your items are there.



Treasurer's Report

| INCOME | March | YEAR TO DATE |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges and Offerings | \$15,031.57 | \$41,004.57 |
| Other Income | .00 | .00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$15,031.57 | \$41,004.57 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Outreach and Mission | 1,583.34 | \$4,749.94 |
| Pastoral Services | 11,535.89 | 22,834.05 |
| Maintenance and Repairs | 4,054.44 | 8,462.41 |
| Church Office | 2,504.96 | 10,559.50 |
| Music Ministry | 972.43 | 2,633.11 |
| Christian Education | 14.98 | 43.96 |
| Local Ministry | .00 | .00 |
| Misc. Expenses | 151.92 | 715.95 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$20,817.96 | \$49,998.92 |

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting held on April 10, 2018

Members Present:

Moderator: Donna Ryherd
Vice Moderator: Nate Lahr
Finance Sec.: Dale Olson
Finance: Tracy Wehrhan
Staff/Parish: Stephanie Hill
Christian Ed: Curt McCoskey
Treasurer: Tracy Wehrhan

Pastor: Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Trustees:
Women's Fellowship: Karin Yungclas
Mission: Lorraine McCoskey
Worship: Linda Lahr
Evangelism: Laurie Epps
Clerk: Stephanie Hill

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the Moderator, Donna Ryherd. Pastor Craig gave a devotional by Ruth Land. The March Cabinet minutes were approved as read. **Worship:** The board did not meet in March. The next scheduled meeting is April 12th. **Evangelism:** Only a few comments

were received about the Annual Picnic. **Christian Ed.:** They met 4 weeks ago; talked about the Easter breakfast and the Easter egg hunt. The ORFF instruments will not be lent out due to the high replacement costs. Next meeting will be tomorrow. **Treasurer:** The report is at the end of the minutes. Tracy moved and Al seconded to put the report to audit. **Mission:** Verna Bierle is putting the D/SAOC basket together which has \$669.00 in gift cards. OGHS donations of \$163.00. Backpacks will be filled on the 25th of April. The Ice Cream Social is tentatively scheduled for June 13, 2018 at Faith United Methodist Church. **Women's Fellowship:** Karin thanked those who helped with the Lenten luncheon and the program. The Thrift sale is scheduled for April 20th and 21st. (Note: Thrift Sale was rescheduled to May 18 & 19.) May birthdays at Crestview and Southfield will be celebrated on May 3rd. The men will be preparing the May dinner scheduled for May 23rd. Kay provided a list of options for next year's re-organization to be taken to our circle members. Next meeting is May 2nd. **Trustees:** Al mentioned that Sherry Leksell and Kolleen Taylor are writing the letter of intent for the stained-glass window grant which is due in April. **Staff Parish:** Stephanie reported a few issues raised earlier in the year and will meet with the committee members to discuss in detail. **Pastor's Report:** Craig reported on 2 upcoming weddings – one for Katie Holdgrafer on May 5th. Also discussed was the Pilgrim Heights situation. **New Business:** A list of the physical assets of the Church is needed. Stephanie moved that the Trustees make this list to be kept in the lock box. Nate seconded and the motion passed. The Annual Northwest Association meeting will be held in Sioux City on May 5, 2018. Discussion of who would attend. 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

Trustees Minutes

Discussed two grant proposals for church & what information was needed. Alan found church history to provide historical dates for building for Kolleen. Discussed other needs for the proposals. Discussed how funding for the grants are matching and the amount we might be able to apply for. Discussed the items we needed to document: Evidence of history of community service, Any previous work done on windows, Plan for upkeep, Bids, Fundraising, Detailed description of scope of work, Costs. We will meet Sunday after church to get copies of contract and other proposals.

Trustees Minutes

Kolleen and Sherry will work on the letter and get it sent in by April 1, 2018. Karin and Audrey are working on the church's mission list. Children's chairs Approved, Package of 6, Multi colored, Legs with swivel glides, Around \$146, Joyce will order.

Trustees Minutes

It had been brought to Trustees attention from the Christian Ed Committee that Kolleen Taylor wants to take the ORFF instruments to the Library in Story City. They are expensive instruments and there would be no way to transport them safely. Tracy did leave us information on the cost of the instruments and it did confirm the price of them. A motion was made that the church will not loan out the ORFF instruments to anyone, by Tom. It was seconded by Sherry. It was approved. We were updated on the grant. Kolleen and Sherry have started the letter for the grant. We thought it was due on April 1, but it is not due until April 15. Once the letter is finished it will be reviewed by the Trustees.

Trustees Minutes

Update on the lots. Stacy said there are still two interested parties when spring gets here. There have not been any more stained-glass window donations. The Fire alarm sensitivity check was cancelled 3-15-18. Inspection is due in July. We will investigate disconnecting the alarms later. Mark Trueblood fixed the toilet flap in the fellowship hall bathroom. Grants: Sherry and Donna are working on the letter of intent, with Kolleen's help. Want to get both letters out before April 17. Want to add Emergency Shelter to the list of community activities in the letter. Tracy will check to see when Scott Jaycox will be finishing the work in the elevator shaft. The speakers are now working in the nursery. Tom will check with Mark Trueblood on flushing the valves on the boiler.

New Business

Al will represent the Trustees at the April Cabinet meeting. Boilers were inspected 3-20-18. Report went to state. Doors for the storage area in the west entry will be checked by Al and Tom.

Pastor's Report to Cabinet

Worship: Our Maundy Thursday service was held in the East Chapel on Thursday, March 29, beginning at 7 pm, with communion, a choral anthem, and a service of Tenebrae. Easter service was held at 10:30 am, following the Easter breakfast beginning at 9:30 am and children's Easter activities in the lower level of the church. On April 8 the KLAB kids will play the ORFF instruments in worship, and April 29th we lead the Care Center worship services in town.

Weddings: I will preside at the wedding renewal ceremony of Baily Fogle Roderick in Grinnell on Saturday, April 28. Bailey has been married for 2(?) years now but wants to renew her vows in a Christian church. Katie Holdgrafer and Mason McCarville will be married in our sanctuary on Saturday, May 5th at 4 pm. The wedding rehearsal will be held in our sanctuary at 6 pm on Friday, May 4th.

Funerals: I was asked to officiate at 2 non-member funerals in the last month: Ray Bringolf (March 17) and Diana Baker (March 26). Both were held at Foster's Funeral home.

KLAB: We are nearing the end of our program before summer recess! We met March 28 as one group to review the Easter story and make Easter Centerpieces. Ann Sherve-Ose worked with the KLAB kids on April 4, preparing them for an ORFF musical offering on Sunday, April 8. Ye Olde KLAB Gang made Easter cards to mail, and they will be working on sewing pillowcases for the Beacon of Hope. On April 18 we will show our "love of creation" by picking up trash along the Boone River trail near the north boat landing, and May 2 will be our last KLAB session before summer—and our annual trip to the DQ!

Adult Education: We have discussed the atonement and Easter, and will continue with the Hidden Histories of the UCC.

WCMA: We continue to organize a city-wide food packing event for Kids against Hunger, but the initial date we wanted (November 18 at Fuller hall) was already taken, and a new date has not been selected. A fundraising chicken dinner for the Pentecostal church will be held on Sunday April 22, 11-1 pm at the WC Middle School. The Summer lunch program will again happen in WC this year, but no details are available yet. VBS dates: Asbury UMC: July 9-13, 1-4 pm. Trinity ELCA: June 25-28 (no time announced) St. Paul Lutheran: June 11-15, 9-11:30 am. Pastor Michael Slininger of Faith UMC announced that he will be moving to a new pastorate, and will begin his ministry there in June of 2018.

Stephen Ministry: We currently have 4 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers. We met April 5 for our monthly 2 hour session, hearing check-ins and studying the topic of caring for those experiencing divorce.

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. I still have no other details to report. I will be attending a CoM training event in Sioux Falls, South Dakota April 20-21 with Dale Olson, Marjorie Groves, and Joyce Gelhaus. We are in the process of trying to schedule a PSC with Diane Friedericks and the churches in Belmond and Klemme. Our Sacred Space (Pilgrim Heights) is holding a "Earth" Day of Discovery on Saturday, April 21, 2018, from 1-4:30 pm. This event is to help youth and adults get acquainted with Pilgrim Heights.

ACE: Thanks to everyone who is/has donated to ACE's roof repair fund! ACE is asking for volunteers for a Spring Clean Up and Repair work day, Saturday, April 28, from 9-3 pm, with a lunch included! Call 515-832-4153 for details.

Evangelism Board

We Care Cards: Wilma reviewed the list, having sent seven cards this past month to those in need as well as a few with birthdays to celebrate! Pastor Craig shared updates and concerns for our members in need of our prayers and support. Please keep in prayer: Dorothy Stearns, Ina Cormany, Shari Rothrock, Karen Weir, Genevieve Carroll, Charlene McKee, Patty Yungclas, Wilma Taylor, and Ann Heimberger (Joyce Gelhaus's sister), and our KLAB kids.

Greeters and Ushers: We have compiled a list of members we believe are willing and able to usher. We have attempted to create Usher Teams – 3 or 4 people who might normally sit together, are family, or perhaps they serve on a circle together. We hope we can fill the weeks ahead with these “teams” and they create a year-long schedule by rotating the teams. If it works we would be asking our congregation to step up to usher every 10 weeks or so. That said, we are always in need of volunteers to fill the role of Greeters and Ushers on Sunday mornings. Please volunteer early ... or late for that matter! If you arrive on Sunday morning and see the need we always welcome the offer to help!

Welcome bags (adults) and Activity Bags (youth): Wilma continues to refill and refresh supply our Welcome Bags, sometimes using materials to fit the season, and always to ensure a sweet treat inside. Dawn maintains our Activity Bags for the youth, keeping them cleaned and well stocked.

Misc: Last month we discussed the repeated cancellation of our Annual Picnic. The question was presented to Cabinet and was published in the monthly church letter. To date we have very little feedback, but will continue to keep the topic open for discussion.

Women's Fellowship Executive Board

Old Business:

- Thank you to all who helped with luncheon and Lenten program. They served 40 people for luncheon. Vicki and Carol Crystal talked about the crib sheets for Iowa Univ. hospital.
- Thrift sale is April 20 & 21st. Begin bringing things Wed. April 18th. Worker sheets provided for circles to fill out and return to Cindy.

New Business:

- May birthdays will be May 3rd, 2 pm at Crestview and 2:45 for Southfield. Each circle needs to bring 2 doz. cookies.
- May dinner – May 23rd at 5:30 pm. Men will prepare dinner. Joyce Gelhaus will present program. Providence circle will provide dessert; Haystack will decorate.
- Kay provided a list of options for next year's re-organization. After discussion it was decided to talk to our circle members. Kay will send out a new ballot for us to decide which options we prefer.

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:

