

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

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.”—Ephesians 2:8-9

There is a stained glass window in the back of Boeke center at Eden Seminary (my alma mater) which depicts the critical moment in the Reformation when Martin Luther “takes his stand” at the Diet of Worms in 1521. If you recall your church history, Luther --the priest, Augustinian monk, and Doctor of the church—was summoned before an assembly headed by the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire to defend himself against charges of heresy, which stemmed from his posting of 95 theses on the church door at Wittenberg. Luther was grilled at the Diet for 3 days, and at the conclusion he made his now famous statement which is recorded in German at the bottom of the window: **“Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me, amen.”** The window is a bit melodramatic in depicting Luther as he makes his pronouncement, but the gravity of the moment is clear: Luther has staked everything on his controversial beliefs...his career, his reputation, even his very life. Were it not for the shifting tides of political fortune, Luther would have likely ended up a footnote in history, and a human barbeque.

Perhaps it seems amazing to us today—perhaps even a bit odd or fanatical—that someone would be willing to risk everything for what might seem to be some theological mumbo-jumbo. What was it that would make a Professor and Doctor of the church risk everything, and make his history-changing stand on his understanding of the gospel? There were many factors, to be sure—the corruption of the church, the renewed interest in ancient languages and sources, the rise of humanism, the changing political, social, and economic realities of 16th century Europe—but what really drove Luther to “take his stand” was his own existential crisis concerning God and his relationship to God. Luther had been raised in a culture in which one’s relationship to God and one’s final destiny was very much in doubt, and the prospect of not being good enough to enter heaven was a real possibility to him. Luther was terrified of hell, and of a God who seemed capricious, angry, frightening, and ultimately untrustworthy, and so when Luther made his great Reformational discovery that **we are not made right with God by our own efforts, but by God’s unmerited love revealed in Jesus Christ**, he clung to that truth and would have rather faced death than the uncertainty of worshipping a God he feared.

Luther’s understanding of God as wholly trustworthy and gracious has transformed the lives of millions, and continues to do so today. This month, as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we would do well to take our quest for God as seriously as Luther did, and seek the One who, as our Statement of Faith proclaims, “Seeks in Holy Love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.” For as Luther discovered, God may be beyond our human understanding ...but of this we are assured: **God is for us** (*Deus Pro Nobis*)...**ever and always for us. –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

September 2 54	September 10 62
September 17 74	September 24 56

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

Easy ways to "stop and smell the roses".

- Spend some time with a child, an older person, or even an animal. They move to their own inner rhythm instead of watching the clock.
- Return to a hobby or sport you enjoyed as a child. You may get so absorbed in it that you lose track of time.
- Take an hour-long vow of silence. Disconnect from phones, e-mails, television, and errands. Notice how you become more aware of your body and breathing.
- As you go about your everyday activities, make eye contact with someone who might seem unimportant to you, like the cashier at the grocery store. Connecting more fully with casual acquaintances adds richness to moments that are typically lost.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 1 - Kay Harfst
- 3 - Clark Mowry
- 4 - Sierra Myers
- 4 - Karinne Tudor
- 5 - Jaylyn Marie Bahrenfuss
- 6 - Bill Shelton
- 7 - Alison McFadden
- 8 - Logan McCoskey
- 9 - Dawn Holdgrafer
- 10 - Gayle Olson
- 11 - Courtney Clum
- 12 - Marlin Abbott
- 13 - Kevin Brim

- 13 - Karen Weir
- 13 - Ashley Wood
- 14 - Larry Brim
- 15 - Richard Tudor
- 15 - Jim Henning
- 16 - Ethan Anderson
- 16 - Jack Thurman
- 16 - Emily Stockdale
- 20 - Charlene McKee
- 22 - Chase Wagoner
- 22 - Chelsey Wagoner
- 27 - Gabrielle May Larson
- 27 - Jesse Reinking
- 27 - Travis Stearns
- 28 - Karl Heimberger
- 28 - Tom McKee
- 29 - Joel Bruner
- 29 - Alex Wood



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 5 - Bud & Carol Crystal
- 5 - Rick & Mary Ruppel
- 9 - Nate & Linda Lahr
- 10 - Scott & Juli Jaycox
- 21 - Scott & Jessie Bailey

Sunday School

The preschool-K Sunday school class would like to thank the family that brought the hand puppets to us. They are fabulous and so much fun. Our puppet house has never been so busy. You're welcome to stop and watch anytime.

Sunday we had a full class and that was fun. Many of the kids know each other from school and day care so they enjoyed seeing each other. It was a busy fun morning. Jenny Maass and Katie Sonsalla joined me in our room. If you're considering sending your child or grandchild there is always room for one more. If you think they need you to stay for reassurance you're more than welcome in our class also.

Carol Crystal

UDMO

After the Thrift Sale the items for the UDMO food pantry were delivered. The staff at UDMO were most appreciative and grateful to receive the 2 boxes of items that were delivered. When asked if they had special needs they responded

with: soup, peanut butter and hamburger helper. So if you help keep the shelves designated for UDMO stocked, these are items they are low on at this time.

Thank you!

Mission Board

Care Center Services—October 1

First Congregational has a city-wide reputation for leading meaningful care center services in our community. Our next scheduled care center services were originally to be held September 17th, but as a favor to Trinity ELCA we have traded dates with them. Our new date is October 1, and we will begin services at 1:15 p.m. at Windsor Manor, 2 p.m. at Crestview Nursing and Rehabilitation center, and 2:45 at Southfield Wellness Community. As always, everyone is encouraged to help at any or all of these services.

Neighbors in Need

NIN is a special mission offering that supports works of justice and compassion in the United States and abroad. Two-thirds of the Neighbors In Need receipts support program initiatives and direct grants offered through the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. More directly, Neighbors in Need makes available grants up to \$3,000 twice a year. We will take our NIN offering on October 1.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, November 12 following worship. We will vote to ratify the budget and vote on the possibility of selling the vacant lots.

Pancakes

Lions annual all you can eat pancake day is Sunday, October 15 from 8:00 am to 12:15 pm at the Webster City Middle School. Adults \$8, Ages 5-10 \$4. Under age 5 free.

CROP Walk

Sunday Oct. 8 has been designated as CROP walk Sunday here in Webster City. We will gather at Brewer Creek shelter at 2:00 pm and walk the Brewer Creek trail. Donations of bar soap and peanut butter will again be welcomed.

Pack the Paddy Wagon

Sunday, October 8 a vintage police Paddy Wagon will be parked in front of Hy-Vee food store in Webster City to take food donations from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This event is being sponsored by the Hamilton County Peace Officers Association, and all food donations will be split between local food pantries. Webster City Custom Meats is donating brats for a free-will cookout, proceeds from the meal will go to Iowa Special Olympics.

Women's Fellowship Fall Thrift Sale

Our Thrift Sale was a huge success again! We raised approx. \$1800 before expenses. These profits will help us give support to many deserving organizations in this community and around the world, "Thanks" to each of you. Whether you helped donate, sort, clean-up, haul away, provide food or worked, the Thrift Sale could not get done without YOU. It's a lot of work, but also a lot of fun and fellowship. The next sale will be April 20 & 21st. Hope to see many more of you join the fun.

Thank you all so much!!!

Cindy Henning

Chairperson, Thrift Sale



Blessing of the Animals, Saturday, October 21

Round up your dogs, cats, canaries, llamas and lizards--our third Saturday service in October will be a "Blessing of the Animals!" On Saturday, October 21 we will gather in the vacant lot next to the church to share a time of celebration and praise for the love, comfort and friendship we receive from our animal companions. As part of our informal worship service there will be time of sharing to introduce your animal companion, and each will receive a blessing. For seating please bring your own bag chairs or other outdoor seating (we want you to be comfortable) and for the safety of all our animal companions please be sure to have your dogs or other potentially aggressive animals leashed. We discourage the use of pet crates during the service—after all this is their special day...and of course you are welcome to bring your companion's favorite snack or treat.

KLAB Resumes

KLAB is off to another great start after our summer recess! Fifteen young people are currently enrolled in our Wednesday after-school program this year! We are also excited to announce the start of a program for an older group of students, led by Donna Ryherd: "Ye Olde KLAB Gang." Donna is assisted by Vicki Blaufuss, and Pastor Craig and Wil Groves are being assisted by Lyn Leksell and Alan Yungclas. Jake Lahr is again leading our music/ORFF component. We are looking forward to a great year!



Stephen Ministry meets October 12

Due to Pastor Craig being on vacation, our Stephen Ministers will meet on the second

Thursday of the month, October 12, beginning at 6:30 pm.

Amazon Smile

Don't forget, if you are shopping online use this link to get to Amazon Smile.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-1357070>

If you choose First Congregational UCC of Webster City as your charity of choice all purchases made through Amazon Smile benefit 1st Congo.

Rally Day

"Our theme for Rally day Sunday was our "3 Great Loves." We explored our mission priorities and how they are showing our congregation's love for neighbor, children, and creation."



Our Rally Day celebration on September 10th was filled with fun and games!



Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges and Offerings	\$14,564.00	\$116,245.47
Other Income	.00	12.03
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,564.00	\$116,257.50
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Outreach and Mission	3,166.68	\$13,095.56
Pastoral Services	6,432.83	56,030.14
Maintenance and Repairs	2,339.68	20,664.24
Church Office	2,687.88	22,564.48
Music Ministry	386.25	4,765.75
Christian Education	45.17	358.00
Local Ministry	.00	36.39
Misc. Expenses	29.90	821.71
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,088.39	\$118,336.27

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Webster City, Iowa Cabinet Meeting – September 12, 2017

Members Present:

Moderator-----Al Yungclas
Vice-Moderator----Donna Ryherd
Finance Sec.-----
Finance-----Tracy Wehrhan
Staff/Parish-----
Christian Ed----- Vicki Blaufuss
Treasurer-----Tracy Wehrhan

Pastor-----Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Trustees-----Joyce Gelhaus
Women's Fellowship-Karin Yungclas
Mission-----Lorraine McCoskey
Worship-----Linda Lahr
Evangelism-----Laurie Epps
Clerk-----Mary Van Diest

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Moderator, Al Yungclas. Pastor Craig gave a meditation on "Present Imperfect" followed by a prayer. The minutes of the August 8, 2017 meeting stand approved as printed in the church newsletter. A brief highlight of the board reports were given as follows: Laurie Epps reported from Evangelism that the Parish Nurse and Stephen Ministry are now under Cabinet following the constitution as written and approved at the annual meeting in January 2017; Stephen Ministry has a new match (male to male); Linda Lahr from Worship Board that the last Saturday evening service will be October 21 with blessing of the pets and communion will be the 1st Sunday in October; Tracy Wehrhan gave the Treasurer's Report—August income was \$14,565.66 and August expenses were \$15,088.39. Tracy moved that the report be put to audit. Vicki seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: After discussing the selling of the two vacant lots owned by the church, Laurie moved to put the selling of the lots at the Congregational Budget meeting on November 12, 2017. Tracy second. Motion carried.

New Business: Set the 2018 Cabinet Budget for the Cabinet as follows:

570.401	Travel Assistance	0
590.006	Lay Delegate to Conf Ann. Mtg	\$ 300.00
510.300	Association Dues & Expenses	\$ 450.00
590.012	Website Maintenance & Public Relations	\$1000.00
	(yearly fee)	
590.008	Stephen Ministry	\$ 500.00
570.300	Parish Nurse	\$ 100.00

Tracy moved with a second by Donna to approve the cabinet budget proposal. Motion carried.

Karin informed the cabinet that the Fort Dodge Choral Society will be presenting a concert at our church on October 28, 2017.

Reports of Boards and Committees:

Pastor's Report: Worship: We returned to our 10:30 am Sunday worship schedule on September 10, which was Rally Day. Sept. 17th, a Gideon Representative will be in attendance at worship and will give a short presentation on the work of the Gideons. Attendees will have the opportunity to make a donation to their work. We will lead Care Center Worship services on Sunday, October 1st. Todd Edeker will preach in my absence on Sunday, October 9th. Rally Day: Meat, chips and buns will be furnished and everyone is asked to bring a dessert or salad to share. There will be games for all ages in the vacant lot before worship. KLAB: Will begin on September 20th. Donna Ryherd has graciously agreed to lead the older students (grades 6 and up). She could use another adult to assist her. Thirty-one letters have been sent out to all potential students from kindergarten through high school with the required registration form. Adult Education: Will begin the fall programming year with a multi-week study on immigration. WCMA: The EHN funds are now around \$6000.00. The St. Paul Lutheran Food pantry served over 150 families in July, and the ACE food pantry served over 50 families in August. The WC Travelers Fund has seen no disbursements in 4 months. Mike Kroona will visit with the police about why no monies are being given out. Southfield Care Center will start its own bereavement program and VDMC is planning to host a grief support group in October. Stephen Ministry: We have arranged for another Stephen Ministry match—now have 5 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers. Did not meet in September but will resume in October. Iowa Conference: Annual business meeting will be Saturday, October 7, from 9:00 am-3:00 pm in Des Moines at First Christian Church, 2500 University Ave. We will be voting on hiring our new Tri-Conference Executive Conference Ministers. As a church we are entitled to two voting delegates and a youth voting delegate (age 13-29). We need delegates! Because I will be on vacation Oct. 2-9, I (the pastor) will not be able to attend this event. The deadline for registration is September 22nd. The Iowa Conference is pleased to announce another "Day of Sharpening" that will precede the annual business meeting. The subject is mental health, and the program is being led by Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffin Lund and Ms. Angela Whitenhill. The program is entitled "Speaking into the Silence; Mental Health and Faith" and it will be held Friday, October 6th, from 9:30 am-4:00 pm, also at First Christian Church of Des Moines. If you are interested in attending this event, please see Pastor Craig for more information, or go to the Iowa Conference website. ACE: A few members helped with ACE work days on Aug. 19th and 20th. On September 6th ACE held a "summit" for pastors and churches and other community leaders to discuss how to build better relations between the immigrant community and the wider community. ACE's Salsa Festival will be held Saturday, Sept.

16th from 3-6 pm with a Best Salsa Contest, Vendor Fair, and a 5:00 pm Pig Roast, Mexican and Asian Dinner. Wedding: Pastor Craig will be out of town Friday and Saturday, Sept. 29-30 to officiate at a wedding in Kansas City.

Board of Trustees: Met August 14th with Tom Riemenschneider, Tracy Wehrhan, Joyce Gelhaus, Sherry Leksell, Bruce Perry and Pastor Craig present. Old Business—no progress getting bid on back hallway; Tom talked to fire department on smoke detectors. They recommended a monitored system and believed that our current system was inadequate to notify all in case of a fire. No idea of cost of said system. Discussed if there would be an insurance savings with monitored system, there was but only a small one. Topic tabled as we research a robocall/wi fi system that would notify selected members in case of fire. Sale of church lots letter: The idea was presented to cabinet who wanted a letter sent to congregation seeking input. This was done via email and mail. Stained glass: Received a bid from contractor that did Asbury UMC. Company seemed more thorough and knowledgeable than previous bid and is highly respected in the field. Discussed funding options and the option to make the repair in stages. Sherry will research possible funding via grants. Joyce will schedule a time for the contractor to meet with the trustees. New Business: Church use-addressed requests for church use from two different groups. Curt surgery: at the next meeting will divide up duties to cover janitorial needs. Lorraine and Dylan have volunteered to do bathroom and vacuuming. Trustees will do the remainder. Children's table: Lynn Leksell will fix. Nursery speaker and clock: there has been a request that a speaker be put in so parents can hear the worship service and also see a clock. The clock will be addressed quickly. Tracy will research if there is any easy way to do a wi fi speaker from the church sound system. Budget: discussed budgeted items and made recommendations. Door entrance: Sometimes hard to lock/unlock. This was remedied with a new allen wrench. Next Trustees meeting will be Thursday, September 27th.

Christian Ed: Met on August 9th with Jane Klaver, Curt McCoskey, Leah Maass, Donna Ryherd, Vicki Blaufuss and Pastor Craig in attendance. Pastor Craig opened meeting with a prayer. Rally Day will be September 10th starting at 9:15 am in the empty lot next to the church with games until 10:15 am. Games will be a cup cake walk, bean bag toss, candy scramble and another game provided by Curt. Will ask for helpers with these games. Will also ask for donations of cupcakes. After worship the board will provide a meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, chips and drink. Paper plates and dinnerware will also be provided. Members of the congregation will be asked to bring either a dessert or salad to share. Curt will grill the hot dogs and hamburgers. Will need a volunteer to assist him. The teachers for next year will be: Carol Crystal-Pre K thru Kindergarten, Laurie Epps-1st thru 3rd, Leah Maass-4th thru 6th, Donna Ryherd-7th and up. The teachers will be given post cards to send out to all possible students. Sunday School will start September 17 and KLAB will start September 20th. This year we want to expand the after-school program and include students who have "outgrown" the KLAB program. Donna Ryherd has volunteered to lead 5th grade and up students who will attend the after-school program. They will snack and have free time with the younger youth, then separate to their own group. Volunteers will be needed to help with these programs. Next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 5 pm.

Mission Board: Met on August 25th. Karin Yungclas reported that the Beacon of Hope meal on July 18th went well, featuring sloppy joes, potato salad and watermelon. They had a plethora of servers. The next meal at the shelter is September 26th, with Marjorie Groves as captain. Lorraine McCoskey is in charge of the November meal. Alan Yungclas will supervise the replacement of sagging metal shelves in the food storage at the shelter. Approximately \$220 is needed to buy materials. The money will come from Pastor Craig's discretionary fund. Anette Howard, Beacon volunteer coordinator, asked that the work be done on a Saturday in September or October. To complete our July church pantry collection, Lorraine delivered paper products to St. Paul Lutheran and Gayle Olson took the food to Trinity Lutheran. The church office received a letter from Janet Toering, outlining ways to support the All Cultures Equal Community Center. Pastor Craig, Gretchen and Jim McGlynn, Jose Burgos and Shirley Yungclas responded to a note in our church's bulleting asking for cleanup and yardwork assistance at the center. The Mission Board discussed the UCC's new Three Great Loves initiative: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children and Love of Creation. The Mission Board challenges all of our church's boards and the Cabinet to come up with ways we all can participate. The Neighbors in Need offering will be collected October 1st. We will sponsor two homes for Warm Hearts, Warm Homes, using the Mission Board budget for the \$100 to winterize them and will recruit two teams. We voted unanimously to submit the same budget as last year to Cabinet. A representative from 1,000 Kids for Iowa will meet with Pastor Craig to

describe the group's work, advocating for unaccompanied children in the U.S. without documentation. The next Mission Board meeting will be Sept. 26th at 6 pm.

Staff/Parish: Met on August 30th with Shirley Yungclas, Stephanie Hill, Greta Oberender and Dalene Schlitter present. Sharon Perry was absent. A discussion was held on the 2018 budget for salaries. The budget worksheet was filled out and returned to the Finance Board. The assignments were made for the staff reviews as follows: Stephanie with Pastor Craig and Curt, Greta with Michele, Shirley with Melissa and Dalene with Sunshine. We will try and have the reviews finished by the middle of October. It was agreed that we would serve coffee on Sept. 24th, with Greta furnishing cheese and crackers, Dalene the veggies, fruit and drink. Shirley and Stephanie will bring bars/a sweet. The next meeting will be on Sept. 24th after or during coffee.

Women's Fellowship: Present at the Sept. 6th meeting of executive board were Karin Yungclas, Kay Harfst, Cindy Henning, Shirley Yungclas, Ginnie Veach and Mabel Prescott. The pastor's report shared those needing prayers, joys for Katie Holdgrafer engagement and Curt and Lorraine McCoskey's for their new grandson. Shirley Yungclas sent out 3 get well cards, one thinking of you, one congratulation and four sympathy cards. She also presented a bill for cards for \$12.47. Cindy Henning shared thank you cards from UDMO, Ecumenical Human Needs, Wings of Refuge, Gateway to Discovery D/SAOC, ACE and Relay for Life. An invitation was received to the Open House for Adele & Dean Bowden Youth & Family Clinic on Sept. 12th from 3 to 6 pm. Karin's report from cabinet included info on sale of lots south of the church. Old Business: A big thank you to Pastor Craig and helpers for serving our May dinner. New Business; Karin shared a request about serving a meal for State Community Theatre meeting in the spring. We will discuss further. There is a change in the yearbook—Peacemakers meeting time is 9:00, not 9:30. The program presenters can choose their own program this year. Resource options other than Threads of Hope include, Reformation Anniversary-UCC, The Decision of a Life time (on line), Daily Devotions Calendar, the internet and the local library. Clarity of Circle Support of Fellowship included discussion about what we need to support to support, such as things like OCWM. The Thrift Sale supports local giving. In years past circles collected dues and/or each circle was responsible for \$250 of giving. New dishes were discussed by Mabel Prescott. She has researched as to what we have currently and gathered costs of Corelle. She is continuing to bring more information to us. The oven will be cleaned by Kay and/or Karin. The extra racks next to the oven found their homes in the oven and large refrigerator. Reminders were given about circle cleaning of the kitchen. Transition into new leaders needs to be discussed as Kay and Karin will not continue as Co-Presidents. How do we want to proceed? The Thrift Sale is Sept. 22 & 23. Items can be brought to the church beginning Sept. 20th. Next meeting of Executive Board is October 4th at 5 pm.

Next Cabinet Meeting is Tuesday, October 10, 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:

