

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

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” –Colossians 4: 2

So how is your prayer life?

Sounds like a “churchy” thing to say, doesn’t it? It certainly implies that prayer should be an important part of your life. In fact, if you were to name the one essential spiritual practice of the Christian faith, it would be prayer, which Luther described as a heart to heart communion with God.

And yet I sense that many Christians struggle with prayer as a spiritual practice...and to be honest with you it has taken me a long time to learn to appreciate “prayer” as a spiritual practice and a deep form of communion with God, in part because of what I would call “poor prayer practices” in my past.

As a child, I learned to pray “now I lay me down to sleep” as a bedtime ritual, a kind of incantation that somehow might keep me safe through the night—although in honesty the thought of dying in my sleep NEVER occurred to me as a child. So this prayer seemed pretty divorced from my reality, and it hardly felt like heart to heart communion with God.

As a pious family we also prayed before supper every night, and this too was usually a scripted prayer offered by rote as a family, and while it was certainly a harmless invitation extended to Lord Jesus to be our guest, for me at least it was hardly heart to heart communion with Jesus.

And then I think about the prayers I heard as a child offered by clergy, the “professional prayers” who, as I grew up, were finally beginning to jettison the use of King James English in their scripted prayers. This to my mind was a good thing, because it was sending a message that the best prayers needed a special, prettied up language in which to address God--a language that seemed foreign to my tongue.

I can tell you that for all of these reasons—and well as others—for many years I did not pray at all. These days, however, I have a much greater use for prayer as a form of communion with God, because I have come to understand that prayer is so much more than just ritualized words launched to a distant God.

Our first topic when our adult education class resumes on September 16 will be “Prayer,” and in this multi-week exploration we will have the opportunity to explore what we believe about prayer, why we pray, and perhaps most importantly, *how* we can pray so that we can experience deeper communion with God. We will explore non-verbal ways to pray (remember “praying in color?”), look at some of the traditional prayer practices of the Church (such as the Examen), and evaluate our own current prayer practices (such as our prayer chain). My hope is that participants will be able to share their prayer experiences with others, learn more about the mystery of prayer, and find new ways to pray that are refreshing , life-giving and life-changing. I hope you will join us for this important study! –Pastor Craig

Meetings

Please inform Michele when your next board meeting is so the calendar can be kept up to date.

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

August 5	43	August 12	52
August 18	34	August 26	42

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 **712-351-1074**

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

Tracy Wehrhan: Church Treasurer **297-0370**

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



TV dinner savvy -

Pick meals that are between 300 and 400 calories.

Choose entrees that include some fruits or vegetables.

Stay with meals that have less than 15 grams of fat.

Choose meals that have no more than 800 grams of sodium

Check fiber and sugar contents. The more fiber (8 to 10 grams is good) and the less sugar, the better.

Look for a decent amount of protein - at least 7 grams. Protein helps you feel fuller longer.



1 - Sunshine Yoders

2 - Ayla Jackson

6 - Debra Carlson

7 - Brandon Lahr

8 - Vada Rae Williams

9 - Robbie Maass

15 - Mark Vance

16 - Morgan Struchen

20 - Mary Byrne

20 - Amani McMurray

24 - Will Weieneth

26 - Kayla Nelson

28 - Dena Rohmiller

30 - Mark Brim



1 - Ron & Laurie Epps

1 - Travis & Stacy Wearda

18 - Les & Leanna Ploeger

18 - Jim & Cindy Henning

19 - Landen & Betty Ploeger

Thanks

Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generosity and supporting my college education! I appreciate everything you all do for me! These scholarships make it so much easier for me to continue attending the University of Iowa. They will help me pay for tuition and textbooks. I can't wait to see you all soon!

Alexis Tudor



Thanks to your help I was able to collect over 500 items to donate to the Domestic and Sexual Assault Outreach Center! Thank you for supporting Cuddle up to a Cause.

McKenna Mitchell

I want to Thank You for the scholarship money. I have used it to help pay my tuition to DMACC, where I am studying Performing Arts.

When I am finished at DMACC I plan on going to finish my degree at ISU.

Thanks,

Karl Heimberger (Nephew of member Joyce Gelhaus)

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for choosing me to be this year's recipient of the Bess Lyon Memorial and Helen Johnson scholarships. The money from these scholarships will be a tremendous help as I begin my junior year as a vocal music education major. I appreciate it very much, and thank you again.

Lauren Leman

Rally Day!—September 9!

Save the date! Rally day is Sunday, September 9, beginning at 9:15 with games for all ages in the vacant lot. Following worship we will enjoy a hamburger and hotdog cookout. The Christian Ed. Board will provide the meat, chips, and drinks; please bring a dessert or salad to share.

Sunday School For all Ages Resumes September 16

Summer's over—it's time to begin Fall Sunday School classes on September 16th! Carol Crystal (pre-K-1st grade); Laurie Epps (2nd – 6th grade) and Don Bruner (7th-12th grade) will be our teachers this year! We are looking forward to another year of Christian education for all ages. See you September 16 beginning at 9:15!

Adult Education Resumes September 16

we will meet again in the multipurpose room in the lower level of the church beginning at 9:15 and ending at 10 a.m.—sharp! Our first study will be focused on Prayer.

KLAB Begins Sept 12 another year of Kids Learning About the Bible is about to begin! We will meet Wednesdays after school for free time, snacks, Bible lessons and other activities. KLAB is open to students grades 1-6. Registration forms are available in fellowship hall. We are also looking for volunteers to provide snacks. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in fellowship hall if you would like to donate.

THRIFT SALE

September 21 & 22

Fall Cleaning and Sorting

Friday & Saturday, September 21 & 22 -

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

Wed. September 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.

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.

Choir

Choir will start practices on Wednesday, September 12 and perform on Sunday, September 16.

Budget Time Approaching

Each board has a worksheet upon which they can prepare their budget for 2019. The Finance Board has asked that we hold the line on expenses; if necessary to increase an item, look for another place to reduce. We need to make a conscious effort to be good stewards. These worksheets should be given to the Finance Board (turn in to the church office) by September 15.

3 Great Loves - Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, Love of Creation

On Thursday Sept. 13 Mission Board is asking for your help and support to show Love of Neighbor by hosting an ice cream break for the teaching staff of the WC schools. We will be dipping and serving ice cream at the Middle School starting about 1:15 that Thurs. We expect to be finished by 2:00 as this ice cream break is being served as the staff gather for a Staff Devel. time so we will not be lingering. We will need several people to help dip the ice cream and others to welcome staff and thank them for all they do for the children in our community.

Please look for the sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you

Mission Board

Step Out with the 2018 CROP Walk

Lace up those walking shoes and join the First Congregational UCC team on Sunday, October 14, as we participate in the CROP Hunger Walk in Webster City. The Mission Board will put out the pickle jar for your donations when the CROP crew hosts coffeetime after the worship service on September 23. When CROP began, the name stood for Christian Rural Overseas Program. Now it means Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. CROP Hunger Walks fight hunger at home and around the world. Twenty-five percent of the money

collected will be donated to Upper Des Moines Opportunity in Webster City. The other 75 percent goes to international programs through Church World Service to help families who don't know where their next meal will come from.

On October 14, come to the Brewer Creek Shelter on Des Moines Street at 2 p.m. The walk is two miles. CROP walkers will follow the path in front of the shelter, along the creek, up the sidewalk along Beach Street beside the cemetery and down Hospital Hill back to the shelter, so no streets to cross. You are invited to bring a jar of peanut butter for local food pantries and bars of bath soap for Lutheran World Relief.

If you have any questions or want to join our church's CROP walkers, contact Marjorie Groves (515-297-2352). Marvin and Deb Christopherson are coordinating this year's Webster City CROP Hunger Walk (515-543-8332). Thank you! – **The Mission Board**

Stephen Ministers are available for you Our Stephen Ministry program is in its sixth year of service here at First Congregational, and we are ready to serve you! Our Stephen Ministers have gone through 50 hours of training in order to listen to you, pray with you, encourage and support you through the difficult times of your life. Remember-- you do not have to "go it alone!" Our Stephen Ministers are here for you! For more information, or to request a Stephen Minister, please contact Dale Olson, our Stephen Leader, or Pastor Craig.



This bat was found sleeping under the crumpled tape used to seal off the windows. Chris McNiel happened to stop by right after this discovery and he easily relocated the bat to the great outdoors.



On August 22 we removed this old friend from our church grounds. Lightening damage and decay had taken its toll on this ash tree--a memorial planted in memory of Gary Yungclas in 1970.

Treasurer's Report

INCOME	July	YEAR TO DATE
Pledges and Offerings	\$20,303.00	\$112,346.32
Other Income	.00	.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,303.00	\$112,346.32
EXPENSES		
Outreach and Mission	1,583.34	\$11,518.30
Pastoral Services	6,034.08	51,893.70
Maintenance and Repairs	1,704.37	17,973.57
Church Office	2,478.52	21,548.06
Music Ministry	313.77	5,167.75
Christian Education	0.00	85.10
Local Ministry	0.00	48.20
Misc. Expenses	0.00	1,110.76
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,114.08	\$109,345.44

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting held on August 14, 2018

Members Present:

Moderator:	Donna Ryherd	Pastor:	Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Vice Moderator:		Trustees:	Joyce Gelhaus
Finance Sec.:	Dale Olson	Women's Fellowship:	Holly Reimanschneider
Finance :	Tracy Wehrhan	Mission:	Gale Olson
Staff/Parish:	Stephanie Hill	Worship:	Linda Lahr
Christian Ed:	Curt McCoskey	Evangelism:	Laurie Epps
Treasurer:	Tracy Wehrhan	Clerk:	Stephanie Hill

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by the Moderator, Donna Ryherd. Pastor Craig gave a meditation by Mother Teresa called An Empty Heart and offered a prayer. The June cabinet meeting minutes were approved as printed in the church newsletter.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS: Worship Board: Last meeting was the Thursday last. Linda reported that root beer floats were serviced after the Saturday service. The September communion will be September 2 instead of September 9. On September 9th winter worship hours begin and there will be a video service on September 2nd since Pastor will be gone. **Trustees:** The ash tree near the front entrance is decaying and dying according to an arborist. Treatment and trimming would cost about half as much as removing, but safety issues remain. Jim's Tree Service was contacted and will cut the tree down and remove/grind out the stump for \$2200.00. **Christian Education:** As in Board notes. Carol needs an assistant for Sunday School so it was suggested that the confirmation students could help. **Staff Parish:** Will meet in August or September to do their annual evaluations. **Evangelism:** The usher schedule is filled out for the summer. So far the fall schedule is empty, but Laurie will be working diligently on it. **Mission:** A Thank You to all who helped fill the Quire loft with paper products for St. Paul's and Trinity. On September 13 a 'Teacher Appreciation' event will be held at the Middle School. Volunteers are needed to help serve ice cream. **Finance:** Tracy passed out the budget sheet to be completed by each of the Boards by September 20th. **Women's Fellowship** The booklet update is in progress and their first meeting will be September 5th. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor's scheduled vacation is August 24th to September 2. There are 4 confirmands this year. **Treasurer:** The 2nd payment of \$14,000 was made to Cathedral Craft for the window repair. A motion by Tracy, seconded by Dale to put the report to audit passed.

PENDING BUSINESS: Safe Church Policy item: There was an incident during a KLAB event at Almost Home in February over which the Kenvilles have withdrawn their membership from the church. Window repair: no unexpected problems reported as the repairs progress. While the stained glass is out, the plain glass

windows will be washed by a company from Fort Dodge just before the stained glass is re-installed. Inventory: Joyce is working to video the entire church and assigned areas to board members.

Jordan Church, a predominantly Hispanic church, has requested that UCC be a host site for them while they attempt to find their own space. The pros and cons of this were discussed. Donna Ryherd, Linda Lahr, Gale Olson and Curt McCoskey volunteered to get more information.

The full report of the boards and the pastor's report are at the end of the cabinet minutes.

Next meeting at September 11 at 7:00pm.

Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Hill, church clerk.

CHRISTIAN ED BOARD

The board met on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 6:00 pm

Pastor Craig shared with the group the responses that he received from the text that he had sent to the parents of the Sunday School. He has asked for their feedback on what could be improved, or done differently in Sunday School and KLAB. Are Sundays difficult or inconvenient for your family schedule, and if so, is there another date/time that would be better for you? Should we continue with the traditional format or possibly combining all upper grades into one class or expanding our Christian Education programming on Wednesdays after school (KLAB)? We thank all parents who took the time to give us their input. After much discussion we decided to ask the parents what grade their child will be in school this fall. After we have that information we will meet again and determine exactly how to group the different grades. This meeting will be shortly after the 4th of July.

Mary Van Diest, Chair

CHRISTIAN ED BOARD

The board met on Tuesday, July 17th, at 6:00 pm. The board discussed the number of possible students in each grade level for both Sunday school and KLAB. Pastor Craig will contact the students who are eligible for confirmation, and their parents to see if they are interested to becoming confirmed and if so, when could confirmation classes meet. On September 9, 2018 the Sunday school classes will begin for the fall with Rally Day. There will be games, relays, cake walks etc. for the youth during the Sunday school time. EVERYONE is invited to a potluck following the worship service with the Christian Ed Board furnishing grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. They will also supply the drinks and table service. The board is asking that church members, if they desire, to bring one thing-as chips, salad, vegetable or dessert. It doesn't have to be homemade! Purchased products work just fine. No charge or collection will be taken!!

The board will meet again on Tuesday, July 31st at 6:00 pm.

CHRISTIAN ED BOARD

The board met at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, July 31, 2018. Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 9th. Games, candy scramble and cake walk for the children (adults are most welcome also) will begin at 9:15 am. The church worship service returns to its regular time-10:30 am. Following the worship service a potluck for ALL will be held in Fellowship Hall. Curt McCoskey and Don Bruner will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone. The Ch. Ed. Board is asking everyone to bring ONE item—dessert, salad or chips/relishes/dip if they are able. The board is furnishing lemonade, coffee, meat & buns, paper plates, condiments, etc. This is a good way to start the fall term. We are happy to announce the following classes will be starting on the 16th of September for our Sunday School children. Carol Crystal (pre-K-1st grade); Laurie Epps (2nd – 6th grade) Don Bruner (7th-12th grade). Don Bruner and Katie Sonsalla are in charge of music. KLAB will begin on Wednesday, September 16th, from 3:15 to 5:00 pm. Donna Ryherd will be in charge of children in 1st-5th grade. There will be another co-teacher and helper. Pastor Craig will be holding confirmation for the 7th & 8th graders from 4:00-5:00. Next meeting: Tuesday, August 21st at 5:30 pm.

Finance Board

July 1, 2018

Don called the meeting to order. Tracy gave a brief treasurer's report. The only item on the agenda was to review and award scholarships. They are as follows:

Bess Lyons Scholarship: 5 were awarded for \$ 525.00 each to Lauren Leman, Kylie Crystal, Karl Heimberger, Jacob Nixt and Jose Burgos.

Helen Poole Scholarship: 2 were awarded for \$ 650.00 each to Katie Short and Alexis Tudor.

Helen Johnson Scholarship: 4 were awarded for \$ 990.00 each to Katie Short, Alexis Tudor, Lauren Leman and Jose Burgos.

Ptacek Medical Careers Scholarship: No viable applicants, No awards.

The Bess Lyons scholarship fund requires a 10% reinvestment of funds which totaled \$ 292.12. The Helen Poole Scholarship fund requires a 15% reinvestment of funds which totaled \$ 230.13.

The Ptacek Medical Careers interest money will be transferred to the Ptacek checking account to be awarded in the coming years to a viable applicant.

Mission Board

We met July 2. Around a dozen folks went to the Boone River Recreational Trail after Saturday evening worship, June 16, to pick up trash – but didn't find much to remove. We suggest people take a plastic grocery bag to pick up refuse when they walk the trail. Karin reported that the June 13 Ice Cream Social brought in \$820. We had the right number of bars and ice cream. Next year First Congregational UCC will host the Ice Cream Social. The Hamilton County Relay for Life in Stanhope June 20 raised around \$25,000, although the weather was rainy. The Relay's silent auction raised \$965. We have a good start collecting the paper products, disposable diapers and baby wipes for our July Drive for Church Food Pantries. We will put out the pickle jar for congregation donations for the Teacher Appreciation ice cream and toppings, to be served August 20 or 21 during the educators' in-service training. The menu for the Beacon of Hope meal July 30 will be Sloppy Joes, potato salad, Jell-O salads, bars. To save prep time, we'll ask five people to each bring two pounds of browned meat to the church to total 10 lbs. Audrey and Karin are meal captains. Lorraine volunteered to help prepare the meal. Pastor Craig, Gayle, Marjorie and other church members attended the Opioid Summit organized by Retired Senior Volunteers Program/ RSVP. A panel of health, social services and law enforcement speakers shared their perspectives of the problem. A project called SPAN The Generations (Seniors Preventing Addiction to Narcotics) is being organized to train volunteers to speak to groups. We asked Gayle to schedule our church to pack for the Backpack Program when there's an opening. The next Mission Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 8, at 4 p.m.

Mission Board

Old Business: The July "Fill the Choir Loft" resulted in 5 boxes of diapers, 4 packages of diapers, 6 packages of wet wipes, 154 rolls of toilet paper, 24 boxes of tissues and 33 rolls of paper towels. These products were delivered to the food pantries of Trinity and St Paul Lutheran churches. An anonymous donation of \$300 was sent to UDMO.

Beacon meal in July was well received. Chairs Karin and Audrey reported the jello salad was a hit. Karin reported 25 members of our church participated by contributing, preparing or serving the meal. April 23, 2019 will be the date our church participates in the Backpack program. The date chosen for our church to host a Teacher Appreciation event will be Thursday, September 13, at the Middle School in the afternoon. We will need 8 to 12 people to help with the serving. A sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall and more details will be in the next church newsletter.

New Business: September 25 Beacon of Hope meal will be chaired by Lorraine. The CROP Walk will be Sunday, October 14. Marjorie will head the UCC team. The annual Neighbors in Need offering will be received Sunday, October 7. Audrey will lead this offering. A lengthy discussion was held on how our church might help in the recovery in Marshalltown after the July 19 tornado. Craig will investigate how personal help, as well as a monetary offering could be provided. More on this soon.

Next meeting September 4 at 4:00 pm.

Board of Trustees

Thursday July 19, 2018 7PM

Old Business

- The church received a Grant of \$2500 from the Teresa Treat Stearns Charitable Trust, for the Stained-Glass Windows project. We have received \$42,276.71 in donations for the Stained-Glass Window project.
- Lot update. There have been no offers on the lot. Stacy Wearda, our realtor, suggested that we lower the price. A motion was made by Sherry to drop the price \$10,000 and revisit it in 6 months. Tracy seconded the motion. Motion approved. Joyce informed Stacy Wearda.
- Mark Trueblood put a new valve in the dishwasher heater. Now we are waiting for a new gauge. When the gauge is put in Mark will also check the boiler valves.
- Sherry asked Don Bruner if it was OK to sell the Orff instruments. Don gave us the OK to sell them. Sherry will check with West Instruments and Riemen Music to see if they would buy them. (Sherry has called both places and received a NO from both.) Sherry will continue to check with larger churches and area schools.
- A bill was received from Cathedral Crafts for the 15% payment on the Stained Glass Window project. \$14,067.

New Business

- Dalene Schlitter asked to use the fellowship hall for PEO on August 9. It was approved.
- Al will finish the hinges on the front door, fix the hinges on the west entry cupboard, and he has fixed the NE door.
- The Air Conditioning in the tower needs to be checked for bat guano. Tom will call Mark Trueblood. We also would like Mark to cap the Dome vent so the bat guano and debris will stop dropping on the sanctuary carpet. Tracy will check on an ultrasonic gadget to keep the bats away.
- Joyce will call for cleaning the sanctuary carpet, to be done after the Dome is closed.
- Ash Tree- Tom made a motion to have an arborist look at the Ash tree to see if it is worthy of treatment. Sherry seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- North Central Turf will also be contacted to give us a quote on spraying the lawn for weeds.
- Discussion was held on putting cement in the area between the sidewalk and curb on the west side of the building.
- Joyce is trying to get an estimate from Window Man to wash the church windows before the stained glass is put back in.
- The church inventory form was Ok'd. We developed a plan for doing the inventory and assign the areas for people and committees to count. Following are the assignments:
Michele – office
Pastor Craig- pastors office, sanctuary (pews, hymnals, piano, organ, computer)
Choir – Choir Room
Women's Fellowship- kitchen
Quilters- quilting room
Sherry – Fellowship Hall and Chapel (Done)
Christian Ed- Sunday School and Stephen Ministry Rooms
Chancel- flower and candle supplies
Trustees -Store Rooms, Dungeon
Instructions will be given at the August cabinet meeting.

Next Meeting August 9, 2018 7PM

Board of Trustees

Thursday August 9, 2018

OLD BUSINESS

- Ash Tree- Joyce called the arborist at NCT to look at our ash tree. The arborist said that the tree is decaying from a lightning strike. The tree will not die soon. If we treat the tree, she suggested to do it in the spring when the sap is more actively moving through the tree. The

cost for preventative ash bore treatment would be \$252. The Board decided to table the treatment until next spring.

- Chris McNiel has repaired the leaking pip in the bride's bathroom. Chris also replaced the receptacle for the organ.
Other concerns from Chris:
 1. Drop cords left side of altar – new receptacles
 2. Lighting for the choir and organ area
 3. Moisture on floor near boiler- wet boxes
 4. Mop sink slow
 5. Romex wiring in bride's bathroom- Al will work on this
 6. Led lighting for west entry where lights are on continuously
- Tower and Dome update- Tom talked to Mark Trueblood and he suggested to get a bat man to help in the tower. Mark said that the air units are protected from bat guano and he would not be going up in the tower. Tom will make a call to the Bat Man to clean the bat guano in the tower and will check to see if an ultrasound device would help to keep the bats out.
- Window Man will wash the exterior windows when the stained glass windows are back in. Estimate is \$420. Tracy made motion for the windows to be washed and Tom seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- Mark O'Malley Carpet cleaning came and measured the sanctuary carpet. Have not received the estimate. This will be done after the dome is closed and the stained glass windows are back in.
- Inventory update- The church insurance suggested that we do a video of the church for part of the inventory. We will scan the room and open the cupboards and drawers. We will also write down the quantity and description of major items. When information is compiled it will be put on flash drives and kept in three different places. Pastor Craig will video.

Assignments:

1. Michele -office
 2. Pastor Craig- pastor's office -done, sanctuary-pews, hymnals, piano, organ, computer
 3. Choir Room- Robes, music files, music folders, piano
 4. Quilters- Sewing machines
 5. Women's fellowship-Kitchen plates, bowls, cups, glasses, mugs, silverware, appliances, pitchers, coffee pots
 6. Christian Ed- tables and chairs in the Sunday School rooms
 7. Trustees- Store rooms, dungeon
 8. Fellowship Hall and East Chapel are done – Thanks Sherry
- Late winter 2019 we will get estimates on lawn care from Ruba, Stony Creek and NCT.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approve the Plunket's bill to be paid.
- Stained Glass Window donation chart is now up in Fellowship Hall.
- Curt will be on vacation August 17-26. Trustees will meet at church Saturday August 25 at 10 am to take care of cleaning.
- When the stained glass windows are back in the church insurance man will come for an appraisal. At that time the trustees will meet with him and go through and update the church's insurance policy.
- An estimate for trimming the ash tree and crabapple trees was received from Jim's Tree Service. It was to remove all the dead branches and bad limb from the ash tree and shape up the crabapple trees. Estimate was for \$833.50. We also talked about taking down the tree. Alan made a motion to do the tree trimming and Tom seconded the motion. Approved.

On Friday morning the tree was looked at closer by Pastor Craig and Joyce. Pastor Craig sent a memo to Joyce about the reasons to take down the tree and Joyce sent it to the Trustees. Things considered were the decaying tree, lightning strike, costs, safety and concerns if the ash tree fell on the church building.

Trustees met Sunday morning August 12 after church by the ash tree. After looking closely at the ash tree and considering the concerns in the memo, the following motion was made- Check with the city to see if they could take down the tree since electrical lines are going through the tree. If the city will not take the tree down have Jim's Tree Service take it down for \$2200. Motion was approved.

Pastor's Report to Cabinet August 10, 2018

Worship: On June 10th we baptized Adelyn Marie Oberender, daughter of Nick and Diana Oberender. Our first Saturday evening worship service was held June 16th at 5 pm., and following the service a group did trash pickup along the Boone River and then gathered to share a light supper at the church. We led care center services July 1, and we will lead them again August 19th. Our last Saturday service will be held August 18, and we will be treated to root beer floats after the service courtesy of the Worship Board. I will be gone Labor Day Sunday (Sept. 2), so we will enjoy another video sermon that day (still at 9:30 am). Rally day and the return to winter worship hours will be Sunday, Sept. 9.

Summer Lunch Program: Thanks to everyone who once again helped with the summer lunch program! Attendance numbers were down this year (averaging 70-80 per day) in part because one day care center did not elect to take advantage of the free meal. I am unsure what the future of the program will look like with these declining attendance numbers and the rise of sack lunches the school cafeteria is distributing.

RYE 2018: Dylan McCoskey, myself, and over 250 youth with their leaders gathered in Grinnell, Iowa on June 19-22 for 4 days of learning how Faith = Action! There were daily opportunities for lively and engaging worship at our plenary sessions, and we learned about new opportunities for service and mission. Each day there were opportunities for discussion in small group sessions, and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons were spent in workshops and engaged in local mission projects. Mornings at 7 pm were for spiritual practices, and evenings were time for conversations, walking a labyrinth, and a finale concert by the Convergence Music Project. It was a very meaningful, active, and positive experience for me.

KLAB: We have offered no programming or social events over the summer. We will begin KLAB on Wednesday, Sept. 12.

Confirmation: We will be offering a confirmation class beginning Wednesday, Sept. 12, from 3:30-5 pm. We currently have 4 confirmands who have expressed an interest in attending: Brandon Lahr, Shelby Brim, Madison Babington, and Chesney Fuller. We will begin with the KLAB group and enjoy free time and snacks together before we break away at 4 pm for our confirmation studies.

Adult Education: We will begin the fall programming year with a study of "prayer."

WCMA: I continue to cover for Rev. Kroona of Trinity when he is away. Donations over the summer for the Backpack program have been few, but we still have \$5,375 in savings to resume the program this fall. Our date to pack the backpacks at Trinity ELCA will be Tuesday, April 23. Faith UMC has a new pastor: Rev. Peg Ellingson.

Stephen Ministry: We have 3 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers. We met in July but did not meet in August due to absences.

Tri-Conference: We are currently very short staffed after our consolidation of Iowa, S. Dakota and Nebraska into 1 managed unit. Brigit Stevens continues as the Executive Conference Minister, and Jonna Jensen is our ACM. Gordon Rankin of the S. Dakota Conference has resigned and his last day will be Sept. 30, leaving 3 states with just 1 ACM and the Executive Conference Minister! There was a plea put out for applicants; I am unaware at this time how many applicants have applied for the 3 vacant ACM positions.

Request for First congregational to host Jordan Church: I recently was approached by pastor Eddy of Jordan Church, a new Hispanic church start, about the possibility of us hosting this new church in our building.

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:



Please inform Michele when your next board meeting is so the calendar can be kept up to date.