

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

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”—John 1: 5*  
*“You are the light of the world...” —Matthew 5:14*

The restored stained glass windows are in, and they look beautiful! Cathedral Crafts re-leaded, cleaned, and “de-cluttered” the windows (additional support bars added over the years were removed) so once again the windows look as bright and inspiring as they did to our spiritual ancestors who built this house of worship in 1890. While certainly not an inexpensive restoration, the windows now stand ready to offer light, beauty, and inspiration to all who will enter our church for the next 80-100 years!

If you were at our Reformation Sunday worship service, you heard me suggest to our young worshippers during our children’s message that since our stained glass windows were meant to remind people of God and draw them closer to God, perhaps we should take the windows back out and carry them around town! The idea didn’t seem appealing either to the children or to the Trustees, so we settled on a couple of other ideas: 1. Invite people in town to come to church to see the windows and feel closer to God, and 2. Take our “light” out into the world so people will be reminded of God by seeing God’s light in us. Both are great ideas!

We should all commit to living them out.

For our beautiful windows are not meant to be mere aesthetic items of beauty or lovely architectural antiques—they are worship aids so that those who gather to worship can draw closer to God and experience through light, symbol, and beauty the glory and transforming power of God. But how will that happen if no one gathers? How will that happen if we do not evangelize and invite others to gather for worship with us?

And our beautiful windows are not meant to be substitutes for the Light of God shining through US as light to the world, following the example of Jesus who for us is THE Light of the World. Our worship time together is to inspire, strengthen, and equip us to carry our light out into the world for yet another week, so that the world is reminded by seeing US that there is indeed a power at work in our lives as Christians...a loving, wise, peaceful, joyful, active, engaged, and hopeful power that we have come to know as God. This is the perennial calling of Christ to his followers: to go and “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16)

To paraphrase last week’s benediction: When you let the Light of God move through you, you will be even more beautiful than our stained glass windows! More importantly, you will be able to carry that beauty --and God’s beautiful message-- outside the walls of our church to our hurting and confused world. As we recoil from a week of despicable acts of hate and violence, set in the frame of our larger culture which is giving itself over to hate and violence in thought, word, and deed...now is the time we need every God-Light to shine in our world, reminding all people that there is a better way. For just as the world’s darkness did not overcome the Light of the World, darkness will not overcome the Light we offer the world IF we will not keep it hidden within ourselves, but let it shine!

May our beautiful windows remind us of that beautiful truth! --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

October 7 ?? October 14 63

October 21 55 October 28 55

### 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)

**Dale Olson**: Stephen Ministry Ldr 839-5619

**Sunshine Garth**: 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



### Thanksgiving etiquette 101

If you're a guest:

Let the host know if you plan to attend or not as soon as possible.

Offer to contribute to the dinner.

Dress up a notch.

Be on time.

Help clean up.

Keep conversation positive. Focus on "thankful" topics.

Don't stay too long.

Thank the host. Send a handwritten note.



3 - Bob Maass

4 - Chase Berhow

5 - Joely Gilbert

6 - Amanda Kalkwarf

9 - Keith Holdgrafer

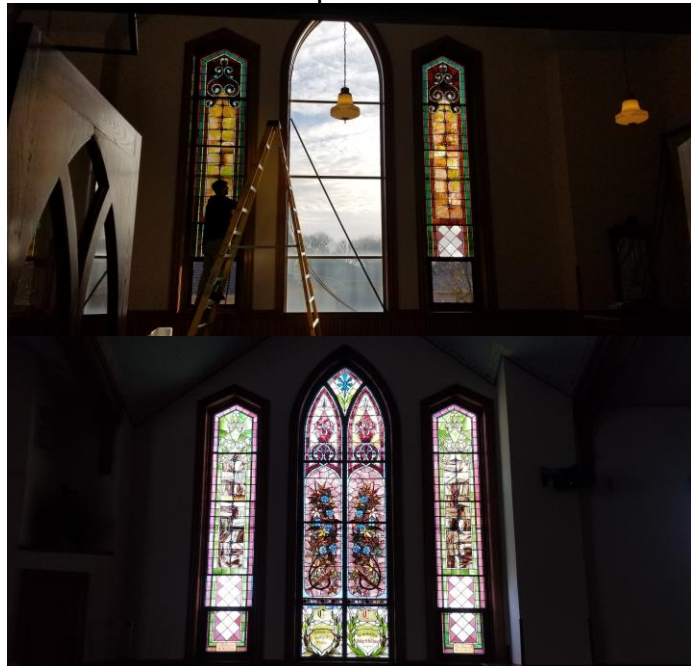
11 - Dilcia Franco  
13 - Holly Riemenschneider  
13 - Katie Sonsalla  
13 - Oliver Sonsalla  
13 - Andrea Mosbach  
14 - Emily Maass  
18 - Donna Ryherd  
20 - Jon Follett  
20 - Jayleen Burgos  
20 - Laurie Smith  
24 - Maggie Kennedy  
24 - Tyler Nelson  
25 - Diane Vasquez  
26 - Andrew Wehrhan  
27 - Susan Leman  
27 - Glenda Wehrhan



21 - Mark & Deb Carlson  
22 - Tom & Holly Riemenschneider  
25 - Arden & Dalene Schlitter  
29 - Ray & Diane Vasquez

### Open House

An Open House for the refurbished windows has been suggested. If you would like to help with planning this event, please contact Donna Ryherd by phone or text (515-835-8016) this week. Donations are still needed to cover the window restoration expense.



### KAH

The Morning Kiwanis Club and the Webster City Ministerial Association are pleased to announce that there will be another Kids Against Hunger

Community Food Packaging event held at Fuller Hall on Sunday, November 11, from 2-4 p.m. Kids Against Hunger is a non-profit humanitarian organization with a mission to provide fully nutritious food to impoverished children and families around the world. The goal of the November 11 community food pack is to package 33,000 meals to send out worldwide!

To package this many meals in 2 hours will require 8 packaging lines staffed with 10 volunteers per line. **We will need 6-8 volunteers to help set up the pack lines at 1 pm and tear them down at 4 pm. If you are willing to help with set up and tear down let me know.** Thanks! – Pastor Craig

### **Pecans for sale**

Halves or Pieces, \$10 per bag. Make checks out to Haystack Circle.

### **Warm Hearts Warm Homes—November 3**

For 6 years the Warm Hearts Warm Homes program has been helping low income, elderly and disabled residents of Hamilton County save money on their winter heating bills by providing and applying winter weatherization materials such as window plastic, door sweeps, and outlet insulation. We will again be participating in the program this year, which will be held Saturday, November 3 from 8 am until noon! First Congo will field two teams for this event.

### **Confirmation News**

Our confirmands have a busy month planned in November!

On Saturday, November 3, our confirmands will make up a team to help weatherize homes for Warm Hearts Warm Homes. We will meet at 8:00 am at the Senior Center and should be finished by noon.

On Sunday November 4, our confirmands will lead our Sunday worship as liturgists and will serve as our communion stewards.

On Friday, November 9, our confirmands will travel to Temple Bnai Jeshurun in Des Moines to take part in a Shabbat service. We will depart from the church at 4:30 in order to arrive before 6 pm when the service begins. Following the service and tour of the temple, we will stop for a fast food supper before returning to Webster City, arriving around 9 pm.

On Wednesday, November 28, our confirmands will prepare and serve the Beacon of Hope meal in Fort Dodge. We will prep the meal after school, leave at 4:30 pm for Fort Dodge, and return to the church by 6:30 pm. Remember—there will be no KLAB or Confirmation class on Wednesday, Nov. 21 due to Thanksgiving Break!

### **All Saints Sunday—November 25**

All Saints Day is a time to remember those departed “saints” who have shaped and blessed our lives in so many ways. On Sunday, November 25, we will observe All Saints Sunday during worship by reading the names of our departed congregation members who have died in the past year. Following their remembrance, individuals and families will be invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to light candles in memory of loved ones and friends who have departed. The departed saints of this congregation whom we will remember during this year’s All Saint’s Sunday are:

**Dorothy Stearns, Al Maxon, Ina Cormaney, and Charlene McKee.**

### **Medicare**

Open enrollment is until December 7. Make sure you have coverage that meets your needs. SHIP can help you sort things out 832-7769.

### **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 18 to vote on the proposed budget for 2019. Absentee ballots are available in the church office.

### **Neighbors in Need**

Thank you to our church family for your generous response to our fall offering, Neighbors in Need. A total of \$590 has been sent to support the cause in our nation. Your Mission Board

### **More Than Snow!**

Intrepid! The 17 participants in the CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, October 14, proved that it takes more than unexpected snow to slow the fight against hunger. First Congregational United Church of Christ, Webster City, sent a team of five – Joyce Gelhaus, Marjorie Groves, Jackson Leman, Susan Leman and guest Mark Andrew. (Last year--on a much nicer day--20 folks participated, with six on our church’s

team.) Sent with the team to the starting line were 14 jars of peanut butter for local food pantries and 10 bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief, donated by members of our church. Thanks to donations in the pickle jar and other contributions, we sent a check totaling \$600 to the Webster City CROP Hunger Walk organizers for forwarding to Church World Service. A total of 54 jars of peanut butter have been delivered and 34 pounds of bar soap have been collected.



## KLAB Halloween Party



## Advent Begins—December 2

Advent is just around the corner! Sunday, December 2 is our first Sunday in the season of Advent, and we are again asking for volunteers (families or groups of friends) to lead the Advent Candle Liturgy. If you are willing to help with this important part of our Advent worship please sign the sheet that will be posted by the church office.

## Hanging of the Greens

Please join us on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, following worship, to decorate our church for the season. A meal of pizza, chili and more will be served after the work is done.

## From the Moderator:

Currently, steps are being taken on a request from Jordan Church to share space within our church building. The request came to Pastor Craig in August from Jordan Church's Pastor Eddy. Their congregation is looking for a temporary space. They want their own church building in the future.

Jordan Church has met at Faith Methodist Church the past several years as agreed between Pastor Mike (of Faith Methodist) and Pastor Eddy. During those years the Jordan church grew from about 10 adults to about 50 adults plus their children. The members come from several neighboring communities as well as Webster City.

Our Cabinet has been fact finding, first-hand, with members from Faith Methodist and Jordan to make an informed decision and to create a proposal to both congregations.

There are several points to consider. The written proposal (committee of Donna Ryherd, Curt McCoskey Linda Lahr, and Rev. Craig) will address these points:

1. Building use cost
2. Limited Building code access
3. Safe Church Policy
4. Supervision of youth
5. Liability- insurance
6. Space/time use in the building
7. Scheduling/usage of special events
8. Communication committee members from both congregations

Jordan church will first need to discuss these points to see if they want to continue considering our building for a shared space. If



they are still interested with our requirements, then it will come to the First Congregational UCC members as a vote with the facts shared. If we reach this stage, it is my hope to have us meet each other in a social setting. Please be patient, the Congregational Way is taking time. I appreciate open and informed conversations with the Cabinet members. Blessings to all,  
Donna Ryherd, Church Moderator

### **Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference**

October 13, 2018

Attending the meeting at West Des Moines Christian Church from First Congregational Webster City were Marjorie Groves, Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Joyce Gelhaus and Donna Ryherd. Contact them if you desire more details.

#### **Major items of business included:**

##### **Adoption of the 2019 Budget**

Conference is financially stable though OCWM is declining. Some restructuring occurred with the creation of the Tri-Conference that should create cost savings.

##### **Election of new officers**

Moderator-Onita Mohr/Decorah; Secretary Mary Beth Hartenstein/Springville  
3 New Board of Directors: Forrest Cornelius/Waterloo; Jon Haack/Elkader; Kate West/ Belle Plaine

Marjorie Groves will continue to serve on the Board of Directors till 2020. Joyce Gelhaus will continue to serve on Conference Committee for Authorized Ministry (CCAM) until 2022.

There are 3 kinds of openings: Assistant Moderator, General Synod Delegates Class of 2019 and GS Delegates Class of 2021. If you are interested in being considered for any of these, please contact Marjorie Groves, member of the BOD Nominating Committee, or Rev. Brigit Stevens, Executive Conference Minister.

##### **Adoption of the 2019 Compensation Guidelines**

3% increase to cash salary grid across all values to reflect an increase in the cost of living.

### **Ratification of the General Synods UCC Constitution Amendments**

64 grammatical (gender neutral) changes, 18 clarifying changes, 5 other

These changes reflect the way we are operating, with smaller staff and fewer members, this allows us to act faster and not wait for General Synod action.

### **Installation of Rev. Stevens as Tri Conference Minister**

Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota formed the Tri-conference and will share a conference minister staff of 5 when fully staffed. Each state conference will continue to exist, keeping their own logos.

#### **Save the Date Announcements:**

**Iowa – Nebraska – South Dakota 2019 Annual Meetings- Together June 14-16, 2019 Omaha NE**

**RAGBRAI XLVII July 21-27, 2019**

Iowa Conference UCC team of riders, drivers and cheerleaders



## Treasurer's Report

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
Pledges and Offerings	\$13,400.00	\$133,088.32
Other Income	13.94	13.94
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$13,413.94</b>	<b>\$133,102.26</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Outreach and Mission	1,583.34	\$14,684.98
Pastoral Services	11,365.57	68,959.27
Maintenance and Repairs	7,352.47	28,243.32
Church Office	2,576.65	27,282.27
Music Ministry	397.95	5,724.88
Christian Education	0.00	85.10
Local Ministry	0.00	48.20
Misc. Expenses	0.00	1,110.76
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$23,275.98</b>	<b>\$146,138.78</b>

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting held on October 9, 2018

### Members Present:

Moderator:	Donna Ryherd	Pastor:	Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Vice Moderator:	Nate Lahr	Trustees:	Joyce Gelhaus
Finance Sec.:		Women's Fellowship:	Holly Riemenschneider
Finance :	Tracy Wehrhan	Mission:	Audrey Burtnett
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 7:00 pm by the Moderator, Donna Ryherd. Pastor Craig opened the meeting with a devotional called the Lonely Hunter and offered a prayer. The September cabinet meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Worship Board:** Holiday plans are being discussed. **Trustees:** Jim's Tree Service also trimmed the crab trees, burning bushes, etc. after removing and grinding out the ash tree. **Christian Education:** The Christmas Program is scheduled for December 16 and will involve the children singing and reciting. **Staff Parish:** No report. **Evangelism:** No written report although they did meet. **Mission:** Neighbors in Need offering was \$590.00; more walkers are needed for the Crop Walk and for Warm Hearts, Warm Homes. An Alternative Advent Fair is being discussed and UDMO needs more mac and cheese and soups. **Finance:** The budget was approved. The congregational meeting date is November 18. **Women's Fellowship:** The kitchen cleaning and church inventory are both close to completion. The Christmas Dinner is planned for December 9<sup>th</sup>. A Faith Journey led by Gale Olson is scheduled to begin soon. **Pastor's Report:** The projector is fixed. Three guests were present at KLAB who were friends of members. The confirmands trip was good. See the Pastor's Report for trips scheduled. The bell ringing at HyVee and Fareway will happen again this year. Doubling what we took in last year is the goal. ACE is open although its future is unknown at this time. **Treasurer:** Offerings are still short of the budget. The report was put to audit.

**PENDING BUSINESS:** Window repair: The Union Pacific grant was turned down. The windows will be installed next week. Cathedral Craft will clean the clear windows before the installation. A payment of 35% of the total cost will be due. The Tri-Conference meeting on October 13, 2018 will be attended by Joyce Gelhaus and Donna Ryherd as the voting delegates.

Jordan Church request: Pastor Craig summarized the meetings that occurred in our effort to determine whether sharing our church space would be mutually beneficial. Pastor Eddy first met with Craig in August. Members of our cabinet met with Pastor Eddy. We met with council members from Faith who wanted to retain Jordan Church. We met with Faith members who did not want to keep Jordan Church at Faith. All groups stated that the main issue was lack of communication. The cabinet voted to continue exploring this possibility. The next

step is to assemble a draft outline of our expectations to see if Jordan Church is willing to abide by our shared space agreement. We expect that they follow our Safe Church policy, respect access limits, etc. Several cabinet members are working on the outline.

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

Next meeting at November 13 at 7:00pm. Adjourned at 8:38pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Hill, church clerk.

**Women's Fellowship** September 5 Prayer requests for members were mentioned. Cindy Henning reported we received Thank You notes/letters from many of the people we gave money to in May. Holly reported Rally Day & communion on Sept. 9; Teacher appreciation on Sept 13; Safe church meeting on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>. Cabinet to consider a Hispanic church using our church for events/ services. There will be 4 confirmands. The windows should be in by end of September.

Thank you to Pastor Craig and the volunteers for serving the May dinner. Kitchen Cleaning duties are in the booklet. Inventory is being taken and everything in the kitchen needs to be counted as we clean. Circle should sign up for hosting of fellowship coffee after church. Calendar is open. Haystack – Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Executive Board was divided into 3 groups who will be doing coffees thru out the year. Group 1 is Holly, Cindy, Kay, Shirley; Group 2 is Wilma, Carol, Pat, Greta; Group 3 is Gayle, Verna, Mabel, Ginny. Thrift Sale Dates: First date to bring items to the church, Wednesday, September 19. Set-up dates, Thursday, September 20 and Friday morning, September 21. Sale dates, Friday afternoon, September 21 and Saturday morning, September 22. Sell some white tablecloths – Piecemakers will go through them to determine what to keep, and what to put on thrift sale. Carol, Gayle and Holly will go through old records of the Women's Fellowship.

Lenten Lunches will be held from March 12 – April 9<sup>th</sup>. Easter is April 21<sup>st</sup>. It was suggested that each circle prepare/serve a meal, and Ex. Board will do the 5<sup>th</sup> meal.

Ideas/Resources for circles to use for their programs can be gathered from books we have been using, the internet, or sharing other information you find.

SERVV—Just catalog sales or visual sales in conjunction with the catalogs? Ask in your circles. Spiritual/Faith Journey for 2018-2019. Gathering thoughts, ideas and interest. Gayle would help facilitate. Ask in our circles and let Gayle know this month.

**Women's Fellowship** October 3 Kitchen Cleaning and Inventory update: Haystack and Mayflower are done; Morning Star and Providence will do in Oct.. Old Tablecloths were sold at thrift sale Update on old WF records – still need looked into Lenten Lunches will be held here for the Easter season, 2019. Discuss ideas. Ask in circles. SERRV— We will host catalog sale, Cindy Henning will make up order sheet for table and have Michele put in bulletins for October and send out church wide mail. Deadline will be Oct 31. Spiritual/Faith Journey for 2018-2019. Gayle will facilitate.

Learning and growing our faith, starting Monday, October 22 at 9:30 AM. It will start with a DVD by John Ortberg entitled *Who Is This Man?* There is a book that could be purchased, but the study guide says it's not necessary. Thrift Sale records can be thinned out. Make note of what we earned over the years. Update on Jordon Church using our building.- they met with some people from Faith United Methodist to get their thoughts, but still want to speak to a few more to get a clearer picture of the issues. Christmas Dinner – Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – Providence and Morning Star will cook/serve meal.

**Christian Ed** The board evaluated Rally Day which was held on Sept. 9, 2018. Fourteen young people enjoyed the games and cake walk. Approximately fifty-five people enjoyed the hamburgers/hot dogs grilled by Don Bruner and Curt McCoskey. Jane Klaver and Leah Maass reported that in the future small containers of ketchup should be purchased as it is difficult to manipulate the large size holding a plate of food. Also next year, more hot dogs and less hamburgers should be grilled. KLAB started on Sept. 12 with 6 young people and the 4 confirmands in attendance. On Sept. 30 the Sonsalla baby will be baptized. Leah Maass will be bringing the gift (book) from Christian Ed and Don Bruner presenting it at the baptism. Ideas for the Christmas program on Dec. 16 were discussed. Leah and Don will be in charge of the program. The Christian Ed 's budget for 2019 was discussed and finalized as follows: Curriculum expense-\$100; KLAB expense-\$250; Craft Supplies Expense-

\$100; Graduation Expense-\$150; Confirmation Expense-\$200; Youth Scholarships Expense-\$200. The next meeting will be November 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Submitted by Mary Van Diest.

**Board of Trustees** Bats-Have not seen any bats since the four were removed. Discussed bat houses again and decided not to get them. Joyce talked to Eric of Cathedral Crafts. Said some of the windows have been more difficult. The painting on the outside will be done before they are brought back. When the windows are brought back they will be put into place and the storm glass that is needed will be put up. They are planning to have the windows back the week of October 15. Orff Instruments- Donna knows of a school starting up that might be interested in the Orff Instrument. Donna took pictures and she was given the list of instruments and estimated worth. On the doors in the west entry Al will be putting on hinges so they will open out. A new vacuum will be bought for the main floor and the old vacuum that is upstairs will be dumped. The old vacuum from the main will go upstairs. On September 30 we will find out about the railroad grant. The projector that was sent in-- have not heard anything. Update Pastor Craig will get the amount to fix it on Tuesday. It will be two more weeks before we get it back. Plunkett's came and got rid of the wasps in fellowship hall. The side walk on the south side of the church is slick from the sump pump discharge. Someone fell on it a couple weeks ago. Tom and Joyce put up caution tape. Chris McNeil put the drain pipe under the sidewalk and had it approved by the city. Thank you to Chris for your prompt service. A walk around the church was done. Tom and Alan will attach the gutters to the church better and work on the door frames that are rotting. Al will caulk the door frames to keep moisture out until they can be repaired. We approved Cindy to sell the old doors in the garage to Kenny Ambrose.

Church usages that were OK'd:

Rotary -11am-1pm 12-10-18 by Dalene Schlitter.

PEO -6:30- 9:30pm 11-8-18 by Barb Stearns

Crime stoppers 7:30-8:30 the third Wednesday of the month, as needed. Pastor Craig.

Inventory was done in the basement storage and dungeon. Next meeting: Thursday October 18, 2018

**Mission Board** Audrey will represent the Mission Board at the October cabinet meeting. The September 13 Teacher Appreciation ice cream serving event went well and got only positive feedback from the school staff. Lorraine, Curt and Dylan McCoskey, Karin Yungclas and Marjorie Groves served the September 25 meal at the Beacon of Hope homeless shelter for men in Fort Dodge. The shepherd's pie proved popular. We have a plan and a fallback plan for the November Beacon meal; Pastor Craig would like to have the confirmands plan, prepare and serve a meal at the shelter, possibly Wednesday, November 28. Otherwise, Gayle will captain the meal, November 27. Audrey said promotion for the October 7 Neighbors in Need collection is ready. Marjorie sent information on the October 14 CROP Hunger Walk to the Daily Freeman Journal and KQWC. \$580 has been donated so far, especially from the September 23 pickle jar. Warm Hearts/Warm Homes, the home winterizing project, is scheduled for November 3. Pastor Craig would like the confirmation class to be involved. Pastor Craig said youth and adults from the church will be invited to help package the Kids Against Hunger meals on November 11, 2 p.m., Fuller Hall. We discussed the Advent Alternative Giving Fair: Do we want to have tables for many charities or do we want a single charitable focus each week of Advent, like last year's approach, which featured Stepping Forward Romania, winter clothing for Head Start, rice and beans for All Cultures Equal, and financial donations for water filters for Puerto Rico? We'll continue to discuss this at our November meeting. When Gayle took food to the Upper Des Moines Opportunity food pantry, she learned of the need for macaroni and cheese and soup. Lorraine will prepare a promo for October bulletins, so we can start the collection for hungry children. The next Mission Board meeting will be Sunday, November 4, during coffee time after the worship service.

**Pastor's Report** We are back to fall /winter hours of worship, and our choir is back making a joyful noise each Sunday! We have finally gotten our broken projector up and running again. Rally day was a day of fun and a good day to recommit ourselves to growing in our faith and supporting the ministries of our church. A large crowd was in attendance to see Millie Kathleen Sonsalla baptized on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. World communion Sunday will be observed Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> and we will take up our Neighbors In Need offering. Our next round of Care Center services will be held October 14<sup>th</sup>. KLAB has begun!



Donna Ryherd and Karinne Tudor are team teaching this group with help from Vicki Blaufuss. We started with 7 students, and this last week we had 3 guests come as well! We continue to ask for donations of snacks for KLAB, please sign up if you would be willing to provide them. Confirmation has begun! We are meeting in my office and spending time learning to think theologically as we discuss current events, the nature of religion and now turn our attention to the Bible. Madison Babington, Jill Coons and I attended the Confirmation retreat held at Pilgrim Heights on Friday-Sat. Sept 28-29. Bryan Sirchio was the guest musician and we did a lot of singing—and stair climbing! We have many additional confirmation activities coming up that confirmands may participate in—CROP Walk, Care Center Services, Warm Hearts Warm Homes, a Beacon of Hope Meal, and a field trip to Temple Bnai Jeshurun in Des Moines. Adult Education, we continue with our study of prayer. There will be community food pack for Kids Against Hunger at Fuller Hall on Sunday, November 11, from 1-5 pm. There will be 8 packing lines and we will be recruiting teams of 10 from churches. Set up will be at 1 pm, and I will be looking for volunteers to help set up tables and equipment for the event, and to help tear down afterward. The actual packing will be from 2-4 pm. There will be another Christmas Salvation Army Bellringing Campaign this year with more days of planned ringing through Advent. We hope to reach a goal of \$6000! All Cultures Equal is in a financial crisis and would welcome any donations to keep the doors open. The current Board of Directors is working on a new mission statement and strategic planning. The WCMA gave \$1000 from the Christmas Bellringing campaign to help ACE through the year's end. Head Start has now begun classes at ACE. We have 3 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers. The Iowa Conference Annual meeting will be held Saturday, Oct 13 in West Des Moines. Joyce Gelhaus and I will be attending, plus Dale Olson and Marjorie Groves will be in attendance as Conference Board members. Request for First Congregational to host Jordan Church: A task force has met with members of Faith UMC to hear their remarks about hosting Jordan Church. We will meet with others from Faith to hear their remarks on Monday, Oct. 8. Warm Hearts Warm Homes: we are recruiting for a team or 2 for WHWH to be held Saturday, Nov. 3 from 8 am-noon. They need personnel but no funds—they received a grant from the Enhance Hamilton County Foundation this year!

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.**