

April 2019 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
515-832-2232
<http://www.firstcongregationalwcc.org/>

“Behold, I stand at the door, knocking....”--Revelation 3:20

I recently listened to a YouTube video showcasing R.C. Sproul, who was making a convincing argument from scripture that the progressive protestant pablum about God being unconditionally loving is not only pablum, it's a dangerous heresy! He explained that because humans are fallen and live in open rebellion against God, the wrath of God is heaping up against the unsaved, and it is growing daily. He went on to suggest that there is no understanding of the good news without the understanding of the “bad news” that Christ came into a world under indictment for rejecting God. People aren't afraid of the wrath of God, he argued, because people have been taught that God is like Mr. Rogers, which takes the “terror out of it.” Sinners need to be terrified about their condition! (check it out: <https://youtu.be/fcOzTZUOBn0>)

R. C. makes a point: perhaps Christianity without fear doesn't have much power to grip rebellious sinners' minds and hearts and turn them toward repentance. An all-loving God who has no “teeth,” so to speak, is an easy God to ignore. Yet if this is true, and God indeed wants to save us from wrath by using terror, then why isn't God terrorizing us in more direct ways these days? I'm not talking about TV preachers telling us that hurricanes and Ebola outbreaks or dead soldiers are the handiwork of God's wrath. God should be able to do better than that! If God really wants to save us through fear, then God should show us REAL RAGE in really clear ways. God should take a cue from The Wizard of Oz and write “Surrender Dorothy” in the sky while raining fire and brimstone on us, so we can really see for ourselves that God is indeed angry...and we can repent and be saved!

Honestly I sometimes do wonder if Christianity is the craziest of all the world religions with ideas such as these. Regardless of whether it is biblical or not, a raging God who wants to save us by using fear sounds very *human*—much like my middle school health teacher and PE instructor who once tried to “save” a rebellious student by throwing him against a wall (yes—he literally pulled him out of his seat and THREW him against a wall). Did he get the class's attention? Yes. Did we toe the line afterward? Pretty much--we were terrified of him. Did we love him after that? I can only speak for myself, but I could never trust him or love him again after that assault, because *I was now afraid of him...and you can't really love those you are really afraid of.*

When I hear the quote attributed to Jesus from Revelation “Behold, I stand at the door, knocking,” I hear a deep truth being expressed about love and fear. If God's real wish is for us to love God and neighbor, then God can't kick down the door of our hearts and terrorize us into loving either God or our neighbor. God instead knocks, and knocks, and knocks...and never stops knocking until we come to our senses and let God in. For God's way is the way of perfect peace, which is the way of perfect love untainted by fear. *God's wish is not that we would be saved from God's eternal wrath, but instead that we would be saved from ourselves—our unloving selves which turn brothers into enemies, sisters into objects, and the creation into a playground and dumping ground for our endless hunger and thirst for pleasure and self-destruction.* I agree with R.C. about one thing: everything is at stake when we speak of the character of God, for when we misunderstand or misrepresent God we do incalculable harm to God's plans to make all things new.

Holy Week is coming in April, and with its coming we have yet another opportunity to reflect on the message of God's love revealed in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The cross as an instrument of Roman punishment is an example of Roman wrath used to terrorize subjugated peoples so that they would toe the line and be obedient Roman subjects. We know how that worked out for the Romans—their cruelty only manifest more hatred toward the empire from their subjects! To my

mind Jesus did not endure the terror of the Romans so that we would be spared an ever greater terror from God, packaged as an eternity being tortured in hell. Instead, I believe Jesus remained faithful to God and to the message God sent him to proclaim even unto death...and his resurrection is the sign that love, not wrath and terror, is the cosmic power which makes all things new. For theologians this is called the "Christus Victor" model of the atonement; for me it is the only way I can make sense of the horror of Good Friday and not surrender my conviction that God is *truly and only* a God of love.

Friends, take time this month to prepare yourself for Holy Week by meditating of the character of God and the nature of love. Open your heart to the leadings of God's Spirit, and seek to hear the Inner Voice of Truth. Most of all, as you have heard me say before, give God the benefit of the doubt and dare to believe that God can get human beings to repent and transform through the mighty power of LOVE....rather than the terrifying power of FEAR.

Happy Easter! He is Risen!

–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

March 3 53 **March 10** 52
March 17 56 **March 24** 59
March 31

Church Staff

Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Pastor
 Office: 832-2232 Cell 297-4316
 Pastor's email: revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net
Michele Omvig: Admin. Assist. 209-9177
 Church's e-mail: 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



Ways to Relieve Stress

Think through things and make a plan before you start something.
 Understand that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react.
 Listen to children laugh.
 Always keep your gas tank 1/4 full.
 Get up a half-hour early so you don't need to rush in the morning.
 Spend some time in nature, outside or listening to videos or CDs.
 Just for a while, turn off anything that beeps, buzzes, or rings.
 Focus on solutions, not problems.
 Look for funny signs, you'll find them almost anywhere.
 Place a to-go box at your front door to stash things you need to remember,





- 2 - Karin Yungclas
- 4 - Sherry Leksell
- 6 - Karla Krebs
- 9 - Wil Groves
- 9 - Lynn Leksell
- 15 - Lorraine McCoskey
- 16 - Jacob Lahr
- 16 - Karla Krebs
- 17 - Alaina Imhoff
- 18 - Shelby Brim
- 19 - Christy Fiala
- 19 - Arden Schlitter
- 20 - Gen Carroll
- 21 - Joe Gilbert
- 25 - Hailey Marie Brim
- 26 - Patty Yungclas



- 4 - Alan & Karin Yungclas
- 17 - Bob & Leah Maass
- 28 - James & Gretchen McGlynn

Maundy Thursday Evening Service April 18, 7 p.m.

We will observe Maundy Thursday with a service of worship beginning at 7 pm in the East Chapel. We will remember Jesus' final hours leading to the cross, and share the sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction.

Palm Sunday/Confirmation Sunday

April 14 is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. April 14 is also Confirmation Sunday—the day when our confirmands publicly affirm their baptisms, proclaim their faith, and join our church as adult members! Communion by intinction will be served by our confirmands after they are confirmed.

Easter Activities Sunday, April 21

Easter is the pinnacle of the Christian faith, the day of our greatest celebration as Jesus “conquers sin and death, and reconciles the world to himself.” Join us as we begin our Easter celebration at First Congregational with a light Easter Breakfast, starting at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, provided by the Christian Education board. At 9:30 there will be Easter activities for children. At 10:30 a.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for our Easter Worship service, which will include the sacrament of Holy Communion served in the pews. There will be no coffee after worship that day.

Backpacks Against Hunger

The Webster City Schools Backpacks Against Hunger program is helping over 140 children in our community who live in food insecure households by sending home snacks and easy-to-prepare food items so that children will be guaranteed access to food on the weekends. It is our church's turn to pack on Tuesday, April 23 at 6:30 pm in the basement of Trinity Lutheran Church. 12-15 people can get items unpackaged and bags packed for the schools for the whole month of May in 30-40 minutes of time. So please mark your calendar and give some of your time on April 23 to pack food bags for the Backpack Program!

Women's Lenten Luncheons Continue

The First Congregational, UCC, Women's Fellowship is hosting the Women's Lenten luncheons this year. You are invited to join us on Tuesday April 2 & 9, 2019 at 1000 Willson Ave. You may arrive at 11:45 for the lunch with devotions to follow. We plan on being done by 1:00 pm. The cost is \$6:00 per person and can be paid at the door. We ask that reservations be made by calling the office of the UCC, 832-2232 or by signing up on the table by noon the Monday before the Tuesday lunch.



Happy Earth Day!

Are you doing your part to take good care of our earth? April 22 is Earth Day and a great opportunity to think about what we do to keep our planet clean and safe for today and for future generations of humans and animals. Here are some fast facts from *National Geographic* about plastic pollution:

Only about 9 percent of all plastic ever made has been recycled. Europe recycles at a rate of 30 percent, China at 25 percent and the United States at 9 percent.

18 billion pounds of plastic waste goes into the ocean every year. This is equivalent to five grocery bags of plastic trash sitting on every foot of coastline around the world.

Shoppers in the U.S. use almost one plastic bag per resident per day compared with shoppers in Denmark who use an average of four plastic bags per year. Do you use reusable bags when shopping?

Nearly a million plastic bottles are sold every minute around the world. In the United States in 2015, we purchased 346 bottles on average per person. Do you have a refillable water bottle? –

The Mission Board

Let's Come Together!

Iowa-Nebraska-South Dakota United Church of Christ Joint Annual Meeting June 14-16 Tri-Faith Initiative, Omaha, NE

Cost: \$135 Registration: coming soon!

Friday, June 14 — Registration takes place from 3-5 p.m. followed by a Welcoming Cocktail Reception at 5 p.m. and Dinner and Keynote with Rev. Chris Davies, United Church of Christ Coordinator for Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement (CASA) from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 15 — Our gathering opens with worship featuring Davies preaching. Following worship our entire gathering will engage in an “open space” meeting for the morning — a facilitated opportunity to lift up what YOU want to discuss and find the people in the room with interests, gifts, and resources to offer on that topic. After a joint Awards Luncheon, each conference will go to a separate meeting space for their annual business meeting. (NOTE: Iowa participants, this will be your ONLY annual meeting in 2019. There will be no fall meeting.)

The evening will conclude with a Banquet with special entertainment!

Sunday, June 16 — We will conclude our gathering with a joint worship service with Countryside Community Church that features Rev. Brigit Stevens, Executive Conference Minister of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences UCC, preaching and the service of installation for our new Associate Conference Ministers.

Our Host: The Tri-Faith Initiative in Omaha, Nebraska. The Tri-Faith Initiative is one in which three faith institutions – Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church UCC, and the American Muslim Institute — committed to build three houses of worship and a shared Tri-Faith Center together on one parcel of land. We are so grateful for their hospitality!

Several blocks of rooms are already reserved under the name “Tri-Conference UCC.” Book your hotel rooms early because several other large events are scheduled at the same time in Omaha!

Help DSAOC and You Might Win a Backpack

We've decided to have a drawing for the nifty backpack next to the Pickle Jar for The Domestic Sexual Assault Outreach Center. Every time you donate, you can enter your name in the container marked “Drawing.” If you put money in the Pickle Jar a previous week you can still enter. Of course, you're always welcome to give more and enter more! In the past, we raised money to put together a basket of goodies to be auctioned. This year we'll donate the money directly to DSAOC by delivering it by hand. The auction is a family-friendly event featuring a plethora of items -- from tools or artwork to travel packages -- for both silent and live auctions. The tasty appetizers are free. It's April 13, 5-9 p.m., at the Iowa Central East Campus in Fort Dodge, 2031 Quail Avenue. ***-The Mission Board***



THRIFT SALE

April 26 & 27

Spring cleaning time and de-cluttering.

Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27 - Women's Fellowship will be conducting their semi-annual Thrift Sale.

Wed. April 24 - 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.

Cindy Henning

Agape Means Love

What makes you happy? The sun shines, you get a call from a friend, your grandchild makes the honor roll, you celebrate a birthday ending in a 0, your favorite team wins, and the list goes on. Soon, we will launch Happy Dollars for the Agape Fund, encouraging folks to put a dollar in the jar in honor of anything that makes them happy. (We borrowed the idea from Kiwanis.)

To keep the Agape Fund healthy, we plan to repeat this the last Sunday of every month, during coffee fellowship time, starting in March. "Agape" is a Greek word meaning love – not the romantic, Valentine's Day type, but a grander, divine, all-encompassing love. The Agape Fund at our church was established many years ago to assist persons who face an unusual or unexpected financial crisis. The pastor, Evangelism Board chair and moderator meet to

decide when aid will be given and have helped a couple of folks recently. We'd like to keep the Agape Fund big enough to help. Thank you! You make us happy. – **The Mission Board**

Barbershop

The men of the Fort Dodge Harmony Brigade would like to invite you to a show, April 6 at the Fort Dodge Middle School, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Tickets are at Hy-Vee or 570-3414.

Community Health Needs Assessment

A community health needs assessment is a systematic process involving the community to identify and analyze community health needs. The process provides a way for communities to prioritize health needs, and to plan and act upon unmet community health needs. Community health needs assessments usually are conducted by Public Health Hospitals and many nonprofit organizations. Five years ago Hamilton County completed a Community Health Needs Assessment. It is time to review and conduct a survey again so we can plan for the future of our community. Thank You for taking the time to complete the survey by clicking the link below, or if you want to complete a paper copy please come to Hamilton County Public Health and pick up a paper copy. Shelby Kroona, Administrator Hamilton County Public Health
<https://goo.gl/forms/oSQR8FowN25ApZ9p2>

Confirmation Students serve tacos at Beacon of Hope



Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges and Offerings	\$8,456.00	\$18,756.68
Other Income	14.00	14.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,470.00	\$18,770.68
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Outreach and Mission	.00	\$1,583.26
Pastoral Services	8,079.94	15,679.79
Maintenance and Repairs	2,511.02	4,492.91
Church Office	3,167.31	5,867.08
Music Ministry	764.68	1,631.67
Christian Education	.00	23.80
Local Ministry	.00	.00
Misc. Expenses	368.50	456.71
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,891.45	\$29,735.22

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting held on March 12, 2019

Members Present:

Moderator:	Nate Lahr	Pastor:	Rev. Craig Blaufuss
Vice Moderator:	Gretchen McGlynn	Trustees:	Joyce Gelhaus
Finance Sec.:	Dale Olson	Women's Fellowship:	Holly Riemenschneider
Finance:	Tracy Wehrhan	Mission:	Gale Olson
Staff/Parish:	Stephanie Hill	Worship:	
Christian Ed:	Laurie Epps	Evangelism:	
Treasurer:	Tracy Wehrhan	Clerk:	Stephanie Hill

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the Moderator, Nate Lahr. Pastor Craig opened the meeting with a Lenten devotional titled 'Wings' and offered a prayer. The minutes of the January cabinet meeting were read. Tracy Wehrhan moved the minutes be approved as read. Laurie Epps seconded. The motion passed.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Worship Board:** No report. Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, the 14th. **Trustees:** The dishwasher is no longer leaking and is working well. The money from the sale of the Orff instruments has been received and put into the Doty fund. The instruments were purchased by the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy. **Christian Education:** Laurie informed the cabinet that the board will be discussing KLAB at the next meeting. **Evangelism:** No report. **Mission:** The pickle jar is out for D/SAOC. Craig, the confirmation class and their parents will serve the Beacon of Hope meal on March 20th. Mission Board will also begin collecting 'Happy Dollars' to boost the Agape Fund. A clean-up day project is being planned for April 19th. **Staff/Parish:** No report. **Finance:** No report. **Women's Fellowship:** Holly reported that the first Lenten Luncheon was attended by 76 women. Jen Peterson presented a devotional on self-care - determining which burdens one is able to carry. Women's Fellowship will give \$200.00 to the Agape Fund. The 10 Commandments is the topic for the Friday Women's Study Group. The birthday celebrations for the care centers will be in May. A Celebration of Life will be held for Lavonne Osmundson in the very near future. More information will be coming. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor addressed the service cancellations, Ash Wednesday service, and the upcoming Easter skit. There will be a Maundy Thursday service. Confirmation will take place on Palm Sunday. And several people took part in the Escape Room held by the Rotary Club the first 2 weekends in March. **Treasurer:** A motion to put the report to audit was made and seconded. The report was put to audit.

NEW BUSINESS: The Funeral Policy

The policy for funerals currently allows members the option to hire a funeral director or not. Having a funeral director ensures that the details of funeral planning are taken care of. Tracy moved and Holly seconded a motion to require all funerals held at UCC to have a funeral director. The motion passed.

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

Next meeting is April 9 at 7:00pm.

Adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Hill, church clerk.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD

Old Business

Lenten Lunches will be held here for the Easter season, 2019.

Tuesday, March 12—Providence Circle—Baked Potato Bar

Tuesday March 19—Haystack—Soup and salad

Tuesday, March 26—Morning Star—Casserole, vegetable and bars

Tuesday, April 2—Mayflower—Ham balls, cheesy potatoes

Tuesday, April 9—Executive Board – Sandwich, salads, bars

Details covered about Luncheon.

Singer & song – asking Sunshine, Kay, Karin, and Stephanie for help

Welcome & announcements – Gayle and Holly

Placemats – Gayle ordered 1 ream of purple placemats and Verna will get white Vanity napkins.

Reservations – Gayle sent letter to other churches with our information and how each church can make the reservations. Need to have by noon Monday before Tuesday of meal.

Publicity – Cindy will let newspaper and radio know about lunches.

Price is \$6, Verna and Audrey will take money.

Decorations -KLAB kids will make the decorations.

Tablesetting – Haystack will commit to setting tables all 5 weeks

We will have reg. and decaf coffee, but need some more carafes, so ask in circle about lending one, but remember to label top and bottom with name. We will need them for 5 weeks.

Butter – Verna will see about getting pats from Leons.

Womens' Study Group Update—Gayle Olson leading class about 10 Commandments.

New Business

Care Center May Birthday Party –ask in circles for ideas for program.

Agape Fund – motion made by Verna Bierle to give \$200 now instead of waiting until May, because of need.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD

I. Correspondence:

Shirley Yungclas sent a sympathy card to Hollingshead family. Cindy had no correspondence to report.

II. Old Business

Lenten Lunches will be held here for the Easter season, 2019.

Tuesday, March 12—Providence Circle—Baked Potato Bar (Asbury Methodist has graciously accepted the responsibility of the program).

Tuesday, March 19—Haystack—Soup and salad

Tuesday, March 26—Morning Star—Casserole, vegetable and bars

Tuesday, April 2—Mayflower—Ham balls, cheesy potatoes

Tuesday, April 9—Executive Board?

Kay Harfst will lead prayer song to the tune of the Doxology. The dishwasher had been repaired. If you purchase food for lunches you can charge at Fareway or use the credit card in the office for HyVee.

Women's Study Group Update—We are meeting Friday mornings at 10 AM, exploring The Ten Commandments.

III. New Business

Care Center Birthday Parties are May 2nd. Southfield at 1:30 and they will make their own cupcakes. Crestview at 2:15 and we will need 5-6 doz. cookies.

SERRV consignment sale discussed. Cindy Henning made motion not to do this now, due to limited time and personnel to watch over items and take money. Motion passed.

IV. **Other** – We discussed a church/community celebration of life for Lavonne Osmundson. We are asking Pastor Craig to prepare short service with cookies and drink afterwards. There was a question regarding cost of announcement obituary. Cindy Henning will check on that.

Board of Trustees

Old Business

Eastern Iowa Arts Academy was please and grateful that we accepted their offer of \$2500 for the Orff Instruments. The instruments will be put to great use by the students. Donna will be delivering the Orff Instruments and will pick up the check when they are delivered.

Jason Struchen looked at the dishwasher and noticed where it was leaking. Jason did not have the parts and requested we call Hobarts. Hobarts checked over the whole dishwasher. The valve on the dishwasher booster was replaced and the water temperature was adjusted. Cost \$488.49.

Tracy wanted some information on the last time the globe light was put in the NW entrance. Joyce will let him know if she finds any information.

Discussion was held on if we wanted Window Man to come and wash the outside windows this spring. It was decided that we are not going to have the windows washed.

We received the updated church insurance information, after we had reviewed and told them what we accepted in the policy. It came out to be a savings of \$907.

New Business

Discussion was held on who to get for lawn care bids. We have a bid from North Central Turf. Also want a bid from All American Turf Beauty. Joyce will call them.

Discussion was held on mowing and snow removal. We are going to keep Tony Jones. Joyce will call Tony and ask him to clear the snow on Sunday mornings by 8:30 am, so members do not have to shovel.

The kitchen hot water takes a long time to get hot because of the distance from the water heater. We are not going to get a booster for it.

Baseboard by the quilting room is loose. Tom will take care of this.

West door handle is not always working. Pastor Craig tightened the handle. The screws maybe stripped. Pagels will be called if issues continue.

Mission Board

We met March 1, with Audrey Burtnett, Marjorie Groves, Lorraine McCoskey, Gayle Olson, Karin Yungclas and Rev. Craig Blaufuss attending. The potluck February 27 for Stepping Forward Romania went well, with 17 participating. Steve Mathers told us about the young people and building projects and invited us to come as individuals or as a team to work with the kids, assist with summer camps and help build cabins. The Pickle Jar set out February 10 for Funding Future Leaders brought in \$390. Thanks to the Endowment Fund for giving an additional \$500 to FFL. The Pickle Jar and backpack for the Domestic Sexual Assault Outreach Center will be out on a card table in Fellowship Hall for the month of March. The Cake Auction is April 13. Pastor Craig said the confirmands will prepare and serve the March meal for the Beacon of Hope shelter for homeless men in Fort Dodge. Michele alerted Gayle to two large bags of whole wheat noodles in the church office. The confirmands will take them to the Beacon of Hope when they go to serve the March meal. We will start Happy Dollars (like Kiwanis collects) on the last Sunday of the month, beginning in March to boost the Agape Fund. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected March 31. Audrey will contact Kent Harfst, acting city manager and Brian Lammers, county conservation service, about where the city or county could use our church's trash pickup assistance. We will suggest April 19, Good Friday, as the day of service and invite the community to participate. Our church will pack for the Backpack Program on April 23, 6:30 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran. The next Mission Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 3, 1 p.m.

Pastor's Report to Cabinet March 8, 2019

Worship: We cancelled church 2 Sundays in a row (Feb 17 and Feb. 24) due to the weather. Hurry up, Spring! We did return to worship March 3 and shared Holy Communion, and on March 6 we gathered in the East Chapel for an Ash Wednesday service, with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Our next Care Center worship services will be March 31, and during our worship service that day our KLAB kids will present an early Easter skit.

Adult Education: We have concluded a study of the biblical prophets, and have discussed the recent decision of the UMC General Conference to retain the "Traditional Plan", effectively barring LGBT persons from becoming clergy, and also prohibiting same-sex marriages from being conducted by UMC clergy.

Confirmation: On March 2 the confirmands set a record solving Rotary's escape room challenge at Iowa Central, and we celebrated at Subway at the end of the event. March 6 we organized the next Beacon of Hope Meal and the students helped me set up the East Chapel for Ash Wednesday. The next Beacon Meal will be Wednesday March 20, which is Spring Break for the Confirmands, so I will need to recruit additional help to serve.

Stephen Ministry: We currently have 2 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers. We met March 7 for a study/discussion concerning providing spiritual care to people experiencing dementia.

WCMA: Kindred Hospice is looking for PRN hospice Chaplains. ACE continues on, and Rev. Flagg is working on creating an employment opportunity bulletin Board at ACE. We continued discussion of disbursing money from the Salvation Army Bellringing campaign; we voted to donate \$1000 in assistance for children in arrears in their lunch money payments. We sent \$500 from the Backpack fund to the Iowa Food Bank since they are providing so much of our food for this program. Asbury UMC will hold VBS July 15-19 from 1-4 pm. Accounts: Backpack \$6530; General Fund: \$3606.71; Traveler's Fund: \$1828.21.

Funerals: On Friday Feb. 22 I conducted a graveside committal for LaVonne Osmundson in the presence of her 2 children. Verie Hollingshead passed Feb. 28. There will be a private burial for Verie at Graceland on April 5, 2 pm. Verie's celebration of life will be held in our sanctuary April 6, 11 a.m. with a meal to follow. There is no visitation scheduled at this time.

Continuing Ed: On Friday March 1 I met a small group from our church at the Memorial Union in Ames to hear Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy and Tom Miller, the Attorney General of Iowa, lead a presentation on southern border immigration issues entitled "Immigration Matters: Joined Together, Finding Solutions."

The breakdown of my ministry since Feb 8:

Worship services led:4; Christian Ed:6; Meetings:7; Visitation : 21

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:

