

July 2020 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
515-832-2232
<http://www.firstcongregationalwcc.org/>

As you recall, on March 17th Governor Reynolds shut down most non-essential services in the state with her Public Health Emergency Declaration, and since that time our church building has been shuttered to the public, and corporate worship has been suspended. It feels like it has been a very long time since we have gathered together to worship, and I am happy to tell you that **we will resume worshipping together on Sunday, July 5—the day after our Independence Day!**

Last week our Moderator, Gretchen McGlynn, once again sent out a survey to determine if, and where, we might resume worshipping together. While there were votes for returning to our sanctuary to worship and votes to remain shut with no worship services held at this time, the majority of voters indicated they would be willing to gather outdoors for worship services--and so that is the plan! Gretchen petitioned the City Council to allow us to close off Dubuque street south of the church (they granted us permission to do so), and because we still own our vacant lot there will be plenty of space for adequate social distancing. Our portable podium/microphone will serve as the outdoor pulpit, and Melissa will provide accompaniment on our portable electric piano. The service will begin at 9:30 a.m. and if the weather that morning does not allow for outdoor worship but the evening forecast is promising, then we will reschedule our service for 7 pm Sunday evening. An announcement about any service time change (or cancellation) will be sent out by email, posted on Facebook, and sent out on our phone chain OneCallNow as soon as the decision is made. Here is the essential information you will need to know about our outdoor Sunday services:

Seating will not be provided. You must provide your own yard chair or make other seating arrangements, as church chairs will not be accessible for use. You may either sit on Dubuque street or in our vacant lot; if you feel it will be difficult to walk safely on our vacant lot (the ground is uneven) then please be safe and use Dubuque Street. Be mindful that on a sunny day Dubuque Street is not shaded, so if you choose to sit there you may want to use sunscreen and wear a hat (or bring an umbrella).

Restrooms will not be provided. The church restrooms will remain shut until further notice, so please remember that no restroom will be available for your use while we are gathered outdoors.

Please wear a mask! Masks will be made available for you if you do not have one to wear. Also, even though we are outdoors there remains a threat of viral transmission, so please social distance—and at a greater distance than 6 feet apart! It is a huge outdoor area, so please spread out!

We will have bulletins available for your use, and an electronic copy will be emailed out to the entire congregation for those who wish to print off their own materials. The recycling bin will be placed outside if you wish to dispose of your bulletin as you leave. Because of the potential for strong winds we cannot simply place bulletins on a table for you to take; instead a gloved, masked usher will hand you a bulletin if you desire one and did not bring your own.

There will be singing and responsive liturgy! All music will be photocopied and inserted in the bulletin for your use, as we will not bring our hymnals outdoors. **Because we will sing, it is important to social distance at greater than 6 feet!** This will keep everyone safe while we make a joyful noise! There will be no choir anthem (it's summer, so there wouldn't be anyway). There will be a children's message, but the children will remain where they are seated—not gathering together as has been our custom. Children must be supervised and should not be allowed to mingle among congregation members who are not family.

There will be an opportunity to take Holy Communion. We will resume our normal Communion schedule, so we will include the liturgy of Holy Communion in the July 5 service. For Communion you have these options: 1. Not to partake at all, 2. Bring your own elements, 3. Pick up a sealed container

on site that will have 1 piece of bread and 1 red grape for you to use as your Communion elements. The Communion containers will have been prepared by stewards using masks and gloves and will be stored in the church refrigerator for 4 days before being set out to use (the virus dies on all hard surfaces after 3 days).

We will not be hosting any coffees or intentional fellowship time before or after the service. Please be respectful of everyone and properly social distance when visiting before and after the service.

No Offering will be taken up during the service. Instead there will be a large wooden chest available that you may place your offering in before or after the service.

Audio recordings of worship services will continue to be sent out via email to all church members. This will allow those who do not feel safe in returning to group worship services to still hear the service remotely.

To commit to weekly outdoor worship services is new ground for us as a church, so please be flexible, patient, and understanding as we work the kinks out and navigate unforeseen challenges. In spite of the challenges and the unknowns, it will be good for us to finally gather together again as a church to worship God, to celebrate our new lives in Christ, and to continue sharing this journey of discipleship and faith together as a church family. I hope to see you all **this Sunday at 9:30 pm!**

–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

11 – Melissa Hindt
12 - Caryl Hollingshead
13 - Leah Maass
14 – Kaleb Sterler
18 - Cindy Henning
20 - Luke Rohmiller
21 - Candy Butz
23 - Mike McKee
23 - Nate Lahr
24 - Donald Royster
25 - Landen Ploeger
25 - Alex Swanson
27 - Troy Stockdale
28 – Brenden Ploeger

Church Staff

Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Pastor
Office: **832-2232** Cell **297-4316**
Pastor's email: revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net
Michele Omgig: Admin. Assist. **269-7210**
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**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

16 – Jennie & Zach Williams
19 - Al & Christy Fiala
22 - Clark & Jean Mowry
26 - Todd & Katie Sonsalla
29 - Colby & Candy Butz

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

1 - Katie Short
1 - Chris Swanson
2 - Ava Stockdale
2 - Barb Stearns
5 - Dale Olson
6 - Jacob Dean Rohmiller
7 - Susie Brim
8 - Duane Vavroch
9 - Erica Oberender
11 - Dylan McCoskey



Your mental health likes it when you move more. Many people who regularly exercise report that in addition to keep them physically healthy, their exercise routine:

- decreases stress, anger, and tension.
- reduces anxiety and depression
- offers a greater sense of wellbeing.

Many experts add that exercise can;

- relieve pent-up muscle tension
- stimulate feel-good hormones
- reduce stress hormones
- increase blood flow to the brain.

Figure out what you like to do to be active and then do it often.

Drive-Through “Brownie Sundae Friday” to be held July 24!

Because of Covid-19, the Annual Olde-Fashioned Ice Cream Social (our longstanding mission project with Faith UMC) was cancelled this year. But take heart! We are trying something new and oh-so-chocolatey... you are invited to our first ever drive-through “Brownie Sundae Friday”, to be held Friday, July 24 from 6:30pm--8 pm.

Because of social distancing requirements we will not gather indoors to socialize and eat; instead you simply pull up in your vehicle to our West Entrance on Willson Avenue, tell the masked, gloved attendant how many Brownie Sundaes you would like “to go,” and the attendant will bring your prepared Brownie Sundaes to your vehicle! The Pickle Jar will be used to receive your free will donation, and after you have received your Sundaes you simply drive off to find a nice spot to indulge your chocolate-ice cream cravings! To keep things simple all Sundaes will be alike: a large brownie topped with a generous amount of store-bought vanilla ice-cream, then topped with Hershey’s chocolate syrup. For those who are gluten intolerant or don’t like chocolate you can enjoy a bowl of vanilla ice cream without the brownie or topping. Proceeds from the event will be sent to

Enhance Hamilton County for their food pantry challenge: they will match what we raise dollar-for-dollar and then donate the funds to our local food pantries. What a wonderful way to enjoy some summer sweet treats--while doubling your donation’s good works!

To help the Mission Board make our drive-through “Brownie Sundae Friday” a success, we are asking for donations of 10 pans of brownies, 9X13 size, any recipe, frosted or not – with NO added nuts. We would prefer you bake your donation in a recyclable aluminum pan, but if you label your kitchen pan we will be sure to return it to you. If you would like to donate a pan of brownies, please contact Gayle Olson of the Mission Board, and please have your brownies to the church on July 24 by 3 pm. In case of rain we will reschedule the event a week later-- on July 31st.

PANCAKES!

Comfort food? Easy meal? Something everyone likes? What is it about pancakes? Whatever it is it seems pancake mix is something the food pantries at Trinity Lutheran, and St. Paul’s Lutheran say flies off their shelves. So, for the month of July we would like to help them out and collect pancake mix and syrup for their food pantries and thus help those with food insecurities in our community have access to food. We will have a tote sitting inside the west door of the church starting the first of July where you can drop off your boxes of mix and bottles of syrup. We will move this tote outside on Sunday morning so it will be available if you choose to come to the outdoor service.

Let’s see how many times we can fill our tote during the month of July!

Thrift Sale

Since moving our Mom, Patty Yungclas, into Windsor Manor Memory Gardens, Alan and I have been sorting, cleaning, tossing or packing the contents of 1328 Grand Street in anticipation of our church’s Thrift Sale!! But since we don’t know when the church may be available to do this we are offering Alan’s barn (1123-220th Street) which has plenty of social distancing room!!

We've scheduled the barn "clean-up/set-up" for the weekend of July 24, 25, 26 and will welcome any and all who wish to help!!!

The Barn Thrift Sale will be held **August 14 & August 15**, and Cindy Henning is in charge of organizing this sale just like it was being held at the church!! We will have plenty of fans!! She would appreciate you letting her know when you would be available to work (which shift) and we decided to change the hours of this sale to **Friday: 9am to 6pm, and Saturday: 8am to noon.**

There will be many priced items at this sale along with items "for the bag", and all of the proceeds will go to Women's Fellowship, which Patty dedicated so much of her time to!!

This has been a very tedious and emotional task, but we are excited to share the treasures we've discovered!!! There will also be items from the Nancy Sheldon household.

Thank you,

Alan Yungclas & Leah Maass

Beacon of Hope

The Beacon of Hope is still continuing its ministry to homeless men even through this pandemic, and they need our help! Beacon's census is still down at this time, but they continue to have 25 hungry men to feed each day. Our Mission Board would like to send them another meal to heat and serve in-house that will be prepared by us, and so we are asking for 4 volunteers to provide 4

separate casseroles to be delivered on Tuesday, July 7. As before, what casserole you make is up to you, we only ask that you make it in a 9 x 13 inch reusable/recyclable foil pan (so we don't have to have the pan returned). It can either be cooked and ready to be reheated at the Beacon, or it can be "raw" and cooked in Beacon's kitchen. Also we are looking for donations of two 9 x 13 pans of dessert bars. We already have a donor of 6 bags of lettuce salad! All donations should be dropped off at the church July 7 by 2 pm, so they can be transported to Beacon later that afternoon.

An email was sent out with this information on June 27, please reply to that if you want to furnish any items.

Thank you in advance for continuing to love and care for the men of Beacon! --Pastor Craig

Book Study

We as Americans find ourselves again confronting the spectre of racism in our nation, and it is important for us all as Christians and Americans to do what we can to correct this injustice and create a society that is just for all people regardless of color or ethnicity. Toward that end, I am pleased to invite you to join with members of the Jewell and Alden UCC churches in reading and discussing two recommended books on racism: "White Fragility" by Robin Di Angelo and "Raising White Kids" by Jennifer Harvey. Pastor Kerry Oliver, Associate Pastor of Jewell UCC and Alden UCC will be coordinating the response from the Jewell and Alden Churches, and I will be coordinating First Congregational's response.

What we hope to achieve is an interchurch discussion of the insights of these books that will raise our collective awareness of how we can challenge our own implicit biases toward race and help create change in ourselves and our larger society.

The format: if you are interested in reading either or both of these books you may purchase them on your own on-line, or if you cannot order on-line, one can be ordered for you. Our hope is not only that you read one or both, but you also will participate in an online discussion of these books with other members of our three churches. We expect to hold a **6 week study of "White Fragility"** (2 chapters a week) and possibly a **7 week study for "Raising White Kids"** (1 Chapter a week). We are also proposing the day of the week for the studies to be either **Tuesday or Wednesdays, 10 am, 2 pm, 4 pm or possibly 7 pm.**

Kerry is hoping to **start the discussion studies mid-July**, so please give some thought to your participation and then if interested let me know what book(s) you will read, if you will participate in an online discussion via Zoom or Google Meet, and if so, what days/times will work for you, To use Zoom or Google Meet will require downloading the respective apps and a camera/mic on your computer (or smartphone, tablet, etc)

I hope you will join us in this important study and discussion! As always, if you have any

questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you! --Pastor Craig

ABOUT WHITE FRAGILITY

The *New York Times* best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book” (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’ (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

RAISING WHITE KIDS

With a foreword by Tim Wise, *Raising White Kids* is for families, churches, educators, and communities who want to equip their children to be active and able participants in a society that is becoming one of the most racially diverse in the world while remaining full of racial tensions. For white people who are committed to equity and justice, living in a nation that remains racially unjust and deeply segregated creates unique conundrums.

These conundrums begin early in life and impact the racial development of white children in powerful ways. What can we do within our homes, communities and schools? Should we teach our children to be “colorblind”? Or, should we teach them to notice race? What roles do we want to equip them to play in addressing racism when they encounter it? What strategies will help our children learn to function well in a diverse nation?

Talking about race means naming the reality of white privilege and hierarchy. How do we talk

about race honestly, then, without making our children feel bad about being white? Most importantly, how do we do any of this in age-appropriate ways?

While a great deal of public discussion exists in regard to the impact of race and racism on children of color, meaningful dialogue about and resources for understanding the impact of race on white children are woefully absent. *Raising White Kids* steps into that void.

Updates

We had a chance to meet and greet our new grandson, Carter Jackson Groves, two weeks ago. His two older sisters think he’s adorable (for now.) We’ve also kept busy with yard work and other chores around home we’ve been putting off “until we have time.” No excuse now. Wil Groves

I will still be getting married to Tyler Pawletzki on July 4th in Carroll, Iowa. Yay!
Erica Oberender

Thanks to everyone that sent get well cards when I fell and hurt my knee. Thank you for the healing prayers my knee is healed and feeling good.

Vicki Blaufuss

I will miss the first outdoor service since I will be in Southwest Iowa for Erica Oberender's wedding and will not yet be back in Webster City. Don Blanchette's daughter Barbara Hockabout comes on June 29th to help celebrate his birthday on the 30th and to be with him while I am at the wedding. We think a good time will be had by all.

Shirley Yungclas

I am so glad that the outdoor pool is now open and I can swim. My mantra is that it preserves my sanity and restores my soul.

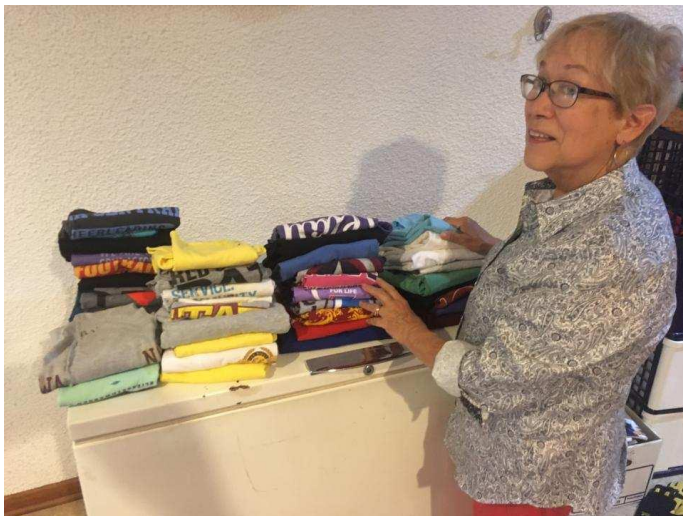
Mabel Prescott

Christian Education board will meet Wednesday, July 22 at 5pm. We hope by then to be able to access the situation and decide how to move forward with our fall and winter programming. Christian Ed board continues to

deliver "We Care" bags to the youth of the church. In the past we delivered 20 Easter bags. Promotion Sunday we delivered to all the KLAB youth their certificates with a Dairy Queen certificate. In May we delivered 19 "We Care" bags and in July we'll deliver 19 "We Care" bags. We want the youth to know they are missed.

I have been checking church email at home daily and working at the church on Mondays. I will be coming in on Thursdays also now that we are holding services again.
Michele Omgig

carry items from the Food Bank in the totes, rather than plastic bags. Sew the bottom of the t-shirt, cut off sleeves and trim off the neck band were the basic instructions. Thanks to Carol Crystal, Marjorie Groves, Leah Maass, Lorraine McCoskey, Greta Oberender, Gayle Olson, Paula Englehart Vaughn, Karin Yungclas, and Shirley Yungclas for donating t-shirts, sewing totes or both. Marjorie will deliver the 42 t-shirt totes to the Food Bank in Des Moines. Thanks!
- **The Mission Board**



Even during a pandemic life goes on...including growing up! Jayleen Burgos-Franco recently lost her first tooth!

T-Shirt Totes for Food Bank of Iowa

Marjorie Groves heard Pat Powers, KQWC, interview the director of the Food Bank, who mentioned needing volunteers to make shopping bags made from t-shirts. Clients can

Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges and Offerings	\$22,455.00	\$71,600.72
Other Income	0.00	.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,455.00	\$71,600.72
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Outreach and Mission	0.00	\$3,166.60
Pastoral Services	9,758.53	39,356.73
Maintenance and Repairs	1,942.48	12,513.79
Church Office	2,642.76	13,932.73
Music Ministry	803.25	4,589.75
Christian Education	0.00	0.00
Local Ministry	0.00	0.00
Misc. Expenses	51.00	943.24
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,198.02	\$74,502.84

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Minutes

Mission Board Minutes

June 27, 2020, 10 a.m.

T-Shirt Totes for Food Bank of Iowa: Marjorie heard Pat Powers, KQWC, interview the director of the Food Bank, who mentioned needing volunteers to make shopping bags made from t-shirts. Clients can carry items from the Food Bank in the totes, rather than plastic bags. Sew the bottom of the t-shirt, cut off sleeves and trim off the neck band were the basic instructions. Thanks to Carol Crystal, Leah Maass, Greta Oberender, Paula Englehart Vaughn, Shirley Yungclas, Gayle, Karin, Lorraine, and Marjorie for donating t-shirts, sewing totes or both. Marjorie will deliver the 42 t-shirt totes to the Food Bank in Des Moines.

Food Pantries: Pancake mix and syrup fly off the shelves, Gayle learned when she contacted St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran food pantries about their needs. We'll ask our church members to bring these items in July. Gayle will prepare publicity.

One Great Hour of Sharing and Strengthen the Church: We will collect for both special offerings throughout July. Members can designate on their check which offering they want to donate to or if the check is to be split between the two. Karin will write up the promotion for the bulletin.

Ice Cream Social: We will do a First Congregational UCC brownie sundae drive-thru, instead of the ice cream social co-hosted with Faith United Methodist as in the past. Date: July 24, 6:30-8 p.m. Rain date: July 31. Gayle will order bowls and spoons of compostable material and buy vanilla ice cream and chocolate topping. There's a supply of paper napkins in the church kitchen. We will request 10 pans of brownies of 9X13 size, any recipe, frosted or not – and will specify no nuts. People will drive up to the west entrance of the church. The Mission Board and spouses will serve, with one of us approaching car with Pickle Jar for free-will donation and asking number of brownie sundaes. We'll put together brownie sundaes in entryway/elevator room. Servers will be masked and wear latex gloves. Signs promoting drive-thru and giving basic info will be posted at corners. Police will be notified in case serving causes a traffic slow-down in front of the church. Cabinet will be notified. The money donated will go to Enhance Hamilton County for their matching funds to support local food pantries. Pastor Craig will create the email to church members.

Relay for Life: The American Cancer Society walk, re-scheduled for August 4 in Stanhope, has now been cancelled and will be a fundraiser only. We'll put out the Pickle Jar a couple of Sundays in August.

Beacon of Hope: The Fort Dodge shelter for homeless men needs drop-off evening meals. Gayle and Dale are preparing one soon. The Mission Board will supply another July 7. Pastor Craig will send out an email requesting four casseroles and two pans of bars. Audrey volunteered to supply six bags of lettuce and Marjorie will bring two loaves of peanut butter sandwiches. The Beacon has 25 men.

Fudging: We discussed expanding Craig and Vicki's project of taking treats (such as fudge) to those who've continued to work, serving the public, during the pandemic but decided to hold off for now.

Book Study: The discussions of *White Fragility* and *Raising White Kids* will begin when participants from our church, as well as the Jewell and Alden churches, receive their books.

Next Meeting: July 16, 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marjorie Groves, Secretary

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2020, 10:00 AM
AT KENDALL YOUNG PARK**

Correspondence: Shirley Yungclas sent 5 get well, 4 thinking of you card, 1 congratulations card, and 1 sympathy card.

New Business:

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, everyone shared how they were getting along and any news to share.

Gayle Olson asked for prayers for her sister having hip surgery.

Sewing T-shirt bags –These bags will be given to the Food Bank of Iowa. Wil and Marjorie will deliver to them. Gayle shared how to make t-shirt bags from old shirts.

Turn shirt inside out

Sew bottom of shirt together.

Cut sleeves off - leaving the seamed edge

Use a bowl to mark around neckline, then cut.

Turn shirt inside out,

Distributions of our funds raised during 2019/2020 program year,.

OCWM	\$1,000	AGAPE	\$ 300
Ecumenical		Riverview	\$ 500
Human Needs	\$ 500	WC Daycare	\$ 500
Free Clinic	\$ 500		

Verna will write checks and Cindy will write checks.

Program book - keep last years and Cindy will make changes, leave program presenters same, and swap Jan., Feb., and March for Mayflower and Morning Star. Cindy will email the info to members and send notes to those without email. This will save paper and money.

Thrift Sale – We will talk about setting the dates at our Aug. meeting.

Cindy will talk to Leah and Alan about Patty's stuff.

Holly Riemenschneider and Joyce Gelhaus will be co-chairs next year.

Next Meeting – Aug 5, location TBA

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: