

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

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure.” –Proverbs 4: 23, 25-26

Vicki and I have to hand it to you all—you really surprised us in the vacant lot last Sunday when you remembered our 10 year anniversary marking the beginning of our ministry here at First Congregational! The amazing gift basket you presented to us and the cards you have sent us have been wonderfully affirming and a sweet delight to us both! Vicki and I want to express a hearty thanks to you all—not only for your gifts and cards and kind words, but also for welcoming us into your lives and into the common life of this church. To my mind it has been a busy and fruitful 10 years, and my prayer is that God is not done blessing the collaborative fruits of our labors together as we “Share the gospel, nurture and support each other, and show concern for humankind.” (our Mission Statement!)

Just out of curiosity I looked back to the November 2010 newsletter to see what I had to say to you all back then. I said this:

“New beginnings are both exciting and challenging, and they offer a window of opportunity for fresh thinking and future discernment. New beginnings at churches are no exception, and this particular new beginning is an opportunity for all of us to engage in some fresh thinking and Spirit-guided discernment at First Congregational UCC. This church has a long and distinguished history of ministry in this community and beyond; our challenge is to build on that history in our time and place, so that we remain a faithful people and a faithful, relevant, and vital church.

As I begin my ministry in your midst, my prayer is that all members of First Congregational UCC spend time thinking deeply about how this church has impacted their lives, and how their lives and contributions are impacting what we are building together— this portion of the body of Christ. At First Congregational UCC we have the opportunity to come together to explore our faith, offer what service we feel called to provide, contribute to the financial and spiritual welfare of our church, and draw closer to one another in fellowship and support—and in doing so know the joys and the challenges of opening ourselves to each other in honesty and concern.

Friends, church can be powerful, if we will make it a priority in our lives. Church can change lives in amazing ways, if we are bold in our commitments and our desire to grow. Church can be a force for good in this community and beyond, if we believe in our ministries and support them. May we all embrace the possibilities that come with new beginnings as we create a new thing together—a new chapter in the story of First Congregational UCC church: Christ’s church.”

OK, it does sound a bit like new-pastor-speak, but there is a lot of truth in those decade-old words. We DO have a distinguished history of ministry in this church—and we have not been lax over the last decade in continuing that tradition! The Mission Board never tires of bringing more ministry opportunities into our collective focus, and as a congregation we not only support our UCC Special Offerings (5 for 5!) but we also support Relay for Life, DSAOC, Beacon of Hope, Lotus Community Project, Almost Home animal shelter, the school Backpack program, Head Start, our local Food Pantries, Stepping Forward Romania, UDMO, ACE, Ecumenical Human Needs, the Agape Fund, the WC Free Clinic...and so many more benevolences and initiatives that make our world a better place!

We have also continued to come together in many ways to form and strengthen our individual and collective faith. Whenever we have gathered to worship and hear a relevant word in our time and place; when we have gathered for Adult Ed., Children’s Sunday School, Confirmation or KLAB; when

we have gathered for a book study (2 this summer!), to hear a guest speaker, or to participate in special programming; when we have shared a prayer and a devotional during a Women's Fellowship meeting or before Cabinet, or when we have gathered in the East Chapel for the Shalom Circle we have made a conscious commitment to cultivating our faith! For the last decade we have continued to seek the presence and the will of the still-speaking God so we can remain faithful: to our calling, our heritage, and the challenges and opportunities of our time and place!

And we have also continued to draw closer to one another in fellowship and support-- even as our membership has inevitably changed over time. We have supported one another through some difficult times brought by sickness and death...and we have shared joyous moments of new births, baptisms, graduations, and weddings. We have fellowshiped after church during our wonderful coffee hours, at special meals, at Rally Day and Promotion Sunday, Women's Fellowship Dinners, Christmas Caroling, and all-church picnics. We continue to support one another outside the confines of our church building...and it is our mutual care for one another that has helped bind our hearts and lives together and helped keep this church vital and alive—even through this pandemic!

As you can see we have much to celebrate as a church, for we have been blessed in so many ways! Most importantly, God is not done blessing us yet as God calls us to continue our ministries, our faith formation, and our mutual support and care into the next decade and beyond! We all know there will be more challenges and changes ahead of us in the next decade—we can already feel the shifts and the pressures of changing demographics and the continued marginalization of mainstream religion in American life. The next decade will likely be a time of BIG changes for our church that will require much faith, much hope, and much creativity from us—as well as many, many others. And yet it is in these times of challenge, even trial, that God shines through with increased presence, wisdom, and strength; that Jesus continues to call to us to join him in bringing more light and love to a weary world; that the Holy Spirit advocates for us and illumines the path in front of us so we may move forward into the future empowered and emboldened! Let us then greet the next 10 years of ministry with enthusiasm, confidence, resilience, and with HEART for what God has yet to do in our lives and in our church! For never forget that we walk guided by an otherworldly Vision of Life that has buoyed countless spirits and lives over the centuries-- even in the midst of every challenge. And that Vision will bless us and keep us as well...as long as we keep it pure and undefiled in our minds and hearts!

Thank you all again for remembering our 10 year anniversary of ministry together!

With much love and affection, Pastor Craig and Vicki

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

M 8 am - 11 am

Th 12:30 pm to 2:30

Church Staff

Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Pastor

Office: **832-2232** Cell **297-4316**

Pastor's email: **revcraigblaufuss@wmtel.net**

Michele Omvig: Admin. Assist. **269-7210**

Church's e-mail: **administrative.office@fcuccwc.org**

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

Sunshine Duffy: 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**

8 - Logan McCoskey

9 - Dawn Holdgrafer

10 - Gayle Olson

13 - Karen Weir

14 - Larry Brim

15 - Richard Tudor

15 - Jim Henning

16 - Emily Stockdale

16 - Brayden Babington

20 - Malachi Tewald

30 - Luna Lahr

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

5 - Bud & Carol Crystal

9 - Nate & Linda Lahr

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

1 - Kay Harfst



Health Literacy involves reading, listening, analyzing, and making decisions about health situations to manage your health and prevent disease.

To improve your health literacy, ask your health provider to:

- Slow down when speaking to you.
- Use plain, non-medical language.
- Show or draw pictures related to conditions and procedures.
- Repeat information you do not understand or explain it differently.

At the end of office visits, you should be able to answer the following questions:

- What is my main problem?
- What do I need to do about my problem?
- Why is it important for me to do this?

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. We will take up an offering in October.

Relay for Life

Thank you to all who donated to the Relay for Life. The church collected \$431 for the fight against cancer. It is very much appreciated because even though we did not have the Relay, we still supported cancer patients and research. **"Cancer Has Not Stopped"** Thanks again, Joyce Gelhaus and the Relay for Life Committee

Thanks

Thank you for the scholarship money that I received. It went towards my on-line classes at DMACC this fall. I appreciate your continued support. Thank you again, Karl Heimberger - nephew of Joyce Gelhaus

September Beacon of Hope Meal

On September 15 we delivered about 35 lbs of pulled pork, 13 lbs of potato salad, 2 gallons of baked beans, 4 pans of bars, 3 bottles of barbeque sauce, and 12 8 packs of buns to the Beacon of Hope. The men appreciated this "meaty" meal!



Meetings

In September the Cabinet voted to reopen the church building to board and committee meetings as long as they observe restrictions such as masking and social distancing. On Sept 23, The Evangelism Board became the first board to meet inside the church since March 17th. Welcome back!



Mayflower

Mayflower circle will meet October 8, 1:30 in the adult Sunday school room.

Anniversary

Rev. Craig Blaufuss has completed a decade of ministry to the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Webster City. He and his wife Vicki began ministry at the church October 1, 2010. The congregation celebrated with a “cupcake walkthrough” after the outdoor service Sunday morning, September 27.

In addition to his pastoral duties at First Congregational, Pastor Craig has taken an active role in the community. He is involved with the Webster City summer lunch program, Warm Hearts, Warm Homes, and Salvation Army Bellringing Campaign. He’s a 9-year member of Noon Kiwanis Club; 7-year member and now chair of the Hamilton County Crime Stoppers Board; member and chair of the Webster City Ministerial Association; 5-year member of the Advisory Council for North Central RSVP of Iowa; past member of the Northwestern Association Committee on Ministry; Bible study leader at local nursing homes (in non-COVID times); National Synod delegate; and much-welcomed maker of tasty fudge.

Vicki has taught at Iowa Central Community College and volunteers with RSVP. She also serves on the church’s Christian Education Board and helps lead the after school youth program. Vicki serves as Pastor Craig’s unpaid but highly appreciated co-worker in ministry. Cards may be sent to their home at 705 South Street Webster City.



Gift Basket received by Pastor Craig and Vicki



Care Packages

On Sept. 14 our KLAB and Sunday School kids received a care package from the Christian Ed. board with a Bible lesson and a craft project to work on at home. (and treats too, of course!) Jayleen Burgos and Luna Lahr proudly display their completed projects. Jayleen received a Dairy Queen gift card for completing her craft! Other DQ gift card recipients include Izzy McNiell and Luna Lahr.



From T-Shirts to Food Totes: Second Round

The Mission Board seeks your help a second time in making totes from t-shirts for the Food

Bank of Iowa. The Food Bank says the totes are still needed. Each tote will need to hold up to 30 pounds of cans, bags of rice or beans, potatoes, etc., so don't use worn out tees with holes, kiddie tees or thin/gauzy ones. If you have questions, email Marjorie Groves at marjoriegroves@hotmail.com. If you can sew but don't have t-shirts or have t-shirts but can't sew, email her and she'll see if she can match you up. She'll take t-shirt totes from First

Congregational UCC of Webster City to a Food Bank of Iowa site at the end of October. You'll find information on making the totes at <https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp3283131.jsp>



Dear First Congregational UCC members,

September 2020

Several major decisions were made at our last Cabinet meeting. Here is a summary of our recent decisions.

We will be opening the church to inside services when the weather does not warrant worshiping in the open lot. We will continue outside services for as long as we can into the fall. An e-mail and a telephone message will be sent from the church when we are meeting inside.

A listing of protocols is included in this letter, listing all the precautions that we ask you to follow. Please observe them as we are trying to keep everyone as safe as we can.

As we enter the heating season, the sanctuary will be kept cooler than normal so we can avoid the use of fans, so please dress appropriately. Coat racks will be available for your use; please social distance while using them and be mindful of the risks. You may want to keep your coat with you.

Worship time will be at **10:00 a.m.** when we move indoors, otherwise it will remain at 9:30 a.m.

Audio recorded services will continue to be distributed by e-mail. If the worship service is held in the sanctuary, it will be recorded and made available shortly after the service via e-mail for that week.

If a parent wants to take their child out of the worship service there are 3 areas they may go to; East Chapel, Fellowship Hall or the Nursery. One family per area please.

It was also decided to open the church to boards, circles and Stephen Ministry. If you are wishing to use the church please contact Michele as she will be doing the reservation of rooms. The best way to contact Michele is by e-mail: administrative.office@fcuccwc.org. She checks the e-mail several times daily and this is her preference for being contacted. Michele can also be contacted during her office hours at the church by calling 515-832-2232. Her office hours are Monday from 8:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m. and Thursday from 12:30 a.m - 3:00 p.m. Let Michele know the date, how many people will be attending and what your needs are for a room and she will assign your group as to where you will be meeting. A room will be vacated for 72 hours before another group may use that area. Meetings will need to be held on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. This allows the church to sit unused for 72 hours before Sunday worship use. All protocols will need to be observed, including masks, cleaning of surfaces, social distancing and others noted.

We will have other situations we will address as we open up. If you have a concern, please

contact Gretchen McGlynn (832-4763), moderator; or Donna Ryherd (835-8016), Worship Board chair.

Gretchen McGlynn
Moderator



Worship Board Recommendations for re-opening the Church

Revised Sept. 2020

The cabinet voted to hold worship services in the church when weather does not warrant meeting in the open lot. Pastor Craig will determine the location and notify the membership if changed. Worship in the Sanctuary will begin at 10:00 am. We will continue to meet in the outdoor lot as weather permits.

The following protocols will be followed by all entering the church building:

- **Mask-** will be worn within the church building. Some masks will be available if person attending does not bring one. Safety pins will be available to adjust to smaller faces. The mask will be in zip-lock bags on table with sanitizer near entrances.
- **West door-** to enter church and sanctuary will be propped open so a foot can open it further during gathering times. Front door will also be available for entry and exit.
- **Elevator-** A sanitizing supply table will be at each elevator level for riders to wipe down all touched surfaces. There will be signage with directions at each level. One person/family unit at a time in elevator wearing a mask(s).
- **Surface touching minimized-**no passing of **offering plate-** instead the plates will be placed by the entries to the sanctuary. The Financial Board may pick up offerings at end of service. **Candle lighting and extinguishing-** will be done by Pastor Craig, **Bulletins** will be available on a table when entering sanctuary.
- **Worshippers** -As we enter the heating season, the sanctuary will be kept cooler than normal so we can avoid the use of fans. Please, dress appropriately. Coat racks will be available for your use; please social distance while using them and be mindful of the risks. You may want to keep your coat with you. Worshippers should go directly to a pew and practice 6' social distancing from non-family members. Children must remain with parents or guardians. Wandering in the church or sanctuary will not be tolerated.
- **Children-** If a parent wants to take their child out of the worship service there are 3 areas they may go to; East Chapel, Fellowship Hall or the Nursery. One family per area please.
- **Ushers-**Two ushers will be at each service to assist worshippers directly to their pew. Ushers will also dismiss congregation by pews to promote social distancing and remind them socializing is to take place outside.
- **Social distancing in pews-** No person will sit in the back rows (too close for people walking past in the back). Family units may sit together. 6' social distancing between family units will be maintained. Some cushions are removed, and signage placed to social distance safely.
- If a parent wants to take their child out of the worship service there are 3 areas they may go to; East Chapel, Fellowship Hall or the Nursery. One family per area please.
- **Bathrooms-** will be available if needed. Signage will be posted directing the cleaning of everything touched before person leaves the room. One adult only at a time in bathroom. We encourage people to not use bathrooms unless they cannot wait before leaving. Cleaning supplies will be available. Disposable gloves will also be available. Bathrooms will be posted to "use at your own risk", since we cannot ensure cleaning between use.
- **No social coffee or visiting inside the church-** visiting may take place outside church at safe social distancing with mask. Signage reminders will be posted.

- **Communion-** Individual communion cups will be prepared and distributed at the sanctuary entrance.
- **Choir/ Singing-** will not be scheduled at inside worship
- **Closure of Sanctuary-**Sanctuary will be closed for 72 hours following each service. The COVID 19 virus does not last longer than 72 hours on a surface.
- **Meeting in the church-** Cabinet, Boards, committees, circles, Stephen Ministers may meet in the church by reserving time and location with the Administrative Assistant. Meeting days will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are three meeting rooms available.
- **Audio of the service-** will be available via email the same day for those not attending the in-sanctuary service.
- **Pastor Craig** – will remain in his office before and after service to minimize the temptation of close interaction. He may elect to socialize outside the church building. Phone calls, emails, text, and mail will be promoted for communication with him.
- **Expectations** – must be posted and sent to members and friends prior to reopening the church. This includes the Public Health notification policy for individuals testing positive.

NOTICE

All persons entering the building are warned the Hamilton County Public Health will not notify the church or pastor of individual positive cases of Covid 19. If there are multiple cases linked to the church location, a courtesy call will be made to the pastor, but no names given.

When an individual test is positive, they are asked to name the people they were in contact with-in the past 48 hours before receiving the positive test results. (Contact= within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more). IF the infected person supplies names, those individuals will be notified and asked to quarantine for 2 weeks.

Therefore, the cabinet requests individuals entering the church building and later testing positive for Covid 19 inform Pastor Craig.

Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges and Offerings	\$14,992.00	\$112,545.18
Other Income	0.00	.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,992.00	\$112,545.18
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Outreach and Mission	426.00	\$3,592.60
Pastoral Services	5,963.87	63,084.93
Maintenance and Repairs	601.81	17,400.82
Church Office	3,448.21	22,232.20
Music Ministry	420.00	5,681.75
Christian Education	82.75	121.75
Local Ministry	0.00	0.00
Misc. Expenses	32.09	981.75
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,974.73	\$113,095.80

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Webster City, Iowa
Cabinet Minutes

Board of Trustees

August 30, 2020

Present: Joyce Gelhaus, Tracy Wehrhan, Alan Yungclas, Tom Riemenschneider, Pastor Craig

Absent: Sherry Leksell

Old Business

- The large refrigerator in the kitchen is leaking water inside. Joyce texted Jason Home Appliance Repair. Then Joyce called Jason, he wanted to know what the problem was and said that he would get to it as soon as he could. He was very behind.
- Pastor Craig has not checked on pricing for the church computers for the pastor, office, and sanctuary.

New Business

- The toilet in the Bride's bathroom is leaking again. Discussion was held if we should get a new high toilet. Al will check the toilet leak and get a new high toilet if needed.
- Tom will bring in dirt to fill in on the south side of church, where the gutters were put under ground last fall.
- Trustees budget discussion was held.
- Joyce will contact Shawn Moran to repair the outside door frames. The door frames on the NW, NE, and east need repairs and paint.

Next meeting TBA

Worship Board

August 27, 2020

The Worship Board met on August 27, 2020 at the vacant lot next to the church. Donna Ryherd, Don Bruner, Gretchen McGlynn, Mary Vavroch and Pastor Craig were in attendance. Donna called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Pastor Craig offered an opening prayer asking for wisdom and encouragement.

Cabinet Report: Gretchen reported that the cabinet will meet again on September 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. She requested that Donna attend in order to discuss the Worship Board's suggested protocols if the cabinet determines it wants to reopen the church for services or meetings.

Communion: Don Bruner offered to prepare the elements for communion on September 6 and set them out.

Fall Worship Times: Usually the church service time falls back to 10:30 after Labor Day, but that is for the purpose of accommodating Sunday School. There won't be any Sunday School before services until after the church reopens. The road noise is already increasing by 9:30 when we are outside and would probably be louder by 10:30. It was the consensus of the board that the outdoor services will continue at 9:30 while the weather allows. If the church is reopened or the weather becomes unpleasant the time will be reconsidered.

Considerations For In-Sanctuary Services: The board reviewed the protocols previously developed by the Worship Board and agreed with what is already in those. Craig talked to the Hamilton County Board of Health Director Shelby Kroona who told him that 72 hours is still considered the time that the corona virus can remain active on surfaces. Consideration for where meetings and services are held will need to include whether the

area can be cleaned or needs to remain unused for 72 hours. The pews in the sanctuary should not be wiped down because of the likelihood of damaging their finish, so that is a consideration on scheduling meetings/services.

Craig and Shelby also discussed privacy issues versus the need to know if someone in the congregation tests positive for Covid after attending services or meetings at the church. The director does not contact the pastor or anyone from the church with the news that a worshipper tests positive unless there are multiple cases. Then she will contact the pastor as a courtesy to let the pastor know there are multiple infections among the members who have attended the services, but no names are divulged in that call. Compliance is voluntary and the infected individual may or may not cooperate with the Public Health Department. Contact tracing that is done goes back only two days from the date of the positive test result. This information from the health department will be included in the protocols given to the cabinet at their meeting.

A recommendation to socialize outside after church once the building is reopened will be added to the protocols.

What happens in the county and community after the schools reopen may require the board to consider whether any additional protocols are needed.

Budget: The upcoming budget for the year was developed. After discussion of which activities in the church may not continue and what the needs are, a "pandemic" budget was approved. Gretchen moved and Mary seconded that the Board request \$750 for miscellaneous expenses and \$100 for chancel expenses. It may be necessary to include \$1.00 in the other line items to hold their place in the budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vacation for the Pastor: Craig indicated that while the congregation is meeting outside he will not be taking vacation. Once we are inside, if that happens, then a video could be played for the sermon and he may request time off.

Future Meetings: When another meeting is needed we will try to meet by e-mail. Donna will let us all know.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15

Mary Vavroch, acting secretary

Worship Board September 2020

The Worship Board met outdoors in the vacant lot on Aug. 27. Topics of discussion included communion, fall worship times and details, protocols to follow should a member of the congregation test positive for Covid-19, and budget.

The board submitted its suggestions for indoor worship procedures to the Cabinet at its September meeting. They were approved, and protocols for such were distributed to membership via email on Sept. 17. The board continues to discuss business as it arises via email.

Evangelism Board 09/23/2020

The September 23, 2020, meeting of Evangelism Board was called to order by Patty at approximately 1:30 p.m. with Pastor Craig, Ginnie, Patty and Carol in attendance.

Pastor Craig offered up an uplifting prayer for our guidance in the mission of our board and updated us on status of our members of concern.

Minutes from our March meeting were not read due to the time lapse because of the virus shutdown.

There have been no cards recently sent by Ginnie to our members.

Old Business: The responsibility of securing Ushers for the inside services will continue with the schedule created at the first of the year. September and October – Leah, November and December – Ginnie. Sign Up sheets will be available in Fellowship Hall. Once Ushers are secured, you will need to educate/email them the new Usher responsibilities as stated in the Worship Board Recommendation.

The primary focus of the meeting was to address the new protocols for the Church re-opening for inside services. A document stating the policies and procedures was sent out to members. The Evangelism Board discussed the procedures which we are responsible. These procedures include:

Ushers:

- Two Ushers will be needed, one for the Northwest entrance door and one for the door entering the sanctuary from Fellowship Hall, to direct people to designated social distancing seating.
- The Ushers will dismiss the congregation by pews, starting from the back, to promote social distancing and to remind them that socializing is to take place outside.
- Masks are required to be worn in Church.
- Children must remain with parents or guardians. Wandering in the church or sanctuary will not be tolerated. If a parent wants to take their child out of the worship service there are 3 areas they may go to; East Chapel, Fellowship Hall or the Nursery. One family per area. Ushers may need to assist the families to these locations.
- No person will sit in the back rows (too close for people walking past in the back). Family units may sit together. 6' social distancing between family units will be maintained. Some cushions are removed, and signage placed to social distance safely.
- Individual communion cups will be prepared and distributed at the sanctuary entrances.
- No passing of offering plate- instead the plates will be placed by the entries to the sanctuary. The Financial Board may pick up offerings at end of service. Candle lighting and extinguishing- will be done by Pastor Craig, Bulletins will be available on a table when entering sanctuary.

Children Activity Bags:

The cloth activity bags will not be used at this time. They will be replaced with paper disposable bags.

The remainder of the meeting was spent making disposable Kid Activity Bags for the children attending the inside services. Bags were created from paper lunch bags filled with a few items, pencils, crayons, coloring pages, blank tablets, etc. The Children are to take a bag when entering the sanctuary and after the service either take the bags and contents home with them or dispose in the trash can outside the sanctuary.

Visitor Packets:

Visitor Packets will not be distributed at this time because of the virus situation.

Future meetings will be scheduled as needed.

Meeting was adjourned

Submitted by,

Patty Gescheidler, Chair

Mission Board
September 24, 2020

Church vacant lot: Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Audrey Burtnett, Marjorie Groves, Gayle Olson, Karin Yungclas. Lorraine McCoskey was unable to attend. Pastor Craig led us in prayer.

Old Business

Relay for Life: Pickle Jar brought in \$406 to donate to the American Cancer Society.

Book Study: Pastor Craig facilitated discussion of *Raising White Kids*, with Vicki Blaufuss, Patty Gescheidler, Marjorie Groves, Gayle Olson and Mary Vavroch participating. Our outdoor book group finished September 23.

T-Shirt Totes for Food Bank of Iowa: As of the September 24 meeting, we had 62 t-shirt totes. Marjorie will take them to All Cultures Equal for use with the upcoming Food Bank of Iowa and food pantry distribution. We will continue to collect t-shirts and sew totes through the end of October.

Open and Affirming: We are looking for a book or study guide to use in adult education or personal study as we consider the process of becoming an O&A church. The United Church of Christ Coalition for Open and Affirming Churches can provide a coach or consultant. Eventually we form a task force, which – according to guidelines – is to be lay led. Anyone interested in joining an O&A task force should contact a Mission Board member. Marjorie will write an article listing resources for the December newsletter.

Beacon of Hope: Mid-November is our next time to supply a meal to the Fort Dodge shelter for homeless men. Pastor Craig delivered the September picnic-themed meal (including 35 lbs. pulled pork and potato salad) September 15. It was a popular meal.

Neighbors in Need: Lorraine will promote the collection taken in October. Michele will contact her when the materials arrive.

New Business

Iowa Thank Offering: Marjorie will prepare a grant proposal requesting funding assistance for Ecumenical Human Needs. The Iowa Thank Offering application deadline is December 31.

Budget: The Mission Board requests the same budget items and amounts for 2021 as we did for 2020.

OCWM for 2020: The Mission Board urges the Finance Board to make sure the Our Church's Wider Mission budgeted amount for this year is paid in a timely fashion. Audrey will contact the chairperson.

Teacher Appreciation: Coronavirus concerns are restricting how we thank school staff. Gayle will contact Dr. Mandy Ross, School Superintendent, to see what we can consider. Pastor Craig will ask members of the Ministerium if they'd like to participate. Alternative Giving Fair: Be thinking of worthy causes. Many, such as Stepping Forward Romania, can be promoted and included as in the past.

CROP Walk: The national organizers are urging virtual events, Marjorie learned. The Mission Board decided to forgo CROP this year because we have other fund requests going on in the fall.

Warm Hearts Warm Homes: Pastor Craig said this program will be scratched this year for Hamilton County.

Cabinet Representative: Audrey, the Mission Board rep, would like to resign this role through the end of the year. We will see if Lorraine is willing to serve.

Next Meeting: October 22, 3:30 p.m., if Lorraine is available. Marjorie will be out of state and recommends that Karin, an excellent note taker, be the Interim Secretary. Respectfully submitted, Marjorie Groves, Secretary

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:

