

**October 2021 Newsletter**  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595**  
**515-832-2232**  
**<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>**

*"I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete." --John 15:11*

Do you take things too seriously?

I confess that I do-- far too often. When I look in the mirror while shaving each morning, I take the inevitable signs of aging staring back at me too seriously....

When I catch a newscast of the latest climate catastrophe or the dysfunctions in government at all levels, I take the grim news too seriously...

When family squabbles erupt, I take the raised voices and the harsh words spoken too seriously...  
When I feel disrespected or slighted, I take my bruised ego too seriously...

When I "underperform" in my many roles as husband, parent, pastor, householder, pet owner, etc....I take my failures too seriously...

When I think about the past, I take the missteps of yesterday—mine, and others'-- too seriously...

When I think about the future and its challenges, you guessed it-- I take tomorrow too seriously.

Does any of this sound familiar? To repeat my first question: Do you also take things too seriously?

Now I'm not suggesting that we shouldn't take life "seriously" in the sense of valuing our lives and being actively engaged in the world around us. But when we start taking ourselves, those around us, the state of the world, the shadows of yesterday and the unknowns of tomorrow too seriously, then we work against ourselves. We tense up and constrict our energies; we "hole up" and become defensive; we dote on all that is wrong and become blind to all that is good; we lose our power, our confidence, and our sense of hope. I needn't tell you that not much good can come when we take things in life "too seriously"—and yet it's so hard for so many of us not to do so!

There is a phrase that is apt for us to remember when we start taking things too seriously: "Lighten Up!" That's good advice on several levels. To "Lighten Up!" means to stop placing so many unnecessary burdens on ourselves, for we all make mistakes and we aren't able to solve all the world's woes. To "Lighten Up!" means to loosen the stranglehold we have on things we don't control—which is just about everything but ourselves. And most importantly, to "Lighten Up!" means literally to let more "Light" into our lives—which is a conscious choice AND an act of faith.

Jesus modeled a good balance of taking things seriously, yet not too seriously. He saw the plight of the poor, the sick and the lame, and he was moved to minister to them. He saw the injustices around him, and was moved to speak out and act up. He knew what it meant to experience trials, setbacks, conflict, even persecution....and yet he also experienced joy and empowerment. He held steadfastly onto hope—even to his last breath on the cross. How did he manage these miracles? Because above all else he had faith in the Light, and he consciously chose to make that Light—the Light of God—the

center and grounding of his life. And hear this-- his promise to us is that we can share in that grounding, that centering. We can also choose the Light when we are taking things too seriously; we can "Lighten Up" as Jesus did—and journey through life filled with greater peace, hope, empowerment, and joy. Now that's what I call Good News!

Friends, if you are prone, as I am, to take things too seriously, then here's something to take with the utmost seriousness: the peace, empowerment, hope and joy that you seek doesn't reside in your ego, in your family, in the world, in yesterday, or even in tomorrow...it resides here and now in YOU-- as you abide in the Light of God. But don't take my word (or Jesus' word) for it—"Lighten Up" and find out for yourself!

May your joy be complete in the Light! –Pastor Craig

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

M 8 am - 1 pm  
T 9 am – 1 pm  
W 8 am – 4:30 pm  
Th 8 am – 4:30 pm  
F 9 am – 1 pm

### Church Staff

**Rev. Craig Blaufuss**, Pastor  
Office: **832-2232** Cell **297-4316**  
Pastor's email: [revcraigblaufuss@gmail.com](mailto:revcraigblaufuss@gmail.com)  
**Michele Omvig**: Admin. Assist. **269-7210**  
Church's e-mail: [administrative.office@fcuccwc.org](mailto: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**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

1 - Kay Harfst  
8 - Logan McCoskey  
9 - Dawn Holdgrafer  
10 - Gayle Olson  
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



### The Daily Dozen

- Make up your mind to be happy.
- Make the best of your circumstances.
- Don't take yourself too seriously.
- You can't please everyone.
- Don't let your neighbor set your standard.
- Do the things you enjoy doing but stay out of debt.
- Don't borrow trouble.
- Do not cherish grudges.
- Have many interests.
- Don't spend your life brooding over sorrows and mistakes.
- Do what you can for those less fortunate.
- Keep busy at something.

### Church Protocols

1. Church boards, circles, and other church groups (Ministeriem, etc) can continue to meet in the church. Masks are recommended (as well as social distancing), but not required for these groups, depending on each group's comfort level. If masks will not be worn, we recommend greater social distancing. These groups are also welcome to have/prepare/bring food if they so wish, once again, depending on their comfort level. We also ask that church groups poll the group before meeting to determine every individual's comfort level concerning meeting without masks. If even one member of the group is uncomfortable with masks not being worn, out of respect for each individual, we ask that everyone in the group masks for the meeting/gathering.

2. Outside groups will not be allowed to meet in the church at this time. This includes community groups such as Crimestoppers, PEO, Garden Club, etc. We've been assured that these groups have other locations in which they can meet/other plans and the cabinet felt that mitigating this small risk will further allow our church groups to feel more comfortable by knowing that all groups meeting in the church will be church members (more certain vaccination statuses among members, etc).

3. In line with Item 2 above, the church will not be rented out/available for use by outside groups for events/gatherings (showers, other parties, etc) at this time. Nick Oberender - Moderator

### **KLAB Resumes October 6**

Kids, get ready—KLAB is about to begin again! Kids Learning About the Bible is our Wednesday after-school Christian Education program for kids in Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. **We will begin our fall 2021 program on Wednesday, October 6, beginning after school (usually around 3:20 pm) and ending at 5 pm.** We begin with free time and games outdoors, then enjoy snacks together, followed by a bible lesson and crafts. Throughout the year we also have special activities, mission projects, a field trip or two, and holiday parties! Because we have been away from each other for so long, we want our first KLAB event of 2021 to be a celebration, so we are planning a fun day of games in the vacant lot on October 6! Please see the article KLAB REUNION for more details!

This year because of the ongoing Covid pandemic we are requiring all KLAB students to wear masks while indoors, so please be sure to bring a mask! Also because of the uncertainty of Covid infection rates rising it may be necessary to suspend KLAB during the course of the year.

A call or text will be sent out to all parents of registered students if we need to suspend KLAB. And as in previous years, we will not hold KLAB when school is not in session.

We are also looking for volunteers to provide snacks! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in fellowship hall if you would like to donate.

We are looking forward to resuming our KLAB program after a long hiatus! See you Wednesday October 6!

### **KLAB REUNION—OCTOBER 6**

It's been over 18 months since we suspended KLAB due to the Covid pandemic, and your Christian Ed. Leaders are so excited to be restarting the program that we want to have a KLAB REUNION! So that's the plan for our first official KLAB session of 2021, which will be October 6. We will meet entirely outdoors in our vacant lot, from 3:20 to 5 pm, and we will enjoy treats, games, "friendly" contests, and other outdoor activities together. It's our way of saying "Welcome Back!" and a great start to a year of learning and fun!

### **Confirmation Classes Begin Wednesday, October 13**

Our 2021-2022 Confirmation Classes will begin Wednesday, October 13, after school from 3:30-5 pm. Each week we will spend the first half hour with KLAB students enjoying free time and snacks before we break away at 4 pm for our Confirmation lessons. As with KLAB, we will not hold Confirmation when school is not in session, and if the infections rates from Covid rise significantly then we may need to suspend meeting in person for Confirmation classes. If you have a student interested in participating in Confirmation classes but have not yet spoken with Pastor Craig, please do so!

### **Adult Education Continues—Outdoors**

Our Adult Education Classes continue in our outdoor setting as long as the weather allows. Each week materials and a discussion guideline are sent out by email to the congregation, and everyone is welcome to sit in and be a part of our discussions. When the weather doesn't allow for an outdoor session we will meet remotely via Zoom at 7 pm on Sundays, until a decision is made regarding returning to hold class in an indoor setting.

### **CROP Walk Gratitude**

The Mission Board put out the Pickle Jar for CROP on September 19, instead of doing a community walk – and you stepped right up to give \$455! Twenty-five percent of the money

collected will go to Upper Des Moines Opportunity in Webster City. The other 75 percent goes to international programs through Church World Service. Hungry people worldwide thank you – and so do we! – **The Mission Board**

Neighbors in Need helps make Unfailing Love possible. For this to occur, it needs your support.

**Neighbors in Need**

Traditionally, 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. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Additionally, in 2020-2021, a Covid-19 relief fund was established. Churches could apply for micro-grants to meet their congregations' needs during these unprecedented times, and some of the Neighbors in Need budget assisted in making these available. First Congregational UCC will accept an offering for Neighbors in Need on Sunday, October 3rd.

**Treasurer’s Report**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
Pledges and Offerings	\$14,065.00	\$124,585.31
Other Income	0.00	.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$14,065.00</b>	<b>\$124,585.31</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Outreach and Mission	1,416.67	\$11,353.32
Pastoral Services	6,059.92	57,332.71
Maintenance and Repairs	1,955.75	18,969.48
Church Office	3,084.01	22,997.16
Music Ministry	342.84	5,700.58
Christian Education	0.00	120.85
Local Ministry	0.00	16.67
Misc. Expenses	6.42	420.46
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$12,865.61</b>	<b>\$116,911.23</b>

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting held on September 14, 2021

## Members Present:

Moderator:	Nick Oberender	Pastor:	Craig Blaufuss
Vice Moderator:		Trustees:	Joyce Gelhaus
Finance Sec.:	Dale Olson	Women's Fellowship:	
Finance :	Tracy Wehrhan	Mission:	Stephanie Hill
Staff/Parish:	Holly Riemenschneider	Worship:	Gale Olson
Christian Ed:	Vicki Blaufuss	Evangelism:	
Treasurer:	Tracy Wehrhan	Clerk:	Stephanie Hill

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by the Moderator, Nick Oberender in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Craig opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of the June 2021 Cabinet meeting were read. Dale Olson moved and Gayle Olson seconded a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Offerings for August were \$13,865.00 and expenses were \$13,189.78. Tracy Wehrhan moved and Dale Olson seconded that the report be put to audit. The motion passed.

## Pending Business:

Non-worship use of the church building was discussed. Tracy Wehrhan moved and Vicki Blaufuss seconded a motion that no non-church groups be allowed to use the building and that groups affiliated with the church can use the building and kitchen. Masks are recommended. Social distancing is encouraged if the group is comfortable without masks. The motion passed.

## Board Summaries:

**Christian Education:** 'We Care' bags were given out this month. Having KLAB is undecided. Two potential confirmands want to proceed. Waiting for more to respond. Sunday School is also undecided as teens are not yet available. **Evangelism:** No report. **Finance:** Will meet after September 26th.

**Mission:** Beacon of Hope meal will be served on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Beef stew, cornbread and bars are the menu. Stephanie Hill will lead the collection of donations and cooking. Stepping Forward Romania presentation will be January 13<sup>th</sup> given by Steve Mather. Pizza will be served. T-shirts to Totes project will occur later this fall. CROP Walk pickle jar will be out September 19<sup>th</sup> instead of walking. Neighbors in Need collection will take place on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be no Salvation Army bell ringing this year nor Warm Hearts, Warm Homes. Marjorie Groves will prepare a grant request for Ecumenical Human Needs. **Staff Parish:** No report. **Trustees:** The northeast doors were repaired. Two other doors need repair. **Worship:** Has not met yet. **Women's Fellowship:** A Fall Thrift Sale will not take place.

**Pastor's Report:** Following CDC recommendations we will mask indoors even for fully vaccinated persons. Our worship service will be outdoors as much as possible. The Briggs Woods Youth Day was a great success with 14 children attending. They did a scavenger hunt, a water wildlife exploration activity with John Laird, the county naturalist, a litter pick up and brush cutting service project and a dunk tank. The Ecumenical Human Needs Fund received 7 applications and as unemployment benefits expire, more requests are expected. The 2020 Salvation Army Bellringers collected \$3000.00 which was distributed to Ecumenical Human Needs Fund. The UCC Tri-Conference was held virtually on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The topic as "Creation Care: Understanding our Commitment to Eco-Justice. Marjorie Groves was asked to serve on the Funding Future Leaders committee.

**Complete board reports are below:**

## PASTOR'S CABINET REPORT

Sept 10, 2021

**Worship:** We had been worshipping together without masks and extensive covid protocols since May 16, and just when it seemed that our worship services had finally returned to "normal" with the exceptions of Holy Communion (still in single serve containers) and our offering (still being taken up at the entrances)...the rise of the Delta variant and the CDC's newest guidelines suggesting masking indoors even for fully vaccinated individuals required us to again resume masking for indoor worship, and to move our worship service outdoors whenever possible! I know how disappointing this is for all of us, but we have come this far and the Delta variant is of enough concern to everyone that we are doing the right thing to return to some of the previous safety

protocols. We have enjoyed 6 outdoor services since June—July 4 and August 1, 8, 22, 29, and Sept 5. At our August 1 service we held our annual scholarship Sunday and awarded over \$8000 in scholarships! On July 25<sup>th</sup> we held worship indoors in order to use a video sermon in my absence as I was caring for Vicki after her hip replacement surgery. We also met indoors on August 15 due to our sound system owner/operator Chris McNeil being gone.

**Care Center Sunday Worship Services:** We have made no headway in returning to Sunday afternoon worship services at this time. My last email to other pastors in town had very few responses regarding their willingness to return to holding these services, and then my scheduled Sunday afternoon service on August 15 at Southfield was cancelled due to increased covid restrictions. I am sending a video worship service to them for now.

**Christian Education:** A highlight of the summer was our July 7 Briggs Woods Youth Day! 14 children and youth participated in a full day, which included a scavenger hunt, a water wildlife exploration activity with county naturalist John Laird, a wiener roast for lunch, a litter pick up and brush cutting service project, and dunk tank fun! We concluded the day by building birdhouses to take home. A special thank you to Wil Groves and Dawn Holdgrafer for being our adult leaders for the day, and a special thanks to Wil for bringing in and setting up the dunk tank and to Dawn for shopping for our groceries! We also want to thank Arden Schlitter and Luverne Bierle for building our fire and helping our kids roast wieners and marshmallows!

Following the success of this event we polled the kids and their families to gauge interest and availability for an overnight lock-in for the kids at church before school starts, but we did not have enough kids available to schedule that event. Now the Christian Ed Board has voted to suspend all indoor in-person Christian Ed activities, so we will revert to delivering monthly “we care” bags to our young people. However, Adult Ed will begin meeting after worship services in our vacant lot on Sundays starting Sept. 12. If the weather doesn’t allow meeting outside then we will Zoom Sunday evening.

**WCMA:** New pastors in town include: Father Francis Anane of St. Thomas, Pastor Joe Pierson of St. Paul’s Lutheran, and Pastor Tony Streigle of Webster City Church of Christ. Trinity Lutheran is still between settled pastors. A group of 6 pastors did meet in August, and we are scheduled to meet Sept 14 at St. Paul’s Lutheran. Trinity is currently understaffed with the departure of Teresa Turpen. The backpack program is in the process of being retooled to resume soon, likely starting with just elementary students as the Food Bank provides weekend food backpacks for that age group free of charge. The Ecumenical Human Needs Fund received 7 applications last week! With the expiration of unemployment benefits and the end of the eviction moratorium we expect to see more requests for assistance. The Salvation Army bellringing is now a thing of the past: the ringing supplies were returned to Fort Dodge SA headquarters. The \$3000 we collected in 2020 was distributed to Ecumenical Human Needs Fund (\$2500) and the WC Traveler’s Fund (\$500). And yes-- I am still the interim treasurer.

**Tri-Conference UCC:** the Annual meeting of the Tri-Conference met virtually via Zoom on June 25<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>. The focus was “Creation Care: Understanding our Commitment to Eco-Justice”. The event included: participating in an article study of incorporating Creation Care into Sunday worship, guest speakers Winona Laduke speaking about relocalizing the food production system and Peggy Greer speaking about climate change. The Tri-Conference financial picture is basically good, but the pandemic has reduced the income stream as would be expected. We did not make quorum for the business meeting, so all business must be ratified by the Board of Directors. There was discussion concerning the need for volunteers at all levels of

church work, and Marjorie Groves was tapped to serve on the Funding Future Leaders committee! That being said, there have been no FFL candidates now for 2 years in a row.

**UCC General Synod:** Both Stephanie Hill and I served as Iowa delegates for the 33<sup>rd</sup> UCC General Synod, which was held virtually from July 11-18 via Zoom. Please read my report in the August Newsletter for more information.

**Memorial services:** I officiated at the dual graveside service of Mark and Craig Vance, which was held at Graceland Cemetery on July 10 at 10 am. I also officiated at the graveside service for Letabelle Riemenschneider on August 11.

**Vacation:** I took a week's vacation beginning Thursday, July 22 through Wednesday July 28, to care for Vicki in the aftermath of her hip replacement surgery.

**The breakdown of my ministry since June 9:**

**Worship services led:13; Christian Ed:1; Meetings:21; Visitation: 18; Funerals: 2; Weddings: 1**

**Vacation:3 weeks (Apr 19-Apr 25, May 27-June 2, July 22-28)**

### **MISSION BOARD**

On June 15, Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Audrey Burtnett, Marjorie Groves, Stephanie Hill, Sherry Leksell, and Karin Yungclas met at the church. Marjorie collected t-shirts leftover after the recent Thrift Sale and will store them until we decide how and whether to proceed with making food totes for a food pantry or the Backpack Program. Sherry and Lynn Leksell filled their SUV twice with the cleaning and paper products for the Domestic/ Sexual Assault Outreach Center during May. The D/SAOC staff was most appreciative. Although our numbers were lower than last year's, the Brownie Sundae Drive-Through on Friday, June 18, was a considerable success, with \$1,312 given in the free-will offering. The Mission Board is most grateful to all who supplied brownies and ice cream, drove by for a sundae and donated to the local food pantries. The Enhance Hamilton County Foundation will match our contribution. The Strengthen the Church collection was taken May 23, with \$500 donated. We will put out the Pickle Jar for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and host coffee fellowship time on June 27. Our church hosts a meal for the Beacon of Hope homeless shelter in Fort Dodge on Tuesday, July 27. Karin will head the meal and planning. Sherry has sign-up sheets on the table in Fellowship Hall. Our meal for Beacon features Sloppy Joes. In July, the Mission Board asks the congregation to bring in fast-meal items, such as shelf-stable meats, packaged or canned meals, and meal starters to go to the St. Paul and Trinity food pantries. People have the opportunity to give money if they wish. The Mission Board will not meet in July; next meeting is August 10, 2 p.m., at the church.

### **MISSION BOARD**

We met August 10 at the church, with Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Audrey Burtnett, Marjorie Groves, Stephanie Hill, Sherry Leksell and Karin Yungclas attending. Beacon of Hope: Karin reported that preparation and serving of the Sloppy Joe meal July 27 went well. She and Andrea Mosbach, along with Al and Ed, served around 25 men. Stephanie will shepherd the September 28 Beacon of Hope meal. Food Pantry Collection: We asked for get-supper-on-the-table-fast items for the St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran food pantries for our July collection. The congregation gave 83 boxes, jars and cans. On August 2, Marjorie delivered the food to the food pantries; the \$35 in cash went to the Upper Des Moines Opportunity food pantry. On June 27, the Mission Board hosted a coffee fellowship time and collected \$450 in the Pickle Jar for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. T-Shirt Food Totes: We will ask for t-shirts unsold after

the September 24-25 Thrift Sale and add them to ones collected after the April Thrift Sale; they'll be made into food totes. Stepping Forward Romania: Steve Mather, founder and director, comes to Iowa January 10-17. Joyce Gelhaus will be his contact. CROP Walk: Late September is the traditional time for the CROP Hunger Walk. Because of covid's resurgence, we will put out the Pickle Jar instead of doing a community walk. 25 percent of the money goes to Upper Des Moines Opportunity in Webster City. 75 percent goes to international programs through Church World Service. Neighbors in Need: Sherry will promote the collection taken Sunday, October 3. The focus is on microgrants for churches affected by covid-19. The Mission Board unanimously voted to leave our budget request at this year's levels: \$17,000 for Our Church's Wider Mission, \$250 for Mayflower Community, \$150 for Mission Board expenditures. Prior to our request in 2020 for the 2021 church budget, our OCWM budgeted giving was \$19,000. Last year, we emphasized to the Cabinet that the lower budget request was for one year only. Because covid protocols have continued to restrict church gatherings and giving, the Mission Board voted to continue the reduced giving of \$17,000 for a second year only. Next Meeting: September 7, 5 p.m.

### **MISSION BOARD**

On September 7, Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Audrey Burtnett, Marjorie Groves, Stephanie Hill, Sherry Leksell and Karin Yungclas met at the church. Stephanie shepherds the September 28 meal for the Beacon of Hope homeless shelter in Fort Dodge and will figure logistics for cooking and delivering the meal, as well as the sign-up sheet for providing ingredients for the stew, using Dorothy Stearns's recipe. Cornbread and bars complete the menu. We will host Steve Mather, Stepping Forward Romania, January 13, 2022, 5 p.m. We plan to serve pizza. Converting t-shirts to food totes continues. Contact Sherry or Marjorie if you have any to donate or are willing to sew totes. On Sunday, September 19, we will put out the Pickle Jar instead of doing a community CROP Walk. The Neighbors in Need special mission collection will be taken Sunday, October 3. We are beginning discussion of charities to include in this year's Alternative Giving Advent Fair. If you'd like to propose a group, please contact a Mission Board member. Salvation Army Bell Ringing: The national organization's guidelines were too unwieldy for the local organizer – the Ministerial Association – to participate. Warm Hearts, Warm Homes: RSVP has coordinated the winterization project recently but had difficulty getting homeowner response so the program will be discontinued locally. Iowa Thank Offering: Marjorie will prepare a grant request for Ecumenical Human Needs by the December deadline and send it to Sharon Perry, director, and Pastor Craig for review before sending it to the Iowa Conference UCC. Next Mission Board meeting: October 5, 5 p.m., at the church.

### **FINANCE BOARD**

**June 23, 2021**

Present: Dalene Schlitter, Nate Lahr, Duane Vavroch, Dale Olson, Tracy Wehrhan  
Meeting was called to order by chairman Dalene S.

Discussion was held on two scholarship applicants that did not follow the instructions and fill out a separate application for each scholarship. It was decided to keep them in the discussion for each scholarship but to put a special reminder in the notice that the instructions need to be followed every year for the applications to be considered.

Open discussion was held for each scholarship and the dollar amounts to be given. It was moved by Dale and seconded by Nate to award 7 Bess Lyons scholarships for



\$330.00 to Karl Heimberger, Riley Nelson, Gracie Smith, Hannah Stirling, Jake Lahr, Carl (Alex) Swanson and Joshua Hindt.

The Helen Poole scholarship of \$1,100.00 will be awarded to Alexis Tudor. The Medical Careers (Ptacek) scholarships will be awarded as follows; Kylie Crystal \$500.00 and Benjamin Sterler \$1,000.00. The Helen Johnson scholarships are awarded to Jenna Short, Alexis Tudor and Jake Lahr and will be \$1,250.00 each. A total of \$8,660.00 will be given.

The board also decided that August 1<sup>st</sup> would be scholarship Sunday and Dalene would award the checks.

Tracy told the board that we have 3 bonds that have been called and he will get information regarding investment opportunities next week.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD**

The Christian Education Board met June 9, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

Participants included: Wil Groves, Vicki Blaufuss, Craig Blaufuss, Dawn Holdgrafer, and Patty Gescheidler.

Wil Groves called the meeting to order

Pastor Craig opened with a prayer

Minutes of last meeting were read.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**The Graduation service was a success.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Planning was discussed for the KLAB summer activity, which will be held July 7, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Briggs Woods Park, Shelter. #2

#### **Activities for the day:**

- Wil has lined up a Dunk Tank.
- Scavenger Hunt
- Service Project – older youth/Middle schoolers attending --cutting out cedar trees on the hill by the beach area. The younger ones can opt to pick up trash.
- Time permitting, swimming
- Speaker: John Laird, the County Naturalist, and we have scheduled a learning nature activity for 11-12 pm. He has fishing poles, and he is willing to also lead an aquatic investigation activity where kids use sieve nets to strain out lake life to identify and observe. His idea is to give the kids a choice--either fish or do the aquatic investigation. Or we can do the investigation and then fish! (Updated June 10, 2021),
- Hiking to spillway
- balls and games
- Project: build bird houses
- water balloon toss

**Lunch:** roast hotdogs, chips, Kool Aid, water, smores

Supply List:

hot dogs

buns

condiments

napkins

graham crackers, chocolate bars, marshmallows

Portable grill

Vicki has First Aid kit

Participants are asked to bring:

disinfectant wipes

garbage bags

paper plates, cups,  
lighter & lighter fluid

Bug & Bee bite ointment

Kool Aid

wood

bathing suit, towels, hat, sunscreen, shoes that can get wet, walking shoes, NOT flip flops.

Parents are to bring youths to Park as well as picking them up when event is over. Parent is to let a Board member know if the youth need a ride to and/or from Park. Permission Slip

A permission slip must be returned to the Church by June 23. Pastor Craig will send an informational email out with the Permission slip as an attachment.

Will have even if raining unless there is lightening.

**Rally Day:** Sept 12 9:15, games in vacant lot

Church at 10:30 with potluck to follow

Activities:

- Cup Cake Walk, will ask for cupcake donations from members, signup sheet will be in Fellowship Hall 5 dozen needed Pastor Craig or Todd Sonsalla will play the music
- Candy Scramble, cups and candy
- Minute to Win It – Patty will contact Lori Epps to see if she would lead this
- Name Game – Vicki will lead, Patty will make cards
- Jigsaw Puzzle Game – Dawn will look to see what she has for 35-piece puzzles.
- Homecoming Rally Day potluck after church service.

**Sunday School:** Begins Sept. 19,

Will ask Kayleigh and Laurie Epps if they will teach the younger kids. 7 potential students

**KLAB:** Begins Wednesday, Sept 15, potentially 7 or more participants

**Confirmation:** Wednesday Sept 15, potentially 5 participants.

Pastor Craig will send out a letter to potential confirmands to ask if they want to participate. Then a day and time to meet will be determined by the group.

**Adult Sunday School** will resume in person at church at 9:15., September 19.

Next meeting will be held August 18 at 3:00.

Patty Gescheidler

Secretary

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD**

Minutes for August 18, 2021

The Christian Education Board met August 18, 2021 at 3:00 P.M.

Participants included: Wil Groves, Vicki Blaufuss, Craig Blaufuss, and Patty Gescheidler.

Wil Groves called the meeting to order

Pastor Craig opened with a prayer

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Board members noted that the outdoor “day camp” July 7 at Briggs Woods went as scheduled and was deemed a great success. Pastor Craig, Wil Groves, and Dawn Holdgrafer led the event. Activities for the 14 participants included scavenger hunt, presentation by park naturalist John Laird, litter pick-up service project, dunk tank and water fight, and birdhouse build. Arden Schlitter and Laverne Bierle provided the fire for the hotdog roast and s’mores lunch.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Christian Education board reluctantly decided to postpone fall youth activities and adult Sunday School due to the resurgence of the Delta variant of COVID-19 and whether it spreads through our Youth in the school system. Postponement includes Rally Day

festivities September 12, KLAB and Confirmation starting September 15, and both children and adult Sunday Schools beginning September 19.

The situation will be monitored closely and evaluated each month. We hope to be able to resume normal program schedules by Thanksgiving.

We plan to sponsor an outdoor living Nativity scene during the advent season in lieu of a Christmas program.

We will resume the monthly "we care" package program we used last year during the shutdown. Each package includes an activity sheet, a treat, and other items. It was recommended for the September bag to include a note to the student explaining the postponement and encourage participation in KLAB and Sunday School once it is resumed.

The Board revised and completed the Budget for the coming year.

Patty Gescheidler

Secretary

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Sunday June 20, 2021

Present: Al Yungclas, Lori Epps, Pastor Craig, Joyce Gelhaus

Absent: Tracy Wehrhan, Les Ploeger

#### **Old Business:**

Outside doors- Shawn Moran is waiting for supplies from Lamperts. He has some one helping him with the project. They will be doing the NE door first and see how we like it, before doing the other two.

Inquiry about the lot, but no response. We are staying firm on \$25,000.

Michele did a comparison on Marco and Access copiers. After reviewing the comparison and discussion, the Access copier was approved. It will be leased at \$132.47 a month.

New office lights and ceiling are in.

#### **New Business:**

Elevator repairman wanted the elevator door tracks cleaned. Joyce let Curt know to vacuum them out.

Al will remove the folding door at the kitchen entrance, so the new refrigerator can be moved through.

Next Meeting TBD

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Thursday September 9, 2021 7:00PM

Present: Tracy Wehrhan, Laurie Epps, Pastor Craig, Joyce Gelhaus

Absent: Alan Yungclas, Les Ploeger

Pastor Craig open with a prayer.

#### **Old Business**

Shawn Moran completed the NE Door repair. We have two choices on the east and northwest doors, where the wood is not as bad.

1. Restore like the NE door
  2. Take the paint off, repair some of the frame, and paint.
  3. Joyce will talk to Shawn about these options.
- The leased new copier is installed. Michele is happy with it!!!  
The fire extinguishers have had the recharge done.
  - The elevator was inspected last week.
  
  - New Projector update: Pastor Craig did not hear back from Modern Sound, after several tires. He tried two other places. RDI Industries out of Milford, Iowa did respond.

Pastor Craig talked to them about what our need would be. A quote will be coming in a week or two.

**New Business**

- Flickering lights. The lights in the office, bathroom, and adult Sunday school room have been flickering. Tracy will have an electrician and engineer check it out. The 1950s electrical panel will have to be replaced.
- Went over the budget. Joyce will check on the church insurance for next year. Joyce talked to Jeremy Butler and he will not know until mid-October.

**Next Meeting: TBD**

**WORSHIP BOARD**

August 17, 2021 3:00 pm

Present: Don Bruner, Jane Klaver, Donna Ryherd, Pastor Craig Blaufuss, via phone: Gayle Olson

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Donna and a centering prayer was offered by Pastor Craig.

Business:

Worship Board recommendations for Cabinet:

1. Meet outside when circumstances allow at 10:00 thru September. Meet inside with masks when we cannot worship outside.
2. Suspend Children’s sermons both inside and out during current Covid conditions. Activity books will be available inside and outside.
3. Continue social distancing when seated.
4. Joys and Concerns will not use the mic- Shout-out or write it out for Pastor to read.
5. Use one Acolyte when inside.
6. Continue offering collections at tables.
7. No ushers, only a parishioner at the back to answer any concerns, attend the doors, and count attendance.
8. Communion will continue to be served in disposable containers.
9. Sing outside conservatively, inside will be music videos.

Donna will communicate with Nick Oberender- Moderator.

Next Communion will be Sunday September 5, 2021, Jane will prepare Piano humidifying is being monitored by Don and Al.

Budget for 2022 for the Worship Board will be recommended to be the same as 2021. Music \$200, Chancel \$200, Supply Minister \$100, Misc \$1000.

Projector maintenance was discussed. One of the projectors overheated on August 15 due to the fan not kicking on. Cost to send in the projector for service is \$600. Our projectors are 10 years old. The board will recommend to Trustees to replace the 2 projectors with updated models. Donna will communicate with the Trustees.

Next Worship Board Meeting will be Tuesday September 21 at 3 pm

Meeting was adjourned

Donna Ryherd, Chairperson

TREASURER'S REPORT						
For	June, 2021					
June Offering	11,939.00					
June Expenses	16,233.72					

Other Income	0.00				
Offering to date	95,180.31	44.79%	of income to budget		
Expenses to date	88,864.05	41.81%	of expenses to budget		
Other income to date	0.00				
	Month	Expenses so	Budget		Percent
	Expenses	far this year	Amount		Spend
Outreach & Missions	1,416.67	8,519.98	17,850.00		47.73%
Pastoral Services	7,283.92	43,061.87	98,530.00		43.70%
Maintenance & Repairs	4,013.04	14,294.10	39,400.00		36.28%
Church Office	3,087.28	17,388.31	40,460.00		42.98%
Music Ministry	257.13	5,100.61	10,585.00		48.19%
Christian Education	91.75	120.85	650.00		18.59%
Local Ministry	16.67	16.67	2,500.00		0.67%
Misc. Expense	67.26	361.66	2,550.00		14.18%
General Fund Budget	16,233.72	88,864.05	212,525.00		41.81%
Memorial Fund	\$ -	\$ -	6,000.00		0.00%
Building Fund	\$ 3,274.95	\$ 4,983.46	13,000.00		38.33%
Medical Careers	\$ -	\$ -	2,500.00		0.00%
Agape	\$ -	\$ -	1,300.00		0.00%
Helen Poole	\$ -	\$ -	1,000.00		0.00%
Cliff Doty	\$ -	\$ -	1,000.00		0.00%
Bess Lyons	\$ -	\$ -	2,600.00		0.00%
Helen Johnson	\$ -	\$ -	4,000.00		0.00%
Special Funds	\$ 3,274.95	\$ 4,983.46	31,400.00		15.87%
Total Budget	\$ 19,436.92	93,487.51	243,640.00		38.37%
2020 Income =	\$82,068.18				
2020 Expenses =	87,352.56				

TREASURER'S REPORT For	July, 2021				
July Offering	13,490.00				
July Expenses	13,189.78				
Other Income	0.00				
Offering to date	109,520.31	51.53%	of income to budget		
Expenses to date	103,193.77	48.56%	of expenses to budget		
Other income to date	0.00				
	Month	Expenses so		Budget	Percent
	Expenses	far this year		Amount	Spend
Outreach & Missions	1,416.67	9,936.65		17,850.00	55.67%
Pastoral Services	8,210.92	51,272.79		98,530.00	52.04%
Maintenance & Repairs	1,015.93	16,161.88		39,400.00	41.02%
Church Office	2,145.00	19,913.15		40,460.00	49.22%
Music Ministry	257.13	5,357.74		10,585.00	50.62%
Christian Education	91.75	120.85		650.00	18.59%
Local Ministry	0.00	16.67		2,500.00	0.67%
Misc. Expense	52.38	414.04		2,550.00	16.24%
General Fund Budget	13,189.78	103,193.77		212,525.00	48.56%
Memorial Fund	\$ -	\$ -		6,000.00	0.00%
Building Fund	\$ 104.95	\$ 5,088.41		13,000.00	39.14%
Medical Careers	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		2,500.00	60.00%
Agape	\$ -	\$ -		1,300.00	0.00%
Helen Poole	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00		1,000.00	110.00%
Cliff Doty	\$ -	\$ -		1,000.00	0.00%
Bess Lyons	\$ 2,314.95	\$ 2,314.95		2,600.00	89.04%
Helen Johnson	\$ 3,754.95	\$ 3,754.95		4,000.00	93.87%

Special Funds	\$ 8,774.85	\$ 13,758.31		31,400.00	43.82%
Total Budget	\$ 19,436.92	116,952.08		243,640.00	48.00%
2020 Income =	\$ 82,068.18				
2020 Expenses =	87.352.56				

TREASURER'S REPORT For	August, 2021				
August Offering	13,865.00				
August Expenses	13,189.78				
Other Income	0.00				
Offering to date	124,385.31	58.53%	of income to budget		
Expenses to date	115,971.41	54.57%	of expenses to budget		
Other income to date	0.00				
	Month	Expenses so		Budget	Percent
	Expenses	far this year		Amount	Spend
Outreach & Missions	1,416.67	11,353.32		17,850.00	63.60%
Pastoral Services	6,059.92	57,332.71		98,530.00	58.19%
Maintenance & Repairs	1,015.93	18,029.66		39,400.00	45.76%
Church Office	3,084.01	22,997.16		40,460.00	56.84%
Music Ministry	342.84	5,700.58		10,585.00	53.86%
Christian Education	91.75	120.85		650.00	18.59%
Local Ministry	0.00	16.67		2,500.00	0.67%
Misc. Expense	6.42	420.46		2,550.00	16.49%
General Fund Budget	12,017.54	115,971.41		212,525.00	54.57%
Memorial Fund	\$ -	\$ -		6,000.00	0.00%

Building Fund	\$ -	\$ 5,088.41		13,000.00		39.14%
Medical Careers	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00		2,500.00		60.00%
Agape	\$ -	\$ -		1,300.00		0.00%
Helen Poole	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00		1,000.00		110.00 %
Cliff Doty	\$ -	\$ -		1,000.00		0.00%
Bess Lyons	\$ -	\$ 2,314.95		2,600.00		89.04%
Helen Johnson	\$ -	\$ 3,754.95		4,000.00		93.87%
Special Funds	\$ 8,774.85	\$ 13,758.31		31,400.00		43.82%
Total Budget	\$ 19,436.92	116,952.08		243,640.00		48.00%
2020 Income =	\$ 112,295.18					
2020 Expenses =		\$ 112,473.99				

The Cabinet meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.  
Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Hill, church clerk



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:

