

June 2022 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
515-832-2232
<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>

Pastor Craig had bypass surgery on May 20. While he is on medical leave Sarah Ostlund from Trinity Lutheran is filling in for worship services. Because of this we have made some changes to worship times in June.

June 5 – 10:00 am

June 12 – 11:00 am

June 19 – 11:00 am

Saturday June 25 – 5:00 pm

June 26 No worship service

Dear Members and Friends of First Congregational,

Vicki and I cannot express our heartfelt gratitude for your many, many calls, prayers, cards, and gifts of food these past 2 weeks! We have been floored by the recent turn of events in our physical health, and you all have been so comforting and uplifting during this trial! We give thanks to God for each of you, and for your love and support which really means the world to us!

I also want to thank Michele, Moderator Joyce Gelhaus, and the Worship Board for springing into action and making plans to cover for my unanticipated medical leave. Your work has set my mind at ease knowing that our church will continue to gather and worship in my absence. I am also extremely grateful to Sarah Ostlund of Trinity Lutheran Church for graciously and eagerly volunteering to lead worship and preach while I am off, and for pastor Tony Streigle of Webster City Church of Christ to lead worship on June 5 and administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. We are so blessed to have a very collegial and caring Ministerial Association in our community!

At this time I cannot give you a specific timeline of when I will return to my duties, but I will be in close communication with Joyce, Cindy, Gretchen, Don, and Michele regarding my improvement and stamina. Meanwhile, please continue to hold Vicki and me in prayer for our continued healing, and please--do not forget to pray for one another as we go through yet another challenging season in the life of our church. God bless you all, and thank you again! --Pastor Craig and Vicki

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**

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**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

4 - Virginia Veach

8 – Connor Clements

9 - Stacy Wearda

9 – London Clements
13 - Dalene Schlitter
14 - Amanda Lahr
14 - Zachary Lahr
14 - Livia Oberender
15 - Alexis Byrne
18 -Chesney Fuller
19 - Wilma Reinsel
24 – Henry Elkin
26 - Lynn Jaycox
30 - Katie Holdgrafer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

2 - Emily & Troy Stockdale
14 - Duane & Mary Vavroch
19 – Joe & Jennifer Gilbert

Summer Worship Hours and Saturday Service Dates

Our summer worship hours will remain at 10:00 am, except For June 12 and 19 (11:00 am). During the summer months we will hold 3 Saturday evening services: June 25, July 23, and August 27. Saturday services will begin at 5 p.m., and following our Saturday services there will be no Sunday morning worship service that weekend. If the weather allows, we will hold these Saturday services outdoors; please look for more details in the coming months.

Music to Our Ears

We're looking for "special music" for our Sunday – and Saturday – worship services during the summer. Why is it "special"? Because you are sharing with us – whether your vocal or instrumental music started as your piano recital piece, a duet with a friend, your clarinet number for competition, or an old favorite perfect for bringing back memories! Instrumental or vocal, solo or more, young or seasoned: If you have music talent you're willing to share, please contact Michele in the church office (832-2232) or Curt, Don, Gretchen, Jane or Marjorie of the Worship Board. Thank you! – *The Worship Board*

Coming in June

Mission Board will be setting out a table to collect food items for the food pantry at UDMO during the month of June. According to Jamie at UDMO the need is great at this time and all gifts are welcome and needed. We will be focusing

on shelf stable items such as peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, rice etc. A pickle jar will be available if you would prefer to make monetary donation.

Drive-Through "Brownie Sundae Friday" on June 17

Drive-Through "Brownie Sundae Friday" to be held June 17!

The Mission Board is inviting you to another "Brownie Sundae Drive-Thru" to be held Friday, June 17 from 6:30pm--8 pm, which is the day before Father's Day. Come treat the fathers in your family to a delicious brownie sundae, and help raise money for our local food pantries! To enjoy a brownie sundae simply pull up in your vehicle to our West Entrance on Willson Avenue, tell the attendant how many brownie sundaes you would like, 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 simply drive off to find a nice spot to enjoy them! For those who are gluten intolerant or don't like chocolate you can enjoy a bowl of vanilla ice cream without the brownie or toppings. Proceeds from the event will be sent to the Enhance Hamilton County Foundation 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 the drive-through a financial success they are asking for donations of 10 pans of brownies, 9X13 size, any recipe, not frosted – with NO added nuts. They would prefer you bake your donation in a recyclable aluminum pan, but if you label your kitchen pan they will be sure to return it to you. They are also asking for donations of 7 gallons of store-bought vanilla ice cream, 3 containers of chocolate topping, and 2 containers of caramel topping. A sign-up sheet will be out in June. Please have your brownies and other donations to the church on June 17th by noon. In case of rain we will reschedule and hold the event on July 29.

Women's Fellowship

The entire Women's Circle groups had a year end celebration on May 25 at 7:00 pm in

Fellowship Hall. Donations were given to multiple local charities including Backpack Program, ACE, Meals on Wheels, UDMO Swim, Riverview, Webster City Daycare, Summer Food Program, and OCWM.



At Sunset are Heather Knox and Diane Bahrenfuss



Jessica Hector and Laura Seiser at NEH receiving donuts.



Thanks

The 25th annual online DSAOC cake auction was a huge success thanks to all of our donors...we thank you for being part of our compassionate community.

Sincerely, Leah Blair

The Entire letter is on the bulletin board.

Thank you for the donuts for Staff Appreciation week. We are grateful for the goodies and they didn't last long. Thank you for your support.

NEH Staff

In the photo with Steph are Michelle Thompson and Kylie Crane at Pleasant View



Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges and Offerings	\$12,525.65	\$60,386.52
Other Income	0.00	.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,525.65	\$60,386.52
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Outreach and Mission	1,416.67	\$5,666.64
Pastoral Services	8,569.70	33,049.40
Maintenance and Repairs	4,101.89	14,138.45
Church Office	2,777.72	11,793.83
Music Ministry	325.00	1,548.55
Christian Education	38.79	38.79
Local Ministry	14.98	14.98
Misc. Expenses	24.17	505.66
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,268.92	\$66,756.30

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting held on May 10, 2022

Members Present:

Moderator:	Joyce Gelhaus	Pastor:	Craig Blaufuss
Vice Moderator:	Wil Groves	Trustees:	Nick Oberender
Finance Sec.:	Dale Olson	Women's Fellowship:	Joyce Gelhaus
Finance :	Tracy Wehrhan	Mission:	Gayle Olson
Staff/Parish:	Cindy Henning	Worship:	Curt McCoskey
Christian Ed:	Vicki Blaufuss	Evangelism:	Patty Gescheidler
Treasurer:	Tracy Wehrhan	Clerk:	Stephanie Hill

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the Moderator, Joyce Gelhaus in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Craig opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer. Wil Groves moved that the April Cabinet meeting minutes be approved as written. Craig Blaufuss seconded. The motion passed.

Board and Committee Summaries:

Treasurer's Report: April expenses exceeded April offerings by about \$4,400.00. \$5,000 from the bond interest account was transferred to the General Fund. Another bond came due and another purchased at 5% interest. Tracy Wehrhan moved and Dale Olson seconded a motion that the report be put to audit. The motion passed.

Finance Board: Scholarship applications are due June 15th. The Board members reminded us that separate applications are required if applying for more than one scholarship.

Scholarship Sunday is yet to be determined. **Christian Education:** The KLAB kids will meet for the last time this year on May 11 for their annual trip to the Dairy Queen. **Evangelism:** No report. **Mission:**

\$1020 was collected for the Ukraine Appeal. A sign-up sheet is out for the Beacon of Hope meal and all food has been donated, however, cooks and servers are still needed. All teachers serving in Webster City and at Northeast Hamilton were treated to a donut for Teacher Appreciation week. There were enough funds to also treat the cooks and bus drivers. A total of \$240 was raised and the cost of the donuts from Pete's Donuts was \$235. For UDMO, we decided to put together Birthday Bags for kids which would contain candles, cake mix, frosting, treats, etc. with a complete shelf stable meal. On Friday, June 17 we will have the Brownie Sunday drive-through. A sign-up sheet will be out on May 29, 2022. Paster Craig will do the write-up and send info to Darcy Swon of Enhance Hamilton County and Pat Powers. The Mission Board found no changes were needed to their responsibilities outlined in the Constitution.

Staff/Parish: No report. **Trustees:** After the Trustees reviewed their responsibilities in the Constitution, no changes were recommended. Thank you to Chris McNiel for fixing the emergency light in the west entrance. Thank you to Joyce Gelhaus for the landscaping work outside the church. All plumbing repairs

needed because of the pin-hole leaks have been completed and lastly the carpets were cleaned. The Trustees are cleaning up several rooms downstairs since water repairs are done. **Women's Fellowship:** Thrift Sale was held April 23, 2022. It was decided to continue the sale on Sunday, the 24th and Friday, the 29th. \$1,749.50 was raised with expenses of about \$60. All signs need returned to the church. The Fall Thrift Sale will be Friday, September 30 from 10am until 6pm. Discussion held about whether to have a room in the church basement for clothes left from the Thrift Sale that people could take as they need. This Closet would be open a couple of days a month. The clothes would be free of charge. Volunteers would be needed to oversee the Closet. Since other churches have tried this, more information is being gathered from them. Dale moved that the Clothes Closet be formed if it is feasible. Nick Oberender seconded the motion. The motion passed. **Worship:** Saturday services will be held June 25, July 23 and August 27 outdoors in the vacant lot. The owners have given us permission to use it. Pets are invited to the service on Saturday, June 25. And root beer floats will be served after service on August 27th. The revised communion process reduced congestion at the wine trays. After reviewing the Church Constitution, the members request that section 10.c.9 be deleted. Plans to honor fathers for Father's Day are being made. Kolleen Taylor and Josie Greenley have agreed to play for Melissa Hindt those days she cannot play for the service. **Pastor's Report:** The Easter Sunday breakfast and service were well attended with 50 attendees. The new Sonsalla family member, Eve Julianne Sonsalla, was baptized on May 1st. The service on May 10th was dedicated to Mother's Day. May 22nd will be Confirmation Sunday. Although the confirmation class was 5 students, only Haley Brim will be confirmed. Jeri Lynn Pawletzski will be baptized on June 5th; and Della, Dean and Wynn Kennedy are to be baptized on June 12th. The Lock-In scheduled for May 20 is postponed until a day in June, which is not yet determined. Thanks to Vicki Blaufuss, Ginnie Veach, Susan Meinders and Wil Groves for their help with the KLAB kids. The WCMA is planning a different Summer Lunch Program. Please read the details in the Pastor's Report below. Conference Minister Brigit Stevens and Associate Conference Minister Ellis Arnold resigned effective May 7. Our Interim Conference Minister is Rev. Phil Hart, who begins August 1st. Meanwhile our acting interim conference minister is Rev. Bob Molsberry. The wedding of Chase Berhow is scheduled for Saturday, August 8th at UCC. The Shalom Circle continues to meet in the East Chapel as often as possible. And finally, a Memorial Service for Pat Kesler will be held at UCC on May 27 at 10:30am. There will be no visitation and Pat requested no luncheon at the church. Instead, a luncheon will be held at the family farm with Casey's Pizza, beer and pop served. In case of bad weather, the pizza and pop will be served at the church. We also discussed the possibility of Pastor Craig being absent from church due to health issues – Confirmation will be postponed and a video sermon used.

Old Business:

Constitution Committee: Patti Gescheidler reported that all Boards have reviewed their responsibilities outlined in the church Constitution and responded to this Committee with changes they recommend.

New Business:

Summer Lunch Program: Pastor Craig explained the new ideas the Ministerium had for this program in his report below.

Women's Fellowship Clothes Closet suggestion: The Cabinet members voted that this closet could open if deemed feasibility. See notes in the Women's Fellowship report.

Next meeting is June 14, 2022 at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Hill

Church Clerk

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March / April 2022 Minutes

Your Board of Trustees: Alan Yungclas, Les Ploeger, Tom Riemenschneider, Nick Oberender, Laurie Epps (Chair)

Steve Struchen worked on the big vacuum cleaner a couple of times. Ultimately replaced the powerhead motor carbon brushes and the powerhead roller brush.

Trustees are working on cleaning up the Sunday School rooms, nursery, and orff instrument room since the water damage has been repaired.

Trustees reviewed our responsibilities as outlined by the Church's Constitution. No changes recommended.

February brought the end of our plumbing repairs that started with the pin-hole leaks that wreaked havoc around the city for a few months last year.

- RC Plumbing (Randy Chalfant) completed the water line repairs as well as some preventive care by replacing aged piping with pex.
- Shawn Moran completed the drywall repair, painted it and the base board. This expense was covered with the funds we received from our insurance claim.
- Service Master from Fort Dodge cleaned the carpets. This service was included in the water clean-up, we had simply delayed it until after the final repairs were done.

We renewed our contract with The Lawn Ranger, lawn care service for the coming year. They have done a good job for us and have adjusted the cost following the sale of the empty lot.

Thank you to Chris McNiel for repairing the emergency light in the west entrance downstairs.

Thank you to Joyce Gelhaus for her gift of time and talent with the landscaping around the outside of the church.

Still on our radar for 2022:

Need to replace the electrical panel (located in the ladies' room) that services the lights in the office and choir room.

Repairs to one outside door to be refurbished by Shawn Moran when weather and time allows.

Potential change to internet service when Platinum Connect is available.

Researching options for new projector equipment in the sanctuary as we anticipate additional breakdowns and most like mandatory replacement in the next year or two.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Epps, Chair

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD

May 4, 2022

Present: Holly Riemenschneider, Joyce Gelhaus, Cindy Henning, Verna Bierle, Gayle Olson, Stephanie Hill, Shirley Yungclas, Patty Gescheidler, Mabel Prescott

- There is a concert in West Twin Park sponsored by the Ministerial Association that will showcase music groups from local churches. The date is tentatively June 27, 6-9. Update to follow.
- There is a new initiative to fund a Summer Lunch Program. It will be spearheaded by Church of Christ. More info to follow.
- Pat Kesler memorial will be May 27. She requested no luncheon. More info to follow.
- The old ORFF room is now the new "Thrift Sale Room".

Cards – Shirley Yungclas sent 1 get well card.

Thrift Sale Report from Cindy Henning.

- The sale was held on one day, Saturday, April 23rd, 8-2. Then decided to leave it up and sell on Sunday, April 24, 12-4 and Friday, April 29, 3-6.
- We raised \$1,749.50 before expenses of approx. \$60. The excess was boxed and stored in the new Thrift Sale room. Cindy will continue to post the specially priced items on the buy/sell pages on Facebook.
- Please have all yard signs returned to the church so Cindy can change the date and times for the fall sale.
- The Fall Thrift Sale will be Friday, Sept. 30th from 10 – 6 pm.

Thrift Sale Clothes Closet –

- Discussion about having a room in church for clothes that people can come take as they need.
- It could be open a couple days a month with someone to sit and oversee the room.
- There would be no charge for the clothes.
- Joyce will take the idea to Cabinet for approval.

May Joint Circle Meeting –

- May 25 at 7 pm.
- Each circle should bring 3 desserts to church by 6 pm. Providence will bring fruit as one of the desserts as a gluten free option.
- Cindy & Joyce will set up tables at 2 pm. Holly offered to buy nice napkins and we will use green hydrangeas pots as centerpieces. Desserts will be placed on round trays at counter. Guests can pick-up luncheon plate and choose dessert and coffee or water. Set up tables with 6 chairs per table.

- Patty will prepare an invitation to those women who aren't part of a circle to come join us for the dessert buffet.
- Cindy will prepare an invitation to the organizations we are giving money to. They can receive check, pose for picture, and give a brief overview of how they use the money.
- After discussion \$4,400 will be given to: OCWM \$1,000; Backpack program \$500; ACE \$500; Meals on Wheels \$500; UDMO-swim passes \$500; Riverview Daycare \$500; Webster City Daycare \$500; Summer Food Program \$400.
- Annual Circle Reports should be given to Cindy along with the next year program worksheet and membership change sheets.

Plate Survey - after discussion, we will table this until rest of circles have input. Haystack would choose to use what we have. They could be moved down to the larger plate rack, making it easier to reach.

Officers – Patty will be new President and we will all help in any way possible.

MISSION BOARD

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Present: Sherry Leksell – Chair; Stephanie Hill – Secretary; Gayle Olson – Cabinet Rep (via Zoom); Karin Yungclas; Craig Blaufuss

The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Craig Blaufuss.

Old Business:

D/SAOC Auction: The gift basket is online for the auction. The last bid was \$80.00. Hopefully that will increase. Also, the two gift cards for Fareway and Hy-Vee were thought to be donations to the shelter and were not included in the basket.

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$870.00 was collected.

Ukrainian Appeal: So far \$800.00 has been collected. This drive will continue until the end of the month.

Beacon of Hope Meal in May: Andrea will decide on a date and the menu when she knows her April schedule.

Coffee Date for Mission: May 1st is the date Mission Board will host coffee after service. However, the Sonsalla baptism is scheduled for that day also. If the Sonsallas want to do a reception that day, Mission Board will reschedule.

New Business:

Backpack Program: Gayle says it's going well; serving all grades except 8th grade. Three National Honor Society students will help pack this week. And 4 NHS students will help pack next week.

Summer Food Program: This program will not be held this year because of a lack of funding.

June Food Pantry: UDMO will be the recipient of our June Food Pantry collection. We anticipate that the Lutheran Churches will be our January 2023 recipient and Ace will receive our collection of food in June 2023. The theme for June 2022 has not been decided yet. Gayle Olson will contact UDMO to find out what the need is and send out the information. Sherry will do a poster.

Brownie Sundae: We decided on Friday, June 17 to do a drive-through Brownie Sundae as we did last year. Hours will be 6:30 – 8:00pm. Rain date is July 29th. Sherry will do a poster, the write-up and a sign-up sheet. "Come Treat Your Father" is the slogan since this is the Friday before Father's Day. We found the bowls and spoons left from last year. We estimate that we'll need 10 pans of brownies, 7 buckets of ice cream, 3 large bottles of chocolate syrup and 2 of caramel syrup. We'll also check into getting a match from Enhance Hamilton County.

Teacher Appreciation Week – May 2nd to May 6th. If we treat all teachers and aides in Webster City and South Hamilton, the total is about 255, which is 22 dozen. Estimating 15 bars per 9x13 pan, we'd need 17 pans of bars. Since there is a new donut shop in town, Stephanie will talk with the owner to see if getting donuts is more convenient and inform board members. A poster and the pickle jar will be out for Sunday service. Theme: DoNut be Grumpy-Help your Teachers.

Earth Day-April 24th: Gayle and Karin will work on getting a poster and packets of wildflower and/or pollinator seeds to give away on that Sunday.

Constitution Revision: Board members reviewed their responsibilities in the church constitution and decided that no changes were needed.

Respectfully submitted

Stephanie Hill

MISSION BOARD

May 5, 2022

Present: Sherry Leksell, Andrea Mosbach, Stephanie Hill, Gayle Olson, Karin Yungclas, Craig Blaufuss

The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Craig Blaufuss.

Gayle Olson read the April 7 minutes.

Old Business:

Ukrainian Appeal: \$1020 was collected

Beason of Hope Meal: Sign-up sheet is out. All food has been donated; however, cooks and servers are needed. Will put an article in the bulletin.

Coffee Date-May 1st: Mission Board was scheduled to service coffee after the baptism of Eve Sonsalla, but her family members did this.

Earth Day: The Pollinator display in Fellowship Hall was very effective. All 84 packets of seed for plants that attract pollinators were taken and will hopefully be planted around Webster City. Sherry Leksell donated the seeds.

Teacher Appreciation: The total cost for donuts was \$235 and \$240 was collected and so far, Pleasantview and Sunset Heights have received donuts for teachers. The Middle and High Schools plus Northeast Hamilton will receive donuts later this week. And there are enough funds for other personnel. The Board members talked about doing this during next year during American Education Week (November) instead of Teacher Appreciation Week (April) to distribute our gratefulness over the year.

New Business:

June Food Pantry: Gayle Olson spoke to the UDMO staff asking what the need was. The response was 'Everything'. The idea was suggested that we put together Birthday Bags for families with children that would contain birthday items like candles, cake mix, frosting, treats, etc. along with a shelf stable meal. Andrea will do a sample bag and Sherry will do a write-up.

Brownie Sundae: June 17 (Friday) was selected for the drive-through. A sign-up sheet will be out on May 29, 2022. Paster Craig will do the write-up and send info to Darcy Swon of Enhance Hamilton County and Pat Powers.

Pool Passes: Board members discussed the possibility of paying for pool passes for KLAB kids. Stephanie contacted Fuller Hall and was told the passes cost \$4.45 for a daily pass and \$42.50 for a season pass. With no guarantee that the passes would be used, it was decided that it's too expensive a project.

Summer Schedule for Mission Board: Because of absent members, our next meeting will be June 16th at 2:00pm.

Romania: Donna and Dan Ryherd are trying to raise \$1980.00 for a trip to the orphanage in Romania run by Donna's cousin.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Hill

WORSHIP BOARD

The Worship Board met May 5, with Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Don Bruner, Marjorie Groves, Jane Klaver, Curt McCoskey and Gretchen McGlynn attending. Pastor Craig led us in prayer. We agreed that the process of serving Communion works well when the stewards with trays of wine/juice stand a few steps away from Pastor Craig, who holds the tray of bread. Jane will continue to make Communion bread. We continue to look for pianists/organists to play when Melissa Hindt is not available and have been pleased with Kolleen Taylor's and Josie Greenley's assistance. Don ordered Mother's Day carnations for the women of the church. We reviewed the Worship Board's section of the church constitution and ask the Constitution Committee to delete 10.c.9: Secure music for summer services. We still would be delighted to have individuals or groups provide music during the summer. The congregation is invited to bring their pets to the service Saturday, June 25, in the lot across the street. The Worship Board plan to honor the men of the church Father's Day. Gretchen and Don will be the Communion stewards June 5. Saturday services will be held at 5 p.m. on June 25, July 23 and August 27, instead of Sunday morning. The Worship Board will not meet in June. Our next meeting will be July 7, 3:30 p.m.

PASTOR'S CABINET REPORT

May 9, 2022

Worship: A lot has transpired since our last Cabinet meeting! We observed Palm Sunday on April 10, then shared a meaningful Maundy Thursday worship service with table communion on April 14. Our Easter Sunday worship service was well attended, and over 50 gathered to enjoy the Christian Ed Board's Easter Breakfast beginning at 9:15! May 1 we held our first baptism since the pandemic began: Eve Julianne Sonsalla. May 10 we held a service honoring mothers for Mother's Day with a carnation give away thanks to the Worship Board. Looking forward: May 15 I will again lead care center Sunday

afternoon worship services. May 22 will be Confirmation Sunday. June 5 we will baptize Jeri Lynn Pawletzski. June 12 we will baptize Della, Dean and Wynn Kennedy! June 19 we will honor fathers for Father's Day, and June 25 will be our first Saturday evening worship service in the vacant lot, and we will hold a pet blessing during the service! There will be no worship service on Sunday, June 26 at the church, but I will again lead care center services that afternoon. I have completed a second monthly Gospel Hour at Southfield, and the attendance in the care center was possibly the largest service I have ever conducted there. On May 1 Melissa Hindt graced us with her gifts as our accompanist after a month being absent due to her other commitments.

Christian Education: The KLAB students delivered a great video skit for Palm Sunday, and we watched it again on Easter Sunday as well. Thanks to Wil Groves for putting that together! The KLAB kids will hold their last class on May 11 with their annual trip to the Dairy Queen. The Lock-in, scheduled for May 20, has been postponed until June; no date has yet been set. We want to thank Vicki Blaufuss and Susan Meinders for leading the class, assisted by Wil Groves. Ginnie Veach has taken care of setting up and serving the snacks. The Confirmation class has finished studying the Church, and we have scheduled May 22 for Confirmation Sunday. Of the 5 students who have attended confirmation class there will be one who will be confirmed: Hailey Brim. The others decided they were not ready to make the commitment that is asked of them in order to be confirmed and join the church. This was not a decision that was made lightly; parents discussed this with their confirmands and all are in agreement that this is the choice of the confirmands, and therefore we respect their decision. Adult Ed continues to meet Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., and we are continuing to explore "Neurotheology" and the implications of neuroscience for both teenage anxiety, depression, and suicide and the needed role of parents in the early brain development of their children.

Thrift Sale: It was good to resume our semi-annual Thrift Sale again. Many thanks to all who donated, prepped and helped conduct the sale!

WCMA Summer Lunch Program: The WCMA met at St Paul Lutheran church on April 27. The big item of business was to attempt a new approach to the summer lunch program which will not be organized by the school system this year. The plan: we hope to get volunteers to host summer lunch meals at East Twin Park on Mondays and Fridays, from 11:30-12:30 beginning June 6. We are asking churches and civic organizations to donate, prepare and serve cafeteria style lunches that can either be eaten in the park or put in a bag and taken with them. Items to be served are at the discretion of the volunteer group, and the hope is that we will eliminate food waste as the children will only take what they want to eat for their lunch. Our hope is that each organization will donate the meal ingredients; however, if this is a hardship then the WCMA will be able to reimburse the expenses for providing a lunch. Also, the WC Church of Christ wants to organize a cooking class for youth that would happen on Wednesdays in conjunction with the summer lunch program. The idea is that the church or group volunteering for the park meals that week would also secure 5 volunteers to go the WCCOC and assist the kids as they cook. This program will be by enrollment only with a cap of 30 participants. Clearly this is a new idea with some wrinkles to be worked out, and it will be on a trial basis—if we don't have kids attending in numbers that would make the project worthwhile then it will be discontinued after a few weeks. Also--there will be a concert in West Twin Park sponsored by the Ministerial Association that will showcase music groups from local churches. The date is tentatively June 27, 6-9 pm.

UCC Tri-Conference: Both Conference Minister Brigit Stevens and Associate Conference Minister Ellis Arnold resigned and have left the Tri-Conference effective May 7. Our new Interim Conference Minister will be Rev. Phil Hart, and our acting interim conference minister who will start immediately will be Rev. Bob Molsberry. Rev Hart will begin his duties August 1.

Wedding: Chase Berhow's wedding is scheduled for Saturday, August 6 at the church.

Memorial Service: Pat Kesler's Memorial service will be held in our sanctuary May 27, at 10:30 p.m. There will be no visitation preceding the service, and the bereavement luncheon will be held at the family farm with Casey's pizza, beer and pop being served. In case of inclement weather we will have pizza and pop at the church in Fellowship Hall.

Shalom Circle continues to meet in East Chapel as we can.

The breakdown of my ministry since April 8:

Worship services led:8; Christian Ed:7 ; Meetings:4; Visitation :7

Vacation Dec 25-Jan 1

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:

