

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

I had the weirdest thought when I sat down to write this January newsletter article! I remembered the scene from *The Wizard of Oz* when Dorothy and her companions emerge from the poppy field and start skipping toward OZ accompanied to the tune “You’re Out of the Woods” (the actual name of the tune is “Optimistic Voices.”) Do you remember that scene? If not, here’s a link to it:
<https://youtu.be/FaPM8-20fvA>

And here are the lyrics:

You're out of the woods
You're out of the dark
You're out of the night
Step into the sun
Step into the light
Keep straight ahead for the most glorious place
On the face of the earth or the sky
Hold onto your breath
Hold onto your heart
Hold onto your hope
March up to the gate and bid it open!

It is a contagiously optimistic song that appealed to the original audience of 1939, who were at that time 10 years into the Great Depression. Its optimism continues to appeal even today (as my subconscious attests), which is understandable since the song has a message that is needed in difficult times when hope sags and the future seems uncertain. It’s a wonderful proclamation, isn’t it? To be out of the woods, out of the dark, out of the night? To step into the sun, step into the light?

We certainly could use some of the song’s optimism right now—now that covid remains with us with no end in sight...now that climate change is wreaking havoc on our planet, with more dire predictions of what will come...now that our political state of dysfunctional polarization is literally tearing this country in two...now that inflation is rearing its ugly head...now that our old ways and old familiar routines seem irretrievably lost...now that a gloomy cloud hangs over Christendom and our own particular church, as we sense the waning of both. Even Christmas, which we just celebrated, didn’t seem to hold the power of the promise of renewal and rebirth experienced in a resurgence of goodwill, hope, peace and joy! So yes—now would be a good time for the optimism of “Optimistic Voices” to be cued up in our collective minds and hearts as we begin a new year!

And yet now would be a good time to also reflect on the plot line of *The Wizard of Oz* and on the plotline of our own Christian story. Now would be a good time to remember that Dorothy and her companions’ troubles weren’t over once they got to OZ and bid the gate open; they had to contend with a fraudulent wizard, a homicidal witch, and a rescue balloon that left without her! And now would be a good time to remember that Jesus the blessed infant didn’t live a charmed life and die peacefully in his old age, but grew up to face challenging, even horrific times. When Jesus marched to Jerusalem and bid the gates open his troubles hardly ended, and the coming of Lent a scant 2 months after celebrating his birth is a sobering reminder to us all that Oz and Jerusalem are not salvific—nor are they the end of our trials and tribulations.

That realization applies to our current times as well, and just as the song “Happy Days Are Here Again” did not deliver the goods in 1929, we can’t expect that an end to covid, or a new presidential election, or building a new charging station infrastructure, or raising the prime lending rate, or buying a new projector system for our church and revising the church constitution...will save us. For what

really needs saving is the human heart, and the journey to that salvific destination is as winding as the Yellow Brick Road and as demanding as the Via Dolorosa that Christ trod to his death!

And yet the message Jesus came to bring to us is the good news that the saving graces of contentment, peace, and goodwill, and the deep assurance that in the end all will be well, come not from an encounter with any earthly destination but only from an encounter with a Power that is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end of the human story and every journey undertaken by every wandering and seeking human soul. It is God, not OZ or Jerusalem, that is our true home, and as we begin a new year it would make all the difference to really believe this Good News and “keep straight ahead for the most glorious place on the face of the earth or the sky”... holding on to our breath, our heart and our HOPE as we approach the Holy of Holies in our own human hearts where the essence of God already dwells—and bid that sacred place open! Open to our conscious minds...open to our plans and dreams... open to our wounds and grudges...open to our neighbors...open to the world! For what did Jesus offer the world if not his sacred, GOD-filled heart? And what did Jesus tell us would save us *if not us also having sacred, GOD-filled hearts to direct our paths and share with the world?*

As we begin a new year my prayer is that we all have the courage and the faith to sing with Optimistic Voices as we join Jesus and step into the Sun and into the Light! For even though we won't be out of the woods in 2022, we can always rejoice that the gate to God is always opened at our bidding IF we have the courage and the resolve to seek God as our real home, our real peace, and the well spring of our joy!

Happy New Year! –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

27 - Al Fiala
28 - Jennifer Brim
30 - Jenny Maass
31 - Kolleen Taylor

Church Staff

Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Pastor
Office: 832-2232 Cell 297-4316
Pastor's email: revcraigblaufuss@gmail.com
Michele Omgig: 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 ANNIVERSARY TO:

1 - Lynn & Sherry Leksell
4 - Don & Gene Royster
12 - Keith & Dawn Holdgrafer
17 - Wil & Marjorie Groves



Medicine dos and don'ts

- Fill all prescriptions right away and have them renewed before they run out.
- Take all of your medicine doses on time.
- Never stop medicine for any length of time without asking a health professional.
- Don't take a larger or smaller amount than the doctor prescribes.
- Don't stop a medicine on your own.
- Don't share your medicines with family or friends.
- Ask about medicine "compliance aids" to help you follow your medication schedule (daily/weekly pill containers).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

3 - Alec Tudor
4 - Mary Vavroch
7 - Kallista Gilbert
10 – Peyton Oberender
12 - Amanda Maass
13 - Jennifer Gilbert
14 - Marjorie Groves
14 - Travis Wearda
18 - Mike Tudor
21 - Cooper Askelson

Stephen Ministry Reconvenes January 13

After a lengthy hiatus our Stephen Ministers will meet together in the church on Thursday, January 13, beginning at 5:30 p.m. We will enjoy a soup supper together and talk about our program and the upcoming year! We are inviting all past and present Stephen Ministers to this meeting for an evening of reconnecting and conversation. And if you need a ride to this meeting, please contact Gayle or Dale Olson.

Shalom Circle Resumes

Pastor Craig would like to reconvene the Shalom Circle beginning in January. The Shalom Circle is a group of seekers who come together regularly for a time of meditation, prayer, and sharing, with the intention of cultivating Shalom in our individual and collective lives. At each gathering there will be time to “check in,” a group meditation, an opportunity for prayer, and time to process what participants have experienced. Our group meditations will vary and will include relaxation techniques, guided meditations, creative visualizations, and other techniques. Cultivating a sacred and safe space, confidentiality, spontaneity, and seeking the Spirit’s guidance are the essentials of this Circle that will allow each participant to experience the blessings of Shalom.

Everyone is welcome to be a part of the Shalom Circle—no experience necessary! If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Craig know what days/times you are available.

Funding Future Leaders

Training ordained clergy is an expensive proposition, leaving many pastors and seminary students/Members in Discernment deep in debt. You can help reduce the financial burden through scholarships. A special offering supported by the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ will be taken January 16 to fund these scholarships. They are for Members in Discernment from Iowa. Please make your check to your church and write “Funding Future Leaders” or “FFL” on the memo line. Online donations are welcome at the Iowa Conference UCC website.

Joseph Dunnwald, Latimer, is one such FFL scholarship recipient. Here’s a bit of his story: “For 15 years I worked full-time jobs and worked part-time in the church, trying to use my skills but trying to be a good steward of my finances. I continued to feel called, but it seemed everywhere I tried to make it work, something would stand in the way. Then, in passing at a family holiday, I was told about an opening in a rural church. I began discussing the possibilities, and within 6 months I received a call to serve at the church and attend seminary at the same time. . . . Through the generosity of the church and support from scholarships like Funding Future Leadership, I am more than 60 percent through seminary and have not accumulated debt from it.”

Here at First Congregational UCC, Webster City, the Pickle Jar will be in Fellowship Hall on January 16. The seminary students thank you and the FFL Committee thanks you!

23Souper Meal & Souper Collection

The Mission Board will be hosting a soup sale on the day of our annual meeting on January 23rd. Interested in purchasing a container of soup? A variety of soups will be available to purchase in pint-sized containers for a free-will offering.

ARE YOU A FANTASTIC SOUP CHEF OR HAVE A FAMILY FAVORITE YOU WANT TO SHARE??

We are looking for volunteers to provide pre-cooked and cooled soup for our SOUPER meal. These will need to be brought to the church before 9 am on Sunday, January 23rd so that soup can be put into take-out containers. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you are able to make a batch of soup.

Time for T-Shirt Food Totes

You say you got a fabulous new t-shirt for Christmas so are tossing the old ones – or your list of New Year’s resolutions includes sorting drawers and closets? Save that pile of unworn t-shirts and send a text or email to Marjorie Groves (515-297-2352;

marjoriegroves@hotmail.com). The Mission Board asks your help again in making totes from t-shirts for the Food Bank of Iowa and All Cultures Equal. The totes are still requested.

Each tote will need to hold up to 30 pounds of cans, bags of rice or beans, potatoes, and the like, so don't save worn out tees with holes, kiddie tees or thin/gauzy ones for us. If you can sew but don't have t-shirts or have t-shirts but can't sew, contact Marjorie and she'll match you up. The t-shirt totes go to ACE at the end of February. The food pantry participants thank you – and so do we! – **The Mission Board**

Constitution Task Force the Cabinet is asking for volunteers to serve on a task force to review and update our current Constitution and Bylaws. If you would like to serve on that task force please speak with our current Vice Moderator, Joyce Gelhaus.

Alternative Giving

Advent has been a busy time for all. Your giving has reached out near and far during the Advent season.

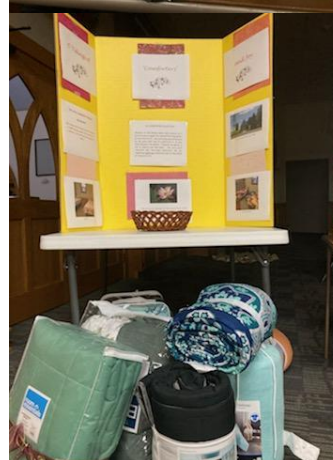
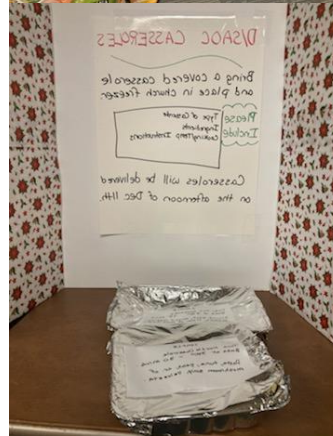
For the first week of Advent, we collected \$670 for the orphans in Romania. Although Steve Mathers, Donna Ryherd's cousin is unable to stop by and see us this year, he is thankful for all of the support that our congregation has provided.

The second week of Advent, we collected 13 pre-made casseroles and delivered them to D/SAOC in Fort Dodge. They were extremely grateful and commented that the casseroles came at the perfect time. They stated that they were overjoyed with our gift.

The third week of Advent, was a KLAB sponsored event supporting the Almost Home shelter in Fort Dodge. \$110 and 11 bags of cat food were donated. Confirmation kids made ornaments for each donor to take home as a thank you for their gift.

The fourth week of Advent was a collection of twin-sized comforters for Lotus. \$20 and 10 comforters were donated.

The Mission Board would like to thank everyone for their continued support for this annual tradition of giving to those in need.



Living Nativity

December 11, we staged a Living Nativity outside our church for the community to enjoy. Thanks to all the willing participants who reenacted the birth of Jesus!



Update

Hello church family,
Dan and I have officially gotten settled in our townhouse as of this week when we got both the car and the truck in our garage! (Just in time before the snow accumulates!) We have been hiking the state parks in our area and enjoying the Hoover recreational trail with walks and bike rides. We both have assisted in food and care package preparation/serving for shelters with my sister at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. I listen to 1st UCC worship services each week to stay connected with you and activities of the church. Christmas Eve was surely warming to know many were able to gather together.

Thank you for the many cards, well wishes and gifts as we departed Webster City after 40 years. They all are reminders of the many experiences we have shared on our faith journeys together. Please be in touch if you have time to stop in Ely, just 4 miles off I380 at the first exit south of Cedar Rapids!

May 2022 be a very happy year for all!

In Christ love,
Donna Ryherd



Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges and Offerings	\$12,164.00	\$160,286.41
Other Income	0.00	.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,164.00	\$160,286.41
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Outreach and Mission	1,416.67	\$16,026.33
Pastoral Services	7,816.56	87,689.27
Maintenance and Repairs	2,189.48	27,888.47
Church Office	3,137.74	33,239.62
Music Ministry	171.42	6,639.83
Christian Education	136.95	348.23
Local Ministry	0.00	16.67
Misc. Expenses	126.07	661.37
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,994.89	\$172,509.79

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting held on December 14, 2021

Members Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by the Moderator, Nick Oberender in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Craig opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of the November Cabinet meeting were read. Dale Olson moved that the minutes be approved. Tracy Wehrhan seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Offerings for November were \$12,164.00 and expenses were \$14,994.89. Year-end expenses were paid such as EHN, Mayflower, CUE expenses. Checking balance is about \$3200.00 and \$24,700 in the interest accounts. Tracy Wehrhan moved and Vicki Blaufuss seconded a motion that the report be put to audit. The motion passed.

Pending Business:

Nominating Committee: For boards and committees 1 person for the Nominating Committee and 2 for Evangelism. There are 2 volunteers for the Constitution Committee. There is no specified number of people for this committee, but it would be best with more than 2. The opportunity to volunteer is still open as this committee meets in February.

New Business:

- a. The Annual Meeting date is January 23rd with a snow date of 30th following service.
- b. Covid protocols revisited. Worship board will not meet in December. Presently masking is required during service and there is no fellowship after service. Church groups are meeting and deciding to mask or not and no outside groups are permitted to meet in the church. After much discussion, Tracy Wehrhan moved and Stephanie Hill seconded a motion that this item be tabled until after Worship board convenes. The current protocols remain in effect.

Board Summaries:

Christian Education: KLAB met only twice in both November and December. Though 8 'We Care' bags were sent out in November, this may be tabled for the time being. Hopefully things will improve in January. Cat food is being collected during the Alternative Giving Fair for Almost Home. The confirmands made ornaments to hang on the tree so that those donating cat food can take an ornament

as a 'Thank You'. **Evangelism:** Has not met. The issue of getting volunteers for ushering continues. **Finance:** Has not officially met yet. They are exploring bond options for the funds from the lot sale. **Mission:** Beacon of Hope meal was served on November 23rd. Sherry and Lynn Leksell, Holly and Tom Riemenschneider and Lucy Midtling served the casseroles, salad, cranberry relish, rolls, and pumpkin bars to about 40 men. An Alternative Giving event began the week of November 28th. For Week 1 \$400.00 was donated for Stepping Forward Romania. Week 2 began December 5th. Nine casseroles were delivered to D/SOAC on December 11. Week 3 began December 12th to benefit Almost Home, the no-kill shelter in Fort Dodge; KLAB kids asked for donations of cat food. The confirmands made Christmas tree ornaments as a 'Thank You' gesture. Week 4 began December 20th. Twin size comforters are being collected to benefit the Lotus Project in Vincent, Iowa. The Christmas Fund will be collected at the Christmas Eve service. The pickle jar will be out January 16 for Funding Future Leaders. The confirmands will plan, prepare and serve the next Beacon of Hope meal. There will be a two-part Soup and Sale project in January in connection with the Annual Meeting. **Staff Parish:** Has not met yet. **Trustees:** Shawn Moran completed work on the main door and painted all the doors to match. The roof and siding are repaired. The estimated cost is \$1600.00. All outside repairs are done. **Worship Board:** Thanks to all who participated in Hanging of the Greens. Christmas Eve service will be candlelight and begin at 5:00pm. Josi Greenley will play the piano for us. Communion will be served using the individualized communion elements in the small containers. Pastor Craig is on vacation on Sunday, the 26th so a video sermon will be used. **Women's Fellowship:** Has not met due to lack of topics. A gift in the form of a Peace Pole for Pastor Craig and Vicki was given to them this past Sunday. **Pastor's Cabinet Report:** The choir will sing for the Christmas Eve service. We will use the disposable containers for communion. Don Bruner will lead the service in Craig's absence on the 26th. Confirmation class was cancelled on the 15th due to weather concerns. The next Beacon of Hope meal will be January 19th. The confirmands will plan, prepare and serve. No adult education on December 26th or January 2nd. We were awarded \$9,000 from the Morrison Trust Fund. The Ministerial secretary, Judy McLoughlin fell and broke her shoulder and is awaiting surgery. Applications for grants through Ecumenical Human Needs are being reviewed earnestly to determine if the need is valid. The backpack program is up and running again. The pastors decided to individually contact Southfield to schedule services as they each feel comfortable. The boiler was inspected today and passed. Stephen Ministry will convene on January 13th. And Pastor Craig intends to do the Shalom Circle. There will be an article in the newsletter. Read the entire Board and Committee Reports below.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship Board met on Tues. November 16 at the church with the following members in attendance: Don Bruner, Jane Klaver, Gretchen McGlynn (filling Donna Ryherd's position), Gayle Olson, & Pastor Craig. Don presided as Chair for this meeting and asked Pastor Craig to open with prayer. Craig shared the following:

All Saints Sunday is Nov. 21. He will have all the candles ready for this.

Decorating the church for Advent will take place after service on Nov. 21. Confirmation kids will be bringing all decorating boxes up from storage as well as trees and wreaths for the sanctuary. Verna Bierle will not be there on the 21st, but she will take care of setting up the Advent wreath before the 28th. Projector is supposed to be in the mail on Wed and will hopefully be up and functional for worship on the 21st.

Southfield is open for churches to come in for services. They are also open for Christmas caroling and would welcome groups to come & share the joy of the season.

Dec. 26 Craig will be on vacation, but he will find a video sermon and prepare a service. Don indicated he would be present and would lead this service.

Jane will prepare communion for Sunday Nov. 28, first Sunday in Advent.

It was decided Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00. Communion will be served and it was decided it will remain as it has been for the last year. Jane will prepare 120 for this service. It will be a candlelight service and we as Worship Board will be the ushers to light the candles from the aisles. We will also be available to hand out bulletins & candles. Craig will check with Melissa about playing for this service. Craig will be back for the Jan. 2nd service and it was decided we will not have communion at this time since we will have celebrated communion on Christmas Eve.

Gayle will forward the board's annual report to the church office. It was very graciously written by Donna before leaving.

New Board members for 2022 will be Curt McCoskey and Marjorie Groves

Respectfully submitted

Gayle Olson

Update: 11/19/2021

Projector is up and running.

300 compostable communion cups have been ordered

Melissa is not available for Christmas Eve. Gretchen is contacting Josie Greenley

Christian Education Board

Minutes for November 10, 2021

The Christian Education Board met November 10, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

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

Wil Groves called the meeting to order

Pastor Craig opened with a prayer

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

We have resumed the monthly “we care” package program for those youth of the Church too young for KLAB.

NEW BUSINESS

KLAB is averaging 5 students per week.

Confirmation is going well with 5 participants. We are working on scheduling trips to the Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Des Moines and the Hindu Temple in Madrid. Emails have been sent to the Parent’s asking for available dates for the kids to attend. Confirmands are currently studying “What is the Bible?”. We will be discussing a mission or service project for the coming weeks.

Confirmation is being conducted differently this year, more of a Survey of Christianity. We are not requiring a Faith Statement from each student. There is an ongoing discussion on participation in the confirmation ceremony.

Live Nativity Dec 11 6 – 8 PM

- Vicki will make hot chocolate for those participating.
- Wil will gather costumes

A signup sheet will be in Fellowship Hall asking for volunteers to play the parts of the Nativity scene. Parts will be on a half-hour basis.

No indoor Christmas pageant will be held this year.

No December meeting for CE Board.

Patty Gescheidler

Secretary

Mission Board: We met at the church December 7, 5 p.m., with Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Marjorie Groves, Stephanie Hill, and Sherry Leksell attending. Sherry and Lynn Leksell, Holly and Tom Riemenschneider and Lucy Midtling, served poultry-based casseroles, cranberry sauce, salad and pumpkin bars to around 40 at the Beacon of Hope shelter for homeless men in Fort Dodge. Marjorie and Wil Groves delivered the food earlier in the day so casseroles could be heated. We are well into the Advent Alternative Giving Fair, with a different feature each week. In Week 1, \$400 was donated for Stepping Forward Romania. Week 2, as of our meeting, nine casseroles had been put into the church freezer for delivery to the Domestic Sexual Assault Outreach Center shelter December 11. In Week 3, the Kids Learning About the Bible group seeks dry Purina Cat and Kitten Chow and cash donations for the Almost Home No-Kill Animal Shelter; Confirmands are making Christmas tree ornaments as thank-yous to donors. For Week 4, we’ll ask for new twin-size comforters to go to the Lotus shelter in Vincent for homeless women and their children. The Christmas Fund offering will be taken at the Christmas Eve service. Sunday, January 16, we put out the Pickle Jar for Funding Future Leaders (scholarships for Iowa seminarians, or Members in Discernment). The Confirmands will plan, prepare and serve the next time our church provides a meal for the Beacon of Hope. Soup Collection and Sale is a two-part project. Part One is inviting the congregation to bring cans and packages of soup for the All Cultures Equal food pantry to the church during January. Part Two is the Soup Sale. We will ask for donations of homemade soup. The soups will cook at church members’ homes, be cooled, brought to the church in large pots or gallon ice-cream containers to be repackaged into 16-ounce containers with lids. Annual Meeting attendees can pick up pints of soup for a free-will donation. Our next meeting is January 6, 2022, 5 p.m.

Pastor’s Cabinet Report December 9, 2021

Worship: Advent has begun! After worship on Nov 21st we decorated the church for Advent—thank you to those who stayed and beautified the church for Christmas! Thanks as well to those who have volunteered to help with the Advent candle liturgy for the season. We will hold our Christmas Eve candlelight service December 24 beginning at 5 pm, with Holy Communion offered in disposable single-serve cups, and the traditional candles being lit at the conclusion of the service. December 26th I will be on vacation, and Don Bruner will lead a service in my absence with a video sermon being offered.

January 2nd I return to lead worship celebrating Epiphany, with no communion being served that day.

Live Nativity: After a year off due to Covid we are restarting our Live Nativity feature on Saturday, Dec 11 from 6-8 pm. Wil Groves is in charge of the event, and we have recruited the needed participants to

create a meaningful tableau for the community. An article was in the Daily Freeman Journal promoting the event.

Christian Education: KLAB held 2 December classes, and now they are in recess until January 5 due to Christmas Break and a 2 hour early out on Dec 15. Confirmation classes continue and will be held Wednesday, Dec 15 beginning at 1:30 pm. Confirmation class will also spearhead, cook and serve a Beacon of Hope meal in January. We continue to talk about the Bible. Adult Ed continues at 9 am Sundays, and we are focusing on weekly discussion topics. We will not meet on December 26 or January 2.

WCMA: We again met November 17 at WC Church of Christ. We are asking the Morrison Trust for a \$14,000 grant for the Ecumenical Human Needs Fund—Sharon Perry is writing the grant. A subcommittee of Ann McLaughlin, Joe Pierson, and Sharon will meet to discuss whether we need to increase the cap on our yearly benevolence to EHN applicants, currently it is \$400/yearly maximum per applicant and family. The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd again held their annual Christmas Bazaar online due to covid. Trinity ELCA pastoral vacancy continues. Asbury UMC will host 2 Christmas Eve services, including a parking lot service at 7:30 pm! Pastor Peg of Faith UMC is still recovering out of town from her fall, she expects to return to Faith in January and will retire in July of 2022. 55 food backpack bags are being delivered to the elementary schools, and 15 bags are going to the 5th grade and 4 to Hamilton High. The pastors conferred about resuming a worship service schedule at Southfield and declined. They will individually contact Southfield and schedule services as they feel comfortable and their schedule allows.

Water Leaks: Randy Chalfant has completed our partial plumbing repairs, and we now have all of our bathrooms up and running! The water has been turned off at night in case of another leak, but the situation seems stable now so we will discontinue the practice.

Memorial Service for Patty Yungclas: We said goodbye to a longstanding pillar of our church on Wednesday, December 1 with a well-attended memorial service.

The breakdown of my ministry since November 4:

Worship services led: 5; Christian Ed: 8; Meetings: 9; Visitation: 4

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

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:

