

**October 2023 Newsletter**  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595**  
**515-832-2232**  
**<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>**

*“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.” --1 Corinthians 10:16-17*

Have you ever heard the term “the Real Presence?” It is a theological term for the mystery that happens during holy communion—a mystery that proclaims that somehow Christ is REALLY present as we partake of the sacrament together. If you know your church history you know that Christians have held different beliefs about the mystery of how Christ is REALLY Present at the table:

In the Catholic doctrine of Transubstantiation, Jesus’ literal Body and Blood are really present, as the bread and wine are inwardly transformed.

In the Lutheran doctrine of Consubstantiation, Jesus’ literal Body and Blood are really present “with, in, and beside” the communion elements.

In the Anglican tradition, the “Real Presence” means that in Communion Jesus is present to the believer as a “spiritual” body.

In the Zwinglian tradition, the Real Presence is in the hearts and minds of the gathered, who are moved by memory to feel the presence of Christ through sympathy or imagination.

Now I don’t have to remind you that these matters, which may seem somewhat trivial to us, have not been historically trivial at all! They have certainly played their part of the fracturing of the Body of Christ down through the centuries. And as we once again approach World Communion Sunday (October 1), the day we are to celebrate our oneness in Christ, we are again reminded that Christendom doesn’t share one universal belief concerning the Real Presence of Christ during communion...nor do we share one REAL communion table where all Christians are welcome to gather.

And yet the irony of all this theological feuding about the Real Presence in Holy Communion is that it does little to elevate the most important aspect of Jesus’ life: the REAL PRESENCE of Jesus to the joys, sufferings, hopes, and needs of every person he encountered in his human life!

For when Jesus encountered the sick and the diseased and he didn’t avoid them, but went to them, sat with them, touched them, and offered his healing power to them...he was really present.

When Jesus encountered the poor, the beggars, the homeless, and he didn’t shun them or blame them for their poverty, but instead shared his bread and his love with them...he was really present.

When Jesus encountered the tax collectors, the sinners, the prostitutes and adulterers and he didn’t curse them or stone them, but instead ate with them, counseled them, offered forgiveness to them and a second chance at life...he was really present.

When Jesus saw the children and he didn’t chase them away, but gathered them in his arms to bless them...he was really present.

When Jesus heard the self-righteous and the hypocrites judge and condemn others and he wasn’t silent, but instead spoke sternly to them of their need for humility and mercy...he was really present.

When he took upon himself the responsibility of 12 disciples and he didn’t give up on them in exasperation and impatience, but instead did his best to teach them, lead them, and love them in spite of their faults...he was really present.

When his hour came, his moment of “glorification” which was anything but glorious, and he didn’t quit, hide, or flee, but faced his accusers with his faithful witness to the Truth...he was really present.

And when he was being tortured and crucified but chose to forgive his torturers and commend his soul to God...he was really present.

If these things are true—that in every circumstance of his life Jesus was really present--then we can also believe that when we gather and share the meal he instituted in remembrance of him, there too he is really present:

Really present to our sickness and disease;

Really present to our poverty of material goods or poverty of spirit;

Really present to our sins, our weaknesses, our missteps;

Really present to the self-righteousness and hypocrisy that lives in all of us;

Really present to us, his modern-day disciples who still need to be taught and loved;

Really present to our desires to quit, hide, or flee from the truth of our lives and the Highest Truths we are called to live into;

Really present when we want to curse others, curse life, and curse God for the hurts and the pains which seem beyond our ability to bear.

In all of these things he is really present to us! And when we share the sacrament of bread and drink; when we take into ourselves his flesh and blood, his life and presence, then we are joined to his presence and challenged to live that kind of presence as well...

So that the sick will know our real presence,

So that the poor will know our real presence,

So that the lost will know our real presence,

So that the children will know our real presence,

So that those who abuse their power will know our real presence,

So that those who seek God will know our real presence,

So that God will know our real presence.

That's a tall order! It would take something supernatural for us to live into that kind of REAL presence. And yet this is our Good News...for untold millions of Christians have come to the communion table and found a supernatural power and presence there, and then have come away from the table more power-filled, more loving, more courageous, more hopeful, and more PRESENT--with Real Christ-like Presence!

And so on October 1, I invite you to join me in sharing Jesus' Real Presence at our World Communion Sunday Table of Grace! And as we share this sacred meal, let us receive the Good News that Jesus invites us to not only share this meal together, but to also share our Real Presence with the world--each and every day!

Can you imagine how different our lives would be if we would all do that!

Can you imagine how different the world would be if we would all do that! --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 Omgig: Admin. Assist. 269-7210

Church's e-mail: [administrative.office@fcuccwc.org](mailto:administrative.office@fcuccwc.org)

Dale Olson: Stephen Ministry Ldr 839-5619

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



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 1 - Kay Harfst
- 8 - Logan McCoskey
- 9 - Dawn Holdgrafer
- 10 - Gayle Olson
- 14 - Larry Brim
- 15 - Richard Tudor
- 15 - Jim Henning
- 30 - Luna Lahr

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

5 - Bud & Carol Crystal  
9 - Nate & Linda Lahr  
29 - Russ & Michele Omvig

### Parish Nurse News

OCTOBER - an opportunity to reduce stress.....for good.

Organize your life. Use schedules and to-do lists.

Create. Find an activity to express your imagination.

Take time-outs. Put down your smart-phone. Go for a walk, read an actual book with pages to turn. Meditate.

Open your mind to new possibilities. Mend a relationship or break a bad habit.

Balance. Make sure one area of your life isn't occupying too much time or energy.

Engage with others. Have at least a few close friends to talk to, do things with, and be there for you.

Rest. Get seven to eight hours of sleep every day.

### First Congregational 2023 Protocols for COVID-19

We are now entering into the fall and winter seasons, and we can likely expect an increase in levels of COVID-19 cases in our community. **The church cabinet has adopted these protocols for everyone to observe while at church, so that we can safeguard everyone's health—especially those in our midst who are medically fragile or vulnerable to health complications from COVID-19.**

**If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or suspect you may have COVID-19, do not enter the church!** Get tested with an unexpired antigen test or contact your doctor for a PCR test.

**Symptoms of COVID-19 include:** Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. It is important to note that **you may have COVID-19 and not show any symptoms, so please err on the side of caution** when coming into the church or being in close contact with any church members.

**If you test positive for COVID-19, then you should isolate for 5 days minimum,** and then retest yourself. **If after 5 days you test negative, then you should continue to mask when you are around other people. We urge you not to enter the church for the full 10 days after testing positive for COVID-19 in order to mitigate the risk of spreading the infection to others.** However, with two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart after day 5 of your COVID-19 infection, you may remove your mask sooner than day 10 and enter the church.

**If you have been exposed to COVID-19** (being close to someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes within 24 hours), **you should not enter the church without wearing a mask for 10 days. After day 5** of being exposed to COVID-19, **you should test** to see if you are positive. If you are, then follow the above guidelines for having COVID-19. **If after day 5 of your exposure to COVID-19 you test negative, then you should still wear a mask in the church building until day 10,** and try to avoid group gatherings where social distancing is impossible.

Keeping our church members safe from exposure to COVID-19 should be everyone's priority at First Congregational! Please follow these guidelines, and if you have any questions please speak with the church Moderator or Pastor Craig. Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone well!

### Bats

The past several months there has been a terrible odor wafting into the sanctuary along with a few more bats than normal. In our search for the root causes of the issue we found gaps and holes and a whole lot more. We have climbed ladders, squeezed into tight spaces, and discussed the findings endlessly. But finally, we have the information we need, and we have a plan. We have secured one proposal from Wood Roofing & Sheet Metal out of Des Moines to repair or replace metal flashing, fascia, a few shingles, some metal caps and a whole lot of other areas all detailed in their 68-page proposal. This work will cost approximately \$30,000. We have Chris McNeil working on several projects (capped the dome

to prevent entry to the sanctuary), removing contaminated insulation in the bell tower, and installing some ventilation to the attic, to name a few. We are working on another proposal to have the 3 gables at the peak of the roof and the 8 windows in the bell tower to be repaired or replaced (no estimate yet). And finally, we need some tuckpointing done in a few areas. A full summary of this progress, along with lots and lots of photos have been printed, placed in a 3-ring binder and are in the church office. We encourage you to review it and talk with any one of the Trustee about your questions or concerns.

Laurie Epps, Chair

Tom Riemenschneider

Les Ploeger

Nick Oberender

Chris McNiel

### **2023 Alternative Giving**

Thank you to all who have volunteered your talent by donating items to our first Alternative Giving Fair auction/silent auction. Mission Board has met and tried to get some more details in place. We are asking for all NON-FOOD donations to be at the church on Saturday December 2 by noon. Silent and live auction items will be determined by the board at that time. The silent auction will begin on Sunday December 3 and run until Sunday December 17. We are asking that FOOD donations be at the church at noon on Saturday December 16. They will be available to bid on on Sunday the 17th. We will run the live auction on Sunday December 17 as a part of the Women's Fellowship Christmas luncheon. Silent auction items will also be 'sold' at this time as well. We are planning on GoServ Global being the beneficiary of all auction items. This is an organization that serves in various countries and has a project where they ship, and build, the Sukup Safe-T homes. These homes have been found to withstand hurricanes and earthquakes, with Haiti being the primary recipient of these homes. For \$7500 a home can be shipped, and set-up being ready for occupancy by the end of a day. Funds we raise with our auction will be designated for this part of their ministry. Any questions you have please talk to a Mission Board member.

### **Clean Up**

The parks dept. has put 2 garbage cans on the Boone River trail, and we will check them and get them emptied on a weekly basis. The garbage cans will be located at the canoe access at City Park and by the dam off the White Fox Rd. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help check and empty these, taking the full bags to the dumpster at the church.

### **Rally Day**

We welcomed the start of a new program year on Rally Day, which was held September 10. There were games for children in our old vacant lot, and following the Rally Day worship service we held an indoor Rally Day picnic/pot luck!



### **Thanks**

Thank you to all for the prayers, cards, and calls while I have been ill. Vicki

### **Women's Fellowship Fall Thrift Sale**

"Thanks" to each of you. Whether you helped donate, sort, clean-up, haul away, provide food or worked, the Thrift Sale cannot get done without YOU. It's a lot of work, but also a lot of fun and fellowship.

I do not have a total yet, but I'm sure it will be amazing!

The proceeds from the sale will help us give monies to many deserving organizations in this community and around the world, The next sale will tentatively be April 26th. Thank you all so much!!! And start collecting Spring is just around the corner.!

Cindy Henning, Chairperson, Thrift Sale



Brownie Sundae drive thru funds being presented to Enhance Hamilton County Foundation. They matched our amount so \$1,734.00 was given to Hamilton County food pantries.

### Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges and Offerings	\$11,700.00	\$126,505.60
Other Income	0.00	.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$11,700.00</b>	<b>\$126,505.60</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
Outreach and Mission	0.00	\$10,315.65
Pastoral Services	8,287.81	69,672.30
Maintenance and Repairs	3,207.87	31,015.46
Church Office	3,603.86	25,340.92
Music Ministry	408.33	3,716.64
Christian Education	0.00	297.66
Local Ministry	0.00	16.26
Misc. Expenses	6.42	973.93
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$15,514.29</b>	<b>\$141,348.82</b>

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Webster City, Iowa

Cabinet Meeting held on September 12, 2023

### Members Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the Vice Moderator, Gayle Olson in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Craig opened the meeting with a prayer. The July Cabinet minutes were read. There was no meeting in August. Cindy Henning moved and Dale Olson seconded the minutes be approved. The motion passes.

### **Board and Committee Summaries:**

**Treasurer's Report:** The August offerings were \$11,000.00. August expenses were \$11,896.40. Both income and expenses showed increases. A transfer of \$10K was made to cover expenses and more may be required. Tracy Wehrhan moved and Dale Olson seconded a motion that the report be put to audit. The motion passed. **Pastor's Report:** Beacon of Hope

meal will be served September 27<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up sheet is out. Four or five artisans have volunteered items for the Alternative Giving Fair auction. The American Tap sponsored the Angel Tree fundraiser which raised \$17,500. Mission Board collected 100lbs of beans which made 3 roasters with many unopened cans for supper following the ride. The extra beans will be given to the Food Pantry. Angel Tree Christmas Gift Assistance applications will be available on October 1<sup>st</sup> and are due October 31<sup>st</sup>. More information will be coming out about this.

**Finance Board:** The board members have not met yet. Budgets from boards and committees are due September 15<sup>th</sup>. **Trustees:** Chris McNeil put up a barrier to keep animals out of the sanctuary. Woods Roofing out of Des Moines did a comprehensive inspection. Their findings have not yet been received. Gayle Olson, the vice moderator, asked that the Trustees update the congregation by email detailing all the work they have done on the bat/squirrel issue.

**Mission:** The sign-up sheet to empty the two garbage cans at the canoe ramp on the Boone River and at the fishing spot just south of the bridge on White Fox Road has been extended through September and October. Three roasters of beans were donated to the American Tap's ride to raise funds to support the Angel Tree Project. The extra beans will be donated to the food pantry at Trinity. Asbury UMC food packaging event was held on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Seven UCC congregates helped pack from 8am to 10pm. Shirley Yungclas stayed the entire day. Kudos to her. The Alternative Giving Fair auction was discussed and will be held along with the Annual Christmas Dinner put on by Women's Fellowship. More details to be coming. **Women's Fellowship:** The annual booklets are printed and handed out. A letter was sent out about 20 women to try to increase memberships. **Worship:** After the final evening service, August 26<sup>th</sup>, root beer floats were served. Hanging of the Greens will take place November 26<sup>th</sup>. A soup lunch will follow. This year, the last day of Advent and Christmas Eve are the same Sunday. Pastor Craig is willing to do an Advent service in the morning. Feedback is needed from the congregation about service that day. **Christian Education:** Rally Day was held September 10 with games in the vacant lot and a well-attended potluck following service. KLAB resumes on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Several members have volunteered their help. **Staff/Parish:** Has not met except to discuss and finalize the budget.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Cabinet budget was discussed and sent to the Finance Committee.
2. Discussion about a Special offering or Mission event to raise funds for Ecumenical Human Needs.
3. Iowa Conference – Marjorie Groves will be a delegate. There is second delegate position open if someone else is interested.
4. Chamber of Commerce asked if we could do our Live Nativity on the same night as the Christmas Parade which is December 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was suggested that we do it as a float in the parade as well. No decision made yet.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm. The next meeting is October 10, 2023 at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Hill, Church Clerk

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mission Board** July 26, 2023 **Old Business** Alternative fair discusses. Beacon of Hope July meal, fed 44 men. Next meal scheduled for September 27. Angel Tree, still collecting baked beans until August 25. **New Business** Neighbors in Need, October 1, special offering will be taken. "Behold" is the theme of the event. Sherry is in charge and will put in September's new letter. Back pack ministry – there is enough money to start program and continue until December, then money will be needed. Goal is to set up food pantries at each school. Sign-up sheet for trash pickup is full. Ecumenical Human Needs: Benevolent Funds – we are the only church in the community that is giving. Sharon Perry takes the applications and does consulting.

Trinity gives assistance and handles question. Meeting scheduled for August 31 at 5 pm. Brownie Sundae check ready to be delivered. Checking with Darcy to see when she is available to receive the check. Asbury Kids Against Hunger. \$361.00 in pickle jar. No new information received although working on packing location. Angel Tree Ride, not sure who is in charge of the event, American Tap was noticed in Fair parade. Ukrainian relief effort Rotary support, Time Bailey and food bank. \$1,200 needed per month to sponsor this event. It was mentioned that Missions may take this on to sponsor 1 month as an alternative giving fund raising. Christian Ed Board to sponsor a potluck with pickle jar for Rally Day. Promotion "To spend what you would spend going out for Sunday dinner." KLAB the "Cat Hut" is in need of supplies. KLAB will be doing a project to help with the need. More information to come.

Next meeting Thursday, August 31, 5:00 pm.

**Christian Education Board** Minutes for August 3, 2023 **OLD BUSINESS** The Christian Ed Board sponsored an Easter Breakfast prior to Worship. There was a good attendance and everyone enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship. On June 18, we honored our 2 graduates Shelby Brim and Chesney Fuller with a gift of a journal and a cake and punch reception, hosted by the Christian Ed Board. **NEW BUSINESS KLAB:** will be on Wednesdays beginning September 13. Pastor Craig will lead KLAB with the help from Glenda and Susan. Vicki will setup the snacks for the kids. Vicki and Glenda will get together to go through the KLAB craft boxes to replenish supplies and create new boxes if needed. Pastor Craig will announce in Worship asking for KLAB snack donations. **Rally Day** – September 10 in Vacant Lot Games: Candy Scramble – Pastor Craig will get candy and other necessary supplies Name Game – will ask Curt McCoskey to lead the game Cupcake Walk – board member will run the music and Dawn will provide cupcakes A potluck dinner will follow Worship. People are asked to bring a dish to share and their own place settings. Christian Education Board will provide beverages coffee, lemonade and water. Patty will make Rally Day poster and postcards to send to potential KLAB members Sign-up sheet will be on the table in Fellowship Hall to determine number of coming to the potluck and the dish that will be shared. Pastor Craig will obtain permission to use the vacant lot. **Adult Education:** begins September 17 **Budget:** The Board reviewed and revised the coming year's budget. Next meeting September 19 1:00

Patty Gescheidler, Secretary

**Mission Board** August 31, 2023 The American Tap angel tree ride raised \$17,500! We donated 3 roasters of baked beans plus a few extra cans. They returned the unused extra beans and after keeping 4 cans for the Rally Day potluck the rest will be delivered to the food pantry at Trinity. The community food packing event Asbury has put together is Sat. September 16. The sign-up sheet is on the table in Fellowship Hall and we are looking to have enough volunteers that we can staff a table from 8-10 that morning. Beacon of Hope meal is Sept. 27. The sign-up sheet is also on the table in FH. Neighbors in Need offering is October 1. Sherry is promoting and has put some flyers up around the church. From the ministerial association: Craig reported Ecumenical Human Needs has \$20,000. \$2000 has been sent to the Food Bank in DM for the backpack program. Since our budget is due before the Sept Cabinet meeting, we made the decision to cut OCWM back to \$15,000 and cut out Mission Board 'slush fund' and well as taking the Mayflower donation to \$0. Alternative Giving Fair was discussed briefly. We have had 4 individuals indicate they have something for the auction and we think Piecemakers are also donating a quilted item. Decisions and a plan for moving forward will be discussed and we hope to have a solid plan at our Sept. meeting. We decided to try meeting after worship on Sunday Sept. 17 in hopes we can have a full committee that day. Please mark your calendars for SEPTEMBER 17 AFTER WORSHIP.

**Worship Board Minutes** September 5, 2023 **Old Business:** There was no Cabinet report but did have an up-date on the bat and squirrel situation from Craig. Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> was our last Saturday service. Root beer floats were served. Served approximately 40 people. Next year we need to purchase 4 liters of root beer and 2 gallons of ice cream. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fellowship along with the floats. **New Business:** The budget for 2024 for the Worship Board will be as follows: Music Committee \$0.00 Chancel Committee \$200.00 Misc. Church/Worship \$1,000.00 We deleted the budget for the Supply Minister Communion on October 1<sup>st</sup>: Unless we hear differently, Marjorie will prepare the elements. Jane will send out a

text the week before to see who is available to be communion servers. The grandson of Tom and Holly Riemenschneider will be baptized that day. We will decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Gretchen volunteered to bring cinnamon rolls and corn bread muffins for the soup lunch that day. More will be discussed at the next meeting. There was a brief discussion concerning Christmas Eve/4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent as they take place on the same day this year. More discussion will be held at the next meeting. Craig is willing to lead an Advent service in the morning in the East Chapel. Try to get some feedback from other congregation members as to what they would like on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30.

Gretchen McGlynn

**Women's Fellowship** New Business: **Thrift Sale:** Thrift Sale Sign-up Sheet is on table in Fellowship Hall. Cindy will send a copy to Circle Chairs to take to their meeting. Sale date is Friday, Sept. 29, 10-6 pm. You can bring items Wed. Sept 27<sup>th</sup> or take to basement Thrift Sale store room. Please bring food before 12:00 pm on Wednesday Sept. 27. Gayle has a bag to send dirty clothes. **Mice Issue:** A mouse was spotted in kitchen. Poison was set out, so be aware of evidence. **Mission Request:** Gayle detailed Mission Board advent idea for an auction of gift items people may donate or have made, etc. She is suggesting it be coordinated with the December Christmas Luncheon. Get suggestions from circles. **Program reference books:** There are resource books to use for programs in the room across from elevator in basement. They are on the bookshelf in a box Marked Women's Fellowship. Please check out books on sheet on shelf. Or spend quiet time in the room to find your inspiration.

**Pastor's Cabinet Report** September 8, 2023 **Worship:** On July 23 we held scholarship Sunday and presented scholarships to those recipients who could attend. We held Saturday evening services on July 29 and August 26, and following the service on the 26<sup>th</sup> the Worship Board served root beer floats. On days that Melissa cannot play for our services, either Kolleen Taylor has subbed for her or we have used canned music. I continue to lead Gospel hour at Southfield one Wednesday a month at both the Care Center and at Assisted Living. Kolleen Taylor, Don Bruner and I led care center services July 9 and August 27. **WCMA:** The summer lunch program experienced good numbers—50 to 70 at some meals. The American Tap Angel Tree ride brought in \$17,500! Members of the Mission Board made up 3 roasters of baked beans for the ride, and they were delivered the morning of the ride along with a box of unopened beans. Those beans were returned to us and they were donated to Trinity Lutheran's food pantry. The "Faith at the Fair" worship service at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds on Sunday, July 30 was decently attended and the music was great! Trinity's new Pastor, Rev. Jean Morse, was introduced to the community and she gave the benediction. Asbury UMC is organizing a food packaging event on Saturday, September 16, to be held at the Van Diest Building, and our church is fielding a team of 6 volunteers. The Ecumenical Human Needs fund has \$19,900 currently, and Sharon Perry continues her work as the intake coordinator. School Backpacks Against Hunger will resume when applications are returned from parents. \$2000 was sent to the Iowa Food bank to offset the cost of providing all elementary aged children with food for their backpacks. The Angel Tree Christmas Gift Assistance project will begin October 1. Applications will be available until October 31, then the Angel cards will be out for the public on November 3 at 2 locations: Kendall Young Library and Webster City Financial. Gifts will be due back at churches by Sunday December 3 @ noon, and gifts will be picked up by Angel Tree families on December 10, 2-4 pm. **CE Programming:** we will begin our KLAB programming on Wednesday, September 13, 3:20-5 pm. I will meet students at the bus scramble each Wednesday to escort them to church. We need donations of snacks! We will not have KLAB on September 20, as that is an early out for students. Adult Ed resumes September 17, 9 am, with a short study on the topic of national defense spending. **Iowa Conference:** will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, Oct 14 at Urbandale UCC in Urbandale, Iowa. There are no other details available at this time. Marjorie Groves will be a lay delegate; we are allowed 2 delegates plus the pastor. **Shalom Circle:** we have been meeting regularly on Fridays in the East Chapel, beginning at 7:30 pm. Attendance ranges from 4-7 participants. **Celebration of Life:** I officiated at the Celebration of Life for Bruce Perry, held in our sanctuary on August 18.

**The breakdown of my ministry since July 7:**

**Worship services led:20; Meetings:10; Visitation:29; Memorial service: 1**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Address Service Requested

God is still speaking  
to everyone in the home of:

