

May 2024 Newsletter
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1000 Willson Avenue - Webster City, Iowa 50595
515-832-2232
<http://www.firstcongregationalwc.org/>

“For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” –Psalm 139: 13-14

There are two roles in life I would never want: one is being God; the other is being a mother--and if I had to choose between those two, my last choice would be a mother! Now part of the reason for that is because I have a weak stomach for childbirth—I doubt that I could make it through a birth as an observer, much less a participant (ask Vicki about that). But the deeper reason is that I don’t know how a mother can bring a new life into the world that has come from her life, and then literally and metaphorically cut the cord and separate her life from the life of her child. Now I know that fathers play a role in procreation, but no man has a womb; no man has a life grow in him, flesh of flesh, bone of bone. We men supply half the DNA, the pattern of life--but mothers supply all the building materials that make the pattern live!

I am amazed at the great unselfishness that is at the heart of motherhood—a great unselfishness that says *“You will always be part of me, and I have a great love for you that will last as long as I last...but I do not own you, I cannot control you, and I cannot walk your path for you.”* And that is the heart of why I would not want to be a mother. Mothers give their all to be a mother, only to begin the lifelong process of letting go. That to me is asking a lot from a human being--it sounds like mothers are being asked to be like God! And yet that makes sense, for God is very much like a mother:

God creates life--like a mother.

God forms us, knits us together in the womb--like a mother.

God loves us unconditionally—like a mother.

God yearns to protect and nurture us, so we grow healthy and whole--like a mother.

And God never forgets us, even when we forget God-- like a mother.

The difference is that God is...God. God has unlimited power, unlimited wisdom, and unlimited grace to deal with God’s children: to both love them and let them go; to hold them and yet give them freedom; to wish for the best for them and yet not be destroyed when the worst happens to them...or when the worst happens *because of them*. It seems almost unfair that God would give to mortal women such a divine task as motherhood, and yet God has seen fit to share God’s joys and God’s challenges as “Parent” with mothers!

Mothers have always had a blessed but difficult calling, and they surely need our prayers—and many of them! And Mothers, never forget that in this sacred, exhausting, exhilarating and heartbreaking work you have never been alone, and you will never be alone! For your eternal Parent, God—the “Father” who seems an awful lot like a mother—has always been, and will always be, with you: to strengthen you, to give you wisdom, to comfort you, and share your laughter and your tears.

May that Good News help all mothers “keep the faith” as they mother the next generation of US—the wonderful, wayward, humorous and heartbreaking children of God *and* Eve! Happy Mothers’ Day to all mothers—everywhere! –Pastor Craig

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**
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**

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH.**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

11 - Lauren Leman
11 - Mabel Prescott
16 - Neil Oberender
19 - Gretchen Bruner
22 - Ed Mosbach
26 - Carol Crystal
28 - Kasyn Weig
29 - Linda Lahr



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

7 - Craig & Vicki Blaufuss
17 - Tracy & Glenda Wehrhan
28 - Diana & Nick Oberender

Parish Nurse News

Does Type 2 diabetes run in your family? Here are a few things you can do to lower your risk. Lower your weight through diet and physical activity.

Choose a healthier diet. Try a Mediterranean diet and choose red meat less often.

Make fiber your best friend. Aim for 3 servings of whole grains every day.

Hit the treadmill. Find something you love to do to get moving every day.

Check your numbers. Check your hemoglobin A1c and your blood sugar.

Flowers

We love to see flowers decorating our altar. Please check out the sign-up sheet and consider signing up to provide flowers. Let Michele know if they are in honor or memory of someone.

Summer Lunch Program

The Mission Board has agreed to help with the summer lunch program again this year. We have signed up to serve on June 24th and June 28th. Please look for upcoming announcements and sign-ups for serving and meal needs.

Mission in the Philippines

The Mission Board encourages you to support Don and Gretchen Bruner's granddaughter, Hannah Stirling, as she travels to Cebu City, Philippines. She will work in a church group to share the gospel in a culturally responsive way and give people a way to have a relationship with God. The Mission Board will set out the pickle jar on May 5 to support this young lady's endeavors.

Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to build up the UCC cooperatively. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. You build up the Body of Christ by your generosity to this offering.

Mission Board will collect for Strengthen the Church on May 19, Pentecost Sunday.

DSAOC Gift Basket

Our DSAOC gift basket of gourmet coffees, teas, and brewing accessories did fantastically well at the annual Domestic Sexual Assault Outreach Center online cake auction! Our basket netted \$289 for the important work of DSAOC in raising awareness of domestic abuse and providing shelter and other services to women and children who are experiencing abuse. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause!

Beacon of Hope Meal in May

We will again be asking for donations of food for our next Beacon of Hope meal which will be prepared and served in May. The date is not yet been set, but please be watching for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. We could not continue this important ministry without you!

Last KLAB May 8

It's hard to believe that we are getting close to the end of school and the beginning of Summer! Our last KLAB after-school gathering will be held on Wednesday, May 8. We will meet at the church and then walk to the Dairy Queen for our annual end of KLAB treat, then walk to East Twin Park for some fun before we dismiss for

the summer. Be looking for postcards to arrive in early September with an invitation to join our next program year of Kids Learning About the Bible!

Graduation Sunday/Mother's Day May 12

We will honor our 2024 High School graduates AND our mothers during our worship service on Sunday, May 12, beginning at 10 am. We will hear graduates Brandon Lahr and Madison Babington talk about their future plans, and following the service we will hold a reception in their honor. We will also remember our mothers and celebrate Motherhood, which makes human life possible. Join us for a special service of worship on May 12!

Adult Education Class Concludes May 19

Our last Adult Education class before summer recess concludes on May 19th. I want to thank everyone who has participated for their presence and discussion input on a variety of topics, and I want to invite EVERYONE to join us when we resume our weekly Sunday classes in September. --Pastor Craig

Summer Worship Hours and Saturday Service Dates

Our summer worship hours will remain at 10:00 a.m., which is the start time for worship services we have been using since we returned to in-person worship services on Palm Sunday (March 28) 2021! During the summer months we will hold 3 Saturday evening services: June 29, July 27, and August 24. Saturday services will begin at 5 p.m., and following our Saturday services there will be no next-day Sunday morning worship service. All Saturday services will be held indoors; please look for more details in the coming months.

Care Center Worship Services May 26

First Congregational will lead care center worship services on Sunday, May 26, beginning at 1:15 pm at Windsor Manor, 2 pm at Southfield Wellness Community, and 2:45 at Crestview Nursing and Rehab Center.

Task Force Update

Task force is in a pause mode while we wait for further developments and more information on several key issues. Here's an update:
Membership: you have received a letter asking for updated contact information. It's important

that we know who's with us on the next leg of our journey and who would like to remove their names from our church rolls. We'll use the information to update our records and determine how many members we actually have.

Pastoral leadership: We are exploring all possibilities: full time, part time, sharing with another church, interim, pulpit supply, and lay leaders. Answer could be a combination of these. There are fewer graduates coming out of seminaries and many already have connections with a church. Our church may not be as attractive to candidates because we are an aging congregation seen as less likely to be able to support a full time pastor.

The same applies to sharing a pastor with another church. The supply is small and the demand great. We had conversations with all the area UCC churches, including Jewell, Alden, Clarion, Eagle Grove, Fort Dodge, Hampton, and Humboldt. We are the only congregation with a full time pastor. Most are using part time, shared, lay leaders, or a combination. We are not pursuing a shared pastor with any of those churches at this time. But we will keep options open for opportunities with one or more of the UCC churches. As the process unfolds, we may also look at possibilities with other non-UCC churches who have similar views.

Meanwhile, we need to prepare to become self sufficient, at least in the short term, if we can't find trained clergy. We need to recruit and train leadership from within our own congregation to plan and implement church services and other pastoral duties, as several of the area UCC congregations are doing. Pastor Craig will offer such instruction. Task force will recommend that the cabinet set that in motion.

Church building condition: Roof repairs were begun last fall and completed earlier this spring. Concern now is the condition of the bell tower. Trustees called a structural engineer, who stated the outside brickwork was fine. He noted some deterioration of the wooden framework of the tower but the tower is not in immediate danger. Chris McNeil was able to remove damaged insulation and rodent proof the attic. There have been no reports of odor problems and no evidence of bats or squirrels since then.

However, the wooden ventilation louvers and the frames holding them need to be repaired or replaced.

Task force recommends this problem be addressed, then reassess the need for structural repairs. Kolleen has sent a letter of intent to apply for a grant that would pay half the cost if trustees decide those structural repairs are needed. We will be notified in June if we can proceed with the actual grant application. That's a brief summary of our work to date. Please feel free to contact a member of the task force with questions or concerns. We value your input.

Wil Groves, Gayle Olson, Curt McCoskey, Kolleen Taylor, Chris McNeil, Tracy Wehrhan, Patty Gescheidler, Craig Blaufuss

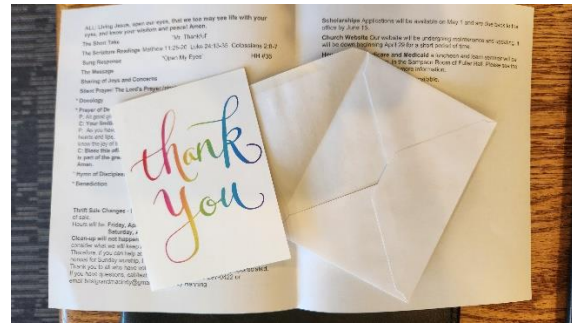
Meet and Greet at Southfield May 7

Southfield Wellness Community is inviting everyone to Meet and Greet their new Administrator, Director of Nursing, and Social Worker, to be held at Southfield Independent and Assisted Living Center on Tuesday, May 7, from 1-3 p.m. You are welcome to drop by, meet the new team, and enjoy some refreshments!

Recently Andrea Mosbach led the KLAB kids in a May Basket workshop. They will be filled and distributed by members of the Mission Board on May Day.



On Sunday, April 21, everyone's bulletin included a blank thank-you card for members to send to anyone they wished to thank. Have you sent yours? We all have many people to thank!



In April our KLAB kids worked on submissions for the UCC Climate Hope art contest. 50 selected nationwide submissions will be reproduced onto postcards to mail to legislators, reminding them to work for a climate future that will benefit the next generation of human beings.



Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges and Offerings	\$26,012.00	\$60,729.00
Other Income	0.00	.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$26,012.00	\$60,729.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Outreach and Mission	1,250.00	\$3,750.00
Pastoral Services	7,847.06	25,227.68
Maintenance and Repairs	6,219.66	12,765.37
Church Office	3,014.73	10,020.42
Music Ministry	417.25	1,326.75
Christian Education	83.40	99.93
Local Ministry	0.00	0.00
Misc. Expenses	164.42	530.16
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,996.52	\$53,720.31

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CABINET MEETING Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Attendance: Moderator Gayle Olson, Treasurer Tracy Wehrhan, Financial Secretary Dale Olson, Clerk Kolleen Taylor, Women's Fellowship-Patty Gescheidler, Trustees-Nick Oberender, Mission Board-Stephanie Hill, Staff/Parish-Carol Crystal, Pastor Craig Blaufuss.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Gayle Olson at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes: Pastor Craig led the cabinet members in prayer. A motion to approve the February minutes as sent out in the March newsletter was made by Tracy, seconded by Stephanie, all approved. There was no cabinet meeting in the month of March.

Treasurer: Report was presented by Tracy. He reported a correction to the year-end financial report of \$15,000 that was debited from the general fund, which should have been spent from the building fund. This has been corrected. He noted that giving for the year has been positive so far. He stated that future ongoing expenses for KLAB and the Christian Education committee will all come out of the Christian Education funds. No financial report for March due to early meeting in April.

Pastors Report: *Worship:* We have just finished the season of Lent, and I hope it was a faith building and meaningful time for everyone. On Palm Sunday we again processed around the sanctuary waving palms to "Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!", and in the afternoon Kolleen, Don and I led care center services. On Maundy Thursday we met in the East chapel at 6 p.m. to share Holy Communion, commemorate Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and listen to readers share reflections on the feet of Jesus. On Good Friday members of the Shalom Circle meditated on the gift of the Holy Spirit in our East Chapel. Easter Sunday was a beautiful day of celebration as we gathered for Easter Breakfast before sharing Easter Worship together. The choir sang, and we shared Easter Communion. I want to thank everyone who brought flowers and lilies, the Chancel Committee for arranging the flowers, the Worship Board for setting up communion, the Christian Ed board for hosting, cooking, and serving 50 people for Easter breakfast, and Kolleen Taylor, Josi Greenley, and our choir for their work rehearsing and presenting the anthem. We are blessed with many willing and caring hands here at First Congregational!

Mary Worthington Memorial Service: We will hold Mary's Memorial service on Saturday, April 6 beginning at 11 am., with a bereavement meal to follow. Thank you, Women's Fellowship, for taking care of the meal! There will be no visitation preceding the service. Mary had a private committal service at Graceland cemetery on March 19.

WCMA: We met March 21 with much business to discuss! Ecumenical Human Needs reported disbursing \$2100 for rent and utilities in February, leaving the fund with a balance of

\$16,203.25. We discussed needing all churches to support this fund, and we discussed possibly bringing back the bell ringing at Christmas—not affiliated with the Salvation Army—to raise funds for EHN. We even discussed doing a bell ringing in July! The Daily Freeman Journal ran a great article on our local food pantries, and we noted that Trinity does deliver food if no transportation is available for folk wanting to access their food pantry. We also discussed the need for transportation for people who had no vehicles, and are looking into obtaining bus passes to distribute. The Summer lunch program is on, and we are contacting City Hall to see if we can reserve West Twin shelter house for these meals. The dates of serving will be Mondays and Fridays beginning June 3 through August 16. A spreadsheet for volunteering is being developed and will be emailed out to the various churches. WC Church of Christ will again host a cooking class on Wednesdays, and they hope that the churches volunteering for the summer lunches will also help with that cooking class. It was decided that the Ministerial Association needs a Facebook page, so that will be developed. And we were pleased with Kolleen Taylor's research and writing of a fine article about the work of the WCMA here in Webster City. There was concern about the school system scheduling their early outs on Wednesdays next year, and so members of the WMCA are composing a letter to the Administrator expressing concerns about scheduling those early outs on "church night." VBS schedules were announced, and on April 14 Good Shepherd Episcopal church will host an open house to dedicate their new stained-glass windows.

Food Bank of Iowa Task Force: on March 27 the CEO of the Food Bank of Iowa held a roundtable at Kendall Young Library and discussed the great need for the Food Bank's work and the need for active partners in every community. Kathy Vaughn of A.C.E volunteered to begin a local food insecurity coalition.

CE Programming: Adult Ed has been watching videos from the "He Gets Us" campaign and discussing them. KLAB has been studying Holy Week, and we made the Easter centerpieces for the Easter breakfast out of the toilet paper tubes that everyone has so willingly provided! NOTE: we have enough tubes now, so please stop saving those for KLAB and start saving peanut butter jars! Thank you! The Easter Breakfast free will offering went to our CE programming costs, so thanks to everyone who donated to that! Looking ahead, our Graduation Sunday will be on Mothers' Day, May 12, and our graduates will be Brandon Lahr and Madison Babington. The last Day of KLAB will be May 8, and the last day of Adult Ed will be May 19.

Shalom Circle: We continue to meet on most Fridays, we currently have 7 participants and welcome more!

Envisioning the Future Task Force: We met on March 21. Kolleen Taylor is looking into grants available for maintenance and repair of buildings of historical interest. She has submitted a letter of intent to apply for a grant, and we will know in June if we are accepted to submit the application. It will then be a few more months until we would find out if our grant application would be approved. We are working to update our membership contact information with a membership letter that will be sent out the first part of April. We are also evaluating using the traditional search and call process for finding a pastor or interim, and looking into the possibility of partnering with other churches to share pastoral resources.

The breakdown of my ministry since February 20:

Worship services led:12; Christian Ed.:9; Meetings:18; Visitation:23; Committal Service: 1
1 week vacation Dec. 25-Jan 2

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

Finance: Wehrhan reported that they are waiting for decisions from Trustees on repair options, and then working on scholarships, which will have a deadline in mid-June.

Trustees: A proposal for services has been received from RMH architects. They feel repairs will cost less as it appears the brickwork exterior can be salvaged. Laurie Epps and Les Ploeger met with Peterson Construction reps to discuss the architects quotes for repairs. They are considering the building fund investments and discussing the actual costs of the building repairs and indicated that they might need to liquidate some of the bonds that would be at a loss, however there are other investments that are coming due currently designated for other areas, and it was suggested these could be swapped on paper. More discussions will be held to

discuss the building repairs, but felt they didn't have to rush the repairs. Woodruff Construction work may still need to be completed.

Mission meeting. Pancake meal funds went to UDMO.

\$785.00 collected from One Great Hour of Sharing. (2023 \$560.00)

—Sharon Perry joined our meeting asking for our help with ideas for fund raisers for Ecumenical Human Need association of Webster City, an association that is involved in human needs for those who are in crisis within our community. It was highlighted that Pastor Craig and the ministries in WC are very involved in local needs. Many ministers are involved and Pastor has been chairman for 5 years. There is a need to get other churches involved to help in this need. The question was made that other churches need to be encouraged to offer fundraisers or join together as a community to get involved. Ideas submitted include bell ringing to collect for EHN, since our community no longer does bell ringing for Salvation Army. The money collected would stay in WC. Another idea would be to bring back the "Happy Dollars" on the 5th Sunday of the month during fellowship hour.

The mission board will be thinking and praying about this.

—discussion about Hot Fudge Sundaes drive through will be brought up at April's meeting.

—May Day, sending May baskets to those in our congregation who are shut in's or alone.

—Gayle contacted Kwik Star, and asked about them providing loaves of bread for the backpack program on the weekends that peanut butter was sent out. They responded with 5 \$100.00 gift cards to purchase the bread. Thank you Kwik Star.

—Food bank in Des Moines are having a "close up" tour of bank. The dates for this are April 3, 5-6:30pm, May 17, 10-11:30am, and June 26. 5-6:30pm. Members of Mission board plan to attend the May 17th tour. The food bank asks for a RSVP prior to attending.

—A food bank round table program is scheduled for March 27, at the Kendall library 10-11am.

—Donna Ryherd asked Pastor about having a forum at our church about the school shootings. No decisions made on this topic.

—Pastor brought up the homeless situation in WC, stating there about 33-35 homeless in town. They are trying to figure out how to help.

—Earth Week coming in April. Plans are to send out daily emails of things to keep in mind during the month. Next Mission meeting scheduled for April 24. 5:15pm

Women's Fellowship:

Old Business: Lenton Luncheon is Thursday, March 14 at noon. We have 22 signed up to attend. Thrift Sale: Cindy gave Verna more money from the sale downstairs. A sign-up sheet is on Fellowship Hall table. May Women's Fellowship Luncheon will be May 22 at 5:30. We will have a salad luncheon. Each circle will bring 4 salads; Cindy will bring bread; Patty will bring sherbert for dessert; Joyce will bring wafer cookies; drinks will be water and coffee.

New Business: Task Force Discussion: We shared thoughts, ideas, and concerns regarding future of church. Next Meeting – April 3rd.

Worship Board: Old Business Officers: We confirmed the following roles, with Gretchen and Jane as co-chairs, Marjorie as secretary, Curt as Cabinet representative, and Cindy as communion preparer. CVLI (Church Video License): The board earlier voted by email to pay the invoice for \$291.08. This allows us to show videos and be copyright compliant. Shrove Pancake Supper: Around 40 participated in the February 13 meal of pancakes, eggs, sausages, dessert, and drinks. Pastor Craig said he had enough volunteer help in food preparation, service, and clean-up. Gretchen provided decorations and will store them at her home. Ash Wednesday: Worship and imposition of ashes was held at 1 p.m., February 14, in East Chapel. 17 attended, with Pastor Craig leading.

New Business Accompanist: Marjorie noted that Josi Greenley (515-835-1317) will replace Melissa Hindt for the March 10 and April 7 worship. Going forward, Melissa will contact Jane if she is not able to play the organ/piano for a Sunday service. Jane will contact a replacement. Jane will contact Kolleen Taylor to ask if Kolleen would like to be the first contact if a substitute is needed. Gretchen will confer with Melissa about the Easter service. The Easter service will begin at 10 a.m., unless a substitute organist, such as Josi needs a later time.

Cabinet Report: A task force has been formed to organize discussion of our church's future, knowing that Pastor Craig plans to retire in two years. Task force members are Patty

Gescheidler, Wil Groves, Curt McCoskey, Chris McNiel, Gayle Olson, Kolleen Taylor, Tracy Wehrhan, and Pastor Craig. The task force plans to have a report for the congregation within six months. Christmas Trees: Cindy will look into finding replacements for the two large artificial Christmas trees for the sanctuary. The trees were large and unwieldy for set-up, with some nonfunctioning lights. Cindy proposes smaller trees, in the 10-foot range. The Chancel Committee will be invited to participate in selecting replacements. The congregation will have the chance to volunteer and add suggestions. Communion: The next communion will be March 3. Jane will continue to make the bread and cut the cubes. Any bread cubes left on the serving platter after the service will be discarded. The same is true for cups of grape juice or wine not used during the service. The plastic cups can be washed and reused or discarded. Communion on Easter, March 31 will be served with the congregation coming forward, rather than in the pew. We will not have communion on April 7. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 3 p.m., at the church.

WORSHIP BOARD: Old Business CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) bill has been paid. This allows us to use Christian worship songs and be copyright compliant.

Accompanist: Jane said Josi Greenley will be our accompanist for Easter Sunday, March 31, as well as March 10 and April 7. Kolleen Taylor is willing to accompany in the future, as well. Gayle Olson shared that Anne Sherve-Ose (515-835-2656) also is an option. Christmas Trees: Cindy has asked the Chancel Committee (Greta Oberender and Kolleen) to be on the Christmas tree replacement task force. Through church bulletins and newsletter, Cindy will ask for the congregation's input on Christmas tree replacement.

New Business Cabinet Report: Kolleen sent a letter of intent to the nonprofit Partners for Sacred Places; a grant would assist in funding church preservation – repairs and electrical work for First Congregational UCC. We learn in June if our church can submit a request for matching funds up to \$500,000. In other business, the Cabinet will not meet in March.

Communion: A few days ahead of Easter, Gretchen will send a message to the Worship Board to confirm communion stewards. Curt and Cindy have volunteered. Marjorie also would be available that day. Communion will be served at the front of the sanctuary, rather than in the pew. Cindy will prepare three trays of wine/grape juice. The third will be primarily grape juice. Communion will not be celebrated April 7. Maundy Thursday: Pastor Craig will prepare the service and communion for East Chapel. Summer Services: Our preliminary opinion is to keep worship at 10 a.m. We'll discuss the possibility of outdoor services and Saturday services at an upcoming Worship Board meeting. Mother's Day: Last year, Don Bruner ordered 30 carnations. Gretchen will check on current prices. Easter Palms: Cindy will remind the Chancel Committee to order palm branches. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 4, 3 p.m., at the church.

Christian Education: It was reported that the pickle jar at Easter generated \$411 for Christian Education. Patty Gescheidler is Chairperson, Glenda Wehrhan is Secretary, Cindy Henning is Cabinet Rep.

Discussed Easter Breakfast to be held on March 31 at 9:00. Cindy will make 2 Hash Brown Casseroles & get Easter Paper Plates & Napkins. Vicki has volunteered to make 2 Egg Bakes. Craig will make French Toast Casserole. Dawn will bring Fruit, Juice & Milk. Glenda will bring 1 Egg Bake & Strawberry Bread. Patty will bring Pastry of her choice. Dawn will set up tables on Thursday. Free Will Offering to support the Christian Ed. Program for our Youth. Patty had a craft idea for Handprint Lilies the Klab kids will make for table Centerpieces. Patty also will send out Invites for Easter Breakfast to members who we haven't seen for a while in hopes of reconnecting. Discussed if a Graduation Sunday would be held. More information to be collected to make a decision. Discussed on the age limit of KLAB kids--attending thru 6th Grade. No KLAB March 13 due to School Spring Break. Last KLAB Wednesday for 2024 will be May 8 with the usual pilgrimage to DQ & West Twins Park playground. Next Meeting is March 27 at 1:00

Christian Education Minutes: Discussed Easter Breakfast to be held on March 31 at 9:00. Free Will Offering to support the Christian Ed. Program for our Youth. Discussed Graduation Sunday which will be held May 12. Glenda--get pricing on cupcakes. Patty—flowers & punch. Craig—gift idea. Don—Cover tables with purple table cloths that are upstairs in KLAB supply room. Cindy—nuts, cups & mints.

The last KLAB Wednesday for 2024 will be May 8 with the usual pilgrimage to DQ & West Twins Park playground. The Last Adult Education will be May 19. The next meeting will be an email meeting about information collected for Graduation Sunday.

Staff Parish: Crystal reported that they have met and assignments have been made for each staff person to talk with on any area of concerns.

Old Business:

Building update: This was covered in trustee report.

New Business:

Church Website: The bill from In-Tandem web hosting has been received, but the cost is \$300 plus \$6.42/month. The website is very out of date, and the staff recommend making a change. Kent Bailey has offered to host for \$107.88 per year, with a \$13 fee for registering domain, and \$100 transfer fee. But he noted that the website needs to be retooled, and update the template used. Kolleen and Patty offered to help keep new site updated. A motion was made by Stephanie, and seconded by Patty to make the change. All approved.

Translation Software: Pastor Craig discussed the need for providing translated sermons and bulletins for our Hispanic attendees. They have tried a few options and have found software called DeepL for a low monthly cost. A motion to approve this software was made by Stephanie, and seconded by Dale, all approved Meeting was adjourned by Gayle at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kolleen Taylor, Church clerk

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Address Service Requested

God is still speaking
to everyone in the home of:



**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE
AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH**