

April/May, 2018 Newsletter
Algona First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S. Moore Street, Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845
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Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
Pastor Chris Burtnett
Home Phone 515-395-3403 Cell Phone 712-269-5719

FROM THE FRONT PORCH

Some time ago, a young friend of mine was visiting with me in my office prior to worship one Sunday morning. As we were conversing, I was getting ready for the service. Many of you know that I don't go "full vestment" every Sunday. Full-vestment would be, for me, alb or robe, stole, cincture (the fancy name for the rope that is tied around the waist when wearing an alb), and cross necklace. It has been my practice here at First Congregational United Church of Christ to go full-vestment on days the sacraments (baptism and communion) are celebrated, other high holy days like Easter and Christmas/Eve, and special services such as weddings and funerals. All other Sundays I lead worship in a suit or sport coat and slacks, stole, and cross necklace.

My young friend likes it when I fully vest, so she asked me, "Chris, are you going to put on your Jesus clothes and be Jesus this morning?" It so happened that it was a communion Sunday, so I could answer yes, which pleased her. Pastors often are mistaken for Jesus or God by children and I have been identified as such by other young friends, but had never been approached in this way before. It started me to thinking. Yes, her question was heartfelt, innocent and cute, but also profound and worthy of contemplation. What would Jesus wear?

When we speak of clothes, our default definition is the actual clothing we put on as we dress. However, there is another type of clothing that we should wear everyday if we are truly the disciples of Jesus that we claim to be. It can't be seen on us but through us.

Scripture describes this other type of clothing. We can find it in Colossians 3:12-15. I'll leave it up to you to look up and read the actual verses, but this type clothing we are instructed to put on, in a "Reader's-Digest-like" condensed version is: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, tolerance, forgiveness, love, and peace. Sounds a lot like what Jesus wore doesn't it?

As "Followers of the Way," we are to dress ourselves in these clothes too. We are to make it a habit to put this Jesus-type of clothing on along with the rest of our daily attire so that others might see not only what we are wearing on the outside, but on the inside too. Fashion tip: Wear them inside out. They are meant to be worn that way for all to experience.

My young friend makes a point, a very good point! We aren't Jesus, but we can put on the same clothes he wore and be like him so that everyone we meet might see and experience him through us.

It's time to get dressed!

Pastor Chris

FEBRUARY/MARCH BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February

- Sanctuary Piano has been tuned.
- Pastor Chris attended a continuing education event at the Ames United Church of Christ on Christian education.
- Pastor Chris will be taking his first week of vacation for the year from April 2nd to April 9th.
- The organ concert is February 25th. The nativity display during Founder's Day and organized by the Evangelism and Outreach team will take place again this year. They are considering adding a table for angels this year.
- The Peace Pole Service for International Day of Peace will be on September 16th.
- Mission and Memorial Team decided our mission emphasis will be our denomination's 5 for 5 offerings which are received throughout the year.
- Teacher rotation for the second semester is set for Sunday school. There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday. Last day of Sunday school for this program year will be May 20th.
- Still waiting for tree removal.
- Entrance door locks will be replaced so that all may be unlocked with the same key. This will be done when the weather warms up.
- The Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch will be March 25th.
- Pastor Chris will be ordering more banners to complete the set so that we have worship banners for every season of the church year.
- Pam Burtnett will be covering secretarial duties while Julie recovers from her illness.

March

- Mick Schlievert will take care of Julie's financial secretary duties
- Air compressor switch for boiler in Fellowship/Education building has been installed and heat is back on. Still waiting for a new thermostat.
- Pastor Chris will be on vacation April 2-9. Karen Dearchs will be on call and lead worship on the 9th.
- February 25th organ concert had small attendance but went well.
- Last day of Sunday school will be May 20th.
- Upcoming fellowship nights are April 11 and May 9th. Upcoming potlucks are April 29th and May 20th.
- Worship banners for the remainder of the church year have arrived.
- Liz's Student Piano Recital is May 6th at 1:00 p.m.
- Next meeting will be April 18th.

***Complete minutes of the Board meetings are available in the church office.**

OUR TREASURER'S REPORT **As of February 28th**

Church Checking Account: \$6,618.75

Savings Account: \$16,130.02

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH WHEN:

- a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.
- your group or committee plans a meeting or event, so the date and time can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.

- either your home, cell or business phone number changes, so we can update the church records.
- you are planning a move, whether locally or out of town.
- a new baby arrives in your family in the family or another church member or friend.
- a member of you family leaves home to attend college or establishes a new residence.
- a church member or constituent dies and the church can be of assistance.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship met March 15 at 2:30. Thank you to Pat Bilsbough for serving lunch. We will have our Trash/Treasure and Bake Sale this year on April 20 and 21. Friday it will be from 4-6pm, and Saturday from 8-11am. If anyone would like to donate their treasures you may bring them into the church anytime. Proceeds will go to the landscaping of our Peace Pole. We will once again have our nativities on Founder's Day. It will be the weekend of July 14. An added feature this year will be angels with instruments. John Scuffham will also portray his grandfather, Clark Scuffham at the cemetery walk.

Everyone is encouraged to bring items for the bake sale. Let Pam or Helen know if you are able to work either Friday night or Saturday or both.

NATIVITY DISPLAY

Christmas in July 2018

The fourth annual 'Christmas in July' event will be held Saturday afternoon July 14 from 1-4 pm in the church parlor. Members and friends are invited to share nativities for this display. This year we would like to do a special section with angels holding musical instruments to add a different dimension to the display. If you have any you would be willing to share please contact Helen Scuffham at 515-295-2000 or email at scuffjon@gmail.com. It helps to

know ahead of time to assist in planning the display. Assistance in setting up, hosting and taking down is always welcome. The Fellowship Committee will also be serving Root Beer floats on the lawn so there is another opportunity to help.

SMILE

With our church Trash and Treasurer Sale coming up, here is a church blooper from a bulletin announcement (not from our church):

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands."



MEELS ON WHEELS



Our church's turn to deliver Meals on Wheels begin in May. We will also be delivering meals in December. Be looking for the May sign-up sheet in the parlor.

RYAN MUELLER

On February 25, Ryan Mueller gave a community organ concert. Thank you to the Haggard-Two-good Charitable Trust for being our sponsor.



WELCOME TO:

SAMUEL JOHN GRINDGBERG

Samuel was born March 8, 2018. He weighed 9Lbs. 14 oz. Samuel was welcomed by his parents, Christian and Ashley Grindberg, along with big sister Greta and brother Jack! Congratulations!



MAXIMILIAN THOMAS PERSON

We welcome Maximilian Thomas Person. He weighed 5lb. 12oz. . Parents are Grant Person and Kirsten Lipps and is the grandson of Larry and Sandy Person. Congratulations to all!



FELLOWSHIP REPORT

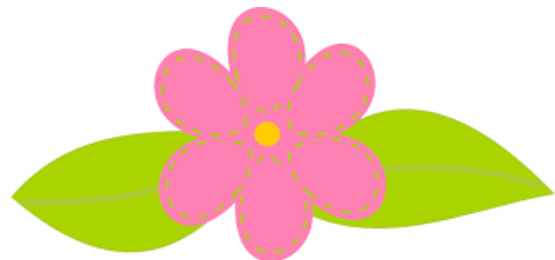
In March, we enjoyed a spaghetti dinner on Fellowship Night, as well as an interesting talk from a former Peace Corps volunteer. A delicious Palm Sunday brunch was shared after the worship service on March 25th.

The next Fellowship Night will be Wednesday, April 18th. We will meet about 5:00 to help move "trash and treasures" upstairs for the sale that next weekend. We will be ordering pizzas mid-way.

On April 29th, we will have a potluck following the worship service. Weather permitting, we will be planting flowers along the sidewalk and having a picnic on Wednesday, May 9th. The May potluck will be moved up a week to the 20th, and we'll celebrate the conclusion of Sunday School with the kids. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship!

Jordan Nall

Jordan Nall was our guest at fellowship night on March 14. Jordan is a former Agriculture Extension Agent at Peace Corp Cameroon.



April

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 Happy Easter 10:00 am Worship with Communion Food Pantry Sunday No Seekers or Sunday School | 2 11:am Ex-Op | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor Chris is on vacation through April 9 </div> | | | | | | |
| 8 *Regular Sunday worship | 9 Pastor Chris on Vacation 11am Ex-op | 10 9:30-11am Pastor at Perky Parrot 1:00 DAR 2 pm Good Sam Bible Study 7pm Adult Evening Dis- cussion | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 *Regular Sunday worship | 16 11am Ex-op | 17 9:30-11am. Pastor at Perky Parrot 2 pm Good Sam Bible Study | 18 5:00pm Fellowship 7pm. Board Meeting | 19 8:30am Ministerial meeting at Trinity | 20 Trash and Treasure, Bake Sale 4- 6pm | 21 Trash and Treasure, Bake Sale 8- 11am |
| | | | | | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor at Tri-conference Meeting in Sioux Falls </div> | |
| 22 *Regular Sunday worship | 23 11am Ex-op | 24 9:30-11am Pastor at Perky Parrot 2 pm Good Sam Bible Study | 25 | 26 10am Clergy Cluster at Humboldt 5 pm. Walk -a- Mile in Her Shoes | 27 1pm Ft, Dodge Advisory Council | 28 |
| 29 *Regular Sunday worship Potluck | 30 11am Ex-op | | | | | |

*Regular Sunday worship
9 am Seekers
10 am Worship
10:15 Children's Sunday School
Refreshments before & after worship





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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--------|--|
| <p>*Regular Sunday worship 9 am Seekers 10 am Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School Refreshments before & after worship</p> | | <p>1 9:30-11am Pastor at Perky Parrot</p> <p>Meals on Wheels begin for delivery</p> | 2 | 3 | 4 | <p>5 Northwest Association Meeting</p> |
| <p>6 *Regular Sunday worship 1pm. Liz Reynold's piano recital</p> | <p>7 11am Ex-op</p> | <p>8 9:30-11am Pastor at Perky Parrot</p> <p>1:00 DAR</p> | <p>9 5:30pm Fellowship</p> | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| <p>13 *Regular Sunday worship</p> | <p>14 11am Ex-op</p> | <p>15 9:30-11am Pastor at Perky Parrot</p> | <p>16 Baccalaureate 7pm Board Meeting</p> | <p>17 8:30am Ministerial Mtg 2:30pm Women's Fellowship</p> | 18 | 19 |
| <p>20 *Regular Sunday worship Last Day of Seekers and Sunday School Potluck</p> | <p>21 11am Ex-op</p> | <p>22 9:30-11am Pastor at Perky Parrot</p> | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| <p>27 10 am Sunday worship</p> | <p>28  MEMORIAL DAY</p> | <p>29 9:30-11am Pastor at Perky Parrot</p> | 30 | 31 | | |