

JUNE

Connections 2017

**CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!**

Jessica Coulter, daughter of Deacon Adele and sister of Alexis Coulter: have just recently graduated from Iowa State University with a 3.49 GPA and a bachelor's degree in Mathematics. I also have a Spanish minor and received my Iowa teaching license. I plan on staying in Ames, Iowa for the summer and waitressing to save money for when I move to Denver, Colorado this fall. I plan on substitute teaching this fall in the Denver public school district and hope to gain valuable experience to hopefully continue my future there.



While at Iowa State, I had many great experiences and opportunities. My favorite experience, was the chance to study abroad in Europe. I went for an entire semester to Spain and learned so much about myself and other cultures. It was just one of the many memories that I have formed throughout my time at Iowa State. I also had the benefit of meeting so many great and inspirational people throughout my four years.

This and so much more would not have been possible without the support and love from my church family in Burlington, Iowa. I am so grateful to have had you on this amazing journey.

Much thanks,
Jessica Coulter



Caleb Hemphill, son of Trustee Willma and Elder Steve Hemphill; graduated from Dakota State University. I double majored in Computer Science and Cyber Operations. While at DSU I was active in cross country and track. I was also an active member of Cru. Cru is a Christian campus ministry. Now that I am done with college I plan to increase my efforts to find a job related to my majors and continue my beekeeping operation.

I am grateful for the many ways that the Church assisted in my educational and spiritual endeavors. I hope that I will be able to bring glory to God using the skills I have learned and developed at college.

Brooke Byars, daughter of Mike and granddaughter of Leona Byars: graduated from the University of Iowa on May 13, 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences with a focus on Geosciences. She recently completed her senior thesis in geoscience, "A Petrographic and Compositional Study of Plagioclase in the Alkaline Off-rift Búðahraun Lava Flow, Snæfellsness, Iceland." Brooke's future plans include taking a gap year before going on to graduate school. During her gap year, she is interested in either working as a geologist or WWOOFing (an acronym for World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) on organic farms across the states. She worked (WWOOFed) on an organic farm in Idaho in 2013.



More graduates....

Justin Randall, son of Julie Schulthies, brother of Jordon, Nick and Amber: graduated on May 6th from MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas with a degree in Criminal Justice.

Justin ended his college basketball career with an outstanding season. He was named to the Heart of America Athletic Conference 1st Team All Conference as well as named the Defensive Player of the Year. In NAIA Justin reached his goal of being named All American (3rd team).

Justin sent highlight videos to a team in France and they contacted him and have flown him to France for 10 days (currently there). While in France he will practice with the team.

Justin is hoping to be signed with the team. If all goes as he hopes, he would return to France in August or September when they begin conditioning for the season which runs the same as the NBA. If it is not God's plan - he had a free trip to France!

Justin is engaged and the wedding will be on November 4th in Montreal, Missouri. His beautiful bride-to-be McKenzie Hayes also graduated from MNU with Justin with a degree in Psychology. If France is in the plan, McKenzie will go with her husband to begin their married life in France. If not, they are pretty sure they will settle in the Kansas City area.

Justin is and always has been very grateful to his church family for prayers and support. So is his mama!

Here is an update on Justin's situation:

He was offered a contract and will be playing professional basketball in France! He will be playing for Sapela Basket 13 in Salon De Provence. Justin will be returning to the United States on 5/23/17 and then will head back to France in August.

Thanks - Julie



From the KWQC website...

Janice Kemp of Burlington was honored Wednesday afternoon, after spending the last two and a half years working to receive an education. At 88 years old, she spent hours studying and working with educators to make this very special day possible and she says nothing has made her happier than seeing all that hard work pay off. *"I never thought I would get this far,"* Janice said. *"I've had quite a life before hand."* A long time coming, she accomplished something she's wanted to do ever since she left school in the 8th grade. *"It's a day that I always dreamed of, being a graduate from high school, but I know it's not a full graduation, it's just the honor society, that I never dreamed I would have in my whole life,"* Kemp said. Through Southeastern Community College, Janice worked with educators without having to leave her nursing home at the Great River Klein Center. As she learned math and English, her instructors said she never gave up. *"She was a very hard worker, she always did an assignment if I gave her something to do,"* Catherine Benitz, Janice's literacy volunteer instructor said. Now a member of the National Honor Society of Adult Education, Janice holds onto her certificate with pride. *"It's very special, I don't know what else to say [because] I'm so happy to have it,"*. She says she's living proof that age is just a number when it comes to getting an education. *"Think to yourself, if she can do it, I can too,"* Janice said. *"Never too late to start, whatever age you are, just keep going as long as you can."* As for Janice, she plans to keep on learning.



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

—Nelson Mandela

Glimpses of Grace....

Dear friends,

I do not know about you, but I find it hard to believe it is already time for another June *Connections* article! That means we have finished another season of Sunday school, Puppets, Choir and Hallelujah Handbells, and several church officers will be taking some well-deserved breaks.

We want to say a grateful, **'Thank you!'** to the Sunday school teachers this past season: Elder **Jim French**, **Patty French**, Elder **Pauline Johnson** and Elder **Jill Mehaffy-Nalley**. Our Christian Education Director, **Kelle Haller**, filled in with the children when needed and also offered an adult class. These teachers were in the classroom every week, making learning about Jesus and the Bible fun for our children. They helped the children learn their weekly memory verses (the children defeated the adults in a close competition), and the numbers grew over the course of the year. **Debbie Opiekun** provided the curriculum which served as a starting point for a series of sermons that focused on the weekly biblical stories the children were learning.

We want to say a grateful, **'Thank you!'** to those overseeing the Puppet Ministry: Trustee **Wilma Hemphill**, Elder **Pauline Johnson** and Deacon **Adele Coulter**. These dedicated women attended a puppet conference and nearly every month helped the children create props, learn lines and figure out how to work the puppets as this ministry once again became part of our Youth Sunday worship experience. With a donation from Gifts & Memorials, a lighter and more mobile puppet stage was purchased and the hope is the children will be able to take this ministry 'on the road' to local nursing homes and assisted living centers this summer.

We want to say a grateful, **'Thank you!'** to the members of our Choir. Under the leadership of staff members **Millie Comiskey** and the **Rev'd Randy Webster**, the dedicated singers added to our weekly worship experience. Over the course of the year we had youngsters like **Allison Nalley**, **Edie Blom**, **Lauren Haller**, **Jenna Durham** and **Ashley Kunz** join in singing; we also had the dedicated voices of **Carol Brotherson**, **Sue Gilchrist**, **Marilyn Nuss**, **Cheryl Lotz**, **Pat Whitmore**, **Vickie Carhoff**, **George Kozacik**, **Randy Kinney**, **Ed Whitmore**, **Dick Hoisington**, **Eva Ann Elmer** and **Ramona Sandrock**, as well as special guests. Just about every Sunday and some special worship days these singers came early to practice and share in the worship of God through music.

We want to say a grateful **'Thank you!'** to the members of the Hallelujah Handbells. Under the direction of **Carol Brotherson** and guest conductor **Ted Francis**, the ringers blessed our worship experience with their talents. These ringers met every Wednesday night for practice and some would come in during the week to further practice their portion of the music. The ringers this past year included **Cheryl Lotz**, **Susan Hoisington**, **Debbie Opiekun**, **Sue Gilchrist**, **Marilyn Nuss**, **Marilyn Light**, **Marcia Bailey**, **Ruth Francis**, **Toddy Gorman**, **Marilyn Demijan**, **Camille Reynen**, **Clara Reynen** and **Clara Hoisington**.

We also want to say a grateful **'Thank you!'** to elders **Jim French**, **Steve Hemphill** and **Cheryl Lotz**, deacons **Jay Schafer**, **Jolene Schafer**, **Pat Saldeen** and **Pat Whitmore**, and trustees **Larry Lazenby** and **Francis McAllister** for their service to God and our church family these past several years. Steve, Cheryl and Pat Whitmore stepped in to fill vacant spots and the other officers served 3 full years.

Jim has served on and moderated Personnel Committee, Steve has moderated Missions Committee and Cheryl has served as co-moderator and moderator of Worship Committee.

Jay and Jolene have served home communion, visited special friends and done hospital visits and Jay is the deacon representative for the Nominating Committee and past vice-moderator. Pat Saldeen has done hospital visits, served home communion and overseen the notes and cards sent to special friends and others. She also served a year on the Nominating Committee, visits several special friends and has helped with funeral luncheons and fellowship events. Pat Whitmore has done hospital visits, overseen the Outreach to Young Adults and Knitwits ministries and coordinated the Christmas Party for Hope Haven residents. She also helped with fellowship events and funeral luncheons.

Larry and Francis have been co-presidents for two years. They have done much of the handyman work around the church, including changing lights, mowing the lawn and organizing church work days.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! This church is blessed as a result of all your ministries and we give God all the glory for helping you in your loving and faithful service to Him and us and beyond.

In His service,
Deb

Trustee Report

Statement of Income & Expense

April 30, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Income				
Pledge	169,547.00	57,576.12	111,970.88	34.0%
Non Pledge	26,680.00	8,059.21	18,620.79	30.2%
Investment In-	21,140.00	21,779.57	-639.57	103.0%
Misc Income		2669.81		
Total Income	217,367.00	90,084.71	127,282.29	41.4%
Expenses				
Personnel	141,972.00	47,679.68	94,292.32	33.6%
Christian Educa-	3,080.00	1,616.86	1,463.14	52.5%
Deacons	750.00	101.18	648.82	13.5%
Property	68,390.00	16,812.33	51,577.67	24.6%
Worship	3,175.00	618.25	2,556.75	19.5%
Total Expenses	217,367.00	66,828.30	150,538.70	30.7%
Differential		23,256.41		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$29,930.00	\$15,658.17	14,271.83	52.3%
Mission Budget	\$29,930.00	13,312.60	16,617.40	44.5%
Differential		2,345.57		

**Per Capita
Apportionment
for 2017 is \$36.00**

Reflections from Randy....

Finding our calling in the dog-days of Eastertide...

We find ourselves in the last weeks of the season of Easter, and soon we'll enter that time after Pentecost when we look to scripture for ways in which we live out our lives in the world. Our ethics, our morals, our vocation as Christian brothers and sisters is informed first and foremost by our baptism which we remember at Easter. Not only in our baptism our entry into eternal life, which is promised by Jesus, but our vocation in this lifetime. The unfortunate thing is that too many people who claim the name of Jesus seem to forget about the message of the gospel when it comes to their life in the world; they wear their "Christianity" like a pin on their lapel, and that's the extent of their engagement with the message of the Gospel.

We see this a lot these days in our secular society. People want to call our nation a Christian nation, but acting as though they had never heard of its message. If our calling as baptized persons is to grow into prophet, priest and king, we need to take seriously our call to see Christ in every human being and treat them that way, and not just pay that calling lip service for an hour on Sunday morning. The toughest part is to actually respond to our calling as prophets, to look for injustice in the world, and to call it out and to act on it. Perhaps, if you're like me, reading the paper or listening to the news about what is going on in the world is difficult, and it's even more difficult when we hear the words of Jesus:

"The Lord has appointed me to bring good news to the poor..."

"A man was attacked by robbers who stripped him of his clothes, beat him, and left him for dead..."

"Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, but woe to you who are rich, for you have received comfort..."

"Be gone! For I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink; and I was sick, and you did not help me. 'But Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or sick and refuse to help you? Truly, I say to you, as you did not help the homeless, the sick—as you did not help the least of these, you did not help me..."

The grace we receive in baptism isn't cheap. It's very costly. Life is not about the haves and the have-nots. It's about causing the rough places to be made plain, even when it angers those who prefer the rough places to remain.

I think our work is cut out for us!

Blessings as we enter these days of "ordinary time," which are anything but ordinary!

Randy+

Notes from the Minister of Faith and Worship as we look towards summer...

On behalf of the congregation I want to thank all of the individuals who have contributed to enhance our worship experiences over this program year that is quickly coming to an end—the choir and the Hallelujah Handbells, the puppet ministry, the ushers and greeters, and to Bret Stensland for providing the bulletin visually for us.

During the summer last year, we had fresh garden flowers almost every Sunday. If you have flowers that you could share with us let us know. I am happy to arrange them if you don't want to. Give me a call (570-766-2181), a text or an email (websterrl@aol.com), hopefully by Friday before Sunday. I'll even come and get them! Thank you!

Pentecost is Sunday, June 4. I'd like to construct a large dove from wire and paper mache. If you have that gift or would like to help, contact me. I'd love your help.

Trinity Sunday is June 11. I'd like to use the image of weaving together. If you have handicrafts that "weave together" like weaving or quilting, and would loan us your talent, would you contact me?

Lastly, I'm putting together special music for our summer services. If you or someone you know might like to contribute to that effort, contact me!

Blessings to all of you as we look towards the summer months of worship.

Randy+

Upcoming Worship Schedule

June 4: *Pentecost*, Rev'd Webster preaching

June 11: *Trinity Sunday*, Communion by intinction; special music by Praise Team

June 18: *Love Poured Out* from Romans 5:1-8

June 25: *Alive to God!* from Romans 6:1-11

July 2: Communion by intinction; *Take My Yoke Upon You* from Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

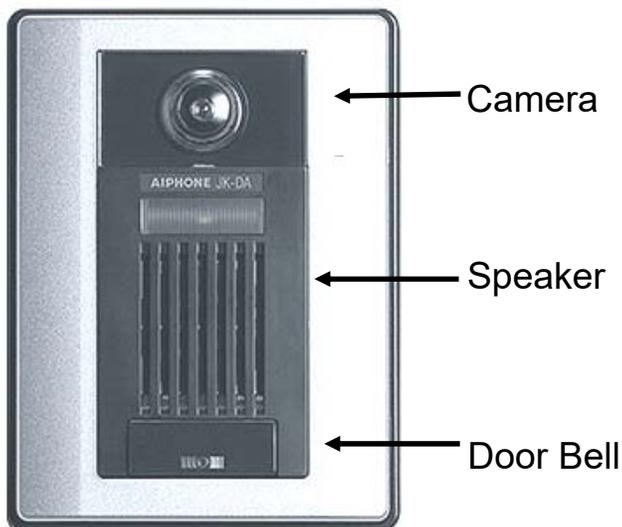
July 9: Rev'd Webster preaching

July 16: *Parable of the Sower* from Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23: *Heirs of God and Co-heirs with Christ* from Romans 8:12-25

July 30: 5th Sunday; *More than Conquerors* from Romans 8:26-39; special music by the Praise Team

If you have been to the church office lately you may have noticed the new intercom system. I am pleased to announce that we are getting with the times and now have a camera. With the camera I am able to see who is at the door and record if need be. I am so thrilled to have this now because I can see all of your wonderful faces when you come see me! Below is the diagram of the outside box. Come by anytime and I'll let you in. –Kelle



Staff Reports

Pastor's Report Rev. Deb Kinney

Worship

- 6 Sunday worship services
- 1 Maundy Thursday/Seder service
- 1 Good Friday service

Education

- 6 Bible study groups

Connections

- 31 Drop-ins/appointments/calls
- 1 home/hospital visit
- 18 cards/letters sent

Church Meetings

- Worship
- Session
- Trustees
- Deacons

- Missions
- Church Activities/Events Attended
- Donkey Walk
- Road Cleanup

Other

- Connections work
- Presbytery meeting
- Took staff member to lunch (2)
- Preached at Presbytery ordination service
- Member's birthday celebration
- Holy Week preparations
- Spiritual direction session
- Separate meetings with staff (16)

Off days

- 1 personal day
- 2 vacation days

Minister of Faith and Worship, and Organist Randy Webster

- Sunday Worship services (5)
- Maundy Thursday Seder service
- Good Friday service
- Easter sunrise service
- Chairman for Seder supper
- Lenten teaching moments (2)
- Staff meetings

- Worship Committee meeting
- Mission Committee meeting
- Yum-Yums

- Worship planning and consultation with the Pastor
- Preparing worship spaces for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter
- Planning for Lent and Easter season programming
- Submissions for the Hawkeye and Facebook
- Soloist and choir rehearsals
- Private practice

Christian Ed Director, Kelle Haller

Worship

- 4 Young Disciples
- 2 Wednesday Bible Study

Activities

- 3 Kid Zone Activities
- Donkey Walk

Connections

- Talked with parent of 2 youth
- 1 Birthday Card

Bulletin Board

- He has Risen

Continuing Education

- Church Growth Leadership Summit



Message from Kelle

I was blessed to be able to go to two Christian education summits these past few months. The first of which trustee Wilma Hemphill went with me and we learned about how to boost our youth numbers. Some of the highlights of the summit included a lesson on celebrating even the little things with the children, ways to make it inter-generational and how to make youth group fun. Also, there was a very interesting part about the statistics of churches in the USA. Did you know that the average size of today's worship is 76 people and 90% of churches have less than 299 members? Also only 1% of churches have over a 1,000 members. And youth groups, the average size is 8 and children's ministry, the average size is 12. After learning this I felt normal. Actually I am feeling blessed! Our average size of worship in the last 12 weeks is 80 and our average attendance in Sunday school is 10. So we are above average. Isn't that just the best news ever?

The second summit I attended was in Lincoln, Nebraska. I went with Elder Pauline Johnson and we had a very blessed time as well. There we learned more about growing the church in a whole, not necessarily only through the youth. Some of the highlights there were how to train disciples, reasons to be active in the community and how to use Christian education to grow the church. Something that really stuck out for me in Lincoln was the saying, 'Provide a relationship before a pew'. What a concept!

Both summits left us with two questions to ponder. First, what's the mission statement of your church and how intentionally is it being lived out? Can you recite the mission statement? To be very honest, I couldn't. But now I do! And second, what's your personal big, hairy, audacious goal for your ministry? Mine is to start a youth group. I have set goals to get that accomplished and I have started to accomplish them. Right now we are working on updating the bathrooms in the Kid Zone area to make it more inviting. My next goal is to make the rooms more inviting. If you would like to help me with my goals that would be very appreciative. And what are your goals? Can I or someone help you with them? We are all dreamers so we all have something, but the hard part is to get started. Come see me if you need help with the first step.

Thank you again for the opportunity to learn about things that can help us all and a huge thank you to Wilma and Pauline for taking time out of your busy schedule to go with me.

Kelle



The last day of Sunday School was Puppet Ministry Sunday! The kids sang 'Oh be careful little eyes' as puppets and then again so we could see their awesome faces. So much fun kids! Thank you for blessing all of us with your talents.

Per Debbie's Facebook post...

What a wonderful day. Quilts of Valor awarded my dad, Jack Naylor, this beautiful quilt as a thank you for his military service. There were so many friends and family in attendance and I want to thank all of you who took time to come. He was very overwhelmed with it all and we all have a great memory of a very special day.



Church Happenings

Happy Birthday!

June 2.....Terrie Abramsohn
Denver French
 June 3.....Michael Carhoff
 June 4.....Allison Nalley
 June 7.....Susan Hoisington
 June 8.....Kevin Eibes
 June 11.....Maxwell French
 June 12Wilma Hemphill
 June 13.....Sandy Russell
 June 14Larry Lazenby
 June 17.....Cheryl Lotz
 June 19Bonnie White
 June 20Gary Hadenfeldt
 June 23Maddux Blom
 June 25Matthew Briggs

Did you see the new calendars in the fellowship hall? I encourage you to write any date to remember on it. For example parties, games, music concerts...anything that we can all go to and support you! And if you have a flyer, newspaper clipping or just something cool to share, please pin it to the bulletin board.



University of Iowa Children's Hospital

With the monetary gift and gifts from the treasure chest many wonderful gifts have been sent to our friends in the children's cancer unit at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. The gifts we send give the children something to look forward to, as they get to choose a gift each time they have their treatments .

Thank you all for your continued support and for sending your love to each child as they continue to fight each day to overcome their battle with cancer.

Blessings to you,
 Janet Calvin

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Closed for Lunch 12-p.m.-1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday Closed

www.fpc-burlington-ia.org

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM: Mike Elmer, Jim French, Steve Hemphill, Pauline Johnson, Cheryl Lotz, Jill Mehaffy-Nalley, Ed Whitmore, JoAnn Williams (Clerk of Session), ruling elders.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM: Bill Carter & Sue Carter, (Moderator), Adele Coulter, (secretary), Vicki Elmer, Ruth Francis, (Vice moderator) Craig Gilchrist, Car-ey King, Pat Saldeen, Jay Schafer, Jolene Schafer, Bob Snider, Pat Whitmore.

GOD'S STEWARDS TEAM: Wilma Hemphill, Larry Lazenby (Co-President), Francis McAllister, (Treasurer/Co-President), LaDonna Putnam, Chuck Rucker.

June 2017

			31 8:30 am Women's Bible Study	1	2	3
4 10:00 am Worship 11:00am Grad & Teacher Appreciation Party	5 4:00 pm Trustees 6:00 pm Worship meeting	6	7 7:15 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am Women's Bible Study	8	9	10
11 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Congregational Meeting	12	13	14 7:15 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Knitwits	15 1:00 pm Hope Haven Birthday Party Connections Deadline	16	17
18 10:00 am Worship 	19	20 6:00 pm Deacons 7:00 pm Session Meeting	21 7:15 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am Women's Bible Study	22	23	24
25 10:00 am Worship	26 7:00 pm Mission Meeting	27	28 7:15 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am Women's Bible Study	29	30	