

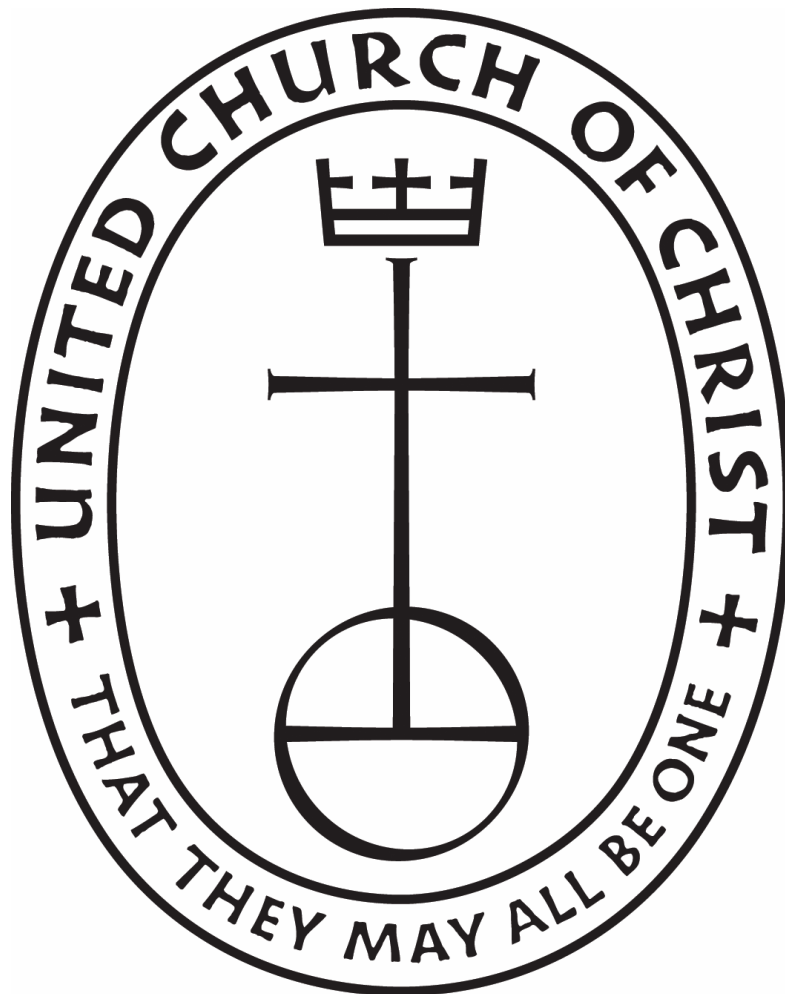
# **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Norfolk, Nebraska

2025 Annual Report

Annual Meeting

April 27, 2025



Scott Williams, Moderator

Rev. Dr. Brian High, Pastor

Annual Meeting of First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Norfolk, NE  
April 27, 2025  
Scott Williams, Moderator

**Call to Order/ Declaration of Quorum** Scott Williams  
**Opening prayer** Rev. Dr. Brian High

**Blanket acceptance of the following yearly reports:**

*Congregational Meeting Minutes*

*Pastor's Report*

*Clerk's Report*

*Historian's Report*

*Cradle Roll*

*Faith Development Ministry*

*Worship Ministry*

*Transformation Ministry*

*Financial Reports from:*

*Memorial Fund*

*General Fund*

*Budget*

**Pastor's Moment**—Rev. Dr. Brian High  
**Vote on Proposed Budget**—Scott Williams  
**Vote on Nominations**—Scott Williams  
**Commissioning of Officers**—Rev. Dr. Brian High  
**Adjournment**—Scott Williams  
**Closing Prayer**—Rev. Dr. Brian High

**Annual Meeting**, April 21, 2024, First Congregational United Church of Christ

**Call to Order:** The Annual Meeting was called to order on April 21, 2024, by Moderator Scott Williams at 10:45 a.m. A quorum was declared present.

**Opening Prayer:** Reverend Jackie Perry opened the meeting with prayer.

**Blanket Acceptance of Yearly Reports:** Scott Williams opened the reports up to questions. Ben Uzzell motioned to rename Budget as Financial Report. Tom McConnell seconded. Motion passed. Randy Neuharth motioned to blanket accept the following yearly reports as written. Erik Gamerl seconded. Motion passed.

The following reports are the yearly reports motioned to be accepted: Congregational Meeting Minutes, Pastor's Report, Clerk's Record, Historian's Report, Cradle Roll, Faith Development Ministry, Worship Ministry, Transformation Ministry, Financial Reports from: Memorial Fund, General Fund, Budget-changed to Financial Report.

**Pastor's Moment** by the Reverend Jackie Perry: Pastor Jackie's report was a highlight of her last 10 years at First Congregational United Church of Christ. The highlights were about strengthening our relationships.

Pastor Jackie is retiring June 30. Something she would like to have happen is to have a joint meal with the members of Linaje Escogido. Several Linaje leaders are professional musicians. They do go out on tour, probably leaving again in June. Pastor Jackie asked us to think of and find a date before the musicians go out on tour to have this meal. Perhaps a Wednesday, like the 22nd of May or a Sunday in early June, June 5 would work. Pastor Jackie will ask the Linaje leaders for workable dates. She will ask Sue Allyn to put out an email blast with a date.

For her final Sunday, June 30, Pastor Jackie requests just a cake for Fellowship time. She chooses to see the combined meal with Linaje as her more formal goodbye. "Perhaps it is time for us to cook for them." It was 4 1/2 years ago when members of FCUCC met with the Linaje members for a meal and to discuss the rental of portions of the basement of the church. Having a meal with both congregations together was also proposed at that time. Then Covid came along and a meal together never happened. In light of Pastor Jackie's retirement, a meal together would also reassure them that their place in our church is secure.

Nebraska Conference Deacon Elaine Miller will be present on June 30 for the formal ritual release of Pastor Jackie. Perhaps having a potluck and her requested cake, was suggested for Pastor Jackie's last Sunday.

Report on assistance from the conference for securing an interim minister. Rev. Jonna Jensen was the initial contact made by Scott Williams, Lori Williams, Erik Gamerl, and Ben Uzzell. She has medical issues and has retired. The four have met with a person who is possibly available as an interim minister for us. That gentleman is currently an interim at another church, so an offer to be our interim is not yet formalized. The interim minister would be a full time position. Once an interim is in place, there are steps to take, led by him and the conference, as to whether we have a full-time (or other time) settled minister.

**Vote on the Proposed Budget:** Moderator Scott Williams opened a discussion on the budget. Treasurer Lori Williams explained the new budget, April 2024-2025: pg. 24-25.

When we have our stewardship time and receive pledges, the number that is pledged is historically not the amount in the next year's proposed budget. We always give more than we pledge. This year, the 2024 - 2025 budget is based on the prior 2 years' actual giving, divided by 2. The amount proposed is a little higher than the pledges collected this year. The rent from Linaje is also a little higher this year, but that is recent increase was not reflected in the budget. The expenses were compared to the prior year. The expenses are based on what the real numbers were last year. The salary projected is what would be appropriate for an interim minister. As Pastor Jackie is soon retiring, there was no salary increase for her. There was an increase in salary for secretary, Sue Allyn.

A motion to accept the Proposed Budget was made by Jeanne Rix , 2nded by Brian Seier. Motion passed.

**Vote on Nominations:** Nominations for church offices were reviewed. Because of the steps needed to find a suitable interim minister, then discernment of the whole congregation as to expectations for a settled minister, Rev. Jonna Jensen's was suggested, with the agreement of the Unity Council members that the current Unity Council leaders serve at least another year. Therefore, Nominated Officers are: Scott Williams, Moderator, Brian Seier, Vice Moderator, Erik Gamerl, Past Moderator, Lori Williams, Treasurer, and Jane Uzzell, Clerk. Sue Surber motioned for nominations to cease. Ben Uzzell seconded. Ben Uzzell then motioned to accept the nominations. Randy Neuharth, seconded. Motion passed.

**Commissioning of Officers:** Reverend Jackie Perry led the Commissioning of Officers, as found on page 27 of the annual report.

The Unity Council members are hereby reinstalled as officers. Congregation members are charged to support the officers as they serve this year in their positions.

**Adjournment:** Randy Neuharth motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m..

**Closing Prayer** was offered by Reverend Jackie Perry.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Uzzell, Clerk

## Congregational Church Meeting, June 9, 2024

The Congregational Meeting was called to order on June 9, 2024, by Moderator Scott Williams at 10:58 a.m.

A quorum was declared present by Moderator Scott Williams.

Nomination for Vice Moderator: Since Brian Seier has relocated out of town, Ben Uzzell volunteered for the position of Vice Moderator.

Karen Allyn motioned for Ben Uzzell be named Vice Moderator. Ed Lindsay 2nded. Motion carried.

Merle Rix moved to adjourn the meeting.

The Congregational Meeting closed with a Pastor's Prayer by Reverend Jackie Perry.

The Congregational Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jane M. Uzzell, Clerk

## Pastors' Report

July 2024-April 27, 2025

I started on July 1 and enjoyed the summer of worship getting to know you and your worship here at First Congregational Church. I have enjoyed the time of scripture reading and prayer each Sunday with the active lay leadership leading, which is very healthy for the church. I also enjoy the time of fellowship we experience each Sunday after worship. I have learned that we are a very relationship-oriented church. I find that First is a Church where people care and reach out to each other and others outside of the church. This too is a sign of good health of a church. You have received my sermons well and I am thankful for your active learning as a church.

In the fall I was so thankful for the time off for my youngest daughter's wedding. Also, in the fall we started back to Sunday School. Youth had met before, but it was great to start an Adult Sunday School, which had not met since Covid to my understanding. We have met weekly studying Max Lucado bible studies, currently "He chose the Nails". Our class prays, reads, and share thoughts on the study and application to our lives. I believe each person is finding value in our time together.

In the fall Andrea and I started meeting with the youth from First Congregational and First Baptist. We meet every other week. We have a lesson, snack, game and prayer time. Youth get along with each other well and are consistent in their coming and participating.

I enjoyed meeting and working with each of the leadership groups in the church. Each group was faithful and diligent in their responsibility to the church and had tried to keep a healthy vision for the future. We should be thankful for what they do.

I try to stay connected to the community through different people, Kiwanis, as a chaplain at the Fire Station and Ministerial group. Hopefully there are good connections for witnesses and outreach for our church.

Also, I completed my ethics class and UCC Church Polity class last fall. I met with Association committee and I am in good standing with the UCC as a Dual Aligned pastor.

I recruited for Bell Choir which shared music during Advent and this Lent Season. I thank each person who gave of their time to make this happen and enhance our worship experience.

Held Lenten lunches with a light lunch and devotion, helped with community Ash Wednesday Service, held Maundy Thursday service. Thank you to those who help in prayers and reading in the service.

We have an excellent group who organize special potlucks and funeral meals. Thank you for your service to the Lord.

As I continue to serve First Congregational Church, I believe you have a good loving and faithful Church. Keep up the good work for the Lord.

Serving Christ together,

Rev. Dr. Brian High

**Clerk's Record April 1, 2024 -March 31, 2025**

**Birth/Baptism**

**Confirmands**

**Marriages**

**Additions**

**Transfer Out**

Brian Seier to Rincon UCC in Tuscan AZ November 1, 2024

**Death**

Terry Hamilton Died April 6, 2024, Norfolk Arts Center July 20, 2024

Richard Woodward Died July 25, 2024, Graveside August 30, 2024

**Membership report**

Members as of April 1, 2024	128
Transfer In	0
Transfer Out	1
Removed by request	0
Death	<u>2</u>
Members as of March 31, 2025	125

## April 2024 to March 2025

**April 7<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Communion. Worship. Each day in April Prayer Cards for Henry Gamerl were put in his Blessing Box where we prayed for our High Schooler. **10<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met in Fellowship Hall at 10 AM and read What's Cooking at 10 Garden Street? Recipes for Kids from Around the World by Felicita Sala. **14<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Faith Development and Unity Council met. Unity Council gave permission to LE Pastors to use the former pastor's office (now archives room) for confidential conversations (counseling). This is temporary until space downstairs can be obtained. Support team will work on painting the lines on the parking lot. **21<sup>st</sup>** – Worship. Annual Meeting followed worship. Voting took place on if we wanted to keep the current leadership team in place for another year, 2024-2025. Passed. **28<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Reese and Grace Uzzell, Darlene Korthals and Pastor Jackie Perry made May Baskets for our friends. Desi Martinsen bought the supplies and distributed the baskets.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** - Holy Communion. Worship. Teacher Appreciation. Darlene Korthals, Susan Allyn, Jane Uzzell, Tom McConnell and Pastor Jackie were honored. **8<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met at 10 AM and read "Dumplings for Lili" by Melissa Iwai and I'm talking Asian dumplings, not Scandinavian/Midwest. **12<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Mother's Day/ Graduation. Mothers were presented with a carnation. Henry Gamerl, a future graduate, was presented his Blessing Box of prayers & cards, and a Devotional Book. A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall following church with a cake being served by the Faith Development Committee. Taylor Rossman graduated from Northeast Community College. Last day of Sunday School. The water heater was replaced by Volkman's. **19<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Pentecost Sunday. Wearing of red in honor of the Holy Spirit. Strength the church offering received in the amount of \$267. Unity Council met. Sylvester Celis volunteered his time and removed weeds and trimmed bushes around the church. **26<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Memorial Day weekend.

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Holy Communion. Worship. **9<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Congregational meeting immediately following worship. Voting on whether Ben Uzzell will replace Brian Seier (who moved out of state) as Vice-Moderator. Passed. Joint picnic with Linaje Escogido church. **12<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met at 10 AM and read The Breaking News by Sarah Lynne Reul. **16<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Father's Day. All men received popsicles this morning. **17<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>** – Workers staffed the Food Pantry for two weeks from 9:30 – 11:30. Those working was Bonnie Kroeger, Rita Woodard, Bonnie Dewell, Sue Surber, Kay Neuharth, Evonne Burkink, Darlene Korthals, Reese & Grace Uzzell, Pastor Jackie Perry, Pat Jenny, and Jane Uzzell. **23<sup>rd</sup>** – Worship. Unity Council met after worship. **24<sup>th</sup>** – Lifeline Screening held here today. **30<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Pastor Jackie Perry's last day of preaching. Elaine Miller, a UCC deacon in the Nebraska Conference will lead the Farewell for Pastor Jackie Perry, who is retiring and moving back to Iowa. She has served our church for the last 10 years. We are collecting money for the Norfolk Community Food Pantry today. Updated church directories are now available.

**July 7<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Communion. Worship. Pastor Brian High has been hired as our interim pastor. **10<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met at 10 AM and read The Sweetest Scoop: Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Revolution by Lisa Robinson. **14<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. **20<sup>th</sup>** - Celebration of life gathering for Terry J. Hamilton at the Norfolk Arts Center. **21<sup>st</sup>** – Worship. Unity Council met. **28<sup>th</sup>** – Worship.



**September 1<sup>st</sup>** – Holy Communion. Worship. **8<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Randy Neuharth gave the message. **11<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met and read Okra Stew by Natalie Daise. **15<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Rally Day. Commissioning of the Sunday School teachers. They are Darlene Korthals, Susan Allyn, Tom McConnell, Pastor Brian High and Jane Uzzell. Pastor Brian is starting a new Sunday School class. They will be studying “Come Thirsty”. Unity Council met after worship. **22<sup>nd</sup>** – Worship. **25<sup>th</sup>** – Youth group met at 6:30 PM. There are 9 youth involved along with two sponsors. **27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** – Tri Conference meeting at Countryside Community Church in Omaha, NE. Those attending were: Susan Allyn, Verletta Olson, David Thompson and Pastor Brian. **29<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Church Potluck.

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** – World Communion. Worship. Workers for Mercy Meals met at 2 PM to package meals for Pack Away Hunger. They are also accepting donations to help pay for the food. Those working were: Rita Woodard, Sue Surber, Pastor Brian, Evonne Burkink, Verletta Olson, Amber, Addy & Audrey Kittel. **9<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met at 10 AM and read Pizza! A Slice of History by Greg Pizzoli. Youth Group met at 6:30 PM. **13<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. **16<sup>th</sup>** – Faith Development met at 5:15 PM. **20<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. **23<sup>rd</sup>** – Youth Group met at 6:30 PM. **27<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Heritage Sunday. Recognition of Long-Time Members. Those attending were: Merle Rix, 76 years; Bonnie Dewell, 72 years; Rita Woodard, 71 years; Patricia Jenny, 68 years; Ginge Dudley, 68 years; Evonne Burkink, 63 years; Alice Dudley, 60 years; Verletta Olson, 54 years; and Suzan Podliska, 50 years. Unity Council met after Church. **28<sup>th</sup>** – Georgena Grace (Eggleston)’s services at Eagle’s Landing in Happy Valley, Oregon.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Holy Communion. Worship. All Saints’ Day. Those we remember today are Jeff Burkink, (Jan 2024); Nina Bahm, (Feb 2024); Stan Staab, (March 2024); Deanna Alexander, (March 2024); Terry Hamilton, (June 2024); and Richard Woodward (Aug 2024). **6<sup>th</sup>** – Youth Group met at 6:30. They have joined together with the First Baptist Youth and are meeting every other week at both churches. **7<sup>th</sup>** – Handbell choir begins practice at 5:15 PM. Youth are collecting food for the food pantry during the month of November. **10<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. **13<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met and read Bubbie & Rivka’s Best Ever Challah (So far) by Sarah Lynne Reul. **14<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Brian conducts a funeral for Janelyn “Jan” Papstein in our sanctuary. Interment was in Pleasant View Cemetery in Winside, NE. A luncheon was served in our Fellowship Hall afterwards. **17<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. **20<sup>th</sup>** – Youth Group met at 6:30 PM. **24<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Unity Council met after church. Dedication of the food for the Food Pantry. Special offering is collected today for Kamp Kaleo. **27<sup>th</sup>** – Thanksgiving Eve Service held in our sanctuary at 5:30 PM. This was a joint service with First Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal. Communion served.

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Holy Communion. Worship. First Sunday of Advent. “Hope.” Hanging of the Greens at 9 AM. Soup & sandwiches served after church. Moved to sanctuary. **4<sup>th</sup>** – Youth Group met at 6:30. Our Giving Tree this year will go to the Well. (It is a mental health and substance recovery agency in Norfolk.) The south furnace in the church does not seem to be working. There is still a temporary fix on the south furnace in Fellowship Hall. **7<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Program practice at 10 AM. **8<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. “Love”. Christmas Program and Dinner with Linaje Escogido. Program “The Christmas Story through Hymns. It consisted of hymns, their history and cards. Photos illustrating the hymns was shown on the screen as they are discussed and sung. This program was written by Mike Synovec. **11<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met and read Soul Food Sunday by Winsome Bingham. **15<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. “Joy”. **18<sup>th</sup>** – Youth Group met at 6:30 PM. **22<sup>nd</sup>** – Worship. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. “Peace”. Open House at Pastor Brian’s 2-4 PM. Christmas Fund offering collected. **24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve service at 5:30. Communion Served. **29<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Worship led by members of the church and consisted of songs and readings.

**January 5<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Communion. Worship. Un-decorating the sanctuary. Moved back to Fellowship Hall. **8<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met at 10 AM and read Knight Owl by Christopher Denise. **12<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Faith Development met after worship. **15<sup>th</sup>** – Youth Group met at 6:30 PM. **17<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Brian High presides at a funeral service for Beverly “Bev” Kroupa, of Pierce at the Pierce United Church of Christ, Pierce NE. Interment was at Prospect View Cemetery, Pierce. **19<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Unity Council met after worship. **26<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. **28<sup>th</sup>** – Bell Choir met at 5:15.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Holy Communion. Worship. **9<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. **12<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met and read How Do You Spell Unfair? By Carole Boston Weatherford. Youth Group met at 6:30 PM. **16<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. **17<sup>th</sup>** – Bell Choir met. **23<sup>rd</sup>** – Worship. Stewardship Dedication. Unity Meeting was cancelled.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** -Holy Communion. Worship. **3<sup>rd</sup>** – Bell choir met. **5<sup>th</sup>** – Joint Ash Wednesday service was held at First Presbyterian Church @ 5:30 with First Congregational UCC and Trinity. **9<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Faith Development met. **10<sup>th</sup>** – Bell Choir met. **12<sup>th</sup>** – Book Club met and read Mathical Book Prize by Julia Finley Mosca. Youth Group met @ 6:30 PM. **16<sup>th</sup>** – Worship. Irish Potluck with Rev. Brian fixing corned beef and cabbage. **19<sup>th</sup>** – No Lenten Lunch. Snow Storm. **23<sup>rd</sup>** – Worship. Unity Council meets after worship. **26<sup>th</sup>** - Lenten Lunch, Speaker Pastor Brian. **30<sup>th</sup>** - Worship. One Great Hour of Sharing. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, potluck --was held on March 16<sup>th</sup>. **31<sup>st</sup>** – Bell Choir met @ 5:15.

Church Historian

Bonnie Kroeger

## **Cradle Roll Report for 2025**

The Cradle Roll as of January 1, 2025 has 0 children, age 6 and under on its enrollment chart. There were no births in 2024. Enrollment cards are mailed out to all the children on their births, and their name is added to the bootie chart. All children of members of our congregation are mailed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday cards, but those that are not members, but only relatives, or grandchildren of our members are only sent enrollment cards. Our Cradle Roll Bootie Chart, which was started in 1982, hangs in the Church Office. Each time an addition is made to the Cradle Roll, a new pink or blue bootie is added to the chart with the child's name and birth date.

Bonnie Kroeger

Cradle Roll Chairman

## ANNUAL REPORT OF FAITH DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM

April 2024-March 2025

Faith Development Ministry Team of First Congregational United Church of Norfolk, Nebraska meets as needed on Sundays following regular church services; this past year we met five times. Members include: Katie Gamerl, Barb Koenig (Council representative), Darlene Korthals (Presiding Chairman), Kay Neuharth (Secretary), Stacie Uzzell, and Pastor Brian High.

Our main goal is to continue to provide numerous educational opportunities for all age groups. Currently, we have Sunday School for middle and junior high students as well as an adult group. These classes meet at 9:00 am prior to church service. A book club for adults meets regularly on the second Wednesday at 10 am.

Pastor Brian and volunteers have provided various activities and outreach projects for our youth. The UCC youth meet with First Baptist youth every other Wednesday to share fellowship. This year our youth have participated in: making holiday cards for nursing home residents, assembling May Day baskets, collecting for and working at the Food Pantry, assembling Mercy Meals, and reading scripture during the church service.

Regular events have occurred this year: *The Annual Easter Egg Hunt* was held on Saturday, March 23, 2024 with many participants. *Teacher Appreciation Day* was held on May 5 with recognition, treats, and gifts for teachers. *Rally Day* was held on September 15 with balloons, cupcakes, and encouragement for a great year. There was no *Vacation Bible School* this year.

Special events were celebrated this year: *Lenten/Easter Services* were held. *Graduation Recognition* for Henry Gamerl was held on Sunday, May 12; his “blessing box” and other gifts were presented to him. Youth and adults participated in a special *History Behind Favorite Christmas Songs* on December 8, 2024 with the annual Christmas potluck dinner following. Special guests this year were the Linaje Escagido congregation. The *Youth Giving Tree* was dedicated to residents of the Well, a local women’s recovery/counseling service.

Upcoming events include: the *Annual Easter Egg Hunt* to be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 11 am, *Easter services* on April 20, *Teacher Appreciation Day* on May 4, *Graduation Recognition* for Kailee Feenstra and Skylar Indra on May 11, and last day of Sunday School on May 11.

## Annual Meeting Worship Ministry 2024-2025

Members are Mike Synovec, Chair, Sue Allyn and Pastor Brian High

April 21, 2024 Annual Meeting

May 5 Teacher appreciation Sunday

May 12 Mother's Day Ladies presented with Carnations-Graduation Sunday Henry Gamerl recognized

No meeting in June -August

May 27-31 Pastor Jackie on vacation

June 9 Potluck with Linaje church at noon Pastor Brian High introduced

June 16 Father's Day Men given popsicles for "Pop's Day"

June 17-28 Food Pantry volunteers helped fill orders at Norfolk Food Pantry

June 30 Pastor Jackie's retirement for First Congregational United Church of Christ

July 7 Pastor Brian High delivers first sermon

July 20 Celebration of Life at Norfolk Arts Center for Terry Hamilton

August Communion on first Sunday of each month Servers move from table to table

Sept 5-9 Pastor Brian on vacation

September 15 Pastor Brian begins Adult Sunday School class Rally day and commissioning of teachers

September 29 Potluck dinner

October 6 World communion Sunday and Mercy Meals work

Oct 27 Heritage Sunday Thank you cards given to 50-year members

Nov 3 Remembrance Sunday Bell rung and candles lit for deceased members

Nov 27 Thanksgiving Eve Service at 5:30 PM with Trinity Episcopal and First Presbyterian at Trinity Episcopal Church

Dec 1 Hanging of the Greens with sandwiches and soup

Dec 8 Christmas program "History of Christmas Hymns" potluck dinner with Linaje Escogido

Dec 22 Open House at Pastor Brian's home from 2-4 PM

Dec 24 Christmas Eve service at 5:30 PM Communion and candlelight

Dec 25-Jan 1 Pastor Brian on vacation

Dec. 29 Move to Fellowship Hall due to heat problems in the sanctuary

Jan 5 Undecorate the church

February 23 Stewardship Dedication

March 5 Ash Wednesday at 5:30 with Trinity Episcopal and First Presbyterian at First Presbyterian

March 16 Irish potluck at noon

March 19 and 26, April 2 and 9 Lenten lunches

April 17 Maundy Thursday @5:30 PM Soup following

April 20 Easter Sunday in Sanctuary No Sunday School and no Fellowship

Mike Synovec, Chair

## Transformation 2024-2025

Our church participates in donating funds for 5 for 5 of the United Church of Christ. We contributed this year to:

OCWM	\$ 5,670.00 (This is collected weekly)
Strengthen the Church	\$ 267.00
Neighbors in Need	\$ 20.00
Christmas Fund	\$ 40.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	<u>\$ 75.00</u>
	\$ 6,097.00

Members supported the Community Food Pantry with \$ 345.00  
\$252 was given to Mercy Meals and \$239.25 was given to Good Neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Surber

# First Congregational U.C.C. Memorial Fund Annual Report 2024

WILSON JONES COMPANY

G7504 ColumnWrite®

	Initials	Date
Prepared By		
Approved By		

MADE IN U.S.A.

Balance as of December 12-31-2023

\$ U.B

11892 98

Receipts/Memorials

Jeff Burkink

500 -

Stan Staab

25 -

Jerome Baden

25 -

Nina Baden

815 -

Terry Hamilton

20 -

Leanne Alexander

135 -

1,520 -

1520 -

Interest:

69 62

69 62

Disbursements:

NONE

Balance as of 12-31-2024

\$13,482 60

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Quary

Memorial Committee

## Treasurer's Annual Report 2024

The generosity of our congregation is amazing! Once again, with your continued support, the financial position of the church is positive.

### Balance Sheet

The cash position of the church continues to be stable. The balance of the savings account is higher than last year because a congregational member donated a part of their annual pledge in a lump sum. To simulate their normal monthly giving, an automated monthly transfer has been set up to move their regular giving amount from the savings account to the general fund.

### Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison

The fiscal year ended again with a positive income. With the increased and steadfast congregational offerings and the increased rental income of \$1,000 per month from Linaje Escogido, the overall income for the year continues to be healthy.

**Total 515.0000 Church Maintenance:** This category shows an increase of \$6,387.63 from the prior year which is primarily due to the repairs of the church windows. Thank you to the Memorial Committee for contributing to the general fund to help pay for the repairs. We also paid more in Groundskeeping for added snow removal this year. The insurance premium remained fairly constant this past year.

### Profit & Loss Budget Overview

The budget was again prepared before the total pledges were received. Based on actual Current Pledges received in the prior two years, pledges were estimated at \$132,000. The minister's salary stayed the same due to the upcoming retirement in June. No change in Pastoral Services was estimated for an incoming interim minister. The church secretary's salary was increased for current inflation pending approval from the support committee.

Revenue budget numbers are very conservative, and the expense budget numbers were developed using actual numbers from the prior two years. The budget projects a loss of \$5,764 which is about half of the projected loss from the prior year. And yet, the overall profit has been a positive net income for the past several years!

With God's gifts through all of you, the church continues to survive in a healthy financial position. I am so proud to serve as the treasurer for our beautiful congregational family!

Respectively,

Lori Williams, Treasurer  
402-371.0792 Office  
402.750.3516 Cell



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

## Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2025

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Elkhorn Valley Savings	55,181.70
General Account	5,938.29
Gift Card Account	669.45
Kitchen Account	303.72
Memorial Account	13,497.54
Youth Account	7,000.66
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$82,591.36</b>
Other Current Assets	
Gift Cards	0.00
Hy-Vee Gift Cards	1,440.00
Lou's Gift Cards	1,250.00
<b>Total Gift Cards</b>	<b>2,690.00</b>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$2,690.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$85,281.36</b>
Fixed Assets	
Building-Church	3,378,487.00
Building-Storage	1,986.00
Pers Prop-Church & Office	354,728.00
Pers Prop-Storage	9,514.00
Restricted Endowment-Ed Jones	142,363.06
Scholarship Fund- Ed Jones	3,222.62
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$3,890,300.68</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,975,582.04</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 Payroll Liabilities	202.96
Federal Taxes (941/943/944)	598.67
NE Income Tax	-10.50
<b>Total 24000 Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>791.13</b>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$791.13</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$791.13</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$791.13</b>
Equity	
30000 Opening Balance Equity	126,221.51
31300 Perm. Restricted Net Assets	3,913,913.58
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	-51,331.91
Net Revenue	-14,012.27
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$3,974,790.91</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$3,975,582.04</b>

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

## Profit Loss

April 2024 - March 2025

	TOTAL	
	APR 2024 - MAR 2025	APR 2023 - MAR 2024 (PY)
Revenue		
050.000 Elkhorn Valley Savings	0.00	2,500.00
050.001 Interest	612.82	603.30
050.002 deposits	3,000.00	0.00
<b>Total 050.000 Elkhorn Valley Savings</b>	<b>3,612.82</b>	<b>3,103.30</b>
100.000 Memorial	0.00	0.00
100.001 Interest	68.09	75.94
100.002 Deposits	975.00	545.00
<b>Total 100.000 Memorial</b>	<b>1,043.09</b>	<b>620.94</b>
250.000 Kitchen Account	0.00	0.00
250.001 Deposits	0.00	50.00
250.002 Interest	0.38	0.45
<b>Total 250.000 Kitchen Account</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>50.45</b>
401.000 Other Income	0.00	0.00
401.001 Loose Offerings	370.00	307.00
401.002 Church Space Rental	885.00	1,370.00
401.003 Funeral	725.00	800.00
401.006 Gift Cards	102.00	180.00
401.007 Checking Acct Interest	38.62	32.82
401.008 Miscellaneous	6,073.28	381.09
401.009 Study Materials	95.00	0.00
401.011 Scholarship Money	0.00	756.00
401.012 Church Dinners	48.00	0.00
401.013 Poinsettias	251.50	184.25
401.014 Lilies	164.00	48.00
401.015 Rent Linaje Escogido	11,000.00	11,100.00
<b>Total 401.000 Other Income</b>	<b>19,752.40</b>	<b>15,159.16</b>
41500 415.000 UCC Benevolence Offer	0.00	0.00
415.001 OCWM	5,670.00	6,397.11
415.002 Strengthen the Church	267.00	315.00
415.003 OGHS	75.00	579.00
415.004 Neighbors in Need	20.00	165.00
415.005 Christmas Fund	40.00	350.00
415.006 Kamp Kaleo	25.00	0.00
<b>Total 41500 415.000 UCC Benevolence Offer</b>	<b>6,097.00</b>	<b>7,806.11</b>
416.005 Pastor Discretionary	450.00	0.00
46100 416.000 Other Mission Offerings	0.00	0.00
416.001 Food Pantry	345.00	125.00
416.003 Transformation Ministry	491.25	3,122.00
<b>Total 46100 416.000 Other Mission Offerings</b>	<b>836.25</b>	<b>3,247.00</b>

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

## Profit Loss

April 2024 - March 2025

	TOTAL	
	APR 2024 - MAR 2025	APR 2023 - MAR 2024 (PY)
47000 400.000 Ourselves-Pledges	475.00	595.00
400.001 Ourselves Current	105,897.43	146,378.42
<b>Total 47000 400.000 Ourselves-Pledges</b>	<b>106,372.43</b>	<b>146,973.42</b>
49700 300.000 Youth Group	0.00	0.00
300.001 Interest	18.46	20.97
<b>Total 49700 300.000 Youth Group</b>	<b>18.46</b>	<b>20.97</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$138,182.83</b>	<b>\$176,981.35</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$138,182.83</b>	<b>\$176,981.35</b>
Expenditures		
500.000 Pastoral Services	0.00	0.00
500.001 Pastor's Salary	17,855.86	41,333.40
500.002 Housing Allowance	6,803.29	12,999.84
500.003 Mileage Expense	175.54	1,087.96
500.009 Pastor's Continuing Ed	956.63	420.00
500.014 Pension	4,529.28	7,630.08
500.015 Health Insurance	2,304.46	4,532.56
500.016 UCC Dental	101.00	573.00
500.017 Life/Disability	136.26	817.56
<b>Total 500.000 Pastoral Services</b>	<b>32,862.32</b>	<b>69,394.40</b>
510.000 Faith Development	0.00	0.00
510.002 Resource Materials	325.91	403.08
510.003 Supplies & Equipment	62.03	151.68
510.009 Confirmation Classes	0.00	15.00
<b>Total 510.000 Faith Development</b>	<b>387.94</b>	<b>569.76</b>
511.000 Worship Ministry	0.00	0.00
511.001 Worship Items	510.83	447.97
511.002 Organist	1,486.44	3,290.00
511.003 Substitute Organist	840.00	700.00
511.004 Instrument Maintenance	395.00	250.00
511.006 Worship-Other	179.11	0.00
<b>Total 511.000 Worship Ministry</b>	<b>3,411.38</b>	<b>4,687.97</b>
514.000 Church Administration	0.00	0.00
514.001 Secretary	7,155.52	16,565.00
514.003 Bulletins & Newsletters	1,641.28	1,714.65
514.004 Administration Supplies	708.49	758.66
514.005 Postage	438.00	1,057.00
514.006 Funeral Expenses	180.72	0.00
514.007 Conference Expenses	385.38	60.00
514.008 Living Waters Dues	266.00	276.00
514.010 Devotionals	267.21	260.34

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

## Profit Loss

April 2024 - March 2025

	TOTAL	
	APR 2024 - MAR 2025	APR 2023 - MAR 2024 (PY)
514.013 Technology Expense	2,998.75	4,463.13
514.014 Office Expenses Misc	60.76	0.00
514.015 Advertising	405.75	491.65
514.016 Lease on Equipment	1,045.18	870.48
514.017 Professional Services	250.00	0.00
<b>Total 514.000 Church Administration</b>	<b>15,803.04</b>	<b>26,516.91</b>
515.000 Church Maintenance	0.00	0.00
515.001 Custodian	6,000.00	6,000.00
515.002 Garbage	450.00	450.00
515.003 Natural Gas	6,038.71	6,683.55
515.004 Electricity	7,345.08	6,006.61
515.005 Water & Sewer	1,311.65	1,343.48
515.006 Telephone	1,158.37	1,152.66
515.007 Supplies & Equipment	4,082.43	3,475.61
515.008 Groundskeeping	4,713.63	4,516.74
515.009 Church Repairs	1,958.07	6,604.99
515.010 Maintenance-Other	262.94	0.00
515.011 Church Insurance	12,556.23	12,104.65
<b>Total 515.000 Church Maintenance</b>	<b>45,877.11</b>	<b>48,338.29</b>
517.000 Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	0.00
517.001 Poinsettias	276.25	220.00
517.002 Lilies	112.00	80.00
517.003 Christmas Dinner	44.97	0.00
517.004 Church Dinners	42.05	0.00
517.005 Scholarship Payments	0.00	1,000.00
517.009 Miscellaneous	1,941.96	0.00
<b>Total 517.000 Miscellaneous Expenses</b>	<b>2,417.23</b>	<b>1,300.00</b>
61400 516.000 Charitable Contributions	0.00	0.00
516.001 OCWM	5,620.00	6,397.11
516.002 One Great Hour Sharing	0.00	579.00
516.003 Strengthen the Church	267.00	315.00
516.004 Neighbors in Need	20.00	165.00
516.005 Christmas Fund	40.00	350.00
516.006 Food Pantry	345.00	125.00
516.007 Pastoral Discretionary	450.00	0.00
516.008 Transformation Ministry	486.25	3,310.00
516.009 Kamp Kaleo	25.00	0.00
<b>Total 61400 516.000 Charitable Contributions</b>	<b>7,253.25</b>	<b>11,241.11</b>
650.000 Kitchen	0.00	0.00
650.001 Expenses	32.82	22.64
<b>Total 650.000 Kitchen</b>	<b>32.82</b>	<b>22.64</b>

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

## Profit Loss

April 2024 - March 2025

	TOTAL	
	APR 2024 - MAR 2025	APR 2023 - MAR 2024 (PY)
66000 Payroll Expenses	412.29	1,574.42
Taxes	2,537.72	0.00
Wages	41,200.00	0.00
<b>Total 66000 Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>44,150.01</b>	<b>1,574.42</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$152,195.10</b>	<b>\$163,645.50</b>
NET OPERATING REVENUE	<b>\$ -14,012.27</b>	<b>\$13,335.85</b>
NET REVENUE	<b>\$ -14,012.27</b>	<b>\$13,335.85</b>

## Income

Pledges	105000
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<u>Rent Linaje Escogido</u>	<u>12000</u>
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>117000</b>
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## Expenses

Pastor's Salary	36000
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Housing	12000
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Mileage	500
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Continuing Education	250
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Pension	5760
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<u>Health Insurance</u>	<u>2400</u>
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<b>Pastoral Services</b>	<b>56910</b>
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Resource Materials	350
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<u>Supplies</u>	<u>100</u>
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<b>Faith Development</b>	<b>450</b>
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Worship Items	500
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Organist	3850
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<u>Instrument Maintenance</u>	<u>400</u>
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<b>Worship Ministry</b>	<b>4750</b>
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Professional Services	1500
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Secretary	16750
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Bulletins & Newsletters	1600
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Administration Supplies	750
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Postage	500
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Conference Expenses	250
Living Waters Dues	266
Devotionals	275
Technology Expense	3000
Advertising	250
<u>Lease on Equipment</u>	<u>1200</u>
<b>Church Administration</b>	<b>26341</b>
Custodian	6000
Garbage	450
Natural Gas	6200
Electricity	7500
Water and Sewer	1325
Telephone	1000
Supplies and Equipment	4000
Groundskeeping	4800
Church Repairs	5000
<u>Church Insurance</u>	<u>13500</u>
<b>Church Maintenance</b>	<b>49775</b>
Payroll Taxes	1576
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>139802</b>
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>-22802</b>

## Nominations for officers

Vice Moderator	Term-3 years	
Moderator	Term-2 years	Ben Uzzell
Past Moderator	Term-1 year	Scott Williams
Clerk	Term-1 year	
Treasurer	Term-1 year	

***Our purpose:*** *We bind together, to worship God and discern God's will*

**Annual Meeting, April 27, 2025**

### Commissioning of Officers

*Introduction*

*Installation & Covenant*

**People:**

**We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

*Prayer*

*Declaration*

**Leader:** In the name of Jesus Christ...you are installed.

**People:** Thanks be to God.