

First Congregational Messenger
 First Congregational United Church of Christ
 Norfolk, NE
Serving God with love and faith



Drive-through Palm Sunday!
 Please see page 3.



PALM SUNDAY



Even though we may not gather together in person, the blessings of Easter are with us as we gather in Spirit!!

April 2020

Volume 5, Issue 66

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Following the worship service on April 19, we will hold our annual meeting. (Assuming we are no longer social distancing!) All voting members are invited to attend.



Annual Meeting



Monday-Thursday 10-4
 Other times by appointment
 May be out of the office for meetings or visits



Office Hours

Mon-Fri

8-12



Kindness

Sheila, Volunteer Coordinator at the Vet's Home, called today to tell me that the ice cream social on April 26th has been cancelled. This was a Spring youth service event that we had scheduled. As Sheila was cancelling all such group events for April, I asked her how things were going there. She replied that things were going ok, wondering if for some, it might be harder. For example, the spouse of a resident who has been used to visiting every day.

The news was expected, yet still disappointing. It has been a couple weeks of pain and loss. People of all ages are going through their own jolts and setbacks, as we shelter at home to align ourselves with our community and country in order to prevent tragedies. We stay home to help those who stay at work, laboring to keep us all safe and well.

Through the seemingly endless 24-7 broadcasts of bad news, we have also experienced God's goodness. There may not be toilet paper and Clorox wipes on the usual shelves, but I have found people offering unusual kindness at the grocery store.

Though worship service, Sunday School, and other gatherings are cancelled, we have been engaged in the work of the church. We have extended office hours 8 AM – Noon, M-F. Unity Council met in Fellowship Hall on March 19th (following recommended protocols), approving *Drive-Through Stewardship Sunday* for March 22nd; supporting the idea of trying to keep dates as normal as possible (making changes as needed); and promoting the importance of regular giving through this extraordinary time.

As of today, the date for the Annual Meeting is still set for April 19th. Annual reports are still due April 1st, so Susan may prepare and distribute the report.

Through the help of our brothers and sisters of the Norfolk Area Ministerial Association and Linaje Escogido Church, I have increased my audio/visual skills and will be working with Jill and others of the church to post reflections and online worship for broadcast.

We are not perfect. We won't do everything perfectly. We can't do everything, but we can do some things. Let us start by being kind. *"They showed us unusual kindness."* (Acts 28:2)

Stay healthy, stay hopeful, Pastor Jackie



CANCELLED - The Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 4th. The event is sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church and First Congregational with generous funding from Thrivent Financial.

Stay healthy, stay hopeful.

Drive-Through Palm Sunday, April 5, 9AM-11AM

If the Covid-19 ban on gatherings of 10 or less is still in effect, we plan to mark the start of Holy Week by offering palms to take home, and if you wish, pick up some extra palms to deliver. Drive under the main entrance canopy, to receive palm branch(s). If you are homebound and would like the church to deliver a palm branch, contact the church by April 5.



A BLESSING FOR PAIGE UZZELL – Palm Sunday

Paige will be deployed with the U.S. Army shortly after Easter. Though the whole church community may not be able to gather in one place to lay hands on her for a blessing, we all can send her blessings:

- Send her a blessing on her Facebook page
- Send her a card or note to Uzzell address: 1007 E. Knolls St., Norfolk
- Drop off a note or card on Palm Sunday when you pick up your palm(s)

But wait there's more... Susan hopes to have the [Annual Report](#) printed by Palm Sunday, so we may pass them out with palms. Lots of reasons to drive through on April 5. If you prefer, you may pick one up during office hours, or she can email or mail the report to you .



Call for Elastic for Medical Masks

Search your stash. If you have elastic ¼" wide or narrower, Jill Waterbury is sewing medical masks to send to her daughter, Dana, an emergency room physician. The elastic must be washable, and it can be as narrow as the type used for beading. Narrow elastic appears to be sold out in Norfolk and on Amazon. Contact Jill or drop it off at the church.



Covid -19 Response: Generosity!

March 22, First Congregational United Church of Christ held 'Drive-Through Stewardship Sunday'. As Barb and Pastor Jackie maintained a healthy social distance while offering the basket and a blessing, all appreciated this fun and meaningful point of connection.

"May God give you in times of anxiety, serenity; in times of hardship, courage; in times of uncertainty, patience; and in all times a quiet trust in God's wisdom and love through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen" --*new every morning*

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING *It's not too late*, please mail Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets or drop them by the office 8:00 a.m. – Noon, M-F (new extended hours). Your pledge intensions are confidential and help the Support Team plan for the coming year. If you should need to adjust your giving later in the year, Verletta will be glad to make the changes.

Points of Connection

- Call or write members and friends (Need a Church Directory? Ask Sue)
 - On Facebook: search 'First Congregational UCC Norfolk NE'
 - On our Website: www.firstconougcc.org
 - Through 'email blasts' from Sue
 - Through the newsletters, and phone calls.
- ...and drive-throughs and other ways people may think of to stay connected.

We hope to start posting regular videos soon.



Birthday

- 4th Adam Gamerl
- 5th Jane Uzzell
- 7th Norm Bohl
- 18th Henry Gamerl
- 21st Katie Gamerl

Anniversary

- 16th Rick and Jill Waterbury

Unity Council Minutes

Unity council met on March 19, 2020, in Fellowship Hall using CDC guidelines for number of people in the room and 6' between each person due to Covid-19. Members present: Barb Koenig, Clerk Dorothy Hull, Moderator Stan Staab, Past Moderator Ben Uzzell, Treasurer Lori Williams, Susan Surber and Pastor Jackie Perry.

Stan called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Ben opened with prayer. Minutes of the last meeting were read. Susan made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Barb. Motion carried.

Faith Development report from Barb. Egg hunt is planned for April 4. Confirmation dinner April 22 and confirmation of Henry Gamerl is planned for April 26. May 3 is the teacher appreciation breakfast.

Support report from Ben. It is recommended that there be no Sunday School and no church services until the government no longer is asking for social distancing. Confirmation will be postponed and reevaluated in April. Budget approved for submitting to the congregation for next year. We will continue to pay Jill while church is suspended. Susan made the motion and Stan seconded. Motion carried. Stewardship Sunday will continue with "drive-thru" church to collect offerings and pledges. We need to encourage people to keep up their regular offering at this time.

New business: Lori will continue as Treasurer. She expressed concern that she is not a member of Support Ministry. Ben suggested that Support maintain 5 members and one of them be the treasurer. Susan agreed. At the annual meeting it will be recommended to change the by-laws to reflect this. Other officers need to be suggested: Vice Moderator and Clerk.

Pastor's report said that she may need help to do pastoral care at this time of no formal meeting for worship. Linaje Escogido may need help with rent as few of their members are now working. They want to help to make up for their lesser money payment. Randy, Scott, Stan and Barb will work with them. Jackie is planning ways to present worship time on-line. Council discussed how the sanctuary might be open at certain times for individual meditation (fewer than 10, keeping with CDC guidelines).

Next meeting is planned for April 16 at 7 PM. Closing prayer was offered by Jackie.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Dorothy Hull, Clerk



We will soon say good-bye to Dorothy Hull as she will be moving back to Iowa April 30. We are happy for her, but will miss her. She will be a blessing wherever she goes. Thank you, Dorothy!



Your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing makes this possible!! Plan to give on Palm Sunday, or mail to the office, or drop it at the church office 8-12 M-F.

**A lot of things in life are paused right now.
Having hope doesn't have to be one of them.**

As you shelter in place and social distance, we thought you'd like to see the amazing preparation you made possible in your years of support. Hold onto hope as you read through these six ways you've been preparing neighbors for a time like this:

1. Handwashing

This isn't a trend - it's a best practice that makes the difference between sickness and health in every household. Thankfully, you've equipped families around the world with handwashing fundamentals that protect them - and ultimately many of us - from communicable diseases.

2. Water

Supporters like you have been providing clean, safe and reliable water for decades. It means families can rinse their fruits and vegetables, clean/disinfect their homes, do laundry and, of course, keep hygienic practices going strong!

3. Healthcare

During a pandemic, medical care is critical. And over the years, you've helped close the gap between vulnerable populations worldwide and the healthcare they need.

4. Disaster Recovery Cycles

Through CWS, you lift up every part of the recovery cycle. That means preparation, immediate aid and long-term recovery. Many steps of this cycle are critical during a pandemic - and we're prepared to help others right now because of it.

5. Resilience through Diversification

Getting sick or experiencing a disaster can literally cost a family everything. But you've ensured that families have multiple income streams and larger savings. It gives entire communities added layers of stability when the worst comes their way.

6. Hygiene Kits

Every hygiene kit includes soap so that the person who receives it can wash their hands and protect their health. Thanks to your support, tens of thousands of hygiene kits make it to families who need them every year.

Thank you for the hope you offer every day!

What is the Sixpence Program? It is a program within Norfolk public schools designed to provide parents and soon-to-be parents the opportunity to bond and develop strong relationship with their children/unborn children, learn to be their child's first teacher, promote learning within the home environment, encourage and support curiosity within the child's play. This gives the child the best possible start in life. Sixpence benefits families and children birth to age 3.

Who is eligible?

Your child was born prematurely or at low birth weight.

Your family's income qualifies for federal, free/reduced lunches.

You are a parent younger than 20 and have not completed high school

A language other than English is the main means of communication in your home.

**See the attached poster about their Diaper Drive.
FCUCC is collecting diapers in April, especially the 20th- 26th.**

The poster features the word "Sixpence" in a large, green, rounded font with a small white bird perched on the letter 'i'. Below it, "52 WEEKS OF DIAPERS" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the text "A COMMUNITY WIDE EVENT TO SUPPLY DIAPERS TO INDIVIDUALS IN TIME OF NEED!" is in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a cartoon illustration of a baby with a pacifier, holding a blue diaper. Surrounding the baby and text are several blue diaper icons and light blue starburst shapes. At the bottom of the poster, contact information for facilitators is listed in orange text.

Sixpence
52 WEEKS OF DIAPERS
A COMMUNITY WIDE EVENT
TO SUPPLY DIAPERS TO
INDIVIDUALS IN TIME OF
NEED!

Please contact the following
Sixpence Family Facilitators to
participate starting January 2020:
Each business will be responsible for
one week, Sixpence will designate
per availability!

Darby Hetzler 402-640-9247
Heather Hirsch 402-640-0069
Kerstin Ditter 402-841-0596

First Congregational United Church of Christ
(1102 W. Norfolk Avenue) will be collecting diapers
Monday April 20 through Sunday April 26, 2020

Fellowship Work Committee

April

Bonnie Dewell

Rita Woodard

Karen Allyn

May

Mike Synovec

Ed Lindsay



April 5 Palm Sunday

Communion: Charlene Fosdick, Verletta Olson, Scott and Lori Williams

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Barb Koenig and Bonnie Dewell

3 Readers: Ben Uzzell, Verletta Olson, Lori Williams

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Palms

April 12 Easter

Ushers: Dorothy Hull and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Charlene Fosdick and Terry Hamilton

Reader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers: Lilies

April 19 Annual Meeting

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Dorothy Hull

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:

April 26 Confirmation

Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Cole Uzzell and Mike Synovec

Reader: Karen Allyn

Flowers: Gamerl



May 3

Communion: Terry Hamilton, Vicki Staab, Suzan Podliska, Dorothy Hull

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Vicki Staab

Leader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers: Barb Koenig

May 10 Mother's Day

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Terry Hamilton

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Rita Woodard

May 17 150th Celebration

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

May 24 Memorial Weekend

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Verletta Olson

Greeters: Suzan Podliska and Barb Koenig

Reader: Stan Staab

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

May 31

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

March

From 3/1/20 through 3/31/20



Checking account information

Beginning balance	—\$ 1,744.32
150 Celebration	\$ 200.00
Linaje Escogido	\$ 1,067.00
Lilies	\$ 16.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$12,037.97</u>
Subtotal	\$ 11,576.65
Salary	--\$ 6,783.80
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,476.46
Office Expenses	—\$ 1,279.02
O'Neill mission	—\$ 150.00
150 Celebration	—\$ 150.00
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Insurance	---\$ 2,246.00
Cleaning service	—\$ 755.00
<u>Conference</u>	<u>—\$ 588.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 1,921.63

Due to Covid-19, Stewardship Sunday was March 22 and was “drive through.” No services were held March 29.

▶ April 2020

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Maundy
Thursday

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Easter
10:15 Worship

7 PM Unity
Council

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Annual
Meeting

26 27 28 29 30

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
Confirmation

▶ May 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2
7 Card Group

3 4 5 6 7 8 9
9 Sunday School
10:15 Worship
2 Animal Shelter
10 Delphians
5 Card Group

10 11 12 13 14 15 16
9 Sunday School
10:15 Worship
Fellowship Hall
Graduation party all day

17 18 19 20 21 22 23
9 Sunday School
10:15 Worship
150th reception
Fellowship Hall quilting
Fellowship Hall quilting

24 25 26 27 28 29 30
10:15 Worship
Fellowship Hall
8 AM NAMA

31
10:15 Worship