

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



April 2025

Volume 5, Issue 126



The Annual Meeting of First Congregational UCC will be held on Sunday, April 27 following the worship service. All members are encouraged to be there.



Pastor's Office Hours

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

Afternoons by appointment



Church Secretary

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8-12

May be gone to the doctor with Mom

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Looking forward to the Big Event!

The big event is one of my favorite days of the year. It comes every spring and is key to all Christians. It's core to our faith and who we are! Of course I'm talking about Easter! It is just around the conner. On April 20th this year we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

As Christians we talk about forgiveness of sins, repentance, but the most Important thing in the universe is our Hope built on Jesus. In 1 Peter 1:21"who through him are believers in God , who raised him from the dead, and gave him glory; so that your faith and hope might be in God" Yes this is our true hope because Jesus has been raised from the dead. Here our faith and hope are in God which gives us the hope of life everlasting. A hope that we too will be raised from the dead one day. Because Jesus did this we too believe we will also be raised from the dead. Because he was raised from the dead we live differently. We have the truth about who he is and what he gives each one of us who believe in him. This hope purifies us , and helps us live each day. I have no guilt and know that one day I too will be in a new body and in heaven with Jesus and my loved ones. So my encouragement is looking forward and bringing others and enjoying the Big Event! Easter, as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Pastor Brian

Blessings for Graduates



Kailee Feenstra and Skylar Indra will graduate from Norfolk Senior High this spring! The congregation is invited to bless them by praying for them every day in April and dropping notes of blessing, well wishes, and cards into their “blessing box” at the church. We will present the box to them on Graduation Celebration Sunday, May 10.

Please pick up a date (or 2) on which you will personally pray throughout the day for Kailee and Skylar. There will be small, dated *prayer cards* on the table in the Narthex this month – just pick one or two up next time you are in church. OR, call Sue in the office and she will give you a date.



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday 10:15 Worship in Fellowship Hall

Maundy Thursday 5:30 Worship light meal to follow

Easter Sunday 10:15 Worship in Sanctuary No Fellowship following service

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, April 12 at 11:00 AM

First Congregational United Church of Christ

1102 W. Norfolk Ave

AGES THRU 5TH GRADE



Please join us in the Easter
Egg Hunt.

Eggs are filled and waiting
to be found

Please bring a bag or basket to
carry your eggs home

Sponsored by:

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Trinity Episcopal Church

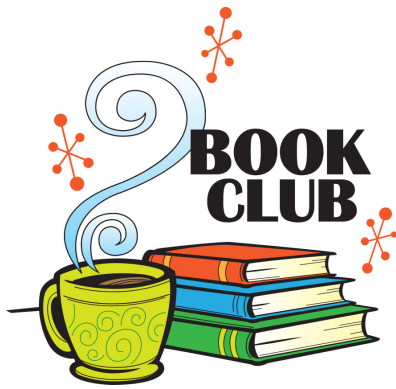
First Presbyterian Church



Bible Reading for the Month

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1 Samuel 18-20	2 1 Samuel 21-24	3 1 Samuel 25-27	4 1 Samuel 28-31	5 2 Samuel 1-3
6 2 Samuel 4-7	7 2 Samuel 8-12	8 2 Samuel 13-15	9 2 Samuel 16-18	10 2 Samuel 19-21	11 2 Samuel 22-24	12 1 Kings 1-2
13 1 Kings 3-5	14 1 Kings 6-7	15 1 Kings 8-9	16 1 Kings 10-11	17 1 Kings 12-14	18 1 Kings 15-17	19 1 Kings 18-20
20 1 Kings 21-22	21 2 Kings 1-3	22 2 Kings 4-5	23 2 Kings 6-8	24 2 Kings 9-11	25 2 Kings 12-14	26 2 Kings 15-17
27 2 Kings 18-19	28 2 Kings 20-22	29 2 Kings 23-25	30 1 Chronicles 1-2			



Book Club will meet April 9 at 10 AM. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell. This month is the Ezra Jack Keats Award.

I would like to thank all of my church family for all the birthday wishes and cards I received for my 95th birthday. I feel very fortunate and thankful to belong to such a caring and loving church. Rita Woodard



Do you go grocery shopping? At Lou's? At HyVee? **We have an easy way to bump up your donation to the church budget**--use a Lou's or HyVee gift card when you go shopping or get gas. You can buy them **Sundays** in Fellowship Hall. We currently get \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards.

See you at the table in Fellowship Hall! Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402) 640-6623.



4th Adam Gamerl

5th Jane Uzzell

18th Henry Gamerl

21st Katie Gamerl

Anniversary

16th Rick and Jill Waterbury



April 6

Communion: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Pat Jenny
Greeters: Rita Woodard and Sue Surber
Reader: Tom McConnell
Leader: Jane Uzzell
Flowers:

April 13 Palm Sunday

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Rita Woodard
Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Pat Jenny
Reader: Scott Williams, Verletta Olson, Kay Neuharth
Flowers: Palms

April 17 Maundy Thursday

Ushers: Darlene Korthals and Bonnie Dewell
Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Reader: Randy Neuharth

April 20 Easter

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Greeters: Verletta Olson and Mike Synovec
Reader: Jane Uzzell
Flowers: Lilies

April 27 Annual Meeting

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Barb Koenig
Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams
Reader: Grace Uzzell
Flowers:



May 4

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams
Ushers: Verletta Olson and Evonne Burkink
Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell
Reader: Reese Uzzell
Leader: Tom McConnell
Flowers:

May 11

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Greeters: Rita Woodard and Jane Uzzell
Reader: Ben Uzzell
Flowers:

May 18

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams
Greeters: Barb Koenig and Tom McConnell
Reader: Lori Williams
Flowers:

May 25 Memorial Weekend

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Susan Surber
Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Bonnie Dewell
Reader: Verletta Olson
Flowers:

Please notify the office if you are not able to attend a service.

March

From 3/1/25 through 3/31/25

This does not include the March 30 deposit

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$	3,509.67
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>7,541.00</u>
Subtotal	\$	11,050.67
Salary	--\$	7,190.60
Church Maintenance	—\$	2,198.21
Office Expenses	—\$	490.56
Worship	—\$	145.00
Irish Dinner	—\$	42.05
Insurance	—\$	1,031.12
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Final Balance	— \$	546.87



▶ April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Lenten Lunch Noon Youth Group	GS 6-7		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	GS 6-7:30		10 Book club Lenten Lunch Noon Youth Group 6:30 PM			11 Egg Hunt
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	GS 5:30-7		Unity Council 5:30 PM Youth Group	Maundy Thursday 5:30 PM GS 6-7		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:15 Worship	GS 6-7:30		Youth Group 6:30 PM			
27	28	29	30			
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Annual Meeting	GS 5:30-7 Sue on vacation	Sue on vacation	Sue on vacation			

► May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 GS 6-7 Sue on vacation	2 LWA Unity Room Sue on vacation	3
4 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	5 GS 6-7:30 Sue on vacation	6 Sue on vacation	7 Youth Group Sue on vacation	8	9	10
11 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	12 GS 5:30-7	13	14	15 GS 6-7	16	17 Feenstra FH
18 10:15 Worship	19 GS 6-7:30	20	21 Youth Group	22	23	24
25 10:15 Worship	26 GS 5:30-7	27	28	29	30	31