

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



There are multiple ways that you can engage with TNWL 2019. Here are some of the main ways you can join the movement!

PRAY Join us as we lift the event up to the Lord in prayer.

SERVE No matter your age or physical ability level, we have a project for you. Everyone who registers online by September 6th is guaranteed a free T-Shirt!

LEAD One of our greatest needs is for people to step up to the plate and volunteer to become a Project Leader. Project Leaders work directly with the TNWL Leadership Team to help organize the details of their project and then they are present on-site the day of to organize, encourage and see the project through to its completion.

Contact us here!

tonorfolk.withlove@gmail.com

GIVE To serve on this scale requires financial support. We have a generous donor who has faithfully supported this event, but would love to see others join in the effort. The more resources we have, the larger the impact we can make for the Kingdom of God.

TELL Spread the news of the event! People in our community are hungry to serve. The single biggest obstacle to making this event grow is awareness. Share the information with your friends, family, co-workers and church!



THE BODY OF CHRIST
 SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Saturday, September 14

August 2019

Volume 5, Issue 58

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Monday-Thursday 10-4

Other times by appointment

May be out of the office for meetings or visits



Office Hours

Mon-Thurs

8-11:30

Friday

8-12

“Let’s Come Together” Joint Annual Meeting 2019, July 14-16 – Pastor’s Report

Driving into the Omaha Tri-Faith campus for the annual joint meeting in Omaha, I was moved to see the Mosque, Jewish Center, and Countryside Community United Church of Christ all in one spot. The Tri-Faith campus was the meeting site of three conferences, Iowa-Nebraska-South Dakota joining together to worship God, share resources, learn new things, and meet our newest Associate Conference Ministers: Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Rev. Ellis Arnold, and Rev. Samantha Houser. Executive Conference Minister, Rev. Brigit Stevens was hired two years ago, and Rev. Jonna Jessen has been with the Iowa Conference for several years.

In the business portion, we approved new 2020 Compensation Guidelines for the Nebraska Conference. There was no change for 2019. The biggest change for 2020 guidelines is how a church is measured—not by membership, but by average weekly worship attendance, which is more accurate. Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota’s guidelines now have a similar format. Nebraska’s Conference guidelines were praised for its concise language and completeness.

Highlights for me at the Annual Gathering:

- The greeting at the start of the meeting by the Imam next door.
- The beauty of the new sanctuary (it is much warmer than in pictures).
- The use of “Open Space Technology (OST)” or just “Open Spaces”, a method of running a conference, that helps people find other people who want to have a conversation about the same thing you want to talk about. I choose to attend two discussions in the morning:
 - ‘Starting a spiritual small group’
 - ‘What does the UCC do for conservative churches?’

In both, the discussion was engaging and faithful. The latter meeting boiled down to talking about mutual relationships, bridge building, and being intentional for the sake of Love.

By far, the best was the Saturday evening banquet. The food was great, but even better were the storytellers and stories from churches at their best. There were funny stories and touching stories by about seven storytellers. In between, the MC read five one sentence statements that the audience provided, completing this sentence: “I knew that I had found my people when_____.

This idea might be fun to try at our visioning sessions in the fall.

Peace, Pastor Jackie

Skyline Apartments Ice Cream Social

The youth served ice cream to our neighbors in the Skyline Apartments community room on July 21st. We celebrated that all the residents who had been displaced by the April fire had returned. The flowers had grown since planting back in May!



Left to Right: Kylie (front), Dorothy, Henry, Terry, Skylar, Micah, Kennedy (front)

UPDATE - Skyline Apartments Final Disbursements

On July 23rd at Skyline community room, Terry Hamilton, Dorothy Hull, and Pastor Jackie visited with many Skyline returnees, and gave out the final disbursements of Lou's gift cards and laundry detergent. Jane Uzzell had picked up 52 bottles of detergent that Susan had ordered from Lou's. Mike Synovec stuffed envelopes with gift cards and a blessing.

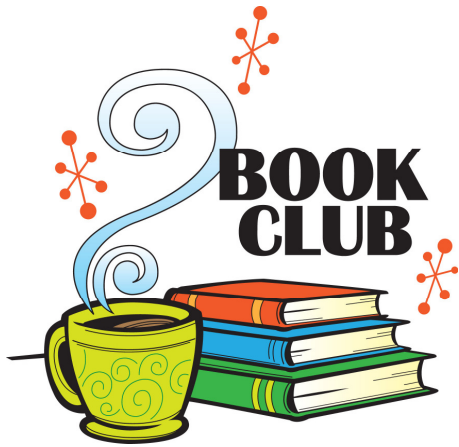
In May, Skyline Apartments asked our church to be the collection point for donations to aid those residents who were displaced due to the April 25 fire. In the end 52 people were displaced for 52 days. Most folk sheltered at Country Inn. Church donors included: First Congregational, First Presbyterian, First Christian, Victory Road Assembly of God, Westridge United Methodist Church, & Immaculata Spirituality Center. We raised about \$2000.



Rally Day is planned for September 8. This is the beginning of the new Sunday School year and all are welcome to join us!

Mercy Meals is having a Pack Away Hunger event October 6. A table has been reserved for our church. We need 10 people to work that Sunday. More details next month.





Book club meets August 14 to discuss *Those Shoes*. Please see Jane Uzzell for the books.



Men's luncheon: A new spot to meet needs to be found and will be shared as soon as it is found.



Many thanks to all of you who offered kind words, sent or brought cards and attended our 50th Anniversary celebration. It was so nice of all of you.

Gene & Bonnie Kroeger



Overflowing With Thanks

Birthday

- 2nd Garry Podliska
- 6th Ginge Dudley
- 7th Taylor Rossman
- 9th Jeff Pekas
- 14th Jared Rossman

Anniversary

- 2nd Randy and Kay Neuharth
- 10th Ben and Stacie Uzzell
- 15th Stan and Vicki Staab
- 16th Tom and Susan Surber

Fellowship Work Committee

August

Suzan Podliska Barb Ebsen

September

Ben and Stacie Uzzell



September 1

Communion: Verletta Olson, Suzan Podliska, Tom McConnell and Ben Uzzell

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Mike Synovec and Ed Lindsay

Reader: Vicki Staab

Leader: Stan Staab

Flowers:

September 8 Rally Day

Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Terry Hamilton

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Erik and Katie Gamerl

September 15

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Terry Hamilton

September 22

Ushers: Cole Uzzell and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Rita Woodard and Terry Hamilton

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers: Stan and Vicki Staab

September 29

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

Greeters: Tom McConnell and Cole Uzzell

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers:

August 4

Communion: Vicki Staab, Dorothy Hull,

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Leader: Susan Allyn

Flowers: Ed Lindsay

August 11

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers:

August 18

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Stan and Vicki Staab

Reader: Stan Staab

Flowers: Tom and Susan Surber

August 25

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Cole Uzzell and Jane Uzzell

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Karen Allyn

From 7/1/19 through 7/31/19

The weekly deposits include \$4,300 transferred from Madison County Bank and maintenance includes \$4,300 to finish paying for painting the west side.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 1,416.71
O'Neill	\$ 280.00
Animal Shelters	\$ 94.00
Scholarships	\$ 255.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$19,126.78</u>
Subtotal	\$21,172.49
Salary	--\$ 9,756.05
Church Maintenance	—\$ 5,728.38
Office Expenses	—\$ 966.38
Worship Ministry	—\$ 133.00
Annual Gathering	—\$ 342.68
Skyline Assistance	—\$ 520.00
VBS	—\$ 109.17
Food Pantry	—\$ 100.00
Animal Shelter	—\$ 47.00
Puppy Love	—\$ 47.00
O'Neill	—\$ 550.00
Funeral	—\$ 88.27
<u>Conference</u>	<u>—\$ 730.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 2,054.56



▶ September 2019

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

10:15 Worship

Sue on
vacation

**OFFICE
CLOSED**

Sue on
vacation

9:30 AM PEO

7 Card Group

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

9 Sunday
School

10:15 Worship

Rally Day!

5 Card Group

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

9 Sunday
School

10:15 Worship

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

9 Sunday
School

10:15 Worship

29 30

9 Sunday
School

10:15 Worship



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With love and faith



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9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service