

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



**Christmas Program Practice Schedule**

- Sunday 12/2 - Sunday School 9:00-9:30 am & read through of the program 9:30-10:00 am
- Saturday 12/8 - Program practice 10:00 am - 12:00 pm noon full dress rehearsal
- Sunday 12/9 - 9:00 am - 10:00 am last run through of the program 10:15 am worship & program followed by the Christmas Dinner
- Sunday 12/16 - Sunday School 9:00-10:00 am
- Sunday 12/23 - No Sunday School
- Sunday 12/30 - No Sunday School

December 2018

Volume 5, Issue 50



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For news of church event cancellations call the church's phone recordings, and/or go the website for US92 [us92.com](http://us92.com) then click 'weather', go to 'closings and delays'. The Daily News will also have this information but US92 is easier to check.



**Church Secretary**

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



**Sue will be in Texas  
 Dec.22-27 and back in  
 the office January 2.**

Office Hours  
 Monday—Thursday  
 8-11:30  
 Friday  
 8-12



*"In the deepest night, Christ's coming shall be."*

### **CHRISTMAS CARD**

My Christmas card this year of Jesus and Joseph is inspired by the refugee crisis around the world. The character of Joseph doesn't get much 'ink', but he inspires. According to Matthew's gospel, he heeds warnings given him by God's messengers in his dreams. Assured by an angel, Joseph takes Mary as his wife, and later names the baby, 'Jesus'. After another dream, he flees in the deepest night with his family to Egypt, where they remain until after Herod's death. After Herod's death, again an angel instructs him to return home. When Joseph hears that Herod's son has replaced his father, and after being warned in a dream, he takes his family to Galilee instead. They make their new home in a town called Nazareth, "so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled. He will be called a Nazorean."

Did Jesus and his family live as refugees for a time? "A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group." According the UN Refugee Agency, the number of displaced people in the world has never been higher. By the end of last year, according to a recent UNHCR report, there were 68.5 million forcibly displaced people in the world, including 25.4 million refugees.

I teach our kids at church that when we see a halo in art, it means that the person reveals something about God...and all people reveal something about God. How might refugees reveal something about God to us? How might you reveal something about God to a refugee? *Peace, Pastor Jackie*



**Pastor Jackie will be on vacation Friday, Dec. 28 – Jan. 4  
returning Saturday, January 5.**



This year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the debut of “Silent Night, Holy Night”. Something mystical occurs as we light our candles and sing the hope of “all is calm, all is bright” – peace, and light for the world. This worship series will celebrate the carol’s message over the entire season of Advent and highlight its call for our lives that can guide us all year long.

Sunday, December 2, 10:15am – Peace (Communion)

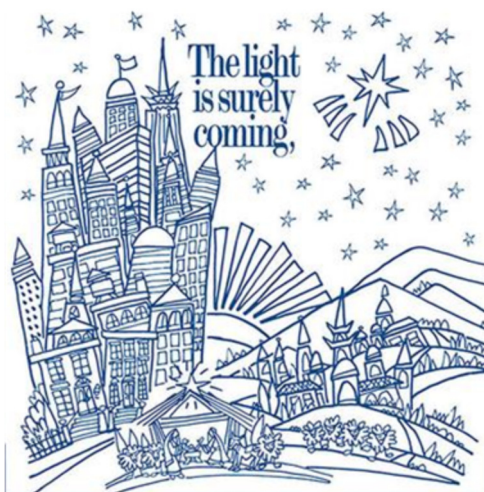
Sunday, December 9, 10:15am – Joy (Christmas Program and Dinner)

Sunday, December 16, 10:15am – Love

Sunday, December 23, 10:15am – Hope (Christmas Fund Offering)

Monday, December 24, 5:30pm – Christmas Eve Service with Communion

**Hanging of the Greens** after worship service on November 25 was great fun. After the church was decorated, we enjoyed soup and sandwiches.



**The Christmas Fund** for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund offering will be dedicated Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the UCC, your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors and church staff, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees.

Your gifts are needed to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. Participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

## A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

### THANK A VET – QUILT PRESENTATION

On October 29 at The Meadows, *Thank a Vet* quilting group presented Laura Nel Carlisle with a red, white and blue quilt to honor her for her service during World War II. At the age of 23, after completing nurses training at St. Luke's in Denver, Colorado, Laura Nel served in the Navy on Samar Island, Philippines. After the war, she met and married Robert Carlisle, who had served as a Navy pilot during the war.



Family members and many friends were on hand to celebrate. Nancy Brown has been with the quilting group since it started in March. They have presented nine quilts this year. Nancy sewed the quilt and Laura Nel was the first woman to receive one. The honoree said, "I'm grateful beyond anything I can express. It will certainly brighten that bedroom!"

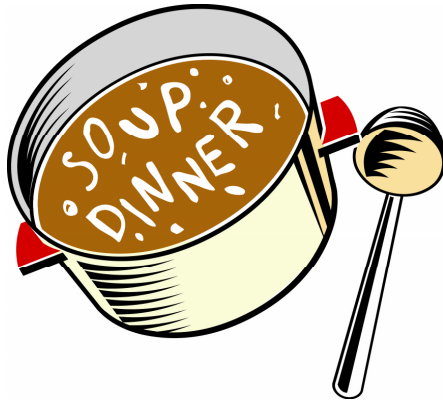
After the war, Laura Nel served 3,000 local children as a school nurse. Attending the event from First Congregational Church were: Laura Nel, Nancy Brown, Bonnie Dewell, Evonne Burkink, Ruth Brown, Dorothy Fryer, and Pastor Jackie.

### YOUTH THANK FIRST RESPONDERS

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Eight youth and three adults baked cookies and walked them over to the fire & police stations. They also made cards for our college students.

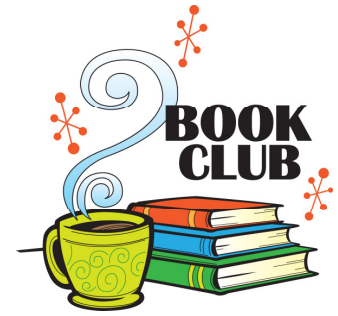


**Thanksgiving Day**, 25 people met at the church to give thanks, share dinner, and to celebrate Ed Lindsay's birthday. Thank you to the Uzzells for hosting a great day!



**Pre New Years Eve  
soup celebration**

December 30 after worship service, soups will be provided. Come take a break from the busyness of the holidays. If you want to bring other food to share, that's ok. If you want to just sit, eat and visit, that's ok, too. Christmas carols will be sung.



**Book Group** – The second Wednesday of the month at 10 AM is the book club led by Jane Uzzell. This year they continue reading children's books with the theme of character traits. December's theme is kindness.

Area Agency on Aging Northeast Nebraska can help look for the best insurance policy for you. Their office is located at 119 Norfolk Ave. Call 402-370-3454 to make an appointment before December 14.



**A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards, calls and visits during my recent hospitalization. I am truly blessed and grateful to you all.  
Sincerely,  
Darlene Korthals**

Living Waters Association of the Nebraska Conference  
of the United Church of Christ  
&  
Faith Fellowship Parish

Joyfully Invite You  
to the  
**Ordination Service**  
of  
**Coral Eberly Parmenter**

**Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 1:30pm  
with a light lunch to follow**

United Methodist Church of Christ  
916 Avenue F  
Wisner, Nebraska

Clergy are asked to robe and wear red stoles



**Birthday**

- 1st Stacie Uzzell
- 7th Susan Hansen
- 8th Calvin Allyn
- 18th Ben Uzzell
- 26th Karen Allyn
- 27th Ruth Brown
- 31st Virginia Barritt

**Anniversary**

- 22nd Doug and Ginge Dudley
- 23th Jeff and Evonne Burkink

# Fellowship Work Committee



## **December 2 First Advent**

**Communion:** Scott and Lori Williams, Vicki Staab, Susan Surber

**Ushers:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink

**Greeters:** Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

**Reader:** Tom McConnell

**Leader:** Jane Uzzell

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

## **December 9 Christmas Program & Dinner**

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Greeters:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Reader:** Rita Woodard

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

## **December 16**

**Ushers:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Greeters:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink

**Reader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

## **December 23**

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Greeters:** Dorothy Hull and Charlene Fosdick

**Reader:** Stan Staab

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

## **December 24 Christmas Eve**

**Ushers:** Suzan Podliska and Rita Woodard

**Greeters:** Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

## **December 30**

**Ushers:** Verletta Olson and Jane Uzzell

**Greeters:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Reader:** Vicki Staab

**Flowers:** Poinsettias



## **January 6**

**Communion:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink, Tom McConnell and Ben Uzzell

**Ushers:** Terry Hamilton and Stan Staab

**Greeters:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Reader:** Cole Lee

**Leader:** Vicki Staab

**Flowers:** Susan Allyn

## **January 13**

**Ushers:** Susan Surber and Bonnie Dewell

**Greeters:** Mike Synovec and Ed Lindsay

**Reader:** Lori Williams

**Flowers:**

## **January 20**

**Ushers:** Mike Synovec and Ed Lindsay

**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:**

## **January 27**

**Ushers:** Dorothy Hull and Barb Koenig

**Greeters:** Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

**Reader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:**

From 11/1/18 through 11/30/18

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$--2,349.82
Good Neighbors	\$ 217.00
O'Neill	\$ 100.00
Poinsettias	\$ 50.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,375.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 7,392.18
Salary	--\$ 5,296.41
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,163.68
Office Expenses	—\$ 420.38
Faith Development	— \$ 393.50
Worship	—\$ 150.00
Memorial	—\$ 531.90
Substitute Pastor	—\$ 125.00
Good Neighbors	—\$ 217.00
O'Neill	—\$ 100.00
<u>OCWM</u>	<u>—\$ 339.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 1,344.69



TREASURER'S REPORT

# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>3</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>4</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>5</b> Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00	<b>6</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>7</b> 7 Card Group (basement)	<b>8</b> 1:30 PM Ordination of Rev. Coral Parmenter at Wisner Methodist/UCC
<b>9</b> 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship Christmas Dinner	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7 Card Group	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>17</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>18</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>19</b> Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00	<b>20</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:15 Worship	<b>24</b> 5:30 Christmas Eve Worship Office Closed	<b>25</b> Office Closed	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b> Office Closed Pastor vacation	<b>29</b> Pastor vacation
<b>30</b> 10:15 Worship Pastor vacation	<b>31</b> Office Closed Pastor vacation					



# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Office Closed Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 Pastor vacation	<b>2</b> Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00 Pastor vacation	<b>3</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 Pastor vacation	<b>4</b> 7 Card Group Pastor vacation	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>7</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7 Card Group	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>16</b> Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00	<b>17</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>18</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 PEO set up in Fellowship Hall	<b>19</b> PEO Brunch 10-2 FH
<b>20</b> 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>21</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Youth Lock-in	<b>26</b> Girl Scouts
<b>27</b> 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		



First Congregational United Church of Christ  
1102 W. Norfolk Ave  
Norfolk, NE 68701

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**Return Service Requested**

With love and faith



**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

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Norfolk, NE 68701

402-371-0701

firstconguccc@cableone.net

www.firstconguccc.org

9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service