

First Congregational Messenger  
 First Congregational United Church of Christ  
 Norfolk, NE

*Serving God with love and faith*



## Holiday Season Worship Schedule

**Sunday, December 10, 10:15 a.m**

Christmas Program

“Where’s Christmas” a Christmas play, script by Cheryl Perry

Song lyrics by Raging Grannies songs

Christmas Dinner

**Sunday, December 24, 10:15 a.m.**

Christmas Eve Worship at the morning service

No evening service



December 2017

Volume 5, Issue 38

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What to do in January? Let’s break bread with our neighbors!  
 Come and warm yourselves with a bowl of delicious soup,  
 some bread, and our friends from Trinity Episcopal and First  
 Presbyterian. All are welcome. Friends are strangers you  
 haven’t met yet.

**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 5pm-6pm**

**at First Congregational UCC**

Watch for sign-up sheet



**Church Secretary**

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



### Office Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:15-11:30	8-11:30	9:15-11:30	8-11:30	9:15-1:15
3-5:15		3-5:15		

## Jesus says, “Watch!”

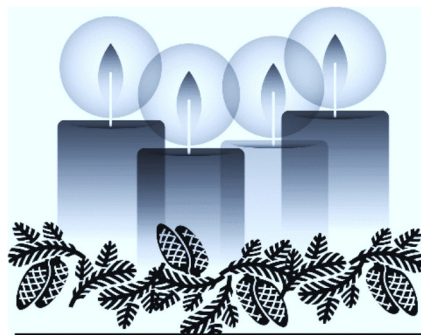


Our Adult Bible Study group is using as their Advent devotional a booklet titled, “Watch”, by the Still Speaking Writers’ Group. Advent is a time of watching. For people of faith, telling the time always involves more than a glance at a screen or dial.

This season, you are invited to tell the time not by looking down at a screen or a dial, but by looking up. “For the Advent hour is not where the hands of a dial are pointing. It’s where the signs of the times are pointing—to you and to me.”

What aid might you use to help you remember to practice watching for the coming of our Lord? An advent calendar or wreath? A favorite devotional? A screen saver? A picture on your fridge? A prayer or mantra to say each morning? Here is one that the Writers’ Group offers:

***“Lord, I open myself to you today. Be born again in me.”***



## *Advent 2017*

### **Discovering the Call to Hope**

Dec 3	Theme: Fire	Hang on to the Thread
Dec 10	Theme: Bones	Bones are useless without connection
Dec 17	Theme: Water	Rain & Snow sprout living seeds
Dec 24	Theme: Flesh	The Word became flesh

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE NORFOLK GRANT ELEMENTARY MISSION CHRISTMAS TREE

Sponsored by the Transformation and Faith Development Ministries to help provide needed items listed below. Donations will be received through **December 31** & delivered to the school after the holiday break. Any questions please contact Susan Surber or Darlene Korthals.

Hats, gloves, mittens (no scarves requested): sizes K – 3

Socks, crew & short (boys & girls): sizes K-4

Underwear, (boys briefs): sizes K-2

Sweat pants, (boys & girls): sizes K-2

Hoodie zip up sweatshirts, (boys & girls): sizes K-2



### Warmth, Peace and Pajamas

The Salvation Army this Christmas Season, along with their usual “Toy and food drive” is again collecting new pajamas for their pajama project. Our greatest need is children sizes 6-14 and adult s-xl, boys and girls. Please consider making either a monetary donation or buying a new pair of pajamas so that all of Norfolk’s children can sleep in warmth. Checks made payable to :

Norfolk Salvation Army Pajama Project can be dropped off or mailed to Salvation Army, 112 N. 7th St. New pajamas can be dropped off at Salvation Army or WJAG radio station. Deadline is Sunday, Dec. 17. Blessings to all of you for your support. Call Kris Scheer, 402-371-6742 with any questions.

### “Shepherding the Light”

Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering,  
December 17, 2017

You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC through your participation in the 2017 Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering. Your gift to the Christmas Fund will assist with

Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care. Checks may be made out to First Congregational UCC, with a note ‘*Christmas Fund*’. Thank you.





## Youth Outreach

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, the youth met at the church to prepare and serve an evening meal for the Rescue Mission. Before serving the meal, their guide gave the group an outside tour and invited them to chapel service featuring the life of Corrie Ten Boom.

The youth group enjoyed creating cards for Paige Lee, Jasmine Edwards and Odie Ramos. The three recently graduated from basic training in Missouri, and will receive more training in the coming months.



Joe Mitika from the **Norfolk Schools in Malawi** has provided a "wish list" of items. Orphan Grain Train has played an important part in shipping items to the school in the past. They are preparing now to ship another container of items to the schools in January 2018. Items may be taken directly to Orphan Grain Train (designated for the Norfolk Schools in Malawi) or you may contact Joe @[norfolkprivateschools@gmail.com](mailto:norfolkprivateschools@gmail.com).

Electric Generator    Lawn mower    Tiller    Curtains    Laptops    Tablets    Projectors    Projector screen  
Flat screens    DVD players    Solar stoves    Refrigerator    Podium    Office furniture

Lab equipment: Beakers, microscopes, petri dishes, measuring cylinders, thermometers, balances, etc.

Pens    Pencils    Notebooks    Ring binders    Printing paper    Folders, Files, hanging files    Markers    Jump drives

Cordless drills (power tools)    Jumper cables    Extension cables    Used vehicles    Water barrels/containers

Solar panels    High powered flash lights    Musical instruments (flutes, saxophones, etc.)    Soccer cleats

Monetary donations

## Practice Schedule for Christmas Program

Sunday, December 3

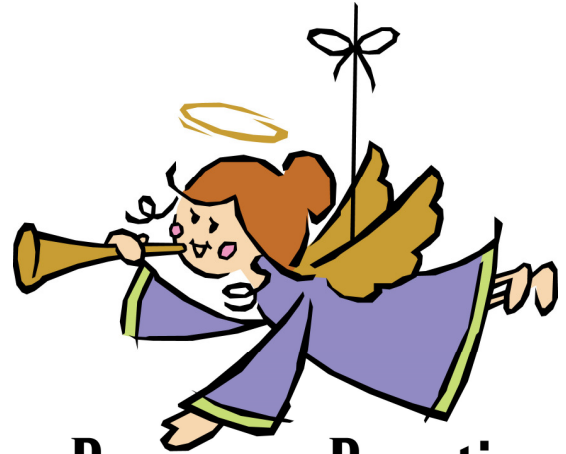
Christmas program practice during Sunday School 9:30- 10:00am

Saturday, December 9

Christmas program practice (dress rehearsal) 10:00 - 11:30am

Sunday, December 10

9:00 – 10:00am (during the Sunday School hour)



# Program Practice



Sue is headed to North Carolina with her parents December 20. We hope to be back December 29. The office will be closed from December 20-January 1. Thanks for the time with my family!!

**New Medicare cards:** will be sent to people between April of 2018 through April of 2019. Medicare is removing Social Security Numbers from their cards to prevent fraud, fight identity theft, and keep taxpayer dollars safe. Once you receive your new card, be sure to shred or completely destroy your old card. You don't need to do anything to receive your new card, it will automatically be mailed to you. If you get a call about the new card, **HANG UP!!** This is a scam. You could also receive mailings or emails asking for information to get your new card. **THESE are also scams. DO NOT RESPOND!!!**



- 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
- 23rd Jeff and Evonne Burkink

<b>MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE</b>	
1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)	
NAME OF BENEFICIARY <b>JOHN DOE</b>	SEX <b>MALE</b>
MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER <b>000-00-0000-A</b>	EFFECTIVE DATE <b>01-01-2007</b>
IS ENTITLED TO <b>HOSPITAL (PART A)</b>	
<b>MEDICAL (PART B)</b>	
SIGN HERE → _____	

# Fellowship Work Committee

December



## December 3

**Communion:** Verletta Olson, Suzan Podliska, Scott and Lori Williams

**Ushers:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Greeters:** Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

**Reader:** Tom McConnell

**Leader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

## December 10

**Ushers:** Verletta Olson and Susan Surber

**Greeters:** Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

**Reader:** Stan Staab

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

## December 17

**Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Greeters:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink

**Reader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

## December 24 Morning service only

**Ushers:** Jane Uzzell and Tom McConnell

**Greeters:** Rita Woodard and Verletta Olson

**Reader:** Vicki Staab

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

## December 31

**Ushers:** Mike Synovec and Garrett Korthals

**Greeters:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Reader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:** Poinsettias



## January 7

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

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Greeters:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Leader:** Vicki Staab

**Flowers:**

## January 14

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Greeters:** Kay and Randy Neuharth

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:**

## January 21

**Ushers:** Stan and Vicki Staab

**Greeters:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Reader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:**

## January 28

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Greeters:** Stan and Vicki Staab

**Reader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:**

From 11/1/17 through 11/30/17



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 9,370.95
Poinsettias	\$ 133.65
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 8,471.58</u>
Subtotal	\$17,976.18
Salary	--\$10,557.90
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,057.11
Office Expenses	—\$ 753.73
Worship Ministry	—\$ 27.00
Substitute Organist	—\$ 65.00
Substitute Minister	—\$ 125.00
Youth Mission serving	—\$ 163.00
Work comp Insurance	—\$ 1,203.00
Toys	—\$ 142.07
<u>OCWM</u>	<u>—\$ 440.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 3,442.44

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 7 Card Group	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>4</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>5</b> Girl Scouts 5-6	<b>6</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	<b>7</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	<b>8</b> 7 Card Group	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Christmas dinner	<b>11</b> Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Girl Scouts 11-8 FH	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>18</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>19</b> Girl Scouts 5-6	<b>20</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>21</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>22</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:15 Worship	<b>25</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>27</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>28</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>29</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:15 Worship						



# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>2</b> Girl Scouts 5-6	<b>3</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	<b>4</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	<b>5</b> 7 Card Group	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>8</b> Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Soup Supper 5 PM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 1 Delphi FH 7 Card Group	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>15</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>16</b> Girl Scouts 5-6	<b>17</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	<b>18</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>22</b> Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<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**

1102 W. Norfolk Ave

Norfolk, NE 68701

402-371-0701

firstconguccc@cableone.net

www.firstconguccc.org

9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service