

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

Serving God with love and faith



Sunday, Dec. 1 - Program practice 9-10 am (no regular Sunday School)
 Saturday, Dec. 7 - Program practice 10 am - 12 pm noon
 Sunday, Dec. 8 - Program practice 9-10 am (no regular Sunday School)
 program during worship & Christmas dinner to follow
 Sunday, Dec. 15 & 22 - regular Sunday School 9-10 am
 Sunday, Dec. 29 - No Sunday School
 Sunday, Jan. 5 - return to the regular Sunday School schedule 9-10 am



December 2019
 Volume 5, Issue 62

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**2019 TRANSFORMATION & FAITH DEVELOPMENT
 COMMUNITY MISSION CHRISTMAS TREE**

This Advent Season we will be collecting donations of the following items for Washington Elementary School. Please help make the Winter a little warmer for students in need. Sizes for Kindergarten through 4th grade.

Hats – mittens – gloves – (NO SCARVES) – socks – sweatpants – coats

Donated items will decorate the tree in the Fellowship Hall and delivered to the school after the Holidays. Thank you!!



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



“Joy to the World, the Lord is come.” – Isaac Watts

*“Make a joyful noise to the Beloved
all the earth;
Break forth into grateful song
and sing praises!
Yes, sing songs of praise extolling
Love’s way;
lift up your hearts with
gratitude and joy!”*

-Psalm 98 (translation, Nan C. Merrill)

“Joy to the World,” a beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watts’ interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a “new song” – and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than “joy” being yet another word for “happiness,” we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.

Worship - Advent/Christmas Season

- Dec 1** Advent 1 “Prepare Him Room: Hopeful Joy”
- Dec 8** Advent 2 “Repeat the Sounding Joy: Loving Joy”
Christmas Pageant: “Something About A Baby”
Christmas Dinner (immediately after worship) with
a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Clause.
- Dec 15** Advent 3 “Make the Blessings Known: Unabashed Joy”
- Dec 22** Advent 4 “Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy”
- Dec 24** **5:30pm Christmas Eve Service** with communion: “The Lord is Come”
- Dec 29** Sunday after Christmas: “Wonders of His Love”
Potluck to follow



**Blue Christmas Service:
When Christmas Isn't Always Merry
Sunday, December 22nd at 3:00 pm
at Immaculata Monastery & Spirituality Center**

During this time of the year, many people can find Christmas and all the season entails difficult. Whether it's mourning the loss of a loved one or feeling down when everyone else is celebrating. For some, Christmas isn't always "merry." With that in mind, the Norfolk Area Ministerial Association (NAMA) is hosting a "Blue Christmas Service" at Immaculata Monastery and Spirituality Center.

NAMA President, Rev. Donna Goltry, says the service is intended in part "to give permission to those who find the holidays a lonely or difficult time." Goltry stated the service will be an informal time of prayer, Scripture, and music. This ecumenical Christian service is open to all. If you have any questions you may contact Rev. Goltry at 402.454.2514 or email: dgoltry@greatplainsumc.org

150 YEARS **150th Anniversary Team** met on November 12th. Verletta and Bonnie K. are re-searching a venue for a September Saturday beef dinner. The team revised the timeline of events, preferring to hold the anniversary weekend in the fall instead of the spring so as not to conflict with prom, graduations and the like.

Timeline of Events (REVISED)

- Nov 2019 Invite honored guests and Conference Minister
- Dec 29, 2019 5th Sunday Potluck goodwill offering for 150th celebration fund.
- May 17, 2020 "150th Anniversary Reception" in Fellowship Hall. Pastor's message to help mark the May 15, 1870 founding date.
- July 4 Parade float with banner
- Summer **PRESENT/COMMUNITY** Picnic for neighborhood; invite Skyline Apt, Linaje Escogido, and immediate neighbors.
- Sept 12, 2020 (Saturday – 150th Weekend) Beef Dinner & Program - Tickets
- Sept 13, 2020 (Sunday – 150th Weekend) **FUTURE/RALLY DAY** Worship with Conference Minister preaching. Fellowship Hall reception with honored guests
- Sept 21, 2020 Lion's Club Annual Parade float with banner
- Nov 15, 2020 **PAST/THANKSGIVING** – (Heritage Sunday theme: "Our Roots Run Deep"). To include stories & reflections about the people of FCUCC. (Verletta offered to prepare a reflection around three distinct time periods in our history).



Linaje Escogido Update

We plan to officially welcome Linaje Escogido Church in worship December 1, 2019. Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Associate Conference Minister (Omaha) may also be present welcome them and extend the hand of Christian friendship.

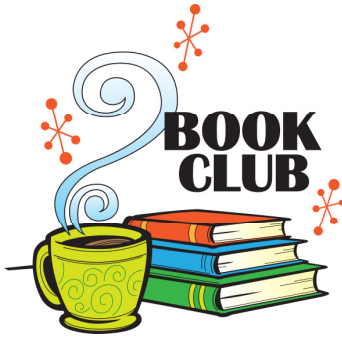
After the second Congregational Meeting on November 10th the action team working with Linaje Escogido Church revised the lease agreement to “no less than \$800 per month”. At this second meeting, the vote was (28) Yes, (5) No. The action team continues to meet with representatives from their church to incorporate input from the congregation. On November 19, Scott Williams, Stan Staab, Barb Koenig, Pastor Jackie, Pastor met with Pastor Arceli, and Alex to present them with the updated lease and plan the welcome. They plan to return the signed lease by Thanksgiving, and their first day of worship is planned for December 1. In June, we will evaluate the agreement and how it is going. Concerning worship matters, Pastor Jackie will be the contact; concerning room needs, Scott and Stan will be our liaisons. Sue Allyn is the contact for calendar/scheduling space.

In Mid-November, many of our members began to prepare to make room. Thanks to all who participated in this work:

Evonne, Verletta, and Bonnie K. worked on the lower lever kitchen; Jane, Cole, Reese and Grace moved choir robes from basement to 3rd floor closets; Stacie, Darlene, Kay, Susan P., Sue A., Stan, and Tom, worked on books/supplies and classroom changes. Dorothy H. took unused books to her apartment’s book-give-away. Sunday School now takes place on the main floor and balcony. Pastor Jackie worked on the art room while Reese and Grace created welcome posters. We plan to move the painted art cabinet of supplies to the main floor.

With few changes, we plan to continue to accommodate community groups who regularly use our space.

***New Church
Directory is
ready for pick
up!***



Book club meets December 11 to discuss *Calling the Water Drum*. Please see Jane Uzzell for the books. The discussion is immigrant children separated from parents.

Men's luncheon: is working to tour Norfolk to look at Christmas lights. Steve Uzzell is the leader for this group.

To my UCC family and friends
so many beginnings, so many ends.
The time has come, I have moved on
I couldn't stay, I could no longer belong.
My church home, the last 80 years
the compassion, the love, still moves me to tears.
I am at St. Joe's where now I will be
until it's my turn for eternity.

Thank you from my heart for all that you are,
I will make a special wish upon a distant star
that health will be yours, the food will be good
new friendships to build
in the neighborhood.

I will miss you all more than you know
and in my heart you'll continue to grow
I will think of my life in this church every day,
and for peace in your lives I will forever pray.

I've moved away, but I am not gone
I'll continue my life singing God's love song
The time will come, we'll meet again
and always remember where we have together been
I am doing well, getting settled in
no worries please, just think of me when.

My best love to all of you
Janet Brown for Ruth Brown



**Men's
GROUP**



Birthday

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

Anniversary

- 23rd Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Fellowship Work Committee

December



December 1 Hanging of the Greens

Communion: Vicki Staab, Ben Uzzell, Dorothy Hull, Tom McConnell

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Cole Uzzell

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Leader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:

December 8 Christmas Program and Dinner

Ushers: Terry Hamilton and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 15

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Terry Hamilton and Rita Woodard

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 22

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Dorothy Hull

Reader: Stan Staab

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 24 Christmas Eve

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Poinsettias

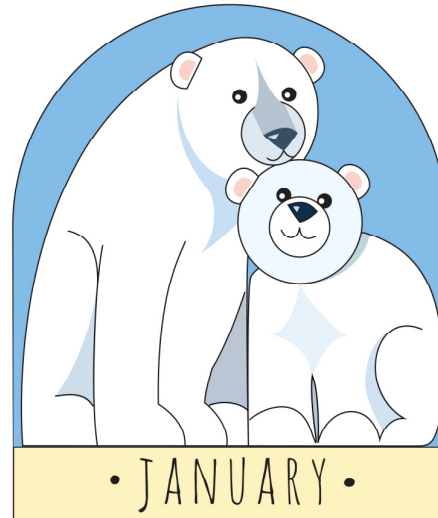
December 29 Service of Carols

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers: Poinsettias



January 5

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams and Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Ushers: Cole Uzzell and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Cole Uzzell

Leader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Village Flower Shoppe

January 12

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers:

January 19

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Tom McConnell

Greeters: Charlene Fosdick and Barb Koenig

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers:

January 26

Ushers: Dorothy Hull and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Terry Hamilton

Reader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers:

November

From 11/1/19 through 11/30/19

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 2,604.92
Mission	\$ 100.00
Youth lunch	\$ 34.10
Poinsettias	\$ 52.00
Christmas candles	\$ 56.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,513.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 7,155.08
Salary	--\$ 6,773.55
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,008.62
Office Expenses	—\$ 745.35
Worship Ministry	—\$ 361.36
Substitute Pastor	—\$ 125.00
Scholarship	—\$ 109.00
Cleaning service	—\$ 1,150.00
O'Neill	—\$ 320.00
LWA lunch receipts	—\$ 204.00
<u>Conference</u>	<u>—\$ 588.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 4,120.80



TREASURER'S REPORT

▶ December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 Program practice 10:15 Worship Hanging of the Greens	2	3 Girl Scouts FH 7 PM	4 Confirmation FH 6 PM	5	6 7 Card Group	7 10 Program practice
8 9 Program practice 10:15 Worship Christmas Dinner	9	10	11 Confirmation FH 6 PM	12 7 PM Unity Council Girl Scouts FH 12-8:30	13 5 Card Group	14
15 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	23 Sue on vacation	24 5:30 Christmas Eve Service Sue on vacation	25 OFFICE CLOSED Sue on vacation	26 Sue on vacation	27 OFFICE CLOSED Sue on vacation	28 Sue on vacation
29 10:15 Worship	30 Sue on vacation	31 Sue on vacation				

▶ January 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

7 Card Group

OFFICE
CLOSED

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
Undecorate

5 Card Group

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

26 27 28 29 30 31

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship



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1102 W. Norfolk Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701

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Return Service Requested

With love and faith



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www.firstconguccc.org

9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service