

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

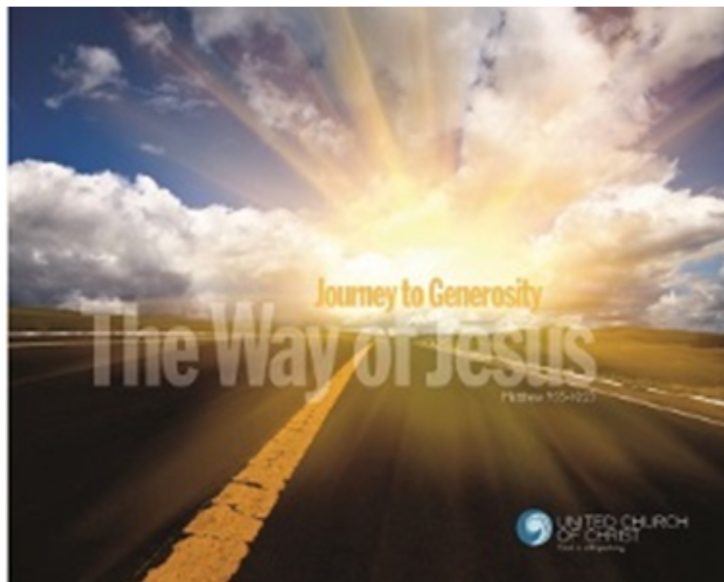
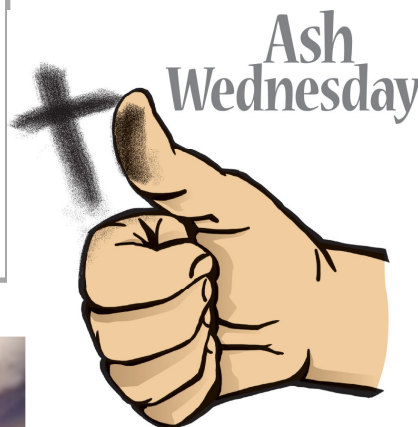


Ash Wednesday Service

at First Presbyterian Church

February 14, 2018 at 5:30 PM

An Ecumenical Service sponsored by First
 Congregational UCC and First Presbyterian
 Churches



February 2018

Volume 5, Issue 40

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Stewardship Sunday will be March 4. Please be
 praying and preparing for this important work of
 the church.

Calendar 10-11



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
9:15-12	8-12	9:15-12	8-12	8-12:30
1-2		1-2		

Hello! Welcome to the Iowa-Nebraska-South Dakota Conferences ("Tri-Conference") of the UCC!

So many things have been changing for your staff members of the three conferences. With the retirements of Revs. Roddy Dunkerson (NE) and Rich Pleva (IA), the closing of the office in Lincoln, Nebraska, new accounting systems, new email addresses, rearranged filing cabinets and office furniture, and the beginning of my service among you as the Executive Conference Minister for our three conferences, much of most days can feel unsettled and anxious. However, the really important stuff hasn't changed at all.



You see, from God's perspective, all this rearranging and partnering may be well and good and even holy, but it's still just the surface stuff. Sure, we need good structures to do our work and be excellent in our ministry. But email addresses and job titles don't live the gospel and spread love, grace, and justice, people do. People who are in love with God and know Christ as our brother, Savior, and friend, and are inspired by the community of the Holy Spirit reveal the Kin-dom of God here on Earth. People of the church, our constantly changing and rearranging institution, are the chosen vessels for the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

So, while we figure out how to answer the phones, create charts of accounts, and how best to send ENews letters twice a month to three conferences of beautiful churches, pastors, and friends, what matters most is that we are all called to BE THE CHURCH together! Love God with all your heart and soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself! Be bold in your generosity! Take risks with your abundant love! Watch what God can do among us and through us to transform our communities and our world!

Blessings for the Journey!

Brigit Stevens, Executive Conference Minister
Iowa-Nebraska-South Dakota Conferences of the UCC

[Update: Brigit and the Tri-Conference Board are working to hire two positions: the Iowa Associate Conference Minister and Nebraska Associate Conference Minister.]



First Congregational United Church of Christ

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February 1, 2018

Dear Church Member and Friends,

Believe it or not, there is more to First Congregational United Church of Christ than just what you see on Sunday morning!

Faith formation through sharing and outreach: youth preparing cookies or a meal for the Rescue Mission, volunteering at the Animal Shelter, Christmas caroling at Norfolk Care Center and Heritage Bel-Air, and the mission trip to Pine Ridge last summer.

Providing hospitality for families grieving the death of a loved one. Sharing our building with seven Girl Scout Troops, two ALANON family groups, Card Club for widowed and divorced people, and service groups.

Learning more about God's world through Wednesday Book Group, and how we might teach the gospel through the art of the Sewers who have kicked off a quilted banner project for the whole church to share in as a way to teach Scripture and celebrate our up-coming 150th anniversary in 2020.

Creating a faith-shaping Vacation Bible School and Easter egg hunt for young children in the neighborhood. Sharing in this with our neighbors at First Presbyterian and Trinity Churches, as well as joint services on Thanksgiving and Ash Wednesday. Our January 'Soup's On' supper was a great time of deepening our relationships among the three churches.

All of these things are planned and prepared by leadership and staff who are deeply committed to serving God in love and faith. The ministry and mission of our church take place because of the spiritual *and financial* gifts our members and friends choose to offer. These are the resources that fuel our mission; it does cost real money to provide these spiritual things!

The decision to give a gift is a choice, it is between you and God. Based on what we have received, we are encouraged to give something—out of thanksgiving for what God has done, and as a sign of faithfulness and commitment to be a part of the good things that God is continuing to do in our world. Lent and Stewardship season offer opportunities for us to look within, to reflect on our relationship with God, and to strengthen our faith.

On **Stewardship Sunday, March 4** you will be invited to come forward and place into the offering basket your envelope containing your **Pledge Card and Time and Talent sheet**. I invite you to take time in this season to prayerfully consider how you might express your love by sharing your time, talent and money through the ministries of the church.

Peace,

Rev. Jackie Perry, Pastor

Lovers and Fools - 2018 Lent Devotional

Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year, and Easter is on April Fool's Day. What to do with this crowded calendar?! And what do lovers and fools have to do with Lent? Leave your ashes on for that romantic dinner, and you might have your answer.



Paul said, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong..." [1 Corinthians 1:18, 27]

Adult Bible Study will discuss readings from the UCC Lent Devotional. You are invited to join them Sunday mornings at 9:00am. There are a few copies for personal use available in the office for a donation of \$6.00.



ANIMAL SHELTER
of northeast nebraska
For the Love of Animals

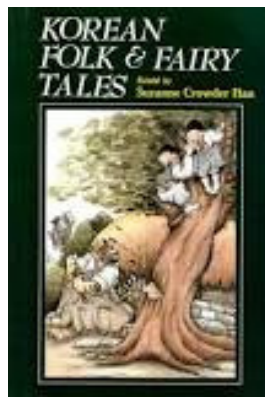
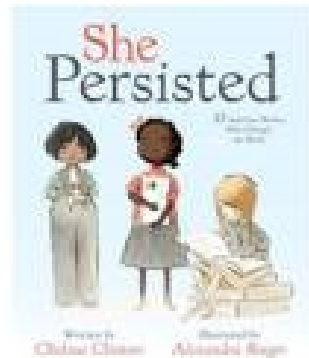
The youth are collecting items in the month of February for the Animal Shelter. The youth plan to take the items to the shelter and volunteer Sunday, February

25, from 2pm-4pm. The Animal Shelter has a variety of needs for the animals and the human volunteers who care for the animals.

List of Needs:

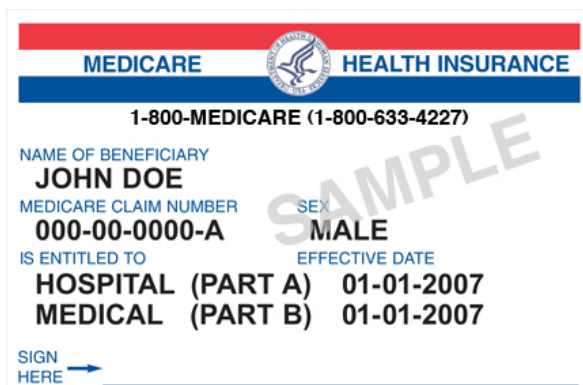
55 gallon trash bags	powdered oxi clean	dryer sheets
Swiffer duster refills	bleach	Kleenex
Dry Swiffer floor sweeper refills	laundry detergent	toilet paper
Purina kitten chow	Disinfecting wipes	disinfecting spray
Medium disposable gloves	paper towels	copy paper
antibacterial hand soap	Hand sanitizer	

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. February's theme is determination. Recipes for lunch are from Korea.



St. Luke's –Gruetli Parish of the UCC Columbus invites you to the service of Installation for Pastor Adam Lassen on Sunday February 18, 2018 at 3 PM The church is located at 1072 21st Ave Columbus, NE. This service, in covenant with the Living Waters Association of the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ, confirms the covenantal relationship between Saint Luke's-Gruetli Parish, UCC and their called pastor. All are encouraged and welcome to attend.

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!!!**



4th	Suzan Podliska
	Paige Lee
5th	Tim Ernst
15th	Barb Koenig
17th	Garrett Korthals
18th	Bonnie Dewell
27th	Mike Synovec
28th	McKenna Waterbury

Dear First Congregational UCC,
Thank you for the scholarship money for my music education degree from Wayne State College. I am truly appreciative and grateful for it. I graduated from WSC this past December. I am currently subbing in the Elkhorn School District and working part-time at Runza. I am praying to get an elementary music job in the Omaha area. My student teaching experience was the highlight of my college career. I loved every minute of it. I am grateful for your support through my college years. I have learned so much and can't wait to put it to use in my classroom. God Bless, Laura Guenther

United Church of Christ,
Thank you all for your prayers and help through my college years! I felt God through you all and have grown in my faith life. I now live in Lincoln, NE and work for Edward Jones. Thank you all for your help! Molly Guenther

**Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gift.
I really appreciate it.
Garrett Korthals**

To my church family at First Congregational Church,
Many thanks for the very generous cash gift for Christmas. After 20+ years, I do consider you all family. Christmas blessings to all of you in the New Year. Love, Jill Waterbury

Thank you for your continued support of Girl Scouts. We appreciate all of the support that you give us throughout the year.

Pam Sukup Ann Beh Susan Nickels
Vicki Hanus Kristin Marter Misty Lawrence
Kris Klopneski

Dear members,
Thank you for your generous cash donation of \$250. We appreciate you thinking of us. It is kind acts like this that enable us to continue to serve our clients. Sincerely, Bright Horizons Staff

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your gift of \$250! We believe that together, we will make a difference!
Our unemployed guests are finding jobs, our unchurched guests are coming to Christ and going to church, our drug and alcohol abusing guests are abstaining and our guests estranged from their families are being reconciled!
It brings us great joy to see the Lord provide for these basic needs through the various ministries of the Norfolk Rescue Mission and through your generosity in partnership. Our guests may come to us lacking in all these areas, but during their stay, many leave with satisfied hearts, full bellies and a new hope for the future.
Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to serve the least, the last and the lost.
Sincerely, Pastor Will Perrigan Executive Director

Faith Development and Transformation Ministries thank you for all the wonderful donations for the Grant Elementary Mission Christmas Tree. Your generous gift of hats, mittens, gloves, etc. were greatly appreciated by the school.



Overflowing With Thanks

Fellowship Work Committee

February

Cal and Karen Allyn

Darlene Korthals

March

Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Betty Morrison

Terry Hamilton



February 4

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger, Susan Surber, and Verletta Olson

Ushers: Rita Woodard and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Mike Synovec and Cole Lee

Reader: Cole Lee

Leader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

February 11

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Cole Lee

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

February 18

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Rita Woodard and Susan Surber

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Doug and Ginge Dudley

February 25

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Susan Surber

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Suzan Podliska

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams



March 4

Communion: Barb Koenig, Tom McConnell, Ben Uzzell, Suzan Podliska

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

Reader: Stan Staab

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Dorothy Hull

March 11

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Kay and Randy Neuharth

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Charlene Fosdick

March 18

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Mike Synovec

Reader: Rita Woodard

Flowers: Tim Ernst

March 25

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Vicki Staab

Flowers: Palms

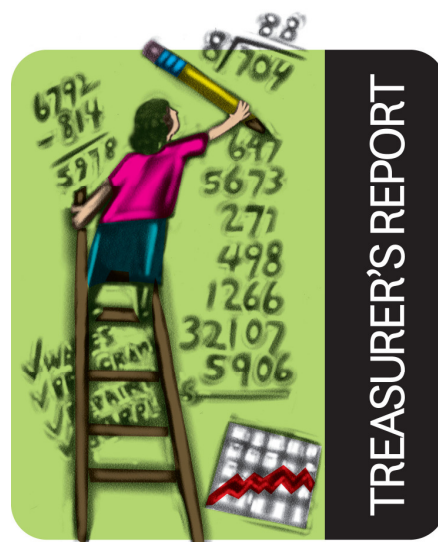
March 29 Maundy Thursday

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Stan and Vicki Staab

Reader: Scott Williams

From 1/1/18 through 1/31/18



Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$12,829.42
Scholarship	\$ 500.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 8,152.25</u>
Subtotal	\$ 21,481.67
Salary	--\$ 5,639.71
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,186.89
Office Expenses	—\$ 608.71
Worship Ministry	—\$ 260.74
Scholarship	—\$ 500.00
Christmas Fund	—\$ 652.00
<u>Conference</u>	<u>—\$ 346.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 11,287.62

Funnies for the month



February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	2 7 Card Group	3
4 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	5 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	6 Girl Scouts 5-6	7 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	8 7 PM Unity Council	9 1 Delphian FH 7 Card Group Girl Scouts 4-10	10
11 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	12 Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	13	14 Ash Wednesday Service at First Presbyterian 5:30 PM	15 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	16	17
18 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	19 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	20 Girl Scouts 5-6	21 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	22	23	24
25 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	26 Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	27	28			

March 2018

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				1 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	2 7 Card Group	3
4 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Stewardship Sunday	5 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	6 Girl Scouts 5-6	7 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	8	9 1 Delphian FH 7 Card Group	10
11 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	12 Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	13	14	15 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	16	17
18 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	19 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	20 Girl Scouts 5-6	21 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	22	23	24
25 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	26 Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	27	28	29 Maundy Thursday	30	31



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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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9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service