

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

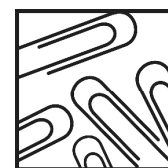


February 2019  
 Volume 5, Issue 52

Do you remember decorating a box for your Valentines? Well, for Lent, we can get together and decorate a "God box." A God box will be a place for you to deposit your worries, joys, anything you want to share with God. Please bring empty kleenex/tissue boxes to the church so we all can make and decorate a God box. (Jane will carry the empty boxes downstairs to the Art Room). Tentative decorating date would be [March 1](#). Thank you.

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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.



## Office Hours

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



**Office Hours**  
 Mon & Wed  
 8-11:30  
 Tues & Thurs  
 8-10:30  
 Friday  
 8-12

## Neighborhood

At a recent meeting of the Norfolk Area Ministerial Association, President Caleb Lind offered a question for us to ponder: “If you were to choose one word to describe the past year of ministry for you personally, what word would you choose and why?” We didn’t have time to discuss and share our responses, but I have been thinking about the question and the word that comes to me is, ‘neighborhood’.

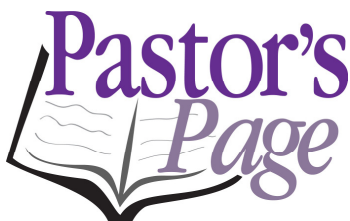
Our church motto is “Serving God in love and faith”, and our highest values include caring, compassion, welcome, community service and unity. These are based on the storytelling and visioning process ‘Around the Table’ that we did as a congregation five years ago, and in my experience, we continue to live out these values. Sharing these values with you, my prayer has been that we continue to develop our relationship with the neighborhood—with those living nearby, in the Norfolk area, and in the wider world, because Jesus teaches that everyone is our neighbor.

In my own personal walk with God this past year, some of my most satisfying movements in ministry have been those in relationship with the neighborhood, for example:

- getting to know our neighbors at Skyline Apartments,
- joint worship services and VBS with Trinity and First Presbyterian,
- walking with O’Neill United Methodist Church who are helping those affected by the raids,
- having monthly breakfast with the Norfolk Fire Department,
- serving with adults and youth at the Animal Shelter and Vet’s Home,
- serving with Home For Funerals to develop a community memorial service.

Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut, Rev. Ian Douglas said that one of the questions he asks in ministry is this: *“What is God up to in the neighborhood, and how do we faithfully join that as those sent as apostles to follow Jesus today?”* For Love’s sake, I want to be a good neighbor. Thank you for helping me continue to live out my prayer.

Peace, Pastor Jackie



## *What's new in worship?*

### **Drawn In: Living the creative life with God**

*"God created the heavens and earth...and called it all good!"*  
- Genesis



The 6-week series is about creativity as a big part of our spiritual lives and our call to serve God. We are all creating all the time since 'making' is by nature creative (making decisions, making food for others, making time to volunteer, etc.) Our anchor image is the star since we are in the Epiphany season. The star also serves as a symbol for the series as a mosaic, where everyone's contributions fill it in each week—a symbol of our communal creativity and community through the worship experience.

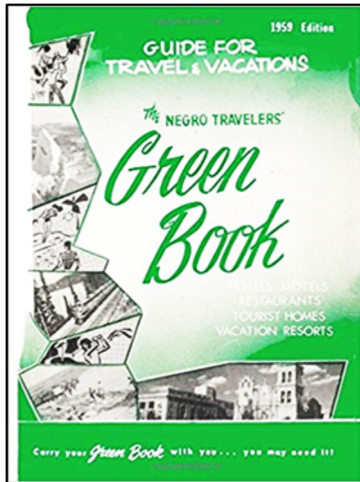
Author and musician, Tony Bronsink has mapped out 6 steps of the creative process which we are using for our weekly worship titles: Draw, Hover, Listen, Risk, Re-integrate, and Rest. Marcia McFee and Jason Shelton have provided our theme song, and many creative ideas for worship. Each Sunday, Jane Uzzell offers a creative activity and the congregation is invited to take one question with them into the week.

**March 3 - Stewardship Month Kick Off 2019** with the theme, 'What Shall We Bring?'



**March 6 - Ash Wednesday Worship Service** with Ashes and Communion will be at Trinity Episcopal Church on March 6, time TBA. This is a joint service with First Presbyterian, Trinity, and First Congregational Churches.

## What's God up to in the neighborhood?



**January Youth Event** Thanks to all who participated in the Ice Cream Social at Skyline Apartments January 27<sup>th</sup>. Serving ice cream were: Henry, Adam, Skylar, Kennedy, Kylie, Micah, Cole and friend, Braydon. After the visit with our neighbors, youth and leaders, Darlene Korthals and Pastor Jackie, drove to Norfolk 7 to watch the movie *The Green Book*. Thanks to Lori Williams for driving and joining us at the movie!

*The Green Book* tells the story of pianist, Don Shirley, and his white chauffeur/body guard, Frank Anthony “Tony Lip” Vallelonga, as they travel through the South for an 8-week concert tour Shirley is scheduled to play. Vallelonga, who is from New York, is given a copy of *The Green Book*, a guide that actually existed, that instructed African American travelers on where to find safe havens throughout the deeply-segregated '60s South. It is based on a real-life story and characters.



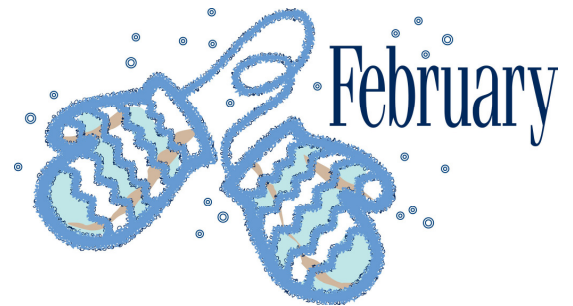
**To my church family,** Thank you for the many kind expressions of sympathy for my family and me in our loss of Doug. He loved his church and its people. We appreciate your loving concern. Sincerely, Ginge Dudley, Brad and Polly Dudley, and Jim and Kris Scheer.



Many thanks to everyone for the **Christmas** cards and cheer cards with notes of encouragement sent from “my Church” family. I have three more weeks of healing of the bones, then getting off the elevated walker and learning to use the regular walker again. So it will be sometime in February when I get back to Parson House. Can't wait! - tho the people here at Rehab have been great. I miss my Church most - you are a special group!  
Love, Phyllis Ames

**Dear United Church of Christ:** Thank you guys so much for continuing my scholarship into this semester. The \$500 really means a lot and will help me do great things. Thanks again!  
Garrett Tennent

Looking forward to spring and March? Well, March has a **5th Sunday**, so . . .POTLUCK! This time, let's plan on a breakfast/brunch potluck. IF you can, bring a breakfast casserole that can bake while we worship, or some fruit, or IF you make any type of muffins or breads, those would be good, too. I personally don't drink juice, but if you do and you want to bring some juice, yay! We'll make the coffee, put on the water for tea, and you can plan on sharing brunch after worship. OK? Ok. See you then!  
Jane and Steve Uzzell, hosts



The Animal Shelter list of needed items are as noted below. It's not a long list due to all the donations during the Holidays.

**Cat litter (non-clumping)**  
**Purina Fancy Feast kitten food (canned)**  
**Gallons of bleach (regular only, no splashless or scented)**  
**Oxi Clean**  
**55 gallon garbage bags**  
**Printer paper**  
**Collars (dog & cat, all sizes)**  
**Leashes**

### **Birthday**

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

# Fellowship Work Committee

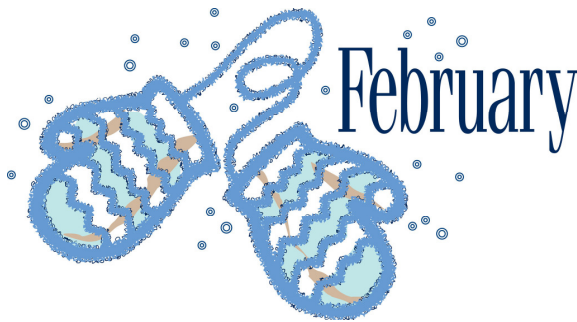
## February

Bonnie Dewell   Rita Woodard   Calvin and Karen Allyn

## March

Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Betty Morrison   Terry Hamilton



### February 3

**Communion:** Verletta Olson, Suzan Podliska,

Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Ushers:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Greeters:** Sue Surber and Suzan Podliska

**Reader:** Jane Uzzell

**Leader:** Dorothy Hull

**Flowers:** Tim Ernst

### February 10

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Greeters:** Terry Hamilton and Verletta Olson

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**Flowers:** Tim Ernst

### February 17

**Ushers:** Jane Uzzell and Bonnie Dewell

**Greeters:** Stan and Vicki Staab

**Reader:** Stan Staab

**Flowers:**

### February 24

**Ushers:** Stan Staab and Terry Hamilton

**Greeters:** Jane Uzzell and Rita Woodard

**Reader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:** Scott and Lori Williams

### March 3

**Communion:** Vicki Staab, Susan Surber, Dorothy Hull, Charlene Fosdick

**Ushers:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink

**Greeters:** Barb Koenig and Dorothy Hull

**Reader:** Cole Uzzell

**Leader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:** Charlene Fosdick

### March 10

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Greeters:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Reader:** Vicki Staab

**Flowers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

### March 17

**Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Greeters:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink

**Reader:** Dorothy Hull

**Flowers:**

### March 24

**Ushers:** Rita Woodard and Susan Surber

**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Reader:** Karen Allyn

**Flowers:** Tim Ernst

### March 31

**Ushers:** Tom McConnell and Ed Lindsay

**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Flowers:**

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

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 7,152.65
Defibrillator	\$ 150.00
O'Neill	\$ 325.00
Scholarship	\$ 1500.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,106.00</u>
Subtotal	\$18,233.65
Salary	--\$ 6,286.44
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,720.30
Office Expenses	—\$ 764.36
Christmas Dinner	——\$ 30.12
Scholarship	——\$ 1500.00
Substitute Organist	——\$ 70.00
O'Neill	——\$ 575.00
<u>Conference</u>	<u>——\$ 849.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 5,438.43



TREASURER'S REPORT

# ▶ February 2019

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

1      2  
7 Card Group

3      4      5      6      7      8      9  
9 PM Sunday School  
10:15 Worship      Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30      Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30      Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00      Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30      12 Delphians  
7 Card Group

10      11      12      13      14      15      16  
9 PM Sunday School  
10:15 Worship

17      18      19      20      21      22      23  
9 PM Sunday School  
10:15 Worship      Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30      Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30      Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00      Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30

24      25      26      27      28  
9 PM Sunday School  
10:15 Worship  
2-4 Animal Shelter



# ▶ March 2019

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

1      2  
7 Card Group

3      4      5      6      7      8      9

9 PM Sunday School  
10:15 Worship

**Sue in Lincoln**  
Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30

LifeLine Screening 9-5  
Fellowship Hall  
Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30

Ash Wednesday @ Trinity  
Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00

Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30

12 Delphians  
7 Card Group

10      11      12      13      14      15      16

9 PM Sunday School  
10:15 Worship

17      18      19      20      21      22      23

9 PM Sunday School  
10:15 Worship

Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30

Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30

Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00

Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30

24      25      26      27      28      29      30

9 PM Sunday School  
10:15 Worship  
Dedicate Stewardship

31

9 PM Sunday School  
10:15 Worship  
Breakfast potluck



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

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www.firstconguccc.org

9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service