

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



February 2026

Volume 5, Issue 136



Valentine Potluck to be held after worship on February 15. Come share a meal with your church family and share stories of love.

February is Stewardship month. Pledge cards and time and talent sheets will be dedicated on Sunday, February 15. If you can't bring them to the church, please mail them.



Pastor's Office Hours

**Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday 9-12  
 Afternoons by appointment



Church Secretary

**Office Hours**  
 Monday-Friday  
 8-12  
 May be gone to the doctor with Mom

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## Brian's Beacon

As the month of February comes we celebrate one of the biggest money-making days of the year. 5,826 people propose each year on Valentine's Day in the US and 6 million in the world. That's just people proposing. There are 250 million

flowers given and just think how much candy is given.

St. Valentine was a Christian priest who performed marriages when it was a time of persecution. He was to have lived during the reign of Claudius II, thus 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. It was a time when Rome thought it better for a man not to be married but be a single Soldier.

Valentine ministered to many in Rome, sharing his faith and conducting weddings even when it was unlawful. Valentine was imprisoned. During his time in prison, he continued to be a minister and spread his faith. Eventually he was martyred for his faith on February 14, around the year 270 AD.

In the Middle Ages, St. Valentine was romanticized and February 14 became the idea of love birds choosing their mates. There are now centuries of traditions of people expressing love, through cards, gifts and symbolic gestures.

St. Valentine is the patron of lovers, engaged couples and beekeepers. His legacy lives on not only in religious circles but in a global sense each year on February 14.

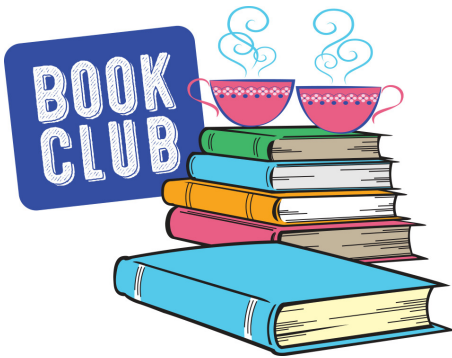
First Congregational United Church of Christ will celebrate Valentines Day on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>. It is my hope that many of you will be willing to share how you met your Valentine during our church potluck.

Pastor Brian

## Bible Reading for the Month

# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Leviticus 1-4	2 Leviticus 5-7	3 Leviticus 8-10	4 Leviticus 11-13	5 Leviticus 14-15	6 Leviticus 16-18	7 Leviticus 19-21
8 Leviticus 22-23	9 Leviticus 24-25	10 Leviticus 26-27	11 Numbers 1-2	12 Numbers 3-4	13 Numbers 5-6	14 Numbers 7
15 Numbers 8-10	16 Numbers 11-13	17 Numbers 14-15	18 Numbers 16-17	19 Numbers 18-20	20 Numbers 21-22	21 Numbers 23-25
22 Numbers 26-27	23 Numbers 28-30	24 Numbers 31-32	25 Numbers 33-34	26 Numbers 35-36	27 Deuteronomy 1-2	28 Deuteronomy 3-4



Book Club will be traveling the United States as we celebrate 250 years of being a nation. February celebrates the uniqueness of each state. Books are available in Fellowship Hall and questions can be answered by Jane.

# JUST FOR KIDS



Easter egg hunt is scheduled for March 28. Please share with your friends and neighbors this event. We always enjoy seeing new faces!

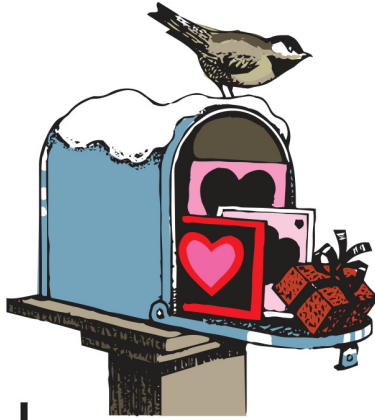
Do you go grocery shopping? At Lou's? At HyVee? **We have an easy way to bump up your donation to the church budget--use a Lou's or HyVee gift card when you go shopping or get gas. You can buy them Sundays in Fellowship Hall. We currently get \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards.**

See you at the table in Fellowship Hall!  
Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402)640-6623.



## Birthdays

- 4th Suzan Podliska
- Paige Castaneda
- 15th Barb Koenig
- 17th Garrett Korthals
- Mary Rhodes
- 18th Bonnie Dewell
- 26th Brian High
- 27th Mike Synovec
- 28th McKenna McQuistan



# February

## February 1

**Communion:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Ushers:** Karen Allyn and Jane Uzzell

**Greeters:** Andrea High and Pat Jenny

**Reader:** Ben Uzzell

**Leader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:**

## February 8

**Ushers:**

**Greeters:** Mike Synovec and Tom McConnell

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**Flowers:**

## February 15

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Greeters:** Jane Uzzell and Grace Uzzell

**Reader:** Andrea High

**Flowers:**

## February 22

**Ushers:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Greeters:** Evonne Burkink and Bonnie Dewell

**Reader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:**



## March 1

**Communion:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Ushers:** Barb Koenig and Grace Uzzell

**Greeters:** Stacie and Ben Uzzell

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Leader:** Susan Allyn

**Flowers:**

## March 8

**Ushers:** Susan Surber and Bonnie Dewell

**Greeters:** Lynn Bichlmeier and Rita Woodard

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Flowers:**

## March 15

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Reader:** Lori Williams

**Flowers:**

## March 22

**Ushers:** Mike Synovec and Reese Uzzell

**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Reader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:**

## March 29 Palm Sunday

**Ushers:** Pat Jenny and Verletta Olson

**Greeters:** Barb Koenig and Karen Allyn

**Readers:** Jane Uzzell, Scott Williams and Andrea

High

**Flowers:** Palms

Please notify the office if you are not able to attend a service.

# January

From 12/20/25 through 1/31/26

## Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 982.32
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 31,381.23</u>
Subtotal	\$ 32,363.55
Salary	--\$ 9,958.95
Church Maintenance	—\$ 4,412.79
Office Expenses	—\$ 807.64
Substitute Organist	—\$ 140.00
Faith Development	—\$ 80.57
Insurance	—\$ 1,750.00
Conference	—\$ 1,350.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 13,363.60



Last month bills were paid through the 19th. End of the month paychecks were not included.

# ▶ February 2026

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

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1                    2                    3                    4                    5                    6                    7

9:00 Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

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8                    9                    10                    11                    12                    13                    14

9:00 Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

Girl Scouts  
5:30-7

10 Book club

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15                    16                    17                    18                    19                    20                    21

9:00 Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship  
Stewardship  
dedication  
Potluck dinner

Ash Wednesday  
Trinity  
Episcopal  
5:30 PM

7 PM Car Club    Linaje  
Fellowship  
Hall

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22                    23                    24                    25                    26                    27                    28

9:00 Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

Girl Scouts  
5:30-7

Unity Council

# ▶ March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship				Lenten Lunch		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Savings begins 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	Girl Scouts 5:30-7		10 Book club	Lenten Lunch		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship One Great Hour of Sharing Faith Development				Lenten Lunch	7 PM Car Club	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	Girl Scouts 5:30-7			Lenten Lunch		
29	30	31				
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship						