

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



Ash Wednesday Service
will be held at First
Presbyterian Church
February 26th at 6:30
PM.

February 2020

Volume 5, Issue 64

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For news of church event cancellations call the church's phone recordings, and/or go to the website for US92 us92.com then click 'weather', go to 'closings and delays'. The Daily News will also have this information.



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

Ecclesiastical Council

In January and February worship, we have been talking about Jesus' *call* to love and serve God, and how we as Christians are all called to follow Jesus' example. A summary of the Gospel is: God names and claims us, brings us close, and then sends us out into the world to shine the light in dark places.

God calls each of us to a variety of ministries. Ordination is one type of ministry to which a person may be called. It is not a higher calling than any other, it's just different and it does require more education in order to teach, preach, and serve the United Church of Christ throughout the world.

January 25th, on a Saturday morning, I, other clergy, and congregational members (voting and non-voting) representing many churches in the United Church of Christ, gathered at St. Luke's UCC in Columbus. We were there to listen to Pastor Adam Lassen give a presentation on his call to ordained ministry. The love of music and playing music got him started. Through his work at the nursing home playing the piano and leading worship, he began to see how music, faith and ministry came together for him.

Adam started to take classes in Bible, preaching, pastoral care, etc. in 2006, and continues to this day. He has a special interest in serving those with memory loss, their families, the 'un-churched', and the wider community. After the Committee on Ministry met with him over the years to talk with him about his sense of where God might be calling, examined his classwork, and reviewed the testimony of those he had served over the years, the Committee recommended him for ordination.

But this recommendation needs to be examined by the wider church. This is what the Ecclesiastical Council is for. Ecclesiastical is the fancy word for church. It was especially moving to hear from members of Adam's church. Members offered testimonies about his leadership and character and helped all to see the big picture: Indeed, God has called Adam to ordained ministry on behalf of the whole UCC.

The votes were counted, and we all sang the Doxology as Adam returned to the room to celebrate this joyful moment in the life of the church. *Call* is not solely a personal matter, we need the church to affirm our call, encourage us, celebrate with us, and praise God! *Peace, Pastor Jackie*





Time Away

- Pastor Jackie will participate *in Nebraska Clergy Wellness Retreat* Monday, February 10 at 1pm, to Wednesday, February 12 at Noon at St. Benedict Center near Schuyler. This is a retreat for authorized ministers in the Nebraska Conference, and an opportunity for fellowship, renewal, and continuing education. This year the UCC Pension Board is covering most of the cost.

Jesus said to them, "Come away with me. Let us go alone to a quiet place and rest for a while." – Mark 6:31

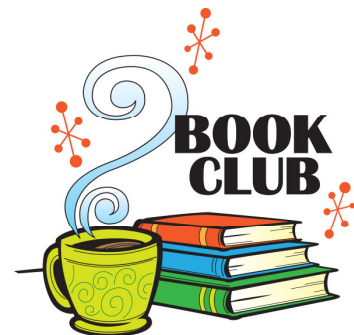


ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Youth Night Out

On January 24th, five youth (Cole, Adam, Henry, Kailee and Micah) and two leaders (Darlene and Pastor Jackie) participated in Friday's Youth Night Out. After pizza, the group packed up supplies and walked over to Skyline Apartments. The youth served about 25 people. It was fun to visit and catch up with our neighbors. After the ice cream social, they went to "Jumanji: The Next Level" at Norfolk 7; then back to the church to play Pitt (a fun and noisy card game) until midnight. Thanks to all at Skyline and First Congregational who helped build community. Shout out to Garrett for clearing the sidewalks for us and joining us for pizza!

Book club meets February 12. The story for this month is *Peter Pan*. Please see Jane Uzzell for the book.



Thank you so much to the entire church family. Your Christmas gift was much appreciated and will be put to good use. What a wonderful group of people! Thank you so much. Susan Allyn

**Thanks
for Your
Help!**

Thank you to the congregation for your concern and prayers and the signed get well card. I also appreciate all who have covered my responsibilities during this time. Suzan Podliska

Evonne and fellow church ladies-Thank you for all you did for Dorothy's funeral reception. The decorations, tables and food were perfect and festive. Thank you for baking, serving and cleanup. Dorothy loved her church family. Merry Christmas! And as Dorothy would say: "Noel, Noel!" Mary Pat Hoag



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



Men's Group will meet February 20 at 11:30 at Pizza Hut on Benjamin. Nebraska history is the topic.

Fellowship Work Committee

February

Dorothy Hull

Charlene Fosdick

March

Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Betty Morrison

Terry Hamilton



February 2

Communion: Verletta Olson, Terry Hamilton, Charlene Fosdick, Suzan Podliska

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Rita Woodard and Mike Synovec

Reader: Karen Allyn

Leader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers: Tim Ernst

February 9

Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Ed Lindsay

Greeters: Suzan Podliska and Tom McConnell

Reader: Susan Allyn

Flowers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

February 16

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

February 23

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Randy Nueharth

Flowers:

March 1

Communion: Jeff and Evonne Burkink and Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Terry Hamilton

Greeters: Stan and Vicki Staab

Reader: Stan Staab

Leader: Vicki Staab

Flowers:

March 8

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Ed Lindsay

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

March 15

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers:

March 22

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers:

March 29

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Cole Uzzell

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Rita Woodard

Reader: Cole Uzzell

Flowers:

January

From 1/1/20 through 1/31/20



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

Beginning balance	—\$ 4,460.07
O'Neill	\$ 150.00
Christmas Fund	\$ 262.00
Good Neighbors	\$ 50.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 17,313.90</u>
Subtotal	\$ 13,315.83
Salary	--\$ 8,498.69
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,505.33
Office Expenses	—\$ 732.24
Youth Group	—\$ 26.16
Faith Development	—\$ 18.49
Substitute Pastor	—\$ 125.00
Substitute Organist	—\$ 140.00
Living Waters Association	—\$ 342.92
Scholarship	—\$1,500.00
Cleaning service	—\$ 755.00
O'Neill	—\$ 300.00
Madison County Bank	—\$ 700.00
Christmas Dinner	—\$ 39.91
Good Neighbors	—\$ 50.00
<u>Conference</u>	<u>—\$ 911.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 3,328.91

▶ February 2020

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

1

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

7 Card Group

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Jackie on
retreat with
UCC

Jackie on
retreat with
UCC

Jackie on
retreat with
UCC

10 AM Book
Club

1 Delphians
5 Card Group

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

11:30 Pizza
Hut Men's
Group

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Ash
Wednesday
Service
6:30 PM First
Presbyterian
Church

▶ March 2020

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

7 Card Group

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

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10 AM Book
Club

1 Delphians
5 Card Group

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

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22 23 24 25 26 27 28

9 Sunday
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10:15 Worship

29 30 31

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship