

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

*Serving God with love and faith*



**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 5pm-6pm  
 at First Congregational UCC**

What to do in January? Let's break bread with our neighbors! Come and warm yourselves with a bowl of delicious soup, some bread, and our friends from Trinity Episcopal and First Presbyterian. All are welcome. Friends are strangers you haven't met yet. Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall



January 2018

Volume 5, Issue 39

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**WHO:** League of Woman Voters - Nebraska  
**WHAT:** Meeting about redistricting bill LB 216  
**WHEN:** Thursday, January 18, 7pm-8:30pm  
**WHERE:** First Congregational UCC  
 1102 W. Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk, NE  
**WHY:** Come learn about redistricting from John Else, League of Women Voters - Nebraska, and get acquainted with legislation currently in the Legislature.



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		

## Ministry of Hospitality



**The Request:** John Else from the League of Women Voters Nebraska (LWV-N) asked to meet with me in mid-December. The League was looking for a place to hold a public meeting about LB 216, a legislative bill on Redistricting. Redistricting is the process of redrawing of electoral districts. These need to be adjusted every 10 years, and should not be drawn to favor any political party, person or group; to this end, LWV wanted to hold a meeting in Norfolk to educate and advocate for LB 216 (its a voter related bill ). The League held meetings in Kearney and Hastings with 100 and 40 attending.

**My experience with LWV:** I was a member of the League in Pennsylvania in the 80s. Back then, we were studying the Farm Crisis as a focus topic. Because the League is well-known to be non-partisan, we had permission to help people in nursing homes vote (I did this for a couple of years). We also set up public forums that gave those running for office a place to address questions from the voters in an equal and orderly setting. We would also send questions for all candidates to complete and from these create voters guides that the Newspaper would publish. Their link: <http://www.lwv-ne.org/>

### My point of view (you are free to disagree with me)

**-Experience:** From my own *experience*, I know the non-partisan work of the LWV, who educate and advocate on behalf of all voters.

**-Scripture:** (James 2:14-17) As Christians we need to do more than pray for our nation and community - we also need to act (in this case action through hospitality).

**-Theological Themes:** In our 2014 church conversations *Around the Table* - we identified as our top values: Caring, Compassion, Welcome, Community Service & Christian Unity. It seems to me, that inviting LWV-N to meet at FCUCC would put our values in action, especially Welcome and Community Service (and also Christian Unity because this is a non-partisan group).

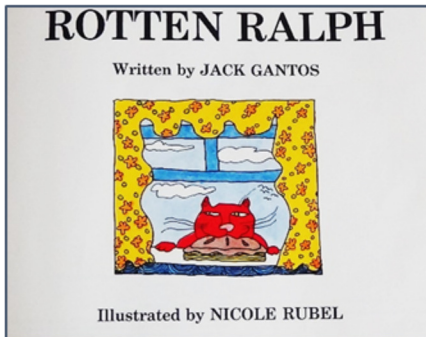
**-Tradition:** Congregationalists, historically value education (we founded Harvard and Yale), in our local church we have created a generous scholarship fund, and among our members we have had many teachers and principals. Historically, we have participated as community leaders in the public square. There is no place where we see God not present. Because we value unity, I sought approval for this request from Unity Council and others. One person said, "Our church has always been known as a place where you can have a conversation." Another said, "When LWV-N was studying water issues they made many requests of NRD for information, and they were always fair with us."

**-Shared Art work:** FCUCC's favored church art works show Jesus knocking. When the community knocks on our door, if it is at all possible to accommodate a request, I'd like to try.

*Hope you can come. – Peace, Pastor Jackie*

**Pastor Schedule** – Pastor Jackie will attend Annual Convocation at St. Benedict’s Spiritual Center in Schuyler, Nebraska, January 15 (afternoon) through January 17 (morning).

**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 emotions. January is teamwork. Recipes for lunch could be things you learned to cook or fix with others.

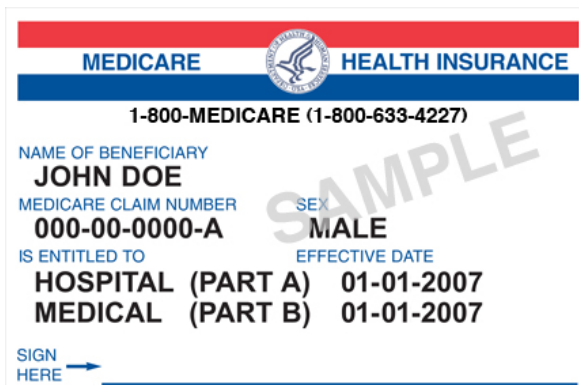


My sincere thanks for the \$110 given as a gift from my wonderful church family. It is so thoughtful of you to share in the blessings of the season. Thank you.  
Susan Allyn

**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!!!**



- 8th Stan Staab
- 11th Tom McConnell
- 19th Beth Rhoades



# Fellowship Work Committee

January

Verletta Olson

Jane Uzzell

February

Cal and Karen Allyn



## January 7

**Communion:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink, Ben Uzzell and Tom McConnell

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Greeters:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Leader:** Vicki Staab

**Flowers:**

## January 14

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Greeters:** Kay and Randy Neuharth

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:**

## January 21

**Ushers:** Stan and Vicki Staab

**Greeters:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Reader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:**

## January 28

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Greeters:** Stan and Vicki Staab

**Reader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:**

## 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:**

## February 11

**Ushers:** Ed Lindsay and Cole Lee

**Greeters:** Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

**Reader:** Lori Williams

**Flowers:**

## February 14 Ash Wednesday

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

## February 18

**Ushers:** Jane Uzzell and Suzan Podliska

**Greeters:** Rita Woodard and Susan Surber

**Reader:** Jane Uzzell

**Flowers:**

## February 25

**Ushers:** Verletta Olson and Susan Surber

**Greeters:** Jane Uzzell and Suzan Podliska

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Flowers:**



TREASURER'S REPORT

From 12/1/17 through 12/31/17

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 3,442.44
Poinsettias	\$ 100.75
Mission Giving	\$ 1,000.00
Christmas Fund	\$ 652.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$20,223.70</u>
Subtotal	\$25,418.89
Salary	--\$ 6,152.26
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,950.01
Office Expenses	—\$ 1,024.00
Worship Ministry	—\$ 28.95
Insurance	—\$ 2,434.25
Bright Horizons	—\$ 250.00
Food Pantry	—\$ 250.00
Salvation Army	—\$ 250.00
<u>Rescue Mission</u>	<u>—\$ 250.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 12,829.42

# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>2</b> Girl Scouts 5-6	<b>3</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	<b>4</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	<b>5</b> 7 Card Group	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>8</b> Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Soup Supper 5 PM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 1 Delphian FH 7 Card Group	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>15</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>16</b> Girl Scouts 5-6	<b>17</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	<b>18</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>22</b> Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	<b>2</b> 7 Card Group	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>5</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	<b>6</b> Girl Scouts 5-6	<b>7</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 7:00-8:00	<b>8</b> 7 PM Unity Council	<b>9</b> 1 Delphian FH 7 Card Group	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>12</b> Girl Scouts 6:30-7:30	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday Service at First Presbyterian	<b>15</b> Girl Scouts 5:30-6:45	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
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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**

1102 W. Norfolk Ave

Norfolk, NE 68701

402-371-0701

firstconguccc@cableone.net

www.firstconguccc.org

9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service