

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



The Christmas program was again a success. The Christmas dinner followed with plenty to eat. Barb Koenig sends a thank you to all who helped set up and clean up. Many hands make light work!

January 2020

Volume 5, Issue 63

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.

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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



<https://www.census.gov/en.html>

Gerry Hernandez, a Partnership Specialist, for the U.S. Census Bureau has been visiting organizations in our region to tell people about the upcoming 2020 Census. I heard him speak at The Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club. Gerry tells the story of how he visited the Health Department in Dakota County. He noticed a big jar on the reception desk. He's seen many of these on counters at gas stations or small supermarkets. Usually, the jar is there to collect money in order to help a family cover a medical expense.

Gerry asked who the jar was for, and they replied "The jar is for us—to help the department run". He asked, "Aren't you funded through government support?" They replied, "Yes, but our support is based on the last census data. The support allows us to cover 5,000 people, but there are actually 10,000."

The story is just one example of how important it is for all people to be counted in the upcoming census. Gerry said that some people might complain that the Census Bureau didn't get a good count, but the fact is that the responsibility for getting an accurate count is on each community. He added that children are the most undercounted group.

Gerry seeks community partners to help get an accurate count. In Norfolk, partners include Northeast Community College, Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, and the Norfolk Library.

The Census is also hiring census takers, people who work part-time to follow up with those who have not turned in their census form. Most of this work would be done after April 1, the official census day.

I asked Gerry how churches might support an accurate count. He replied that it can be as simple as getting the word out and sharing the census link (above). He said that teachers often make great census takers because "they often have summers off, and they are a friendly face in town".

I encourage you to go to the link above to learn more about how census data are being used all around you, how your privacy is protected, how you will be able to respond online, and how you can help our community be counted.

In the census, everyone counts. Even Jesus was counted.

Peace, Pastor Jackie



Welcome Linaje Escogido!

On Sunday, December 1st, First Congregational officially welcomed Pastors Able and Arceli Garcia and members of their congregation. Linaje Escogido, a Spanish-speaking church who have operated many years in Norfolk, now rents the space downstairs for worship, fellowship and classes. It is a joy to know that we are sharing the space that God has given us, and

that we both may grow together in friendship. After our service, about ten members of FCUCC joined LE in worship. The Scripture passage that Pastor Able shared was **Psalm 133:**

Brothers Dwell in Unity

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

133 Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.

See October and November newsletters to learn more about the process of conversations that helped both congregations make the move. We both believe that we can work out details or differences that may come up, and work together in faith.

Pastor's Time Away

Vacation - Sunday afternoon December 29 through January 5, returning to the office Monday, January 6. Chaplain Gordon Braun will be Guest Preacher, January 5. Pastoral emergency coverage will be announced (and on Pastor's voice message).

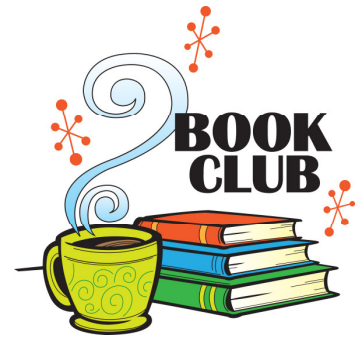
St. Benedict Center retreat - Ministerial Association retreat from Monday afternoon through Wednesday morning January 13-15.

Funnies for the Month

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.



Book club meets January 8. Please see Jane Uzzell for the book of the month.



Youth and Confirmation class from First Presbyterian and First Congregational Churches went Christmas caroling at Heritage Bel Air and St. Joseph's Center on December 11th. We had 13 carolers, and thanks to Mike Synovec for setting up the pizza and treats! We are planning an outreach and movie combination for January.



Men's Group will meet January 16 at 11:30 at Pizza Hut on Benjamin. Gene Kroeger will be sharing Nebraska History.



Birthday

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

Fellowship Work Committee

January



January 5

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams and Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Ushers: Cole Uzzell and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Cole Uzzell

Leader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Village Flower Shoppe

January 12

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

January 19

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Tom McConnell

Greeters: Charlene Fosdick and Barb Koenig

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers:

January 26

Ushers: Dorothy Hull and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Terry Hamilton

Reader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers:

February 2

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

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Rita Woodard and Mike Synovec

Reader: Vicki Staab

Leader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers:

February 9

Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Ed Lindsay

Greeters: Suzan Podliska and Tom McConnell

Reader: Karen 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:

February 26 Ash Wednesday

Communion: Vicki Staab, Tom McConnell, Dorothy Hull, Ben Uzzell

Ushers: Stan and Vicki Staab

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

December

From 12/1/19 through 12/17/19

This does not include deposits for 12/22 or 12/29

This does include payroll through the end of the year.

Checking account information

Beginning balance	—\$ 4,120.80
O'Neill	\$ 150.00
Christmas Fund	\$ 105.00
Funeral	\$ 100.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 10,616.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 6,850.20
Salary	--\$ 5,281.78
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,069.84
Office Expenses	—\$ 703.28
Worship Ministry	—\$ 106.37
Substitute Organist	—\$ 140.00
Insurance	—\$2,246.00
Cleaning service	—\$ 1,150.00
Poinsettias	—\$ 153.00
Good Neighbors	—\$ 180.00
<u>Conference</u>	<u>—\$ 280.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 4,460.07



TREASURER'S REPORT

▶ January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			OFFICE CLOSED Jackie vacation	Jackie vacation	7 Card Group Jackie vacation	Jackie vacation
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Undecorate Jackie vacation	10 Girl Scouts			7 Unity	5 Card Group	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	Jackie on retreat with NAMA	Jackie on retreat with NAMA	Jackie on retreat with NAMA			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship				NAMA 8 FH		Girl Scouts 12-4 FH
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship						

▶ 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

1 Delphians
5 Card Group

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Ash
Wednesday
Service



First Congregational United Church of Christ
1102 W. Norfolk Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701

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With love and faith



First Congregational United Church of Christ

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www.firstconguccc.org

9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service