

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

Serving God with love and faith



July 2017

Volume 5, Issue 33

Pastor's Page	2
Annual Gathering	3
Children's books	4
Local News	5
Serving Page	6
Financial Page	7
Calendar	8-9



Mission Trip to Pine Ridge

Commissioning for the trip will be during the worship service on July 2. Mission trip group leaves for Pine Ridge on July 8 and returns home July 14. The Shareholders' dinner is planned for July 23.

Please pray for those on the youth mission trip to Re-Member working with the Oglala Lakota Oyate on Pine Ridge Reservation, Saturday July 8 through Friday July 14: Adam Gamerl, Erik Gamerl, Dorothy Hull, Terri Knoell, Cole Lee, Paige Lee, Taylor Rossman, and Pastor Jackie. Each year, Re-member hosts 1,200 volunteers. There will be about 60 others serving that week, including a few Re-Member staff.

The Shareholders' dinner will be Sunday, July 23 @ 6pm, \$20 adults (children and youth, free). It's not too late to purchase a share. Contact Susan Allyn in the church office. Thank you for supporting our youth!



Church Secretary

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



Office Hours
 Monday-Friday
 8-12
 Monday—Thursday
 1-3

Psalms and the Life of Trust



The Psalms are the prayers of the Hebrew people and run the gamut from praise to gut-wrenching pleas for help. Throughout this poetry runs a thread – we can trust in God to hold our lives. In this summer series, we take a break from the worry, anxiety, and distress that life can bring and let Holy Assurance hold us fast.

This series features the work of psalm composer and musician, Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan from The Psalms Project, Sharing the Road.



Summer Series: God is Holding Your Life

July 2 “God is Holding Your Life” – Jackie Perry

Psalm 121 The Traveler’s Psalm/Commissioning Volunteers to Pine Ridge

July 9 Guest Preacher – Gordon Braun
Pastor Jackie and team will be on mission trip

July 16 “Surely Goodness and Mercy” – Jackie Perry

Psalm 23

July 23 “Desert Blues” – Jackie Perry

Psalm 63

July 30 “There is a River” – Jackie Perry

Psalm 46

August 6 “God’s Love Endures Forever” – Jackie Perry

Psalm 136: 1, 6, 13-14 Communion Sunday

Our journey through the psalms culminates in thanksgiving and assurance that the love of our Holy Living God endures forever!

OUR WIDER CHURCH NEWS

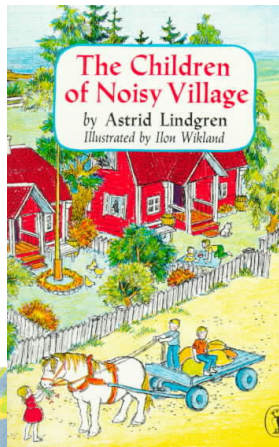
Annual Gathering Report

Doane University provided hospitality and a beautiful setting for the Annual Gathering, June 9-10. Church Rep, Ben Uzzell, and I attended. The Nebraska Conference honored Susan Allyn for her 10 years of service on the Board of Directors, and we voted on a new slate of officers. Conference Minister, Rev. Roddy Dunkerson, shared his impressions of the state of the Nebraska Conference as well as a progress report on the new Tri-Conference (includes SD, IA & NE). The way the UCC in these states is joining together to provide Conference support and staffing models is new, so other Conferences are watching our Tri-Conference activities for ideas. Roddy reminded the church that we are pioneers, so we may have “some well watched toe-stubbing incidents along the way”. He added, “our deep commitments and our resilience will be a gift that help us adjust and try again.” He expects that we will vote on a new Executive Minister (EM) of the Tri-Conference the first Saturday of October. Once the EM has been hired, that person will help to decide where the new offices will be.

Carla Patterson, a bi-vocational pastor at Zion UCC in Talmage presented “a second look at small church ministry, it’s power and potential”. She encouraged a new look at previously held images of ‘church vitality’ suggesting that small churches are uniquely equipped to bring a new vision to ministry. I will share some of her insights in the coming weeks.

George Theitje, the Nebraska Rep for the UCC Insurance Board presented implications of changing norms in our society that present changing risk for churches. For example: deciding to be a ‘sanctuary church for immigrants’, safety plan to respond to an active shooter, privacy concerns for posting prayer lists, legal stances on personnel matters, Work Comp, and who responds if someone falls in our church (Medicare for older members or our church insurance).

As this was Roddy’s last Annual Gathering before her retires in December, the Board roasted him and we all thanked him for his years of service. Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister of the UCC, keynoted and led worship in the afternoon. On Sunday, we were free to worship at other churches. I returned to Friends Meeting (Quakers) in Lincoln; always a meaningful and memorable experience of the Spirit. --Pastor Jackie



July's book is set in Sweden and follows the adventures of farm children.

Around the World Bookclub

2ND Wednesday of each month

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Unity Room

Learn about 12 Countries of our world thru children's books.

- July - Sweden Children of Noisy Village, Astrid Lindgren
- August - Haiti Hope for Haiti, Jesse Joshua Watson
- September - Australia . . . Pumpkin Runner, Australia
- October - Vietnam . . . Grandfather's Dream, Vietnam
- November - France . . . Family Under the Bridge, Natalie Savage Carlson
- December - Mexico . . . Too Many Tamales, Gary Soto

THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU!!!

This year's VBS was a success and it was a fun experience for all the kids & helpers.

We couldn't do it without all our great volunteers that give of their time & talent.

Paige Lee
Chloe Strong
Cole Lee
Kennedy Indra
Pastor Jackie Perry
Barb Koenig
Kay Neuharth

Susan Surber
Karen Allyn
Terry Hamilton
Candice Korthals
Gene Korthals
Darlene Korthals



We need people to serve in Fellowship Hall during the month of August.



2017 Annual Gathering
The Rev. [John C. Dorhauer](#), author and theologian, currently serving as ninth General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, was this year's Annual Gathering Keynote Speaker.

- 1st Jean Masters
- 6th Verletta Olson
- 10th Evonne Burkink
- 11th Dorothy Hull
- 15th Doug Dudley
- 19th Kellen Rossman
- 28th Randy Neuharth
- 30th Pat Jenny

Anniversary

- 5th Tom and Sandy McConnell
- 15th Erik and Katie Gamerl

Fellowship Work Committee

July

Nancy Brown

Susan Allyn

Mike Synovec

August



July 2

Communion: Suzan Podliska, Ben Uzzell, Barb Koenig, Vicki Staab

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Stan and Vicki Staab

Reader: Karen Allyn

Leader: Stan Staab

Flowers: Dorothy Hull

July 9

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Rita Woodard

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

July 16

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Ruth Brown

July 23

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

July 30

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Cole Lee and Jane Uzzell

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers:



August 6

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger, Verletta Olson and Sue Surber

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Tom McConnell

Leader: Susan Allyn

Flowers: Ed Lindsay

August 13

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers: Stan and Vicki Staab

August 20

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

Greeters: Stan and Vicki Staab

Reader: Stan Staab

Flowers: Tom and Susan Surber

August 27

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers: Dorothy Hull

From 6/1/17 through 6/30/17

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 13,834.94
Youth Mission	\$ 40.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,069.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 22,943.94
Salary	--\$ 10,466.13
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,348.99
Office Expenses	—\$ 888.15
Substitute Organist	—\$ 130.00
Substitute Pastor	—\$ 250.00
Worship Ministry	—\$ 310.70
Insurance	—\$ 2,277.75
<u>OCWM, Strengthen the Church</u>	<u>—\$ 993.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 6,279.22



TREASURER'S REPORT

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:15 Worship	3	4 Office Closed	5 GS 7-8	6	7 7 Card Group	8 Mission Trip
9 10:15 Worship Mission Trip	10 Mission Trip	11 Mission Trip	12 Mission Trip	13 Mission Trip	14 7 Card Group Mission Trip	15
16 10:15 Worship	17	18	19 GS 7-8	20	21	22
23 10:15 Worship Shareholders' Dinner	24	25	26	27 7 Unity Council	28	29
30 10:15 Worship	31					

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 GS 7-8	3	4 7 Card Group	5
6 10:15 Worship 1 PM Feddern Reunion	7 7 PM GS Fellowship Hall	8	9	10	11 7 Card Group	12
13 10:15 Worship 1 PM Synovec Reunion	14	15	16 GS 7-8	17 NPS Begins	18	19
20 10:15 Worship	21 NECC Begins	22	23	24 7 PM GS Fellowship Hall	25	26
27 10:15 Worship	28	29	30	31		



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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Norfolk, NE 68701
Permit No. 17

Return Service Requested

With love and faith



First Congregational United Church of Christ

1102 W. Norfolk Ave

Norfolk, NE 68701

402-371-0701

firstcongucc@cablone.net

www.firstcongucc.org

9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service