

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



July 2018

Volume 5, Issue 45

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Do you go grocery shopping? At Lou's? At HyVee? **We have any 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 either buy them **Monday-Friday** at the church office, or **Sunday's** in Fellowship Hall. We currently get \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards. The church buys \$1000 of gift cards for \$970, so we get \$30 for the budget. See you at the table in Fellowship Hall! Please help out. The gift cards fit right in your billfold by your dollar bills, so it's even easy to remember to use them when you go to pay for your groceries.



Church Secretary

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



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



Annual Gathering – Ogallala, June 8 & 9

Though I didn't enjoy the long car ride to Ogallala, I was pleased that the Nebraska Conference Annual Gathering took place in that fascinating small town. Since Ben and Steve Uzzell served as Representatives from our church, I learned that they were members of First Congregational UCC on Spruce street back in the 80s. Ben was baptized there. In fact, the church burned down while the Uzzell's were members and they keenly recall the event. The congregation has built a spacious beautiful new church with lovely stained glass.

The Tri-Conference Leaders: Brigit, Gordon, and Jona (via Skype), and the Nebraska Board of Directors, created a great annual meeting. There were many great workshops from which to choose, and effective keynote speakers, including:

Rev. Hollie Schmidt discussed their new format for Sunday School; Byron Buffalo from Eagle Butte, South Dakota (Like him on FACEBOOK) talked about his and his wife's (Toni Buffalo) healing ministry teaching horsemanship to teenagers; and "Godly Play" by Rev. Molly Dowell Baum.

We worshipped God, met new people, and attended to the business of the wider church. The key debate (and faithful discussion) was whether to ratify the UCC Constitutional Amendments voted by the 31st General Synod in 2017.

At the Nebraska gathering, the vote was 16 to ratify, 22 not to ratify, and about 6 abstained. To me, I understood the need to save precious money. Less and less now goes to the national setting of the UCC, but the re-structure appeared to lessen the covenantal structure, moving to a more corporate model of leadership. I was one abstaining because I needed more information and didn't want to vote for the corporate model. South Dakota voted to ratify, Nebraska noted no, and Iowa has yet to vote.

The view of Lake McConaughy was amazing.



Pastor Jackie is on vacation June 25 – July 8. While she spends time away with family, Chaplain Gordon Braun (pronounced *Brown*) of Asera Care, will be our Guest Preacher. Pastor Brian Johnson, First Presbyterian, is on-call for pastoral care. His phone number is on Pastor Jackie's voice mail.

UCC Insurance Board: Church Fire Awareness

On June 14th, before creating posters for the UCC Insurance Board Poster Contest, we walked to Station One for a tour of the Norfolk Fire Department. This year's theme is Fire Prevention. Our guide explained that many fires could be prevented.

Participants included: Reese Uzzell, Grace Uzzell, Kennedy Indra, Skylar Indra, Kailee Fennstra and Micah Feenstra, Mike Synovec, Verletta Olson, and Pastor Jackie.

George Theitje, our Nebraska Representative of the UCC Insurance Board sent pictures of a recent fire at a church camp, caused by lightning. The Theitje's sent contest information and statistics about church fires.

Questions:

What is the cause of most church fires? What percentage of church fires are caused by candles?

Answers: Cooking Equipment: Candles cause 4% of church fires



Nick Bentz of the Norfolk Fire Department gives a tour.



"Things Children Should Not Have" - Kailee Feenstra.



"House on Fire" - Micah Feenstra.



To Norfolk With Love September 15, 2018

Over the course of the last several years there has been a growing desire in the hearts of Christ Followers in Norfolk to come together with other Believers to do something intentional and meaningful as the larger Body of Christ. To Norfolk With Love is designed to do just that. TNWL 2018 is a community-wide day of service where followers of Jesus from every denomination and creed join together to serve side-by-side to demonstrate the love of Christ to our city. Our dream is that as we momentarily lay down some of our differences and take up loving projects of all kinds around the city, we can show our community and the world a better way. TNWL is being organized by Pastor Caleb Lind and his team at First Baptist Church. Will you join us? For more information, go to: <http://tonorfolkwithlove.com/> Interested? See Pastor Jackie.

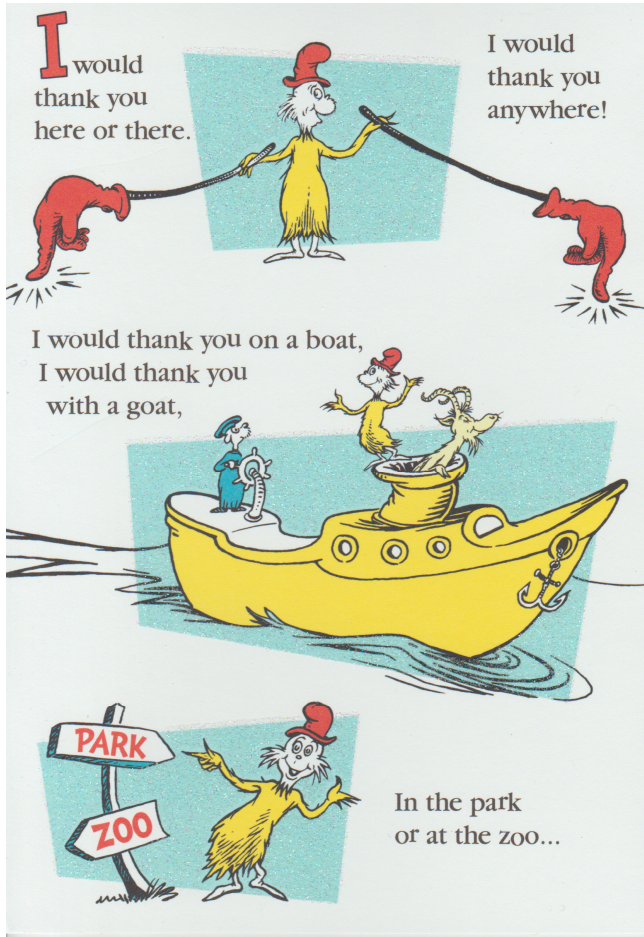
Thanks



**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!!
WE GREATLY APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HELP WITH THIS
YEAR'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.**

**Kennedy Indra
Adam Gamerl
Henry Gamerl
Cole Lee
Paige Lee
Chloe Strong**

**Pastor Jackie Perry
Karen Allyn
Barb Koenig
Kay Neuharth
Candice Korthals
Darlene Korthals**



I would thank you here or there.

I would thank you anywhere!

I would thank you on a boat, I would thank you with a goat,

In the park or at the zoo...

'Cause that was awfully nice of you!
 I got this card as it reminded me off the book "Oh, The Places You'll Go" and how my education will take me to new places, new adventures, and many new blessings! Thank you all for being there through your thoughts, prayers, and scholarship blessings! Thank you for the \$500 scholarship! It has helped pay for my class, book, and help me achieve my associates degree dream!
 Janell (Uzzell) Feenstra

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 character traits. July is a month of vacation. August's theme is creativity.



Birthday

- 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



Dear Scholarship Ministry,
 I want to thank you for the scholarship of \$500 per semester. It will really help me follow the plans I think God has for me. Thank you and God Bless.
 Garrett Tennant
 (grandson of Mary Whealy)

Fellowship Work Committee

July

Mike Synovec

Susan Allyn

August

Garry and Suzan Podliska

Barb Ebsen



July 1

Communion: Dorothy Hull, Charlene Fosdick, Scott and Lori Williams

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Barb Koenig and Terry Hamilton

Reader: Scott Williams

Leader: Susan Allyn

Flowers: Dorothy Hull

July 8

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Ed Lindsay

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

July 15

Ushers: Rita Woodard and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers: Terry Hamilton

July 22

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Karen Allyn

Flowers: Ed Lindsay

July 29

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Dorothy Hull and Charlene Fosdick

Reader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers: Charlene Fosdick



August 5

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger, Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Vicki Staab

Leader: Stan Staab

Flowers: Ruth Brown

August 12

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Kay and Randy Neuharth

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Barb Koenig

August 19

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Stan Staab

Greeters: Barb Koenig and Susan Surber

Reader: Cole Lee

Flowers: Tom and Susan Surber

August 26

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Calvin and Karen Allyn

From 5/1/18 through 5/31/18



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 27,602.47
Food Pantry	\$ 100.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 7,426.65</u>
Subtotal	\$ 35,129.12
Salary	--\$ 9,977.30
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,389.28
Office Expenses	—\$ 890.61
Insurance	—\$ 2,434.25
Substitute Pastor	—\$ 260.00
Faith Development	—\$ 147.60
Worship Ministry	—\$ 380.00
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Boundaries Training	—\$ 269.39
Food Pantry	—\$ 100.00
<u>Conference</u>	<u>—\$ 844.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 18,366.69

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15 Worship Jackie vaca- tion	2 Jackie vaca- tion	3 Jackie vaca- tion	4 OFFICE CLOSED Girl Scouts 7:00- 8:00 Jackie vacation	5 Jackie vaca- tion	6 7 Card Group Jackie vaca- tion	7 Jackie vaca- tion
8 10:15 Worship Jackie vaca- tion	9	10 Girl Scouts basement	11	12 7 Unity Council	13 7 Card Group	14
15 10:15 Worship	16 Sue in Lincoln	17 Sue in Lincoln	18 Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00 Sue in Lincoln	19	20 Sue in Lincoln	21
22 10:15 Worship	23 Sue in Lincoln	24 Sue in Lincoln	25 Sue in Lincoln	26	27	28
29 10:15 Worship	30	31				

August 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

Girl Scouts
7:00-8:00

2

3

7 Card Group

4

5

10:15 Worship
Reunion 1 PM

6

7

8

9

10

7 Card Group

11

12

10:15 Worship

13

14

15

Girl Scouts
7:00-8:00

16

Norfolk
Public begins
school

17

18

19

10:15 Worship

20

NECC begins

21

22

23

24

25

26

10:15 Worship

27

28

29

30

31



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1102 W. Norfolk Ave
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With love and faith



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9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service