

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



Salvation Army and Midtown Health Center are working to stuff the bus for this fall. A collection box will be in the Fellowship Hall from July 1 to August 1. All school supplies are welcome.

July 2019

Volume 5, Issue 57

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July 28 Mike Synovec will provide hot dogs for a pot-luck after worship and asks that donations be given for the Animal Shelter and Puppy Love, Norfolk's city pound. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.




# Office Hours

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



**Office Hours**  
 Mon-Thurs  
 8-12 and 1-3  
 Friday  
 8-12

## God is Good

As of this writing, 52 (nearly half) of our neighbors from Skyline Apartments have been displaced from the April 25<sup>th</sup> fire. Of these, 38 have been staying in a hotel while repairs to their apartments continue.

Skyline requested that our church be the collection site for donations. In May we collected clothing, sheet sets, Lou's Thriftyway grocery vouchers, and money that went to grocery vouchers. Once the neighbors move back, the remaining money raised will go to sheet sets or pillows.

Though distribution takes time, it allows volunteers to check in on our neighbors to see how things are going during their displacement. On May 30, Verletta Olson and Pastor Jackie distributed grocery vouchers, socks and microwavable meals to Skyline residents staying at Country Inn. Dorothy Hull, with the help of Country Inn staff, called the remaining people staying at the hotel to let them know of the second distribution date and to ask how things were going. Dorothy and Verletta distributed another 20 vouchers at Country Inn the following day, June 4.

Several churches from the Norfolk Area Ministerial Association (NAMA) generously donated grocery vouchers or money for vouchers or other needs for those who have been displaced. These include:

First Congregational UCC  
First Presbyterian Church  
First Christian Church  
Victory Road Assembly of God  
Westridge United Methodist Church  
(Immaculata Spiritual Center donated clothing)

I believe that the donations from our local churches, and the kind notes from our neighbors express what we proclaimed in VBS last week:

**Life is wild. God is Good.**

In times of unfairness, sadness, and trials, we can see God's goodness. Finally, this note to the church from a neighbor:

*"Thank you for your kindness, patience and encouragement to myself, as well as my neighbors, who were displaced after the fire at the high rise (Skyline) apartments. The love of Christ was shown to all, thru your care to us. God Bless, Norma Sheets"*

Peace, *Pastor Jackie*



**Vacation Bible School** provided three evening lessons proclaiming God's goodness even in times of unfairness, sadness, and trials. June 3-5, about 30 children and youth helpers, as well as a dozen adults took part. VBS is a memorable and meaningful ministry of First Presbyterian, Trinity Episcopal, and First Congregational Churches. The churches take turns serving the evening meal. Darlene Korthals serves on the planning team.



## Church Garden Surprise – GPS Letter box found



While plowing under the old corner garden (nearest to the labyrinth), the crew found a package under a rock. It was wrapped in plastic and held a small artist's journal of rubber-stamped images with days, names and places of people who may have found the journal and added their own rubber-stamp to it. Also in the package was a small pen and the rubber-stamp used on the cover (above). The first entry was from 2011 'in memory of my sister's wedding'; and the last entry was on May 17, 2019. There are entries from WA, WY and NC. The journal has water damage. We plan to do some research to see how we can add to the journal and send it on its way. If anyone knows much about these, please contact Pastor Jackie.



## Thank you to all our Vacation Bible School Volunteers.

Pastor Jackie Perry  
Micah Feenstra  
Henry Gamerl  
Skylar Indra  
Kay Neuharth  
Susan Surber  
Stacie Uzzell

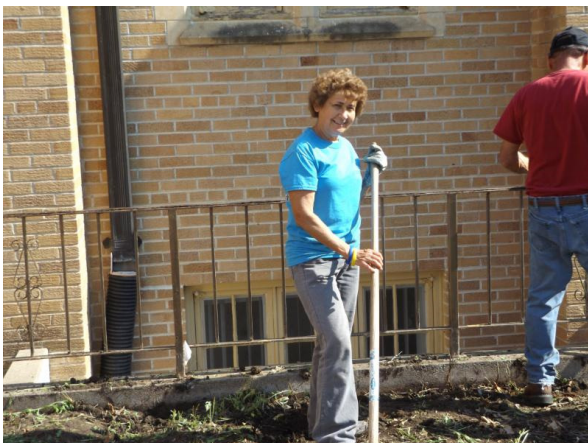
Kailee Feenstra  
Cole Uzzell  
Adam Gamerl  
Kennedy Indra  
Barb Koenig  
Katie Gamerl  
Eric Gamerl

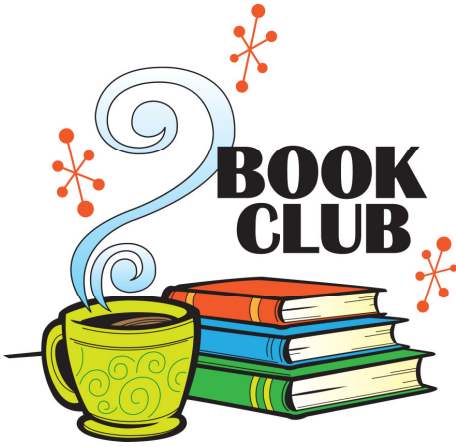
All your help was greatly appreciated and everyone had an awesome time!

Whitney Kumm, Kim Rusk & Darlene Korthals  
2019 VBS Planning Committee



Gene & Bonnie Kroeger, Ben Uzzell and Stan Staub worked on Saturday, June 1 to remove the plants from this corner of the church yard. Grass will replace the areas dug up.





Book club meets July 10 to read A Shelter in our Car, followed by discussion about homelessness. Please see Jane Uzzell for the books.

The AED has been ordered and will arrive in early July. It will be installed across the hall from the office. Thanks to all who contributed to the purchase of this life saving equipment!



**Men's luncheon:** Thursday, July 18, noon at Barnstormers . Preparing for the 150th anniversary by looking at the history of our church.



Thank you to all who worked so hard to make the funeral of Calvin Allyn such a special day. The people who cleaned the parking lot, those who cooked and those who served, and those who cleaned up and reset for church. Thank you for the visits, prayers, cards and food delivered to the house and for the luncheon. We appreciate all you did! Karen Allyn; Susan Allyn; Greg, Shannon, Kaysie and Taylor Allyn; and Zuri and Arman Mnatsakanyan



Overflowing With Thanks

**Birthday**

- 6th Verletta Olson
- 10th Evonne Burkink
- 11th Dorothy Hull
- 18th Terry Hamilton
- 19th Kellen Rossman
- 28th Randy Neuharth
- 30th Pat Jenny

**Anniversary**

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

# Fellowship Work Committee

July

Mike Synovec

August

Suzan Podliska

Barb Ebsen



## July 7

**Communion:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink, Charlene Fosdick and Terry Hamilton  
**Ushers:** Dorothy Hull and Barb Koenig  
**Greeters:** Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska  
**Reader:** Verletta Olson  
**Leader:** Vicki Staab  
**Flowers:**

## July 14

**Ushers:** Stan and Vicki Staab  
**Greeters:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell  
**Reader:** Cole Uzzell  
**Flowers:** Erik and Katie Gamerl

## July 21

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams  
**Greeters:** Charlene Fosdick and Dorothy Hull  
**Reader:** Dorothy Hull  
**Flowers:**

## July 28

**Ushers:** Mike Synovec and Ed Lindsay  
**Greeters:** Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig  
**Reader:** Karen Allyn  
**Flowers:**

## August 4

**Communion:** Vicki Staab, Dorothy Hull, Scott and Lori Williams  
**Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger  
**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth  
**Reader:** Randy Neuharth  
**Leader:** Scott Williams  
**Flowers:** Ed Lindsay

## August 11

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth  
**Greeters:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink  
**Reader:** Kay Neuharth  
**Flowers:**

## August 18

**Ushers:** Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska  
**Greeters:** Stan and Vicki Staab  
**Reader:** Stan Staab  
**Flowers:** Tom and Susan Surber

## August 25

**Ushers:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell  
**Greeters:** Cole Uzzell and Jane Uzzell  
**Reader:** Jane Uzzell  
**Flowers:** Karen Allyn

From 6/1/19 through 6/30/19

This does not include the deposit for 6-30

The weekly deposits include \$4500 from Madison County Bank to pay \$4500 in maintenance for 1/2 of painting the west side of the building.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning balance      | \$ 2,154.00        |
| O'Neill                | \$ 320.00          |
| Skyline                | \$ 700.00          |
| Strengthen the Church  | \$ 121.00          |
| <u>Weekly deposits</u> | <u>\$15,418.58</u> |
| Subtotal               | \$18,713.58        |
| Salary                 | --\$ 6,029.83      |
| Church Maintenance     | —\$ 5,620.95       |
| Office Expenses        | —\$ 808.53         |
| Worship Ministry       | —\$ 11.25          |
| Substitute Organist    | —\$ 210.00         |
| Faith Development      | —\$ 268.66         |
| VBS                    | —\$ 41.03          |
| Insurance              | —\$ 2,041.75       |
| AED                    | —\$ 1,422.99       |
| Substitute Pastor      | —\$ 250.00         |
| O'Neill                | —\$ 225.00         |
| Funeral                | —\$ 47.88          |
| <u>Conference</u>      | <u>—\$ 319.00</u>  |
| Final Balance          | \$ 1,416.71        |

# ▶ July 2019

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

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1      2      3      4      5      6

6 Card Group

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7      8      9      10      11      12      13

10:15 Worship

10 Book Club

7 PM Unity  
Council

5 Card Group

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14      15      16      17      18      19      20

10:15 Worship

Sue out of the  
office

Noon  
@Barnstormers  
men's lunch

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21      22      23      24      25      26      27

10:15 Worship

Sue out of the  
office

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28      29      30      31

10:15 Worship

Potluck for  
animal shelter



# ▶ August 2019

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

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1      2      3  
7 Card Group

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4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
10:15 Worship      5 Card Group  
Feddern reunion  
1 PM

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11      12      13      14      15      16      17  
10:15 Worship      NPS begins

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18      19      20      21      22      23      24  
10:15 Worship      NECC begins      Sue on  
vacation

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25      26      27      28      29      30      31  
10:15 Worship      Sue on      Sue on      Sue on      Sue on      Sue on  
Sue on vacation      vacation      vacation      vacation      vacation      vacation