

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



WEAR RED FOR
Pentecost

Sunday, June 9

Yard work: Saturday, June 1 the plan is to remove the plants in the corner of the church out front and return the space to grass. If you can help, please come that morning!!



We are working the food pantry June 17-28. Sign up sheet will be in the narthex after June 5. We need at least 3 people each day.

June 2019

Volume 5, Issue 56

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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-Thurs
 8-12 and 1-3
 Friday
 8-12

Service



With love and faith

"...It was a long day but with blessings and kindness I survived quite comfortably. Your service was awesome and organized for not much notice. God bless and thanks, Richard"

Around 3:30 am, the police dispatcher called me to ask if First Congregational Church was the shelter for the high-rise apartments. I answered, "Yes". She explained that there was a fire at 1204 Norfolk Avenue; that there were lots of people outside; and it might rain soon, so could our church open its doors? "Yes", I replied. By the time I arrived, the parking lot was full of cars with many people waiting under the canopy. Public Safety Director, Shane Weidner, greeted me in the parking lot. I unlocked the doors, and turned on the lights as people began to slowly stream in.

Fire fighters continued to deliver people to our door. Some with no shoes. Some in their night clothes. A few evacuees carried cats. Kari, a Red Cross Volunteer, asked me to make copies of a form. Neighbor and evacuee, Richard, offered to make coffee. Kari arranged for Hy-Vee to bring in muffins and donuts; we were in business.

As folks settled in, many grew concerned about leaving medicines and pets behind without food. After the fire was extinguished, Shane asked Kari to take names, so the fire fighters could take people in groups of three to their apartments in order to retrieve medicine or tend to animals. I admired the experience and guidance of Shane, Kari, and the fire fighters. I appreciated Richard's help with the coffee. After he discovered that the coffeemaker was leaking, he cleaned the counter, while custodian, Chris, mopped the floor. Chris had been displaced, too.

Before daybreak, I called church members to come in to serve, or bring socks, ice, or more coffee cups. By 6:00am, they started to arrive. I was proud of my church as they greeted and served 60 plus guests for 16 hours that day. With a dozen cots from the Fire Department, and 40 inflatable mattresses from Captain Jesus of the Salvation Army, we created quiet areas to nap. We also prepared to provide lodging for the night. When our neighbors could return home remained a question mark.

Hy-Vee delivered sandwiches for lunch and the Salvation Army supplied a hot supper for the guests. After the meal, Skyline Apartment management read the names and apartments numbers of those who could go home. Half would be returning home, and half would be going to hotels. As I write this, fifty-two people are still living in hotel rooms.

Pastor Donna Goltry and another person from Westridge United Methodist Church volunteered to stay the night if needed; a few of our members stood ready to stay over as well. In the end, we didn't need the 'night-shift' since all our guests had departed by 7:00 pm. I was thankful for those who volunteered to extend night hospitality if needed. As guests departed, two more members came to help clean-up. By 8:00 pm, you couldn't tell that anything had happened.

There was much smoke and water damage at the apartments. We later learned that had it not been for the sprinkler system, lives may have been lost. God provided for our neighbors, and even their pets. Someone thought to bring kitty-litter; and with the help of a large flat Amazon box, we had created the 'cat room' in the old north entrance.

I continue to reflect on that day of ministry, and how God supplied our needs. The primary artworks in our church are pictures of Jesus knocking at night. I'm glad Jesus knocked on our door. It was an opportunity to get to know our neighbors and serve God by serving others.

–Peace, Pastor Jackie

Those serving neighbors April 25th: Verletta Olson, Tom McConnell, Stan and Vicki Staab, Tim Ernst, Susan Allyn, Susan Surber, Terry Hamilton, Chris Storm, neighbor Richard Sirois, and Steve Uzzell (volunteered for the 'nightshift').

Thank you to all who have donated gift cards to Hy-Vee and Lou's, and items for those displaced because of the Skyline Apartments fire. We hope they will be home soon.

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PASTOR'S TIME AWAY Pastor Jackie will be at Annual Gathering at Tri-Faith campus in Omaha June 14, 15, 16; and on vacation June 17 through June 30, returning to the office July 1. Chaplain Gordon Braun from ASERA Care will preach June 23 & 30. Pastoral care coverage to be announced later.

First Congregational volunteers at Skyline Apartments – On May 9th, 11 volunteers planted flowers and vegetable plants in new garden boxes as part of the grant for renovation and renewal of the apartments. Covering the planters with blankets prevented the plants from freezing that night. Bonnie Kroeger returned that *much warmer* Saturday with reserved plants for those residents who wanted to participate.



(Back) Pastor Jackie, Dorothy and Bonnie; (Middle) Kennedy, Paige, Henry, Reese, Grace, and Skylar; (Front) Adam. Not pictured: Michelle



150th anniversary quilt block, 'Children of Israel', lifts up the Israelites who came to Egypt with Jacob along with their households, and how they multiplied and grew dramatically, filling the whole land. Eventually, Pharaoh felt threatened by the number of Israelites in Egypt and began to put them in forced work cities, oppressing them and eventually enslaving them. Mike chose this block for visual reasons—he liked the colors and the image of roses. He has loved roses since he was a boy. He remembers the smell of roses at his grandmother's funeral at the church in Pierce, Nebraska. To this day, roses remind him of his grandmother, so he is pleased with how the block turned out.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019
Monday through Wednesday, June 3,4,5
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
First Congregational UCC Church
1102 W Norfolk Ave

Trinity Episcopal, First Congregational UCC and First Presbyterian Churches of Norfolk have come together again to provide Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 (must be potty-trained) through kids who have completed the 4th grade. Your older children would be great helpers.

Each evening begins with a light supper. There is no cost to attend, but we would like to have every child pre-register so that we will have enough supplies. **REGISTRATIONS NEED TO BE TURNED INTO THE TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH OFFICE OR TO YOUR CHURCH BY May 27** to ensure your child receives the correct size t-shirt.

It takes many volunteers to manage a successful VBS and we would love to have your help. If you think you may be able to assist in any way please contact the chairman from one of the three churches. Call Kim Rusk- First Presbyterian, Whitney Kumm, Trinity Episcopal, or Darlene Korthals- First Congregational.

Name: _____ (circle) M or F

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Birth Date: _____

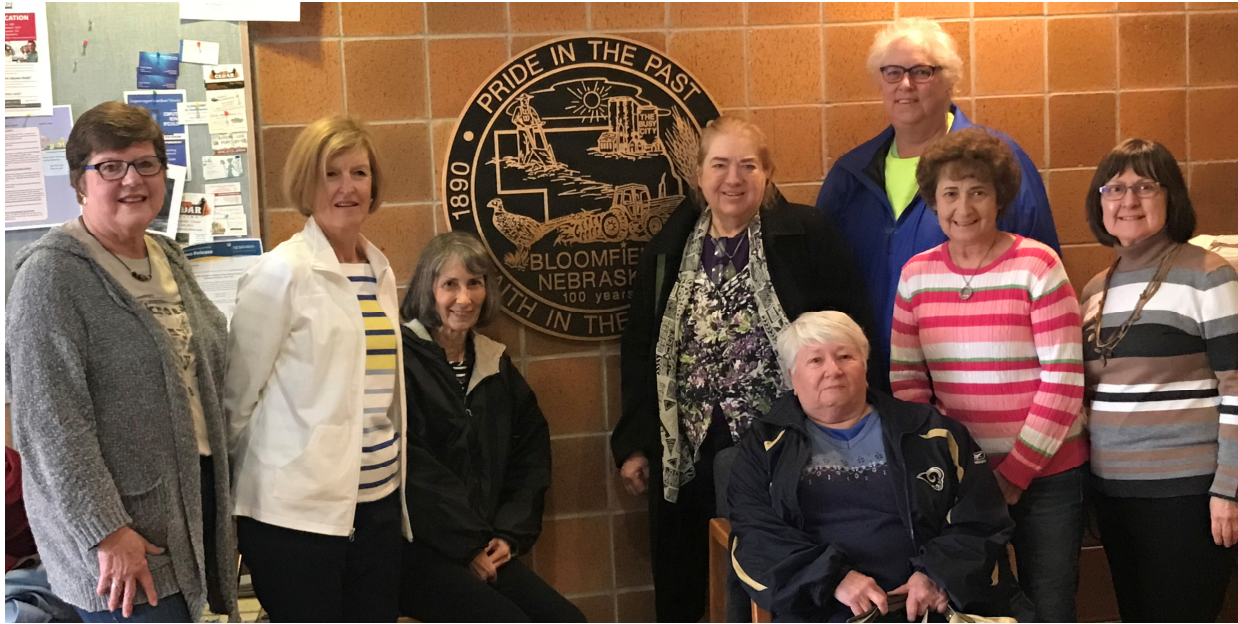
School Grade completed: _____ Home Church _____

Emergency Contact: _____ phone: _____

Allergies or conditions that may limit activity: _____

I can help in the following way(s): Name: _____

Tshirt size: __YS __YM __YL __S __M __L



Book club is reading *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry. The discussion will center on rainforests. For the book, please contact Jane Uzzell.

Last month was held in Bloomfield and the seal on the wall was designed by Kay Neuharth for Bloomfield's 100th.



Men's luncheon: Thursday, June 6, noon at Barnstormers . Preparing for the 150th anniversary by looking at the history of our church.

June 30 we will have a salad bar potluck for Fellowship Hour.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday

- 8th Jeff Burkink
- 9th Scott Williams
- 18th Desiree Martinson
- 19th David Thompson
- 26th Susan Allyn
- 27th Lori Williams

Anniversary

- 4th Steve and Jane Uzzell
- 7th Jared and Brandi Rossman
- 20th Scott and Lori Williams

just
married!

Congratulations: Mike Kroeger & Jessica Boschen were married in a backyard wedding on **Saturday May 26, 2019** at 1508 Crown Road.

Of interest...

Townhall Meeting,
Thursday **June 6,**
6pm – 8pm at the
Norfolk Senior
Center. Guest
Speaker, Don
Burman, Director
of the Veterans
Administration for
Nebraska and
Western Iowa
Health Care
System.



50TH ANNIVERSARY

Gene & Bonnie Kroeger will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on **Sunday, June 23, 2019** from 2-4:30 at 1st Congregational United Church of Christ. They were married on **June 22, 1969** at the Congregational Church in Brunswick, NE. All are welcome to attend. No gifts please.

Fellowship Work Committee

June

2nd Gene and Bonnie Kroeger 9th Jeff and Evonne Burkink 16th Rita Woodard 23rd Mike and Barb
30th Salad Bar Potluck

July

Mike Synovec



June 2

Communion: Vicki Staab, Sue Surber, Ben Uzzell, Tom McConnell

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Rita Woodard

Leader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

June 9

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Bonnie Dewell

June 16 **Annual Gathering**

Ushers: Susan Surber and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Stan and Vicki Staab

Reader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers:

June 23

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Jane Uzzell

Reader: Karen Allyn

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

June 30

Ushers: Rita Woodard and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers:

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:

From 5/1/19 through 5/31/19

This does not include the deposit for 5-26

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 3,612.24
Lilies	\$ 30.00
O'Neill	\$ 245.00
Kamp Kaleo	\$ 140.00
AED	\$ 975.00
Skyline Gift Cards	\$ 500.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,577.16</u>
Subtotal	\$ 15,079.40
Salary	--\$ 7,531.04
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,310.09
Office Expenses	—\$ 656.74
Worship Ministry	—\$ 26.25
Substitute Organist	—\$ 210.00
Faith Development	—\$ 293.85
VBS	—\$ 164.17
Pastor's Discretionary	—\$ 200.00
Lilies	—\$ 90.00
Living Waters Dues	—\$ 294.00
O'Neill	—\$ 440.00
Kamp Kaleo	—\$ 140.00
Skyline Donations	—\$ 608.26
Annual Gathering	—\$ 135.00
<u>Conference</u>	<u>—\$ 826.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 2,154.00



TREASURER'S REPORT

▶ June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:15 Worship	5:30-8 PM VBS Sue on Vacation	5:30-8 PM VBS Sue on Vacation	5:30-8 PM VBS		7 Card Group	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:15 Worship Wear Red Sunday!!!					7 Card Group Jackie at Annual Gathering	Jackie at Annual Gathering
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:15 Worship Jackie at Annual Gathering	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	Kroeger FH Jackie on vacation
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:15 Worship 1 Kroeger FH Jackie on vacation	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	9-11:30 AM Food Pantry Jackie on vacation	Jackie on vacation
30						
10:15 Worship Jackie on vacation						

▶ July 2019

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

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 Card Group

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

10:15 Worship

7 Card Group

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

10:15 Worship

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

10:15 Worship

28 29 30 31

10:15 Worship



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

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Return Service Requested

With love and faith



First Congregational United Church of Christ

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Norfolk, NE 68701

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www.firstconguccc.org

9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service