

First Congregational Messenger
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1102 W. Norfolk Ave.
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Serving God with love and faith



June 2023

Volume 5, Issue 104



Calling all volunteers to help with VBS

June 12 and 13. Teachers, meal servers, craft leaders, game leaders, or any other type of volunteer is most welcome.

Please contact Darlene Korthals if you can help in any way.

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



Pastor's
Office Hours



Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8-12

Teachers

In her book, *The Basics of Christian Education*, Professor Karen Tye writes: *“Why do we educate in the community of faith? We educate so the community will be rooted in and faithful to its past (continuity) and open to the present and future as God calls us forth into new life (change). It is not an either/or choice, focusing on either continuity or change. Instead, it is both/and, seeing both continuity and change as essential to the church’s life and future.”*

Jesus’ own teaching ministry was marked by continuity and change. At his first “lecture” series in the Gospel of Matthew called the Sermon on the Mount, Chapter 5, Jesus tells the people:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

Jesus stood in the continuity of Jewish teachers, yet in verses 21 & 22, and in several other points in this section, he says:

“You have heard that it was said...But I say to you...” These are the words of change. You may have been taught this, but now I am teaching you this.”

“Continuity and change. Jesus’ teaching ministry was an ongoing call for Jewish people to return to their roots, to the heart of their law; and it was clearly an invitation to change, transformation, to living life in a new way that would bring justice and mercy to all. In our own education for discipleship we can do no less!,” writes Professor Tye.

On Sunday, May 7, we celebrated those of us who had answered the call to teach in the church this past year. During the Early Word, I also invited the congregation to think of a teacher in their life, what made that person special, and to share this aloud in the congregation. Many smiled or laughed in recognition as they remembered the special teachers whom they had shared in Norfolk.

Guests in worship were Rev. Darrell Goodwin with his husband Norfolk native, Kenny Goodwin-Brice, and his mom and Darrell’s “Mother-in-love”, Delisa Brice Monroe. About the visit, and on the topic of teachers, Rev. Goodwin wrote on a Facebook page:

“Grateful to visit with our siblings at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Norfolk, NE in the Nebraska Conference UCC this morning. It was also a joy to have Kentavis Goodwin-Brice see so many of his former teachers who were members of this congregation, especially as they were honoring teachers this Sunday. Thanks Rev. Jackie Perry for the warm welcome. The United Church of Christ is .5 degrees of separation wherever you are.”

God bless teachers! – Pastor Jackie



*Kenny Goodwin-Brice (new Wayne State College graduate with a master's degree in Sociology & Organizational Leadership),
Jane Uzzell (teacher),
Rev. Darrell Goodwin*

*Pastor Jackie and Rev. Darrell Goodwin
(currently serves as Executive Minister
of the Southern New England
Conference of the United Church of
Christ. Formerly, the Associate
Conference Minister for Nebraska).*



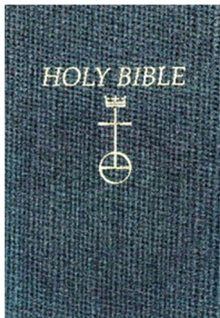
Pastor's Time Away

Pastor Jackie will be on vacation June 12 through June 27, returning to the office June 28. Coverage for guest preacher on the 18th will be Randy Neuharth; 25th guest preacher Ben Uzzell. Pastor Gordon Braun to cover pastor emergency care June 12-18, Chaplain Jim Wonnacott to cover pastoral emergency care June 19 – June 27. More to be announced in June.

CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY

On April 30th, the congregation confirmed Reese Uzzell into the faith and family of First Congregational United Church of Christ. Reese shared her confirmation verse from 1 John 4:12 – *“No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.”*



Darlene Korthals, Chair for Faith Development Committee, presented Reese with the gift of a Bible that had been donated to the church by her grandparents, Steve and Jane Uzzell, shortly after a trip to United Church of Christ headquarters in Cleveland. The *Holy Bible*, printed by United Church Press, has the UCC logo on the cover and brief history, characteristics, and beliefs of the UCC in the back.

Pastor Jackie and Pastor Brian (First Presbyterian Church) taught the class. Mentors from First Congregational UCC included: Jane Uzzell, Pat Jenny, Susan Allyn, and Tom McConnell. Mentors helped with either Salvation Army bellringing in December, or Bible verse selection in March. Also, in March, at Home for Funerals, Erik Gamerl spoke with the confirmands about end of life, funerals, and how they help those grieving the loss of a loved one. We all had many questions.



Reese's classmates who were confirmed at First Presbyterian Church in May are: Joel Montalvo, Avery Beckenhauer, and Alex Hardisty.

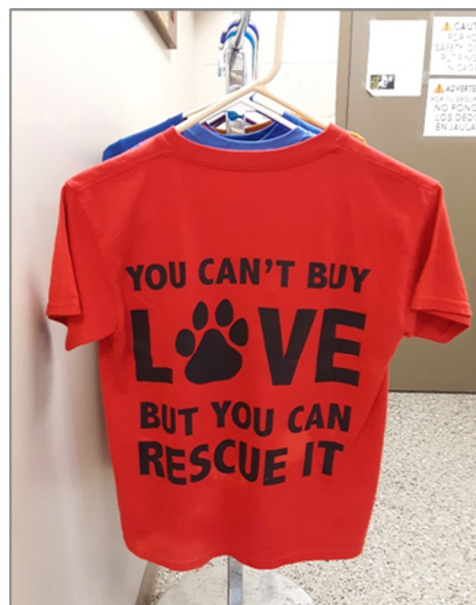
Dumpster Update

Since our snow removal contract is now combined with lawn service, the church no longer needs a dumpster for grass.

The **black dumpster** is for FCUCC and LE church business only—not for personal use. Sticks and branches from church property may go into the black dumpster, also. *The **green dumpster** is for paper and cardboard to be recycled. Cardboard boxes need to be broken down.* If you have any questions, ask the Church Secretary. Thank you.



ANIMAL SHELTER
of northeast nebraska
For the Love of Animals



On Sunday afternoon, May 7th, FCUCC volunteered at Norfolk Animal Shelter. Volunteers: Grace, Darlene, Stacie, Reese, and Pastor Jackie prepared dog food dishes, tended the washer and dryer, walked dogs, played with cats and dogs, and always learn something new at the shelter. Earlier in the year the congregation donated supplies to the shelter.

Book Club Celebrates Weddings

Wednesday Book Club met May 10 to review the children's book, *The Very Fairy Princes: Here Comes the Flower Girl* by Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton. Participants brought their wedding picture albums and Bonnie Kroeger and Jill Waterbury brought their wedding gowns to display.

The Book Club meets the second Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Working with the Norfolk Public Library, Jane Uzzell leads the group using suggested themes, book lists, and interlibrary loans.



Graduation Blessings for Kennedy

On May 14th, the congregation blessed Kennedy Indra in worship with prayers, a book of Scripture verses, and a blessing box containing cards and messages of blessing. Kennedy is the daughter of Lee and Michele Indra, and the granddaughter of Gene and Bonnie Kroeger. Kennedy has participated in many Christmas programs and youth outreach opportunities. She will attend Wayne State in the fall.



Congo Mission: Orphan Grain Train Shipment ARRIVES!



At the invitation from Rev. Abiba “Alice” Shomarii, in June 2021, FCUCC donated 130-150 choir robes, about 80 children’s chairs, about 80 brown vinyl folding chairs and a chair cart to Bethlehem UMC and Emmanuel Pentecostal Churches in Kasumbalesa, Democratic Republic of Congo. “Pastor Alice” moved with her family to Kansas in July 2021, but she continued to work with Orphan Grain Train and her partners to get the shipment to the churches. Worldwide shipping delays and DRC governmental permission delayed the shipment for two years. In May, Pastor Alice sent photos and a video of the churches using many of the contributed items in their new worship space for Easter 2023!



Pastor Alice founded Women of Diverse Confessions. “WDC collects usable and useful things that can be repaired, recycled, and cleaned to be presentable gifts to share with someone who will be empowered to also share with the next person.”





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Monday and Tuesday, June 12-13

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church

111 S 9th St Norfolk

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: _____

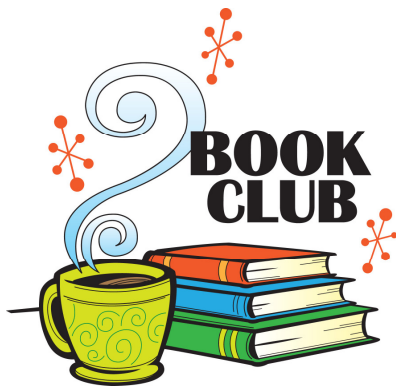
School Grade completed: _____ Home Church _____

Emergency Contact: _____ phone: _____

Allergies or conditions that may limit activity: _____

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

T-shirt size: __YS __YM __YL __S __M __L



Book Club will meet June 14 at 10 AM. *Finding Winnie, The True Story of the World's most Famous Bear* by Lindsay Mattick. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

Thank you for celebrating my graduation with a special blessing box and a church gathering. I enjoyed being a part of the Youth Group with the community outreach activities and especially the Christmas Program. Thank you for the monetary gifts and for the Devotional for Graduates book. I will keep all of the memories with me as I go on to Wayne State College in the Pre-Nursing Program.

Kennedy Indra



Do you go grocery shopping? At Lou's? At HyVee? **We have an 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 buy them **Sundays** in Fellowship Hall. We currently get \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards.

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. Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402)640-6623.

- 6th Tom Surber
- 8th Jeff Burkink
- 9th Scott Williams
- 18th Desiree Martinson
- 19th David Thompson
- 26th Susan Allyn
- 27th Lori Williams
- 29th Timothy Braezel

Anniversaries

- 7th Lee and Michelle Indra
- 8th Glenn and Lois Williams
- 20th Scott and Lori Williams



June 4 NE Conference Annual Gathering

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Charlene Fosdick

Reader: Verletta Olson

Leader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

June 11

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Kay and Randy Neuharth

Reader: Reese Uzzell

Flowers: Bonnie Dewell

June 18

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

June 25

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Charlene Fosdick

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Sue Allyn



July 2

Communion: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska

Reader: Brian Seier

Leader: Sue Allyn

Flowers: Rita Woodard

July 9

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Sue Surber

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Rita Woodard

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Barb Koenig

July 16

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Charlene Fosdick and Barb Koenig

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Erik and Katie Gamerl

July 23

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Brian Seier and Mike Synovec

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Ginge Dudley

July 30

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Sue Surber

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers:

Please notify the office if you are not able to attend a service.

May

From 5/1/23 through 5/31/23

The deposit for 5-28 is not included.



Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$	978.97
Scholarship	\$	230.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	\$	<u>9,672.51</u>
Subtotal	\$	10,881.48
Salary	--\$	7,370.29
Church Maintenance	—\$	1,554.77
Office Expenses	—\$	884.77
Faith Development	—\$	15.00
Substitute Organist	—\$	70.00
Worship Ministry	—\$	20.00
Continuing Education	—\$	70.00
Scholarship Fund-Ed Jones	—\$	230.00
<u>Renner's</u>	—\$	<u>500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$	166.65

▶ June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Sue on vacation	2 Sue on vacation Annual Gathering in Columbus	3 Annual Gathering in Columbus
4 10:15 Worship Renewed Hope 4-7 FH	5	6 Sue out for the day	7	8	9	10
11 10:15 Worship	12 VBS at Trinity Jackie on vacation	13 VBS at Trinity 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Jackie on vacation	14 10 Book club Jackie on vacation	15 Jackie on vacation	16 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	17 Jackie on vacation
18 10:15 Worship Jackie on vacation	19 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	20 Sue out for the day Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	21 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	22 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	23 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	24 Jackie on vacation
25 10:15 Worship Jackie on vacation	26 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	27 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	28 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	29 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	30 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	

▶ July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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10:15 Worship Renewed Hope 4-7 FH						
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		OFFICE CLOSED				
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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10:15 Worship						
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Sue out 9-10						
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		Sue out 9-10 5:30 PM Girl Scouts				
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		Sue out until 10:30 10 Book club				
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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10:15 Worship						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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10:15 Worship						
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		5:30 PM Girl Scouts				
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30	31					
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10:15 Worship Potluck follow- ing worship						
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