

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



Ushers and Greeters: Tune-up time!!

Please check the newsletter for your serving dates. If you can't serve that week, please switch with someone and let the office know. Sunday morning please arrive by 9:50 to be ready to assist members and visitors. If you notice a visitor, encourage them to fill out a visitor card and make certain they have a visitor packet (available at the greeters' stand).



For news of church event cancellations call the church's phone recordings, and/or go to the website for US92 us92.com then click 'weather', go to 'closings and delays'. The Daily News will also have this information.

March 2020

Volume 5, Issue 65

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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 & Wed 8-11:30
 Tues & Thurs 8-10:30
 Friday
 8-12

Retreat

*Jesus said to them, "Come away with me.
Let us go alone to a quiet place and rest for a while."*



February 10-12, I attended the Clergy Wellness Retreat at St. Benedict's Retreat Center near Schuyler for authorized ministers of the UCC and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska. It was an opportunity for fellowship, renewal, and continuing education for all clergy and their spouse/partners. This year, the UCC Pension Board covered meals and lodging.

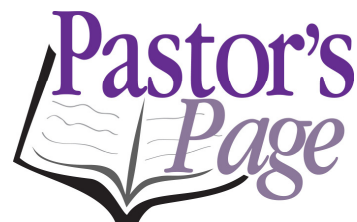
Rev. Darrell Goodwin (Omaha), Associate Conference Minister for Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences gave the keynote reminding ministers that often those who serve others ("fix a plate"), can forget that they "deserve a plate", too. Speakers presented wellness skills including mindfulness, boundaries and harassment in the workplace, financial planning, and working through stressful and changing times. Rev. Chris Morton (DOC) led the closing worship and communion. The retreat fulfills requirements for mandatory Boundaries Training for UCC pastors every three years.

Monday's sunny drive to Schuyler proved ice-free. On Tuesday, being warm enough to walk outside, I went searching for the new labyrinth. I understand that members of the Five-Day Spiritual Academy had plotted and dug the path, while the groundskeeper at the retreat center laid the stonework.

As I walked the stone labyrinth, I discovered one stone paver held a wavy line. Was this perhaps a petrified pathway formed by some tiny creature? Was this ancient line traced by one living being, or was it like a deer-path created by several animals over time? Was this trail trodden thousands, or millions of years ago? It was a small joy to be so connected, for a brief time, to the Eternal through the trace actions of some ancient critter and one good groundskeeper.



St. Benedicts will host a traveling exhibition of *The St. John's Bible*, a hand-written, hand illuminated Bible, in its new gallery space in April. A fine time to visit the exhibit and perhaps walk the grounds and their beautiful labyrinth. --Peace, *Pastor Jackie*



February Joint Youth Outreach

On February 9, the youth of First Congregational, Linaje Escogido, and First Presbyterian Church prepared a meal for our neighbors at the Norfolk Rescue Mission. While one team cooked in the FCUCC kitchen, the other team made 150 valentines in Fellowship Hall for the Vets Home.



In the Mission chapel/dining hall, Pastor Bob gave a brief talk about the Mission, shared the Message, and blessed the meal. The youth served hotdogs, baked beans, mac & cheese and brownies to 60 people. Mission volunteers cleaned up. Thanks to the Rescue Mission for their hospitality, the 20 plus youth who participated, and youth leaders: Darlene Korthals, Jocelyn Garcia, Jacquelyn Garcia, and Pastor Jackie.



UCC Special Offering - March 29th When we participate in the OGHs offering, we give valuable support. Our church reaches people who suffer from emergencies, chronic poverty, and violence worldwide. Among the support we give: water, sanitation, adequate nutrition, irrigation systems, wells, latrines and wash houses.

Lives are changed when health improves. Clean water also improves growth in gardens as well as seeds, tools, and training of farming techniques.

Storms, such as earthquakes and tsunamis, can destroy everything in their path.

A Recent Tweet – “UCC Disaster Ministries has committed \$3K for food, drinking water, sleeping materials, toiletries, basic medicines and N95 masks for people displaced by the Taal volcano in Batangas, Philippines. The January eruption spewed ash across the region. The volcano remains unstable”. *Together we are co-workers in God’s service.*



LENTEN PATHWAY

Picture Ourselves in the Story

The events of Christ's Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus' life, often don't receive enough time in our worship and study. Weeks often move so quickly through Palm Passion and Easter we seldom get to take in the drama.

This year for Lent, we're getting up close and personal with the passion story and imaging

where we fit in that story. The drama of Jesus' last days take place in Jerusalem—each week we will spend time in the places and spaces Jesus walks and reflect on the risks he takes as he moves closer to the cross.

STEWARDSHIP 2020: Caretakers of the Way

Humans leave traces of connection. British naturalist, Robert MacFarlane, writes:

“that once you begin to notice them, you see that the landscape is still webbed with paths and footpaths Pilgrim paths, green roads, drove roads, corpse roads, trods, leys, dykes, drongs, sarns, snickets –say the names of paths out loud and at speed and they become a poem or rite – holloways, bostles, shutes, driftways, lichways, ridings, halterpaths, cartways, carneys, causeways, herepaths.”



Faith too is a path of connection, but unless the way is practiced, it disappears. Stewardship is the practice that generates and regenerates the path of faith.

As we journey towards the reign of God, we are following in the tracks of others, ways walked by Jesus himself, paths as ancient as Abraham and Sarah. Today we are not just signposts pointing the way but the caretakers, the stewards of that way. Come and join in the way.

- March 1** Stewardship Kick off
- March 8 Stewardship Reflection
- March 15 Stewardship Reflection
- March 22** Stewardship Sunday
- Dedication of our Pledges, Time & Talent Sheets**

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, April 4 at 11:00 AM

First Congregational United Church of Christ

1102 W. Norfolk Ave

AGES THRU 5TH GRADE



Please join us in the Easter Egg Hunt.

Eggs are filled and waiting to be found

Please bring a bag or basket to carry your eggs home

Sponsored by:

Trinity Episcopal Church

First Presbyterian Church

First Congregational

United Church of Christ

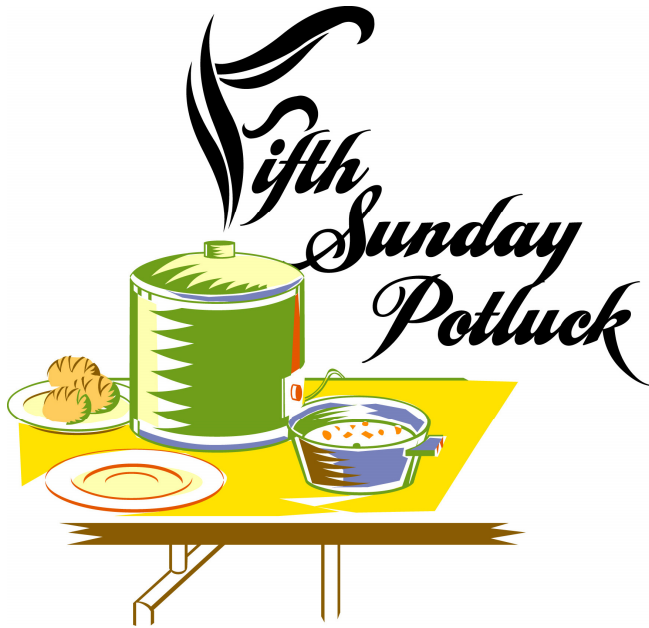
Funded by:

Thrivent Financial

Rain Date Saturday, April 11



Book club meets March 11. The story for this month is *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Please see Jane Uzzell for the book. Lunch theme is British high tea.



Sunday, March 29 will be a brunch pot luck. Money collected at this meal will be for the 150 celebration. Please bring your brunch items and a donation and join in some fellowship time!



AED/CPR

Please let the church office know by **March 17** (St. Pat's Day) if you would like to take an AED/CPR class.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Birthday

- 3rd Charlene Fosdick
- 4th Ron Barritt
- 14th Nina Bahm
- 18th Rita Woodard
- 19th Steve Uzzell
- 28th Erik Gamerl

Men's Group will meet March 26 at 11:30 at Pizza Hut on Benjamin. We will be talking about the aviation history of Nebraska. We hope to have a special speaker join us.



Fellowship Work Committee

March

Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Betty Morrison

Terry Hamilton

April

Bonnie Dewell

Rita Woodard

Karen Allyn



March 1

Communion: Jeff and Evonne Burkink and Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Terry Hamilton

Greeters:

Reader:

Leader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers:

March 8

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Ed Lindsay

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

March 15

Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers:

March 22

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers:

March 29

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Cole Uzzell

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Rita Woodard

Reader: Cole Uzzell

Flowers:



April 5 Palm Sunday

Communion: Charlene Fosdick, Verletta Olson, Scott and Lori Williams

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Barb Koenig and Bonnie Dewell

3 Readers: Ben Uzzell, Verletta Olson, Lori Williams

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Palms

April 12 Easter

Ushers: Dorothy Hull and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Charlene Fosdick and Terry Hamilton

Reader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers: Lilies

April 19 Annual Meeting

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Dorothy Hull

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:

April 26 Confirmation

Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Cole Uzzell and Mike Synovec

Reader: Karen Allyn

Flowers: Gamel

February

From 2/1/20 through 2/29/20



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

Beginning balance	—\$ 3,328.91
O'Neill	\$ 150.00
Linaje Escogido	\$ 1,067.00
Scholarship	\$ 1,500.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,373.16</u>
Subtotal	\$ 8,761.25
Salary	--\$ 6,505.56
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,226.33
Office Expenses	—\$ 622.47
Youth Group	—\$ 258.96
Worship Ministry	—\$ 67.25
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
<u>Cleaning service</u>	<u>—\$ 755.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 1,744.32

▶ March 2020

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
Stewardship
begins

7 Card Group

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Daylight
Savings Time
Begins
9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

10 AM Book
Club

1 Delphians
5 Card Group

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
Stewardship
dedication

Girl Scouts
FH 6:30 PM

Girl Scouts
FH 5:30 PM

29 30 31

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
Brunch pot luck

▶ April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
					7 Card Group	Girl Scouts FH 8:30 AM all day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship				Maundy Thursday First Presbyterian	5 Card Group	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Easter 10:15 Worship						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Annual Meeting						
26	27	28	29	30		
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Confirmation						



In an effort to be better stewards of our resources, the Support Ministry has asked that members consider how they would like to receive their newsletters. We can email the newsletter, we can print it for you to pick up at the church, or we can print and mail it to you. Please let the office know which option best suits your needs.



Name _____

____ **E-mail to me at** _____

____ **Please print and I will pick up at church.**

____ **Please print and mail to me.**