

First Congregational Messenger
 First Congregational United Church of Christ
 Norfolk, NE

Serving God with love and faith



May 7
 Teacher Appreciation and
 Graduation Recognition
 Potluck for Mission Trip



Hurray
 for our
 Sunday
 School
 Teachers!

May 2017

Volume 5, Issue 31

Pastor's Pages	2-3
Children's books	4
Information	5
Serving Page	6
Financial Page	7
Calendar	8-9



June 26-28
 Vacation Bible School
 Volunteers needed

May 14
 Mother's Day and Last
 Day of Sunday School



Church Secretary

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



Pastor's
 Office Hours

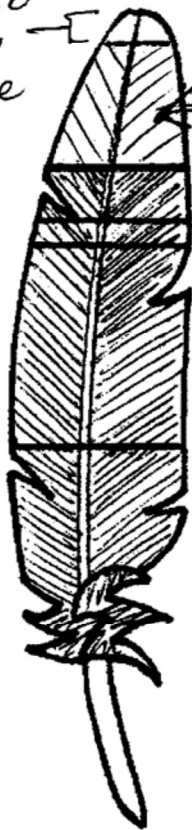
Office Hours
 Monday-Friday
 8-12
 Monday—Thursday
 1-3

Youth Mission Trip Fundraising Report 04/20/17

Re-Member at Pine Ridge Reservation

Have fuel card from M. D. Linde family (\$50)

\$ ~ 350 yet to raise



\$4800 Cost of fuel & shareholders' dinner (\$115+\$300)

\$4500 Final payment due by May 19 - \$1464

participants payments to come in

\$2800 2nd payment paid by March - \$1464

\$1400 1st payment/deposit paid - \$1464

0 Started raising funds 2016 August

Dates: Saturday, July 8 – Friday, July 14, 2017

Cost to Participate: \$549 per person covers all food, lodging, transport, & tax while at Re-Member. 4 youth, 4 adults are going – 7 from FCUCC, and 1 from Blair UCC. Our church is responsible for raising funds for 7 people (the 8th person from Blair has paid in full)

- \$2000 Participants going on the trip from FCUCC
- \$ 400 Gift of support from Faith Development (\$100 per youth going)
- \$2400 Fundraising through Star Quilt (by Nancy Brown) Raffle tickets, A Touch of Brass Summer Concert and Meal, Christmas Cookie sales, Two Spring potluck fundraisers, sale of \$20 "shares" for July 2017 shareholders' dinner where the youth will make a meal and share their stories and reflections on the trip, and generous donations from member and friends of the church.

Thank you for supporting our youth!

Conservation

“Nothing in the world is indifferent to us.” –Pope Francis



Each year, the National Association of Conservation districts (NACD) creates a 5-year rotation for stewardship topics – water, soil, habitat, forestry, and a topic of interest – and determines the theme each year. **The 2017 theme is “[Healthy Soils Are Full of Life.](#)”**

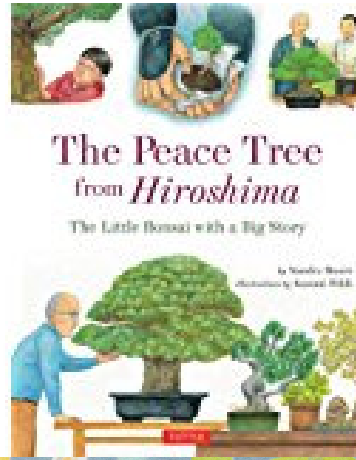
On April 30th, we used materials and prayer provided by our local office of the Natural Resources District (NRD). I love the bookmarks they provided (pictured).

In May 2015, Pope Francis published his *Encyclical Letter*. This document is a *circular* or *general* letter that expresses the mind of the Pope, generally on matters of faith and morals. It may be a *letter* to the entire Church or a *letter to a particular church*; or in this case, *his letter was* “to all people about our common home”. I share a few thoughts from his letter:

- ◆ “Violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness seen in the soil. ...The earth itself is burdened and laid waste...maltreated...she “groans in travail” ...not only creation but we ourselves.” (Romans 8:21-22)
- ◆ “We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (Gen 2:7), our very bodies are made up of earth’s elements, we breath her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters”.
- ◆ “Saint John Paul II warned that human beings frequently seem “to see no other meaning in their natural environment than what serves for immediate use and consumption.” He called for a global conversion, saying the destruction of the human environment is extremely serious...”
- ◆ “Saint Francis is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God’s creation and the poor and outcast.”
- ◆ “Jesus lived in full harmony with creation and others were amazed: “What sort of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey him?” (Matt 8:17). The New Testament talks about Jesus’ loving and tangible relationship with the world and his universal Lordship: “For in him, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross.” (Col 1:19-20)



Food from the Netherlands



May's book is set in Japan and talks about international friendship.

Around the World Bookclub

2ND Wednesday of each month

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Unity Room

Learn about 12 Countries of our world thru children's books.

- May - Japan... Peace Tree from Hiroshima, Sandra Moore
- June - India... Sona & the Wedding Game, Kashmira Sheth
- July - Sweden... Children of Neisy Village, Astrid Lindgren
- August - Haiti... Hope for Haiti, Jesse Joshua Watson
- September - Australia... Pumpkin Runner, Australia
- October - Vietnam... Grandfather's Dream, Vietnam
- November - France... Family Under the Bridge, Natalie Savage Carlson
- December - Mexico... Too Many Tamales, Gary Soto

The family of Dale Ames wants to express our gratitude to the members of our Church for all you did to make the celebration of life services special. To those who set up tables and chairs, those who furnished food, those who worked in the kitchen - Thank you. Special thanks to Verletta. Pastor Jackie did an exceptional job of preparing and delivering the message and giving his send-off at the cemetery. It was a wonderful day thanks to all of you.

Phyllis, Charlotte & family, Michael & family, Janet & family and Craig & family.



At the April 23 annual meeting, the congregation approved the budget of \$131,800. Officers elected and commissioned were: Vice Moderator: Ben Uzzell, Moderator: Erik Gamerl, Past Moderator: Scott Williams, Clerk: Dorothy Hull and Treasurer: Katie Gamerl.



- 15th Cole Williams
- 17th Deanna Alexander
- 23rd Reece Uzzell
- 25th Grace Uzzell
- 29th Lowell Jenny
- 30th Megan Williams
- 31st Darlene Korthals

Anniversary

- 26th Garry and Suzan Podliska

Fellowship Work Committee

May

Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Betty Morrison

Terry Hamilton

June



May 7

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

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Leader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Dorothy Hull

May 14

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Barb Koenig

Greeters: Suzan Podliska and Mike Synovec

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

May 21

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Vicki Staab

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

May 28 Memorial Weekend

Ushers: Rita Woodard and Sue Surber

Greeters: Stan and Vicki Staab

Reader: Stan Staab

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

June 4

Communion: Verletta Olson, Ed Lindsay, Sue Surber and Barb Koenig

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Verletta Olson

Leader: Vicki Staab

Flowers: Dorothy Hull

June 11 Annual Gathering

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Bonnie Dewell

June 18

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Garrett Korthals and Ed Lindsay

Reader: Karen Allyn

Flowers: Rita Woodard

June 25

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Garrett Korthals

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Rita Woodard

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams



TREASURER'S REPORT

From 4/1/17 through 4/30/17

This does not include the offering for 4-30

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 7,875.39
Youth Mission	\$ 386.00
Funeral	\$ 525.00
Lilies	\$ 104.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 11,825.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 20,715.39
Salary	--\$ 6,502.80
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,104.76
Office Expenses	—\$ 1,206.71
Worship Ministry	—\$ 86.18
<u>Lilies</u>	<u>—\$ 104.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 11,710.94

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 GS 5:30-6:30	2	3 GS 7-8	4 GS 6-7:15	5 7 Card Group	6
7 8:30 Teacher appreciation 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Graduation cake, Potluck	8 GS 6:30-7:30	9	10 GS 5-6	11	12 7 Card Group	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	15 GS 5:30-6:30	16	17 GS 7-8	18 GS 6-7:15	19	20
21 10:15 Worship	22 GS 6:30-7:30	23	24 GS 5-6	25	26	27
28 10:15 Worship	29	30	31			

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7 Card Group	3
4 10:15 Worship	5	6	7 GS 7-8	8	9 7 Card Group Annual Gathering in Crete	10 Annual Gathering in Crete
11 10:15 Worship Annual Gathering in Crete	12 Pastor vacation	13 Pastor vacation	14 Pastor vacation	15 Lifeline Screening Pastor vacation	16 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 Pastor vacation	17
18 10:15 Worship	19 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 Pastor vacation	20 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 Pastor vacation	21 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 GS 7-8 Pastor vacation	22 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 Pastor vacation	23 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 Pastor vacation	24
25 10:15 Worship	26 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 VBS	27 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 VBS	28 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 VBS	29 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	30 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	



First Congregational United Church of Christ
1102 W. Norfolk Ave
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With love and faith



First Congregational United Church of Christ

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9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service