

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 3-5, 2019

5:30-8:00 PM

This year First Congregational UCC is the host site for VBS. Volunteers needed and appreciated. Contact Darlene Korthals 402-750-4176 for details. Join us for a "Roaring" good time!

May 2019

Volume 5, Issue 55



Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, following the worship service.

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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 1-4
 Friday
 8-12

Sharing our Faith



Faith sharing seemed to be the theme for April. Steve Uzzell invited men to gather at Barnstormers Restaurant on Tuesday April 9th to share lunch and discuss other faiths. To kick off the conversation, Steve asked people what they knew about other faiths-- the number of followers, founders, basic beliefs and such. The topic generated many questions: What is the other faith's concept of forgiveness? For those who worship one god or many gods, are they forgiving gods? Does each religion have a code of ethics and how are these upheld? What are our commonalities? A key question to which we kept returning was: *Who is right?* If it would be impossible to agree (or desire) ONE faith, then the question 'Who is right' might steer us next to ask, 'How do we then live together'?

*"There are many religions; they are not the same;
there is much to learn."*

On Thursday/4th, I and several ministers from Norfolk Area Ministerial Association shared a time of prayer and support for the community some three weeks since a 'cyclone bomb' caused flooding in the area. Pastor Rai and First United Methodist hosted and supplied flood clean-up buckets for anyone who wished to take them (the same with prayer shawls). Meaningful music and prayer time were well received by the community. I was delighted that both Norfolk Daily News and News Channel Nebraska covered the event. After, one young minister said to me, "Why don't we do this more often--we're really only *that* different (making a one-inch gap between his thumb and index finger)? As in interfaith dialog, the aim is not to diminish real differences, but to share our faith in a way that builds community.

*"There are many denominations; they are not the same;
there is much to learn."*

The men agreed to meet again at Barnstormers in May to discuss Christianity, especially the United Church of Christ. How do we live together in the UCC when we are so doggone different? We proclaim that 'covenant' keeps us together, rather than dogma.

*"There are many churches in the UCC; they are not the same;
there is much to learn."*

In the death and resurrection of Christ, God brings about the possibility for new relationships between God and humankind, and between individuals and communities. How do we then, live together? Perhaps through the questions.

-Peace, Pastor Jackie



Welcome New Custodian

Chris Storm has been serving as part-time Custodian since February 2019. He loves playing with his five-month-old son and caring for him. He attends Liberty Centre and loves the small community there. He loves sports--college and professional football and basketball. Please introduce yourself to Chris!

Anniversary Quilt Block – Jacobs Ladder

Genesis 28:10-15 -- Fleeing for his life, Jacob went toward Haran. Taking a stone for a pillow, he fell asleep and had a dream. In the dream, he saw a ladder set on the earth reaching to heaven. The 'angels of God' were going up and coming down the ladder. God spoke, saying, "The land on which you lie, I will give to you and your descendants. Your family will spread out in all directions and will become a blessing for all families on the earth." God promised, "...I am with you and I will keep you wherever you go..." Ruth Brown chose 'Jacob's Ladder' block for the 150th anniversary quilt because, "I remember first seeing a picture of Jacob's ladder hanging in my Sunday School room when I was 4 or 5. I was so impressed by the picture. Eighty-five-plus-years later, I am still thinking about that ladder."



For weekly quilt block postings, 'LIKE' our Facebook page. Find us on Facebook by searching: first congregational ucc norfolk ne. Also 'Share' the postings with others.



Tips from Immaculata Monastery & Spirituality Center on walking a labyrinth. There are three stages to the walk:

-releasing on the way in

-receiving in the center

-taking back out into the world that which you have received.

“Then make my joy complete by being of one mind, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose.” – Philipians 2:2b

Tri Conference 2019 Annual Meeting

June 14-16

Tri-Faith Initiative, Omaha, NE

Cost: \$135 (includes Friday reception and dinner, Friday Awards Luncheon and Saturday Banquet)



**LET'S COME
TOGETHER
JOINT ANNUAL
MEETING 2019**

**Registration Deadline: May 30, Register
online <http://www.ucciaconf.org/>**

The Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences will gather in Omaha NE for the 2019 Joint Annual Meeting at Countryside Community Church UCC, a Tri-Faith Initiative member.

Tri-Faith Initiative • 13130 Faith Plaza (Pacific & S.132nd) • Omaha NE 68154



Our Host: The Tri-Faith Initiative in Omaha, Nebraska. The Tri-Faith Initiative is one in which three faith institutions – Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church UCC, and the American Muslim Institute— committed to build three houses of worship and a shared Tri-Faith Center together on one parcel of land.

Kamp Kaleo - Summer Camps 2019

Brochures are at the church and online at www.kampkaleo.com

Kaleo on the River 46872 Willow Springs Road, Burwell Nebraska 68823 308.346.5083

Thank you to Stan and Vicki Staab, Tom McConnell, Verletta Olson, and Tim Ernst for being host to the Skyline Apartment residents while waiting to return home from the fire.

**Thanks
for Your
Help!**

Thank you to Jane and Steve Uzzell for lots of work cleaning up flower beds, the labyrinth, and the parking lot. Thanks to Grace for her help as well!



Relay for Malawi , May 25, 2019

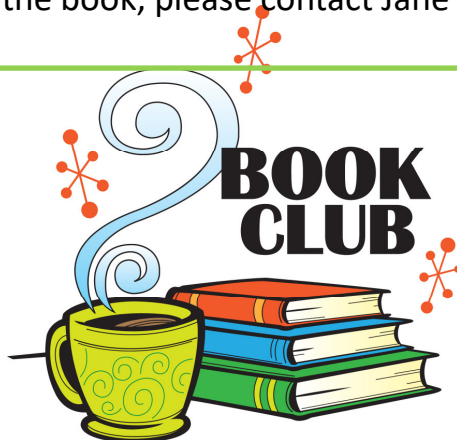
30 mile relay to raise fund for operating Norfolk Schools in Malawi. If you want more info or to donate contact Joe Mtika, 719 blue Stem Circle, Norfolk, NE 68701 All donations are tax deductible <http://norfolkschoolsmalawi.org>



Men's luncheon: Tuesday, May 9 noon at Barnstormers . Each month a person will pick the topic to be discussed.



Book club is reading *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth* by Rochelle Strauss. All are welcome to read and join us on May 8. They will meet at the church at 9:30 AM and travel to Bloomfield for lunch and book discussion and some shopping. For the book, please contact Jane Uzzell.



Birthday

- 15th Cole Williams
- 16th Chris Storm
- 17th Deanna Alexander
- 23rd Reese Uzzell
- 25th Grace Uzzell
- 29th Lowell Jenny
- 30th Megan Williams
- 31st Darlene Korthals

Anniversary

- 26th Garry and Suzan Podliska

Fellowship Work Committee

May

June



● **May 5**

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger, Verletta

Olson and Suzan Podliska

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Tom McConnell and Jane Uzzell

Reader: Stan Staab

Leader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Tim Ernst

May 12

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Dorothy Hull and Barb Koenig

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers:

May 19

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Dorothy Hull

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

May 26 Memorial Weekend

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Stan Staab

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Vicki Staab

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

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:

June 9 Annual Gathering

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

June 16

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:

From 4/1/19 through 4/30/19

This does not include the deposit for 4-28

Checking account information

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning balance | \$ 2,935.85 |
| Lilies | \$ 45.00 |
| O'Neill | \$ 370.00 |
| AED | \$ 200.00 |
| <u>Weekly deposits</u> | <u>\$ 9,278.33</u> |
| Subtotal | \$ 12,829.18 |
| Salary | --\$ 6,904.71 |
| Church Maintenance | —\$ 1,232.37 |
| Office Expenses | —\$ 570.91 |
| Worship Ministry | —\$ 115.34 |
| Faith Development | —\$ 184.99 |
| Pastor's Discretionary | —\$ 138.62 |
| <u>Substitute Organist</u> | <u>—\$ 70.00</u> |
| Final Balance | \$ 3,612.24 |



TREASURER'S REPORT

▶ May 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | 1 Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00 | 2 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 | 3 7 Card Group | 4 Kroeger FH 12-5 |
| 5 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship Annual Meeting | 6 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 | 7 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 | 8 | 9 | 10 10 Delphians 7 Card Group | 11 Rita Woodard |
| 12 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 13 | 14 | 15 Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00 | 16 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10:15 Worship | 20 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 | 21 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Kroeger FH |
| 26 10:15 Worship | 27 | 28 | 29 Sue on Vacation | 30 Sue on Vacation | 31 Sue on Vacation | |

▶ 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 | | | | | 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 | | | | | | |



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

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US Postage Paid
Norfolk, NE 68701
Permit No. 17

Return Service Requested

With love and faith



First Congregational United Church of Christ

1102 W. Norfolk Ave

Norfolk, NE 68701

402-371-0701

firstconguccc@cableone.net

www.firstconguccc.org

9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service