

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



Pentecost Sunday is
May 23. Please wear
red to worship to
celebrate Pentecost.



May 2021

Volume 5, Issue 79

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Fellowship with coffee and
water only to return in June.



Pastor's
Office Hours

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



Office Hours

Mon- Fri

8-12

Tree Planting



In April, we received a beautiful gift of a 'bald cypress' tree from the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ. Sue Shear, a Conference board member, and her husband delivered the tree to Home for Funerals. Thanks to Erik Gamert for the drop off. Erik called Norfolk Parks Department to see if the tree could be planted at one of the parks in town. Within a few short days, the city had taken care of everything and Jane Uzzell and Verletta Olson met me out at Skyview Park for a tree planting blessing. Erik ordered a plaque from the city that will have the type of tree

printed on it and the words: 150th Anniversary / First Congregational UCC / Arbor Day Foundation. I thought it was cool that the Arbor Day Foundation has been inspiring people to plant trees as long as we have been a church!

It was fun to see that the city had planted it near the water. Did I mention that this is a 'swamp tree'? All the trees donated to the 50 churches were raised in Nebraska, and we learned back in 2019 that most of Nebraska is indeed a floodplain! There is only one other bald cypress at the park. A large handsome fellow growing on the south shore, with wide reaching branches. You will find that mature tree as you walk from the parking lot toward the bridge.

To find our tree, go behind the big shelter house near the playground, then walk in the direction of the water tower, and you will find it growing near the water. Here are the Scripture passages that we read for the blessing:

Psalm 1 Happy are those who delight in God's law, they are like trees planted by streams of water.

Isaiah 55 Instead of a thorn, shall come up a cypress.

John 15:1 Jesus is the true vine.

At the delivery, Sue Shear told Erik that none of the churches had received their first choice (we had requested a birch or an oak). God sending a cypress to discouraged exiles is a meaningful image. May this tree continue to give our community hope and beauty through the years.

Peace, Pastor Jackie





Blessings for Graduates

Adam Gamerl and Taylor Rossman will graduate from Norfolk Senior High this May! This year, the congregation was invited to bless them by praying for them every day in April and drop notes of blessing, well wishes, and cards into their 'blessing boxes' at the church. **We will present their boxes to them on**

Graduation Recognition Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day).

Since we can't gather for cake this year, Covid-19 season invites us to find new ways to celebrate important milestones.

Pentecost Sunday

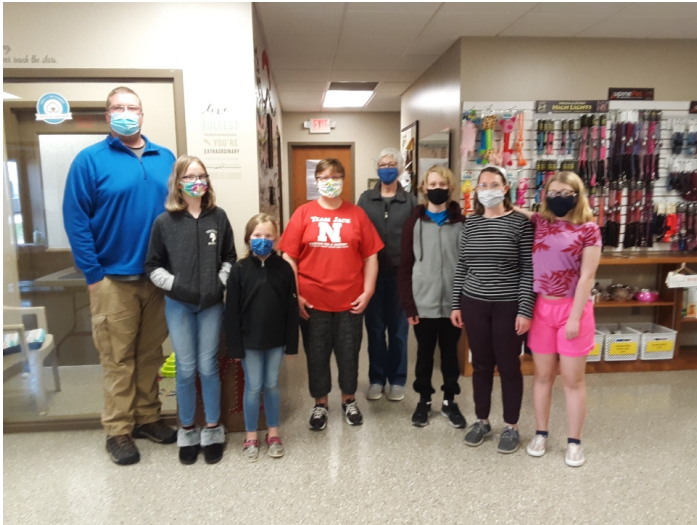
May 23, 2021

Strengthen the Church Special Offering



The **Strengthen the Church** offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to create a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



Thank you to the youth and adults who volunteered at the Animal Shelter on Sunday afternoon, April 25th. Due to Covid limits, we split our group into two groups. Volunteers included (pictured left to right): Ben Uzzell, Grace Uzzell, Reese Uzzell, Darlene Korthals, Pastor Jackie, Ian Chamberlain, Jessica Chamberlain, Ellie Chamberlain, and Skylar Indra (not pictured).

The Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska can always use a few extra items donated to help keep costs down and spend more to treat and feed the animals. All items can be dropped at the shelter at 1000 E Omaha here in Norfolk! Thank you for your support!

WISH LIST Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Purina One dry dog food | 13 gallon trash bags | For their office: |
| Purina One dry cat food | Dryer sheets Swiffer dusters | Copy paper, |
| Purina One dry kitten food | (and refills) | Permanent markers |
| Fancy Feast canned KITTEN food | Pill Pockets (for administering | Dry erase markers |
| Paper towels | medications) | Post-it Notes |
| Tri-fold paper towels | Squeezy Cheese Kong toys | Rubbermaid totes for |
| Toilet paper | (large and extra large) | storage |
| Kleenex | Nyla-bones - medium/large size | Large vacuum bags for |
| 55 gallon (heavy duty) trash bags | | storage |

Book Club will continue on May 12 with *Remembering Vera* by P. Polacco. Jane Uzzell will have the book if you are interested.

MAY
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

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





May 2

Communion: Ben Uzzell and Susan Surber

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Ed Lindsay

Greeters: Jane and Cole Uzzell

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Leader: Susan Allyn

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

May 9

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Susan Surber

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers:

May 16

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Cole Uzzell

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Chuck Balsiger

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

May 23

Ushers: Susan Surber and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Karen Allyn

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

May 30

Ushers: Rita Woodard and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Mike Synovec and Ed Lindsay

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams



June 6

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Tom McConnell

Leader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Bonnie Dewell

June 13

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Rita Woodard and Suzan Podliska

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers:

June 20

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

June 27

Ushers: Barb Koenig

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Susan Allyn

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

April

From 1/1/21 through 4/30/21



Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 122.80
Food Pantry	\$ 181.00
Lilies	\$ 28.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,513.20</u>
Subtotal	\$ 9,845.00
Salary	--\$ 6,165.75
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,266.06
Office Expenses	—\$ 1,032.27
Worship Ministry	—\$ 108.62
Lilies	—\$ 84.00
Renner's	—\$ 755.00
Food Pantry	—\$ 181.00
<u>OCWM</u>	<u>—\$ 577.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 430.30

Linaje Escogido \$900.00 was deposited in Madison County Bank. Also deposited was \$1,000 from Dorothy Fryer's estate.

▶ May 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
4-8 PM
Fellowship Hall
used

5:30 Girl
Scouts
7 Girl Scouts
Fellowship
Hall

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

5:30 Girl
Scouts

10 Book Club

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

10:15 Worship

5:30 Girl
Scouts

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

10:15 Worship

5:30 Girl
Scouts

30 31

10:15 Worship

▶ June 2021

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

1 2 3 4 5

10 Worship
Ministry

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

10:15 Worship

10 Book Club

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

10:15 Worship

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

10:15 Worship

Virtual Virtual
Annual Annual
Meeting of Tri Meeting of Tri
Conference Conference
UCC UCC

27 28 29 30

10:15 Worship