

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



What is going on in Worship in November?

- 11/4** Remembrance Sunday (All Saints')
- 11/11** National Organ Donor Sunday*
- 11/18** Guest Preacher, Gordon Braun,
Chaplain – ASERA Care
- 11/21** Thanksgiving Eve Service @ 6:30pm at FCUCC
(joint service with First Presbyterian, Trinity, and
FCUCC)
- 11/25** Healing Service Hanging of the Greens
immediately after worship, soup lunch after
decorating

Pastor Jackie will be on vacation November 14 -19,
 returning to the office November 20th.

November 2018
 Volume 5, Issue 49

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*Register to be an organ donor when you get your
 driver's license or at www.donatelife.net/register/



Church Secretary

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



Office Hours
 Monday—Thursday
 8-11:30
 Friday
 8-12

Slavery



The illusion of bricks sewn into the quilt block "Brick Pile" represents the burdens of slavery experienced by the Hebrews under the control of Pharaoh in Egypt. God had seen God's people oppressed, had heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters, and God knew about their pain (Ex 3:7). God moved to rescue them by calling Moses to bring God's people out of Egypt.

After Moses and his brother, Aaron, told Pharaoh God's command, "Let my people go", Pharaoh refused. He was not about to let the slaves slack off or stop their work. On that very same day, he had ordered his slave masters and supervisors to no longer supply slaves with the straw they needed to make bricks. From now on they were going to have to gather the straw for themselves, and still make sure they produced the same number of bricks they made before. "Make bricks!"

Pharaoh said, "They are weak and lazy, that's why they cry" (Ex 5:3-9). Slave masters drove them hard and beat them. 'Brick Pile' is a symbol for the cruelty and pain of slavery. Systems of slavery are alive today, be they labor or sex trafficking.

On October 16th, the Norfolk Rotary sponsored a forum at Northeast Community College on human trafficking. Human trafficking is the modern system of slavery. Speakers were the state attorney general, the executive director of the Omaha Coalition on human trafficking, and an investigator with the Madison County Sheriff's Office. They presented loads of facts and cases to a crowded Lifelong Learning Center. Folks remained in their seats past 9PM, listening to compelling stories about victims and perpetrators who have trafficked their victims in Norfolk and the region.

We know more than we did ten years ago--traffickers will travel with their victims to "serve buyers", including Norfolk, Columbus, Sioux City, and small rural towns in-between. We got an earful about victims and traffickers, but very little was said about "the buyers". Though Nebraska laws have been updated to reflect reality (that those who are trafficked are victims), the panel confessed that more needs to be done.

Ways to prevent trafficking include: more foster parents; helping at-risk children; training to spot signs of trafficking in industries such as: healthcare, transportation, hospitality, education and direct services. The Norfolk Rotary Chapter is acting to help our community tackle this problem. Soon they will roll out training for local hotel/motel workers in recognizing the signs of trafficking.

God saw their suffering. God heard their cries. God knew their pain. Then God acted to rescue them, working through ordinary people just like us.

Peace, Pastor Jackie

"Brick Pile" is one of 64 symbols sewn into the 150th anniversary quilt, now on permanent display in the narthex.

Youth Serve Neighbors- Skyline Ice Cream Social

The youth and adults enjoyed getting to know our neighbors and serving at Skyline Apartments on October 14th. Their remodeled community room was the perfect setting for conversation and vanilla ice cream with various toppings. Taylor, Reese, Cole, Adam, Henry, Terry, Katie and Pastor Jackie enjoyed the hour (and it was so convenient to walk next door with our supplies). We learned that our neighbors have undergone remodeling for over a year, but overall, their attitude was positive about the changes. We met people who have lived in the apartment building for over 23 years, and those who just moved in October 1.



Book Group – The second Wednesday of the month at 10 AM is the book club led by Jane Uzzell. This year they continue reading children’s books with the theme of character traits. November’s theme is gratitude.



September 30 was a potluck dinner to raise funds for the scholarship fund. We raised \$1625 for the fund, which will pay for the second semester scholarships given this year. The current recipients were there to talk about their college experience and family members told of other recipients' experiences and what they are doing now. It was amazing to realize how many lives have been impacted by our support of higher education!



Birthday

- 4th Susan Surber
- 19th Kay Neuharth
- 20th Alta Crandall
- 22nd Ed Lindsay

Anniversary

- 14th Ron and Virginia Barritt



Serving Our Neighbors in O'Neill

On October 18, Steve and Jane Uzzell delivered 24 warm winter coats to First United Methodist Church in O'Neill. Orphan Grain Train donated most of the coats, and a few were purchased at the Salvation Army thrift store by a donor.

This fall, Pastor Jackie shared with the congregation, at fellowship time, a request for humanitarian aid from Pastor Brian Loy of First UMC in O'Neill as they serve 60 families affected by the ICE raids in O'Neill last August. Pastor Loy stresses that this is a humanitarian mission (not a political one).

"We aren't called to judge or make decisions based on our own opinions; we're called as a Christian community to be Jesus' hands and feet, to love people, said Rev. Brian Loy" (from: 'Two months after raid, a divided O'Neill, strives to put people over politics', Omaha World Herald, Sunday, October 14, 2018)

Our church was first contacted by Bob Davis from Countryside UCC, Omaha. Bob grew up in our church. Countryside UCC and Faith Westwood UMC in Omaha are helping to support the food pantry in O'Neill. Since this is a large and long-term effort they wanted to reach out to churches close to O'Neill.

Pastor Loy said that the church bases this ministry on Matthew 25:45, *"Then Jesus answered, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.'"*

If you would like to donate:

Financial - You may make checks out to *First Congregational UCC* (with memo line: "O'Neill"). Each month, we will send one check to First UMC from donations collected that month.

Pantry Items. Our church will be a collection site for **ONLY non-perishable food items and baby items**. There are lists of needed items printed on cardstock at the church.



Rally Day Rock Testimony (*Found - Platt River Connection Bridge near Lied, NE, 2 ½ miles away*)

“I found my 1st rock. Maybe to some of you this won’t seem like much, and maybe even seems silly. This rock has tremendous meaning to me. The past few days I’ve been struggling with my faith. Always wondering where God’s at and why I’m going through some of the things I’m going through and have gone through. So, randomly a few days ago the weather was really nice and it seemed like a great time for an evening walk--not just anywhere though. I only had one spot I wanted to go, and once I got there I was pushed by a feeling to walk a certain direction like God was pushing me one way. So I followed and BAM there it was just sitting there...so this is not an ordinary rock—this is a special rock, a reminder to myself that God’s ALWAYS with me and he ALWAYS pulls through...And I just want you guys to know something: no matter what, even if you think everything is falling apart, He is always there and He will always provide. Be patient. Be still, and listen. God’s got whatever you might be going through...I love you, Lord, and I just want to give you many more thanks for showing me your way, Lord, and giving me this blessing. I will take this rock and hide it somewhere else for someone else to find and share their story just like I’ve been blessed to share. Thank you for the blessings, Lord, and Thank you for your favor! In Jesus’ name, Amen.” –Jessica



(To the right) This ‘LOVE’ rock made its way
Houston, TX!

to

Fellowship Work Committee

November

Gene and Darlene Korthals Candice Korthals Barb Koenig



November

● November 4

● **Communion:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger, Verletta Olson, Suzan Podliska
● **Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
● **Greeters:** Stan and Vicki Staab
Reader: Vicki Staab
Leader: Stan Staab
Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

November 11

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Mike Synovec
Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Terry Hamilton
Reader: Cole Lee
Flowers:

November 18

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Dorothy Hull
Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Reader: Jane Uzzell
Flowers: Beth Janelle Rhoades

November 25 Hanging of the Greens

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Tom McConnell
Greeters: Rita Woodard and Sue Surber
Reader: Ben Uzzell
Flowers:



December 2 First Advent

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams, Vicki Staab, Susan Surber
Ushers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink
Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell
Reader: Tom McConnell
Leader: Jane Uzzell
Flowers: Poinsettias

December 9 Christmas Program & Dinner

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals
Reader: Rita Woodard
Flowers: Poinsettias

December 16

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell
Greeters: Jeff and Evonne Burkink
Reader: Scott Williams
Flowers: Poinsettias

December 23

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals
Greeters: Dorothy Hull and Charlene Fosdick
Reader: Stan Staab
Flowers: Poinsettias

December 24 Christmas Eve

Ushers: Suzan Podliska and Rita Woodard
Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig
Reader: Kay Neuharth

December 30

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Jane Uzzell
Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell
Reader: Vicki Staab
Flowers: Poinsettias

From 10/1/18 through 10/31/18

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$--3,979.11
Neighbors in Need (NIN)	\$ 435.00
O'Neill	\$ 340.00
Scholarship	\$ 1,625.00
Poinsettias	\$ 100.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$10,826.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 9,346.89
Salary	--\$ 5,917.32
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,345.98
Office Expenses	—\$ 943.79
Landscaping	— \$ 458.96
Insurance	—\$ 1,238.00
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Quilt	—\$ 308.66
O'Neill	—\$ 340.00
<u>OCWM, NIN</u>	<u>—\$ 1,074.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 2,349.82



TREASURER'S REPORT

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	2 7 Card Group	3
4 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	5 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	6 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	7 Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00	8	9 10 Delphians 7 Card Group	10
11 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	12	13	14 Pastor vaca- tion	15 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 Pastor vaca- tion	16 Pastor vaca- tion	17 8 AM Girl Scouts FH Pastor vaca- tion
18 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship Pastor vaca- tion	19 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30 Pastor vaca- tion	20 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	21 Thanksgiving Eve service 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00	22 Noon Dinner hosted by Uzzells OFFICE CLOSED	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 10:15 Worship Hanging of the Greens	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	3 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	4 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	5 Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00	6 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	7 7 Card Group	8
9 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship Christmas Dinner	10	11	12	13	14 7 Card Group	15
16 9 PM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	17 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	18 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	19 Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00	20 Girl Scouts 5:30-6:30	21	22
23 10:15 Worship	24 5:30 Christmas Eve Worship Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29
30 10:15 Worship	31 Office Closed					



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

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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