

First Congregational Messenger
 First Congregational United Church of Christ
 1102 W. Norfolk Ave.
 Norfolk, NE 68701
 402-371-0701
Serving God with love and faith



November 1 is the end of Daylight Savings Time, so fall back one hour and enjoy your extra hour of sleep!

November 2020
 Volume 5, Issue 73

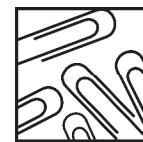
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Hanging of the Greens will be November 29 before worship at 9 AM. There will be no decorations in Fellowship Hall. There will be no lunch this year.



Pastor's Office Hours

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



Office Hours

Office Hours
 Mon-Fri
 8-12

Staying Curious

by 'PE Blog', October 21, 2020. From Prepare Enrich, available at: <https://blog.prepare-enrich.com/2020/10/staying-curious/>



Prepare Enrich has been the #1 pre-marriage and marriage assessment for 35 years. This PE Blog post seemed like wisdom for all our relationships.

--Pastor Jackie

Let's call it what it is, life is tough right now. We're still trying to adjust to working from home, figure out virtual visits, and experiencing a lot of change to our daily routine. On top of all of that, we are trying to keep our relationships steady.

I have to say, I am personally spending a large amount of time with my partner during the pandemic. Since nothing is open, we have been enjoying more movie nights or making dinner together.

With that being said, we are spending so much time together that I cannot lie, he is getting under my skin! I love him, but I have gotten to the point of frustration where I am even questioning why he has loaded the *plates* on the top rack of the dishwasher. Why does he do that! The top rack is clearly for cups and glassware.

It makes me want to scream and get out of the house, but I can't. After days of soul searching, I realized something really important. I was no longer curious about my partner. I wasn't thinking through why my partner does the things he does. Is it to tick me off? Because it feels that way some days.

So one night, after a movie with dinner in front of the TV, I asked him, "Out of curiosity, after dinner, why did you load the plates on the top rack of the dishwasher?"

When I tell you this man stared at me with a blank stare. He responded, "I guess I never thought about it. If I put them on the top rack, I don't have to bend down as far to the bottom rack."

And there it was. He's taller than me, of course the top rack is easier to reach. He's efficient! And I love that about him. I've always loved how he gets to the point with me and never beats around the bush.

'Staying Curious' continued...

What I had been missing in our relationship was my curiosity I had at the beginning. I had been making assumptions about my partner and not asking questions to understand his thinking. We've been together for four years, and I thought I knew it all, when clearly I did not.

Asking questions and staying curious has really opened wonderful doors of communication for us. We are working towards stopping our assumptions in their tracks. It doesn't come naturally, but we are holding each other accountable. Now we start our questions with, "Out of curiosity, why do you do it that way?" That way we know there isn't a hidden agenda behind our questions. We are truly curious.

Whether you have been together for 4 months, 4 years, or 40 years, practice curiosity with your partner. You might learn something new about them, and as a bonus you can stop assumptions in their tracks. –PE Blog



Remembrance Sunday, November 1, 2020 We will remember all who have died since our last service in 2019. We will light candles and ring bells sounding that something significant has happened in the life of the church: birth, marriage or death.

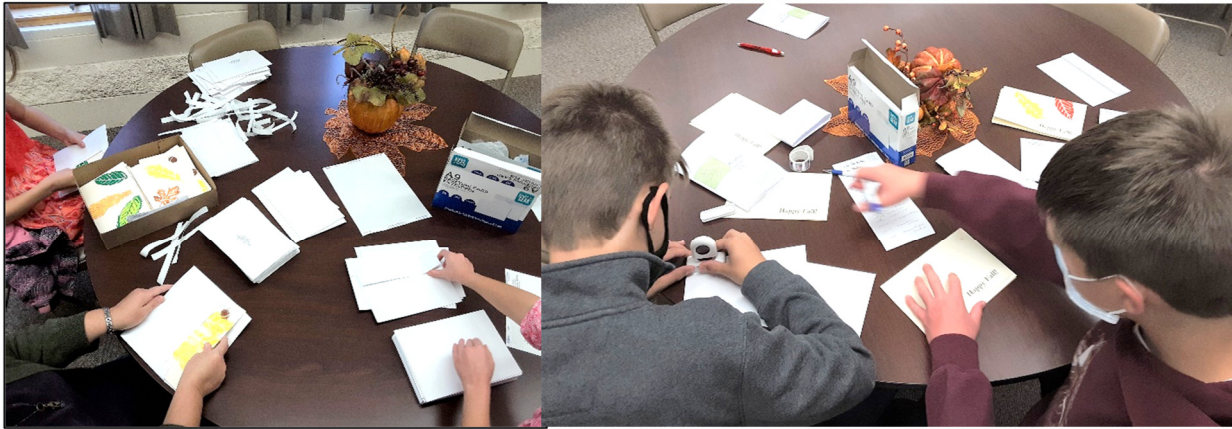


Thanksgiving Eve Service (Online)

In consultation with the pastors of First Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal Churches and the Chair of the Worship Team, we decided to hold our annual joint Thanksgiving Eve Service online this year. As Trinity is hosting, Rev.

Peter Jark-Swain volunteered to be our tech host who will wrangle participants from the three churches and compose and post the service sometime the week of Thanksgiving.

Communion will remain part of this service, so you are invited to gather a cracker, cookie or bread and juice (something to drink) so that we may share this holy meal. We plan to post the 30-minute service on You Tube and Facebook the week of Thanksgiving. Stay safe, stay thankful! –Pastor Jackie



Staying Connected through Covid Season

Making Cards

In October, the youth created cards for our neighbors and those of us sheltering safely. All enjoyed creative discoveries using paint, sponge brushes and stencils. Youth and adults lamented that we cannot hold ice cream socials for Skyline Apartments, but we can let our neighbors know that we are thinking of them and sending God's blessings. Thanks, also to the Book Group who also created. In total the church delivered or sent 130 cards. Thanks to Skylar, Reese, Grace, Adam, Henry, Karen, Jane, Kay, Verletta, Bonnie K., Darlene, and Pastor Jackie.

Church Directory 2020

In this time of quarantine and social distancing, it is more important than ever to stay connected through phone calls, notes, and prayer. The Members & Friends Directory can help us reach out and stay connected. It can help us learn names and remember those faces UNDER the masks! Pick one up today, or we will mail one to you by request.



Prayer for Veteran's Day - November 11

Heavenly Father,

Thank you that you defend your people with your mighty hand. Hear our prayers as we lift up our military and veterans before you. They work tirelessly to defend our country. Bless and protect them, O God, and use their work for the good of our

nation and your glory. May they always know your presence with them.

We thank you for veterans and their families who have made great sacrifices on our behalf. We ask that you bless and protect them. Give them peace when they suffer from past trauma. May they find satisfying ways to serve in civilian life. Make us a grateful nation, mindful of their service, and may we work for their health and greatest possible good.

May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with them always. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Annual Gathering Report

The Annual Gathering was a joint Zoom meeting with the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences on Saturday, October 17th. Staff worked hard to create a great meeting and provided a thick booklet of reports and business documentation from the three conferences. Rev. Brigit Stevens, Executive Conference Minister for all three conferences, reported that the budget was good for now, but there was a need to hire two more staff (one of them financial), and down the road the current budget was not going to be sustainable. Here are some Nebraska church statistics from the report for 2019:

Association Name	Members	1-50	51-100	101-200	201-400	401-600	600 +	# of Churches
Heartland	6,461	7	3	6	4	0	1	21
Living Waters	4,326	5	10	7	3	1	1	27
Prairie	2,290	12	7	9	1	0	0	29
Total	13,077	24	20	22	8	1	2	77

Our church and Blair Congregational UCC had 150th anniversaries. The 2021 Budget and 2021 Compensation Guidelines were approved. The Gathering approved the proposal to establish the Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers at the 33rd General Synod of the UCC. The Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences voted that their Conference ministries are Open and Affirming and Anti-Racist. They were already operating in this manor and in 2020, the three Conferences affirmed this in each of their separate annual meetings. Guest Speaker, Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart was the speaker. She is Director for Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs for the city of Philadelphia. –Pastor Jackie

Heritage Sunday



Merle-member for 72 years



Bonnie-member for 68 years



Rita-member for 67 years



Ginge-member for 64 years



Jeff and Evonne-members for 59 years



Verletta-member for 50 years



Book club meets November 11, Fellowship Hall at 10 AM.
Bring your own beverage and family veteran stories.

The winner of the Scholarship quilt is an anonymous donor who is sharing with an elder who needs some uplifting care.

This raffle raised \$436 for the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who donated.



We just want to say thank you for the lovely send off for Mom, our "Cookie Grandma." You all did such a wonderful job of making the memorial special. Thank you!

Alta Crandall's family

IN



NOVEMBER

Birthday

4th Susan Surber
19th Kay Neuharth
22nd Ed Lindsay

Anniversary

14th Ron and Virginia Barritt



November 1

Communion: Evonne Burkink, Scott and Lori Williams

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Susan Surber and Jane Uzzell

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Leader: Chuck Balsiger

Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

November 8

Ushers: Lori and Scott Williams

Greeters: Tom McConnell and Cole Uzzell

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers:

November 15

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Rita Woodard

Reader: Karen Allyn

Flowers:

November 22

Ushers: Suzan Podliska and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Mike Synovec and Ed Lindsay

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

November 29 First Sunday of Advent

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers:



December 6

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger, Ben Uzzell and Susan Surber

Ushers: Terry Hamilton and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Lori Williams

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 13

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Chuck Balsiger and Bonnie Dewell

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 20

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Suzan Podliska and Barb Koenig

Reader: Chuck Balsiger

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 24 Christmas Eve

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 27

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Ed Lindsay

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Poinsettias

Please notify the office if you are not able to attend on Sunday.

October

From 10/1/20 through 10/31/20



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ -2,112.38
Scholarship	\$ 436.00
Poinsettia	\$ 39.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$16,835.82</u>
Subtotal	\$15,198.44
Salary	--\$ 7,357.83
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,156.69
Office Expenses	—\$ 374.59
Renner's	—\$ 755.00
Work Comp Insurance	—\$ 996.00
Faith Development	—\$ 30.88
Worship Ministry	—\$ 182.00
Pastor's Discretionary	—\$ 723.00
<u>Ed Jones Scholarship</u>	<u>—\$ 436.00</u>
Final Balance	\$3,186.45

Linaje Escogido \$800.00 was deposited in Madison County Bank.

▶ November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	2 Sue vacation	3 5:30 Girl Scouts Sue vacation	4 Sue vacation	5 Sue vacation	6 7 Card Group Sue vacation	7 Sue vacation
8 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	9	10 5:30 Girl Scouts	11	12 7 PM Unity Council FH	13 5 Card Group	14
15 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	16	17 5:30 Girl Scouts	18	19	20	21
22 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	23	24 5:30 Girl Scouts	25 Thanksgiving Eve service is online	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 9 Hanging of the Greens 10:15 Worship	30					

▶ December 2020

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