

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



November 2023

Volume 5, Issue 109



Thanksgiving Eve service
to be held at Trinity
Episcopal at 5:30 PM.
This is a joint service with
Trinity Episcopal, First
Presbyterian, and First
Congregational UCC.

November 5 is the end of
Daylight Savings Time. Set
your clocks back one hour!



PASTOR'S HOURS

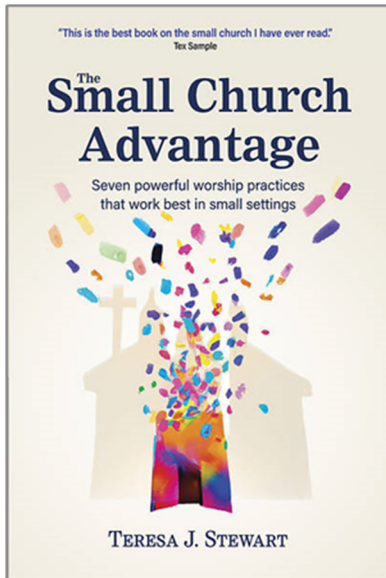
Monday-Thursday 10-4
Other times by appointment
May be out of the office for
meetings or visits



Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8-12

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Nourishing the Seed of Faith!: The Small Church Advantage



On Saturday, October 21, Verletta Olson, David Thompson, and Pastor Jackie participated in the Fall Gathering of the Living Waters Association of the Nebraska Conference, United Church of Christ. St. Luke's UCC in Columbus hosted, and Joan Alexander of Plainview UCC lead events.

In the morning all worshipped, followed by speaker, Rev. Roberto Ochoa, UCC Minister for Ethnic Inclusion and Congregational Support for Rural and Small Churches. He's based in Cleveland at the national setting of the UCC.

The keynote speaker was Teresa J. Stewart, author of "The Small Church Advantage". Her observation of small and big churches has revealed that "Small congregations are not big places in miniature. They work differently. They come with different resources, dynamics, and challenges. But they also come with distinctive strengths—ones that are powerfully forming and not generally available in big settings."

"Rather than chasing after one-size-fits-most programs, ministry requires more than trying to replicate big-setting successes. It requires unleashing this great variety of small-setting strengths."

One principle that she highlighted is "*The greater the participation, the greater the formation*". At FCUCC in Norfolk, it seems that everyone participates in some way. One way we hope to put this principle into practice is through the Christmas Program and potluck scheduled for December 10. The Christmas program theme is: **Memories of Christmas**. Yet, another creative Christmas idea from our own Mike Synovec. Between now and mid-November, we will be collecting your memories of Christmas in a variety of ways. See more in this newsletter about how you can share your **Memories of Christmas**.

All agreed that the worship, speakers, business meeting, and fellowship was worthwhile. Elected at the business meeting from FCUCC: Susan Allyn for Living Waters Association Council; Verletta Olson for Church and Ministry Committee; and Pastor Jackie will continue to serve on Church and Ministry as well.

[illegible]

Worship Events this Season

- November 5 Remembrance Sunday (All Saints)
- November 22 Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Trinity Episcopal Church
5:30 p.m. Wednesday evening.
- November 27 9 AM Hanging of the Greens; Refreshments after worship.
- December 3 Advent 1, Communion Sunday



2023 Pack Away Hunger

On October 15, eleven folks from FCUCC packed nutritious meals for Mercy Meal's annual event, Pack Away Hunger. The group packed bags of soy, rice, dried vegetables, chicken flavoring and nutrients; weighed the bags, sealed, labeled, and packed them into cardboard boxes. In an hour and a half, our team packed 16 boxes with 36 bags in each. Since each bag will feed six people that comes out to 3,456 meals! According to a Mercy Meal's Facebook post, the 2022 Pack Away Hunger meal total was 105,742 meals. Orphan Grain Train delivers the meals all over the United States and the world.

Congregational Meeting, October 22, 2023.

Meeting was called to order by Vice Moderator, Brian Seier. Quorum was declared.

A Congregational meeting has been called by Support Ministry to discuss reglazing and painting the no-stained glass windows on the north side of the church. One bid is for \$12,000, and the other is for \$6425. The meeting is to be held after worship on October 22, 2023.

The floor was open: The differences in amounts was questioned and explained. The higher bid is a bid to not do the job. It is not uncommon in construction to do so. The low is from Andrew Liking, the son of the gentleman who painted the windows on the west side of the educational building. He now has his own construction company. The caulking will be taken off, recaulked and repainted. Brian Seier explained the extensive process. It is not the stained glass windows. What is the plan to do there? The plan is to get to those first—the ones on the stairs up to the balcony and the ones by the sacristy. There are 72 of the little panes that will need to be done. Others were contacted to bid. Glass Edge never got back to us.

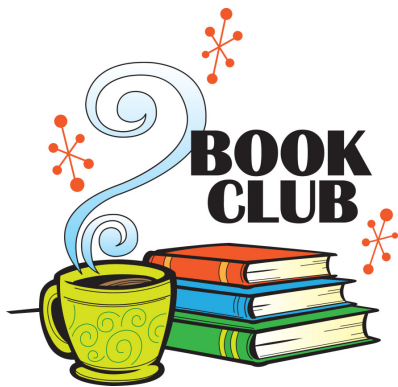
Binswager bid the \$12,000. Ben Uzzell contacted Andrew Liking. Scott Williams contacted another party which did not respond.

We have enough in our savings and in endowment to cover the cost. The Memorial committee has also been contacted. It may come from all 3 sources. Ben Uzzell, Support, personal feelings is to take it from 1st Memorial fund, 2nd endowment, both of which are not interest bearing. The endowment is, but what it makes goes into the cash portion. Every 5 years it is evaluated as to what to do with it. There was discussion and concern about this, which Ben said would be discussed at a later Support meeting.

Concern was raised that if moisture is coming into the clear panes, is it not also affecting the stained glass windows along the sanctuary. The question was raised, “Do you want to back up and get a bid for it all?” The plan is to fix these of high need now and then move to the others when these have been fixed. It’s not the stained glass window itself, it’s the outside covering window. The advantage in doing it in stages is to get a sense of what it takes and make plans to fix the stained glass windows next. The quality of the work can also be evaluated

Motion made to accept the lower bid by Merle Rix. Mike Synovec 2nd. Motion carried.

Jane Uzzell, Clerk



Book Club will meet November 8 at 10 AM. *The Lion and the Mouse* by Jerry Pickney. We will also be reading *Great Plains Buffalo* for a chapter book. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

Do you go grocery shopping? At Lou's? At HyVee? **We have an easy way to bump up your donation to the church budget**--use a Lou's or HyVee gift card when you go shopping or get gas. You can buy them **Sundays** in Fellowship Hall. We currently get \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards.

See you at the table in Fellowship Hall! Please help out. The gift cards fit right in your billfold by your dollar bills, so it's even easy to remember to use them when you go to pay for your groceries. Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402)640-6623.



NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

4th Susan Surber

19th Kay Neuharth

22nd Ed Lindsay

Anniversary

14th Ron and Virginia Barritt

25th Merle and Jeannie Rix



November 5 Remembrance Sunday

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams

Ushers: Rita Woodard

Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Tom McConnell

Reader: Reese Uzzell

Leader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Brian Seier

November 12

Ushers: Brian Seier and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers:

November 19

Ushers:

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Grace Uzzell

Flowers:

November 26 Hanging of the Greens

Ushers: Stacie Uzzell and Reese Uzzell

Greeters: Ben Uzzell and Grace Uzzell

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams



December 3 First Sunday of Advent

Communion: Tom McConnell and Verletta Olson

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Brian Seier

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 10 Program and Potluck

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 17

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve

Ushers: Sue Surber and Barb Koenig

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Poinsettias

December 31

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Verletta Olson

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Poinsettias

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

October

From 10/1/23 through 10/31/23

This does not include the deposit for 10-29

Checking account information

Beginning balance	-\$ 4,625.60
Savings Transfer	\$ 5,000.00
Poinsettias	\$ 167.50
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,809.91</u>
Subtotal	\$ 10,351.81
Salary	--\$ 7,222.18
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,264.69
Office Expenses	—\$ 436.15
Worship	—\$ 250.00
Insurance	—\$ 1,965.20
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 2,356.41



▶ November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				Sue in Omaha		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Daylight Savings Time Ends 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Remembrance Sunday Renewed Hope 4-7 FH	6:30 PM Girl Scouts	6:15 PM Girl Scouts	10 Book club		Sue in Omaha Delphians FH 1-4	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Faith Development	6 PM Girl Scouts	5:30 PM Girl Scouts				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Unity Council	6:30 PM Girl Scouts	6:15 PM Girl Scouts	Thanksgiving Eve Trinity Episcopal 5:30 PM	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	
26	27	28	29	30		
9 Sunday School 9 AM Hanging of the Greens 10:15 Worship	6 PM Girl Scouts	5:30 PM Girl Scouts				

▶ December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Renewed Hope 4-7 FH	6:30 PM Girl Scouts	6:15 PM Girl Scouts				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Program and Potluck	6 PM Girl Scouts	5:30 PM Girl Scouts	10 Book club			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	6:30 PM Girl Scouts	6:15 PM Girl Scouts		6 PM FH Questers		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<u>5:30 PM Worship</u> (No morning worship)	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	
31						
10:15 Worship						