

First Congregational Messenger
 First Congregational United Church of Christ
 Norfolk, NE

Serving God with love and faith



Toy Collection



PRE-K/LOWER ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL/PLAY ROOM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Faith Development Ministry has registered a “toy wish list” for the Pre/K-Lower Elementary **Sunday** School Class/Play Room. Anyone interested can either purchase a toy from Target or Wal-Mart using the gift registry or make a monetary donation. Deadline is **October 15th**. Contact Darlene Korthals 402-371-1889 with any questions.

CHILDREN’S SABBATH SUNDAY is **October 15th**. Pastor Jackie is planning a service which will include our youth. This will also be the day that recently purchased toys will be “blessed” and released to the classroom.

September 2017

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Rally Sunday is September 10.
Sunday School classes begin at 9 AM.



Church Secretary

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



Office Hours				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:15-11:30	8-11:30	9:15-11:30	8-11:30	9:15-1:15
3-5:15		3-5:15		

September Prayers

For some, September means starting school; for others, perhaps starting a new job, or entering boot camp. September means that we are gearing up for Rally Sunday on September 10th. With so many new opportunities, challenges and joys ahead, how might we best prepare? Prayer is a good place to start, since it is God who invites each of us to take the next steps on our walk with God. The prayer, below, comes from *Prayers for Life's Ordinary and Extraordinary Moments*, edited by Mary Lou Redding (Upper Room Books).

When Starting Something New

Creator God, I'm starting something new.

This time is filled with hope and dreams—and a little bit of anxiety.

I want to do things right, and I'm afraid I won't know how.

But you are a God who is always doing a new thing.*

Guide me, inspire me, shine through me.

Help me to remember that I am made in your image,
the image of a creative being.

Thank you for your presence as I move into this new adventure. *Amen*

**See Isaiah 43:19*

Globally, in September, there are many people and places to pray for:

Pray for Peace after natural disasters during the height of hurricane season or any time after a natural disaster strikes. The Texas gulf area will need our prayers in the weeks and months to come. After the waters recede, many will daily bear the scars of destruction. (See *also in this newsletter how to help*)

Pray for Peace on September 11, the annual remembrance of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. An occasion to remember, mourn, forgive, repent and recommit to the things that make for peace.

Pray for Peace in Mexico, especially September 16, independence day for Mexico.

Pray for Peace on the International Day of Peace, September 21.

Thanks to James McGinnes and his book *Praying for Peace Around the Globe*.

Peace, Pastor Jackie

To Norfolk With Love

Youth (and Adults) Outreach: SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Register online at <http://tonorfolkwithlove.com/> **12 projects from which to choose**

Below you will find a list of projects with a very brief description. Please take a look at the projects and choose one based on your interest and ability level. Don't forget to register online and chose a project.

Area Agency on Aging - Porch repair, shingle repair and yard maintenance for an older member of our community.

The ARC of Norfolk - The ARC advocates for people with developmental disabilities and one way they do this is through their annual Honey Sunday fundraiser. During this project you will help label hundreds of honey jars for their fundraiser.

Bright Horizons Domestic Abuse Shelter - Campus clean up and preparations for winter. Trimming and other outdoor work. Bedroom painting.

Norfolk Public Schools - Clean-up and light landscaping for local school.

Norfolk Parks and Rec - Painting playground equipment at local parks.

Animal Shelter of NE Nebraska - Cleaning kennels or cat cages; take dogs out to walk; laundry, sweeping, food preparation.

Norfolk Fire Department - Baking of cookies and other goodies and hand writing thank you cards to our firefighters. Hand delivering to each station in town.

Norfolk Public Library - Grounds cleaning, pick up and organization as construction continues, dusting and other cleaning.

City of Norfolk - Owner occupied homes (mostly elderly) who need help with lot clean up, trimming, minor repairs/painting, etc.

Norfolk Arts Center - Outdoor landscaping and fall spruce up.

The Zone (Youth After School Program) - Interior painting of several rooms which they use for their after school programs.

Burmese Immigrants/Immaculata Monastery - The Sisters at Immaculata have identified and created a relationship with some female Burmese Immigrants who live in our community. These women are new to living in, cleaning and utilizing all of the technology in a western apartment (ie vacuums, toilets, cleaning solutions etc.) and during this project several sisters and female volunteers will help teach these women some simple ways to clean and keep a modern American apartment.

Outreach Update: Skyline Apartments

Skyline Apartments restoration project begins early September. Lauren Moore of Wishrock Investment Group reported that the project has been fully funded. This is a complete renovation. As part of their grant to update the property, First Congregational UCC agreed to provide 8 hours of light landscape work and to provide/organize a community event once a month for residents. Pastor Jackie seek churches to partner with us to provide community events. Lauren explained that First Congregational may begin work in 12 or 14 months (near project completion, late summer 2018). She thanked the church for helping to make the grant possible—community involvement is required for the grant. Our congregation seeks ways to serve our neighborhood. We are happy to hear renovation work is about to begin, and we want to work for safe, clean and efficient affordable housing in Norfolk.

–Pastor Jackie



Hurricane Harvey Causing Catastrophic Damage in Texas

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" Psalm 46

Be part of the response and long-term recovery:

http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_harvey

The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal to help with long term recovery following Hurricane Harvey—a monster storm that has already displaced thousands of Texans and left at least ten people dead.

"We are asking for prayers, for donations, and, as the

long-term recovery takes shape, we will also ask for volunteers," said the Rev. Jim Moos, a UCC national officer.

Gifts may be made out to: First Congregation UCC, marked for "Hurricane Harvey". Donations may also be sent directly to Wider Church Ministries, Financial Services - 6th Floor, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

You may also give online: http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_harvey



Walk to End Alzheimer's October 8

Teams are at the heart of Walk to End Alzheimer's. These individuals come together as a way to fight back when a friend or family member has been affected by the disease. Contact Pastor Jackie if you are interested in participating, 402.371.0701

I'm hoping that you'll invite your churches to an event that I'm planning with Neligh UCC. It's called Hops & Hymns on **September 9th**, 7-9pm at the Neligh Legion. Here's the description: Drink! Sing! Build community!
 Hops & Hymns is a chance to bring old and new friends together to sing those great old hymns in four part harmony while enjoying the beverage of your choice - beer, wine, water, pop...
 We hope to find the sweet spot of honoring our historic faith without holding it too seriously - treating these hymns with respect, but not with stuffiness.
 Rev. Melanie Miller, Interim Pastor, Neligh UCC



First Congregational has been more than just a church home; it is a family. The members are so sweet and encouraging and I couldn't be where I am **today** without the help and support of this church. Thank you guys so much! McKenna Waterbury

Thank you

7/25/17 "Dear Pastor Jackie and Mission Team—Thank you very much for the delicious meal Sunday night. But mainly thank you for sharing your personal stories. What a meaningful experience. Blessings, Bev Henkel"



Tech Upgrades

Volunteer Needed - We have a 1995 videocassette titled: "125 Years Anniversary, First Congregational United Church of Christ" that we'd like to transfer to electronic format to make it accessible in the future. Could someone research the cost and who might do the transfer, either to DVD and/or flash drive?



- 2nd Jill Waterbury
- 4th Gene Korthals
Candice Korthals
- 16th Cole Lee
- 18th Sara Williams
- 21st Rev. Jackie Perry
- 24th Vicki Staab
Brandi Rossman

Rev. Roddy Dunkerson to preach September 17

Nebraska Conference Minister, Roddy Dunkerson, retires the end of 2017. He will bring the Message to First Congregational in worship on September 17. Let's take the opportunity say good-bye to a faith-filled servant and leader, and bless him on the next leg of his journey.



Anniversary

- 16th Pat and Lowell Jenny

Fellowship Work Committee

September

Ben and Stacie Uzzell

October

Stan and Vicki Staab Randy and Kay Neuharth Susan Surber



September



OCTOBER

October 1

Communion: Tom McConnell, Ben Uzzell, Stan and Vicki Staab

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Cole Lee

Greeters: Garrett Korthals and Tom McConnell

Reader: Cole Lee

Leader: Stan Staab

Flowers: Dorothy Hull

October 8

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Susan Surber and Rita Woodard

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers:

October 15

Ushers: Stan and Vicki Staab

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Cole Lee

Reader: Vicki Staab

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

October 22

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

October 29

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Garrett Korthals

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers:

September 3

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams,

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Mike Synovec

Reader: Lori Williams

Leader: Dorothy Hull

Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

September 10 Rally Sunday

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Dorothy Hull

September 17

Ushers: Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Rita Woodard

Flowers: Mike Synovec

September 24

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Stan and Vicki Staab

From 8/1/17 through 8/31/17

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 5,365.07
Memorial deposit	\$ 1,000.00
Scholarship deposit	\$ 1,500.00
Funeral deposit	\$ 225.75
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 16,797.40</u>
Subtotal	\$ 24,891.22
Salary	--\$ 10,402.30
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,170.84
Office Expenses	—\$ 1,155.20
Youth Mission	—\$ 461.75
Substitute Organist	—\$ 65.00
Funeral Expense	—\$ 44.45
Food Pantry	—\$ 250.00
Scholarship	—\$ 1,500.00
Memorial Expense	—\$ 254.70
<u>OCWM</u>	<u>—\$ 619.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 7,967.98



TREASURER'S REPORT

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7 Card Group	2
3 10:15 Worship	4	5	6 GS 7-8	7 GS 5-8:30	8 7 Card Group	9
10 Rally Sunday 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	11	12	13 Lifeline Screening	14 GS 5-8:30	15	16 9-12 Norfolk with Love
17 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Rev. Roddy Dunkerson here	18	19	20 GS 7-8 Pastor Jackie continuing ed in Denver	21 Pastor Jackie continuing ed in Denver	22 Pastor Jackie continuing ed in Denver	23 Pastor Jackie continuing ed in Denver
24 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	2	3	4 GS 7-8	5	6 7 Card Group	7
8 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Alzheimer's walk	9	10	11	12	13 7 Card Group	14 Living Waters Fall Meeting
15 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	16	17	18 GS 7-8	19	20	21
22 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	30	31				



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

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9:00 AM Sunday School Sept-May

10:15 AM Worship Service