

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



April 2022

Volume 5, Issue 90

Congregational Meeting to be held April 24 after the worship service.



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Blessings for Graduate

Cole Uzzell will graduate from Norfolk Senior High this spring! The congregation is invited to bless him by praying for him every day in April and drop notes of blessing, well wishes, and cards into his "blessing box" at the church. We will present the box to Cole on Graduation Sunday, May 1st.

Please pick up a date (or 2) on which you will personally pray throughout the day for Cole. There will be small dated prayer cards on the table in the Narthex this month – just pick one or two up next time you are in church. OR, call Sue in the office and she will give you a date.



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



Office Hours
Monday-Friday

8-12

Suffering

Lent has been a season to take stock of our lives. In March, “kindness” has been our watch word. We have been sharing stories of kindness and civility, and there is no shortage of these satisfying stories.

As the season has progressed, I have also observed what author and former kindergarten teacher, Vivian Paley, discovered. After years of researching *the kindness of children*, she wrote that stories of kindness do three things:

- they move us to want to do kind things;
- ordinary people show up and know what to do; and
- nice stories relax us and help us make connections.

Indeed, the stories I have heard and shared had all three of these characteristics.

Stories of human kindness and mercy (undeserved kindness) are also a reflection of God’s kindness and mercy. Encouraged by these stories, I feel better prepared to turn the corner, and follow Jesus as he enters Jerusalem to meet his fate.

But, are we ever fully prepared to hear again the story of Jesus’ suffering--from his friends betrayal to his torturous death? It’s heavy, and often I feel the weight of it as we approach Good Friday.

For me, feeling the weight of Jesus’ suffering can help me connect to the gravity of the suffering of others. Realizing that Jesus, the Son of God, suffered, helps me to connect with my own need to connect with God and others when I suffer.

Perhaps our watch word for April might be “suffering”. May we be aware of those of us who suffer, pray for relief from suffering, and ask God to show us how we might ease suffering.
Peace, *Pastor Jackie*

Worship Schedule

- 4/10 Palm-Passion Sunday
- 4/14 Maundy Thursday at First Presbyterian Church
- 4/17 Easter
- 4/24 Worship moves to Fellowship Hall / Annual Meeting
- 5/1 Graduation Sunday / Reception for Cole Uzzell
- 5/7 Memorial Service for Janet Lane



April 14 - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service @ First Presbyterian Church

A joint service with First Presbyterian and First Congregational Churches

5:30 p.m to 6:15 p.m. - Light Meal

6:30 p.m. - Worship with communion

**Please join Homestead Presbytery, Living Waters Association,
and the congregation of Federated Church
to celebrate the Installation of
Edward Yang as Solo Pastor of Federated Church
Sunday, April 3rd at 3pm, Federated Church Sanctuary**



**Clergy who attend are invited to wear robes
and process at the start of the service,
taking their seats in the front pews.
Red is the liturgical color of the day.**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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Kiwanis Church Youth Recognition – March 21

Congratulations to Cole Uzzell (Front left) for being honored as one of the Kiwanis Church Youth of the Year. Norfolk Noon Kiwanis holds the annual event at The Stables. Cole, his parents Ben and Stacie Uzzell, Pastor Jackie (and Scott Williams) attended from FCUCC. Churches represented: Our Savior Lutheran; Victory Assembly of God; Christ the Servant Lutheran; First United Methodist; First Congregational UCC; Grace Lutheran; Sacred Heart; Northern Heights Baptist; First Christian; and St. John's Lutheran (two students are not pictured).



Love Responds – And You Did!

On Sunday, March 27th, we dedicated our gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, Lenten offering. OGHS supports disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ. The church collected \$500, doubling the amount from last year! Thanks be to God!

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, April 9 at 11:00 AM

First Congregational United Church of Christ

1102 W. Norfolk Ave

AGES THRU 5TH GRADE



Please join us in the Easter Egg Hunt.

Eggs are filled and waiting to be found

Please bring a bag or basket to carry your eggs home

Sponsored by:



Egg Hunt for Kids
Trinity Episcopal Church
First Presbyterian Church
First Congregational
United Church of Christ

Rain Date Saturday, April 16



Book Club will meet April 13. *I'll Go and Come Back* by Ragani LaRocca. The books can be found in the office 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.



Ukraine Emergency Appeal – The UCC is appealing for support for refugees and for elderly and other vulnerable people who are displaced within Ukraine and unable to leave. As a member of ACT Alliance, UCC support is being targeted to people most in need through humanitarian relief partners with a history of working in the region. Gifts made to the UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. You may make your check out to: *First Congregational UCC* with the note “Ukraine Relief”.

Steps Project Complete!

Thanks to all who worked on the two sets of parking lot steps in March: Support Team, especially Randy Neuharth and Ben Uzzell; Linaje Escogido Church members Jose Carrillo and his son Diego of ADMD Construction for doing the cement work; and to the five members from LE church who helped Ben set the heavy steps into place. ***We celebrate our two churches working together!***



Birthdays

- 4th Adam Gamerl
- 5th Jane Uzzell
- 18th Henry Gamerl
- 21st Katie Gamerl

Anniversary

- 16th Rick and Jill Waterbury



April 3

Communion: Ben Uzzell and Tom McConnell

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Charlene Fosdick

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Lori Williams

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

April 10 Palm Sunday

Ushers: Suzan Podliska and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Barb Koenig

Readers: Ben Uzzell, Jane Uzzell, Tom McConnell

Flowers: Palms

April 17 Easter

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Lilies

April 24 Annual Meeting

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Ed Lindsay

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Suzan Podliska

Reader: Chuck Balsiger

Flowers: Karen Allyn



May 1 Graduation Celebrated

Communion: Evonne Burkink and Susan Surber

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Chuck Balsiger and Mike Synovec

Reader: Verletta Olson

Leader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:

May 8 Mother's Day

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

May 15

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Charlene Fosdick

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Henry Gamerl

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

May 22

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

May 29 Memorial Weekend

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Barb Koenig

Greeters: Susan Surber and Rita Woodard

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers:

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

March

From 3/1/22 through 3/31/22



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Beginning balance | \$ | -323.44 |
| Lilies | \$ | 45.00 |
| OGHS | \$ | 501.48 |
| Ukraine Relief | \$ | 220.00 |
| Bank Correction for fraud | \$ | 5479.04 |
| <u>Weekly deposits</u> | \$ | <u>11,436.00</u> |
| Subtotal | \$ | 17,358.08 |
| Salary | --\$ | 8,152.76 |
| Church Maintenance | —\$ | 3,321.06 |
| Office Expenses | —\$ | 422.98 |
| Substitute Organist | —\$ | 140.00 |
| Pastor Continuing Education | —\$ | 70.00 |
| Insurance | —\$ | 3,374.50 |
| Renner's | —\$ | 755.00 |
| <u>OCWM, OGHS, Ukraine</u> | —\$ | <u>1,735.28</u> |
| Final Balance | —\$ | 613.50 |

All the money has been replaced for the theft and the businesses have all been paid.

▶ April 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship Stewardship Renewed Hope FH 4-9 | GS 6:30 FH | GS 5:30 | 10 Worship Ministry | | Delphians 12-3 FH | Easter Egg Hunt 11 AM |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship | GS 5:30 GS 6:30 FH | GS 5:30 | 10 Book Club | Maundy Thursday at First Presbyterian 6:30 PM | Good Friday OFFICE CLOSED | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Easter 10:15 Worship Move to Fellowship Hall for services next week | OFFICE CLOSED | GS 5:30 | | Delphians 6-9 PM | Girl Scouts 8-4 FH | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship Annual Meeting | GS 5:30 GS 6:30 FH | GS 5:30 | | | | Girl Scouts 8-5 FH |

▶ May 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship Graduation Celebrated | GS 6:30 FH | GS 5:30 | 10 Worship Ministry | | | Janet Lane Memorial 2 PM |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship Teachers Celebrated | GS 5:30 GS 6:30 FH | GS 5:30 | 10 Book Club | | Delphians 12-3 FH | Cole Uzzell graduation party |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 10:15 Worship | | GS 5:30 | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 10:15 Worship | GS 5:30 GS 6:30 FH | GS 5:30 | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| 10:15 Worship | | | | | | |