

First Congregational Messenger
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1102 W. Norfolk Ave.
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Serving God with love and faith



August 2021

Volume 5, Issue 82

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150th ANNIVERSARY - FREE SUMMER CONCERT

Sunday, August 22, 4PM-5PM

On the church yard at
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1102 W. Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk, NE

*Bring your lawn chair, enjoy an hour of great music by
'A TOUCH OF BRASS'
(Steven Uzzell memorial funds)*

In case of rain, concert will be in the church sanctuary.

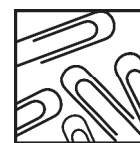


Pastor's
Office Hours

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

Values



Norfolk Area Pride is hosting the first ever Pride Festival in Norfolk Saturday, September 18, 3PM – 6PM at the Norfolk Art Center. The event will feature family friendly events including Bounce Houses, Live Music, Zumba Class, Food Trucks, Craft Projects, LGBTQ+ Educational Panels and more.

News Channel Nebraska featured the group in June, which was Pride Month. Here are some quotes from the story:

“Over 18 million Americans identify as LGBTQ and around 3 million live in rural communities, according to Gallup and the study from the Movement Advancement Project”

“Our identity is not talked about,” said Mo Bailey, Vice President of Norfolk Area Pride. “For a long time, it’s been a don’t ask, don’t tell type community”.

“A member of the pride group tells us her son moved out of state to be in a more welcoming city.”

“When my youngest son came out, I had nowhere to go, no one to talk to,” Sue Weaver.

“The group’s goal is for people to know they’re not alone.”

In the spring of 2014, sixty people gathered for a meal at homes, Fellowship Hall, or restaurants to share stories about First Congregational Church members past and present. We called the event ‘Around the Table’. As presider, I posed a question, took notes, distributed a list of 88 values after the stories were told, and recorded the number of times participants named a value that they heard embedded in a story. The question: Tell a story of a time when you saw a member of the congregation do something that touched you [was meaningful and memorable for you]. The goal was to identify our values.

Of 30 values named, three surpassed them all: caring, compassion, and welcome. The people who have touched you as a congregation, embodied these values. We know Jesus gave concrete form to these values. I’m looking forward to attending this event and seeing you there. Serving with love and faith, *Pastor Jackie*

*Amanda Poole, “Local Pride group looks to grow while navigating challenges”, Wednesday, June 9th 2021. Available at: www.newschannelnebraska.com



Thank you for your continued stewardship and financial support of the church. During the summer, giving is usually down--the summer slump--so if you are unable to attend worship, please remember to mail in or drop off your offering. If you need to make changes to your pledge for whatever reason, you may contact Verletta Olson. She is a good steward of your information.



You are invited!

The Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Ribbon Cutting

Wednesday, August 18th 10AM

at First Congregational UCC

in honor of our 150th Anniversary.

Covid-19 foiled our summer celebration plans last year, so this summer is our August 18 (Ribbon Cutting) and August 22 (Free Summer Concert). See more about the concert above.



**Pack Away Hunger Day,
Sunday October 3, 2021, 4PM-5:30PM**

First Congregational UCC has reserved a table that will accommodate 8-10 volunteers to assemble and package meals to be sent to children around the world. Mercy Meals is asking for \$260 to cover food and shipping. To donate, you may write a check to the church with the note "Mercy

Meals". Volunteers 7 years of age or older are welcome. A sign-up sheet will be available in September.



A Message from Pastor Alice Abiba Shomari

"Good morning Pastor Jackie, I hope this finds you well. Since we landed in Western Kansas, we have been so busy but at least settled in now. Just trying to adjust to the culture of the towns and the congregations. I continue to remember and pray for you and the church for your kindness and love of God shown to me and many as you minister. God bless! Amen"

Dessert with the Sisters

August 22, 2021

Immaculata Monastery

300 N. 18th St., Norfolk, NE 68701

2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

Plants for sale



Sister-Made Items

Come join the Sisters
for Dessert
and Conversation!

New to You Items





Book Club will continue on August 11 with *Your Name is a Song* by J. Thompkins-Bigelow. Jane Uzzell will have the book if you are interested.

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. The church buys \$1000 of gift cards for \$970, so we get \$30 for the budget. 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.



AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2nd Garry Podliska
- 6th Ginge Dudley
- 7th Taylor Rossman
- 9th Jeff Pekas

Anniversaries

- 2nd Randy and Kay Neuharth
- 10th Ben and Stacie Uzzell
- 15th Stan and Vicki Staab
- 16th Tom and Susan Surber
- 29th Chuck and Kathy Balsiger



August

August 1

Communion: Ben Uzzell and Tom McConnell

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Mike Synovec and Tom McConnell

Leader: Randy Neuharth

Reader: Chuck Balsiger

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

August 8

Ushers: Randy and Kay Nueharth

Greeters: Susan Surber and Suzan Podliska

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers:

August 15

Ushers: Susan Surber and Suzan Podliska

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Susan Surber

August 22

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Jane Uzzell

Reader: Reese Uzzell

Flowers: Karen Allyn

August 29

Ushers: Rita Woodard and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Sue Surber and Barb Koenig

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers:



September

September 5

Communion: Verletta Olson and Susan Surber

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Barb Koenig

Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Bonnie Dewell

Reader: Lori Williams

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

September 12 Rally Day

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Henry Gamerl

Flowers: Erik and Katie Gamerl

September 19

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

September 26

Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Verletta Olson

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

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

July

From 7/1/21 through 7/31/21



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

Beginning balance	—\$ 4,957.62
Concert	\$ 500.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,423.92</u>
Subtotal	\$ 4,966.30
Salary	--\$ 7,836.85
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,617.16
Office Expenses	—\$ 472.63
Worship Ministry	—\$ 142.00
Living Waters Assoc.	—\$ 280.00
Concert	—\$ 500.00
Renner's	—\$ 755.00
<u>Conference OCWM</u>	<u>—\$ 487.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 7,124.34

Linaje Escogido \$900.00 was deposited in Elkhorn Valley Savings account.

▶ August 2021

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

10:15 Worship
Noon-Feddern
reunion

10 Worship
Ministry

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

10:15 Worship
Unity Council
following
worship

10 Book Club NPS begins

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

10:15 Worship

10 Chamber
Visit

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

10:15 Worship
4 PM Touch of
Brass

NECC
begins

29 30 31

10:15 Worship

▶ September 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

10 Worship
Ministry

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

10:15 Worship

OFFICE
CLOSED

10 Book Club

To Norfolk
with Love

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

26 27 28 29 30

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

Pastor Jackie
on vacation