

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



August 2022

Volume 5, Issue 94

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When there is a 5th Sunday in the month, we have a potluck dinner following that Sunday's worship service. A basket will be available for donations to the church's scholarship fund. Hope to see you for a great meal and fellowship on July 31!

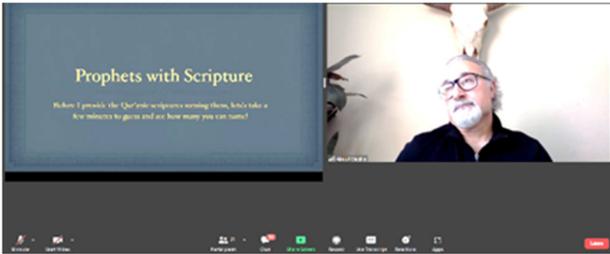
Monday-Thursday 10-4
Other times by appointment
May be out of the office for meetings or visits



Office Hours

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8-12

Prophets



A few times a year, I take advantage of the free educational webinars offered through TriFaith Initiative in Omaha. Usually a lay person will share an aspect of their tradition (Islam, Judaism, or Christian). It is interesting to see how much we three Abrahamic traditions have in common. We

truly are “People of the Book”.

A point of the webinars is to hear and consider a new point of view. It is also expected that everyone will be respectful. All are reminded that it is OK to disagree with part or all of what the speaker is saying. At a July 12th noon webinar, Abdul Mackie talked about the prophets in Scripture (the Quran). Abdul is a volunteer at TriFaith, an American Muslim Institute member, and on the Board of Directors for AMI. I want to share some of my notes with you:

A short definition of a *prophet* is one who utters inspired revelations—a revealer of God’s will. In Islam there are two types: A *Nabi* is a person who shares messages from God with the people, and calls people to faith. A *Rasul* has the same Nabi aspects, plus they bring a message from God *as Scripture*. Mohamed is considered a Rasul and the seal and final prophet.

Did you know that there are 25 prophets mentioned by name in the Quran? You know a number of them:

Adam, Enoch, Noah, Hud, Saleh, Abraham, Lot, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Jethro, Moses, Aaron, Ezekiel, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Zachariah, John the Baptist, Jesus, and Mohammed.

Which prophet is mentioned by name more than any other in the Quran?

(x = times the prophet is mentioned)

Adam 25x, Abraham 65x, Ishmael 12x, Isaac 17x, Moses 136x, Aaron 24x, David 16x, Elijah 2x, Jesus 25x, Mohammed 4x and once as Ahmed.

Did this surprise you? It surprised me!

Abdul explained that as a matter of creed, Muslims are divinely obliged to believe all messengers (the 25, as well as the un-named 100,000 plus prophets). They may not believe one is more authentic than the others. They are also obliged to trust the authenticity of all heavenly Scripture, these include Torah, the Bible, and the Quran. They believe that Jesus lives and waits in heaven for his 2nd coming. They believe that the Quran is the final chapter of the three books.

Abdul concluded his reflections, saying: “More than Abraham binds us together.”

To learn more contact me or contact info@trifaiith.org to find out how to get announcements for these *bridge building* webinars. – Peace, *Pastor Jackie*

New Hearing Loop Installed in the Sanctuary



On July 19th, Sheryl Butler, Loop Engineer for Hearing Assist Solutions, LLC (HAS) installed a hearing loop in the Sanctuary, “so everyone may hear the Word!”, she said. Cole Uzzell and Henry Gamerl volunteered their time to help Sheryl that day.

Unity Council approved installation at the May 22, 2022 meeting. Audiologist and church member, Katie Gamerl, explained how hearing advocate, Sheryl Butler, had secured a grant that made it possible for Sheryl’s company to offer the equipment free of charge to churches in Iowa and Nebraska. The cost of installation is planned to be shared by the Gamerl family and Memorial Committee. Katie said about 75 percent of hearing aids have the telecoil.

What is a telecoil? A telecoil is a small copper coil that is an option on most hearing aids and is built into cochlear implant processors. They were originally used to boost the magnetic signals from the telephone handset. The telecoil is activated by a t-switch on the hearing aid or cochlear implant. All landline and some cell phones are designed by law to be used with a telecoil.

The telecoil can make a noticeable difference in your life when you combine it with hearing loop technology. Hearing assist technology connects the listener *directly* to the sound source while most background noise is eliminated, making the sound clear and pure when talking with someone at work in a meeting, in the classroom, places of worship, theaters, and other places. Some people use telecoils at home with the TV while keeping the TV volume low for the comfort of others.

What is Hearing Assist Technology?

There are a few types of wireless hearing assist technology. A “hearing loop” is a wire that circles a room and is connected to the sound system. Sheryl threaded the wire under the carpeting, so it is invisible. The loop transmits the sound electromagnetically. The electro-magnetic signal is then picked up by the telecoil in the hearing aid or cochlear implant.

To use a hearing loop, one just flips the t-switch on the hearing aid or cochlear implant. No additional receiver or equipment is needed.

Council also approved a loop in Fellowship Hall; however, installation was delayed as the room has presented unexpected challenges to installation.



Summary Notes: Orphan Grain Train/Volunteers Ukrainian Relocation

June 27, 2022 Meeting @ Grace Lutheran Church, 7PM

OGT continues to ship food and other items to Ukrainian refugees in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine. Mike Anderson, real estate developer from Phoenix (formerly from Norfolk), traveled to Romania on behalf of Orphan Grain Train. Through OGT and Mike's connections with former Ukrainian immigrants/now U.S. citizens in Lincoln, Constantine and Dimi-triy Syniy, and a team of leaders, they have developed a plan to relocate 12 families (67 people) from Ukraine to Norfolk. It may be the largest privately funded Refugee relocation project in the U.S. It will be carried out in stages.

There is an urgency to the project, and yet the project will also take time.

Two issues: housing and waiting for the government to put a process in place to cover promised health insurance for the refugees. Mike's group will bring families over by plane as housing is available. The first 3 families are related. They will come via Romania, hopefully in 6 weeks.

Much money has been raised to cover their transport and expenses. OGT will carry the fundraising and financial responsibility for the project. Pastor Willke's daughter, Kamryn Green, Director of Special Projects and Operations, is the key contact. She can be contacted at OGT.

The relocation plan includes:

- Closing on the purchase of Sunrise Place (6 units formerly a recovery house for Behavior Health Specialists).
- Painting and fixing up the units to be used as temporary housing for families. Metcalf Paint will guide volunteers on volunteer paint day/s.
- Moving families to permanent housing once it is available.
- Building two, 2-story duplexes on newly purchased lots.
- Eventually raze the former Sunrise Place (temporary housing), to build more duplex/es.

All kinds of volunteers are needed: Contact Kamryn Green, OGT, 402.371.7393.

Preparation: Electrician, carpenters, movers, and data entry (help Kelly with all the forms).

Financial Sponsor— OGT is the financial lead, but U.S. forms require volunteers who will sign the forms (and allow examination of their financial records). A few of these are still needed.

Housing Sponsor — A family to open their house to the new arrivals and stay for 2 to 4 weeks. To help create a bond and grounding in town, before they go to temporary housing.

Friendship Sponsor— Once a month, connect with the family (for example: share a meal, take them to an outing or event, etc. Goal is to have 3 friendship families for 1 refugee family.

Pray —The community at Immaculata have been praying about how they and Norfolk may ease the suffering for Ukrainian refugees. Like them, please pray.

--Submitted by Jackie Perry, Secretary Norfolk Area Ministerial Association

COMMUNITY THANK YOU to all those who participated in
BL Love Your Neighbor **BD** Blood Drive on July 13th.

DRIVE In all we gifted the American Red Cross with 11 units of blood. 21 people took part that day and about 11 folk from our church participated in some way: set up, check in, donated blood, or tried. We had 8 deferrals (and learned that there are many reasons why people are ineligible to give). Donors came from FCUCC, Seventh-Day Adventist Church, and the community. Blood is always needed. Consider donating again. Find a blood drive near you at www.redcrossblood.org



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.

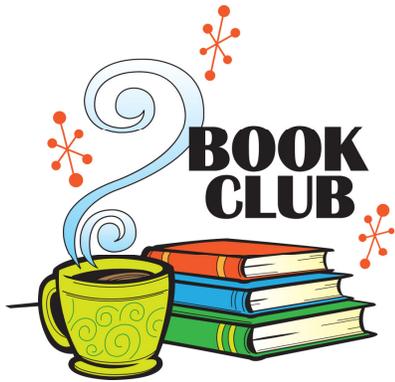
See you at the table in Fellowship Hall! Please help out. The gift cards fit right in your billfold by your dollar bills, so it's even easy to remember to use them when you go to pay for your groceries. Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402)640-6623.



Want to serve Norfolk in a hands-on way?

5th Annual - To Norfolk With Love, Saturday morning, September 10, 2022 Save the date! TNWL is a well-organized and fun service event. People of all ages and abilities may volunteer. There are all kinds of projects from which to choose. Last year, Jane Uzzell and Pastor Jackie joined a team to weed the gardens at the Vets Home.

Leaders guide the process and bring tools if need. Volunteers gather at First Baptist Church for donuts, welcome, and instruction. Then then go to a site to work for a few hours, then return to an after-party (optional). The 2022 goal is to have 300 volunteers, 20 churches, 25 projects. They provide childcare. See the video and website for more info. <https://www.tonorfolkwithlove.com/>. More info to follow.



Book Club will meet August 10. *Tomatoes for Neela* by Padma Lakshmi. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.



Thank you to all my friends at church. I enjoyed my birthday cards. Thank you to Pastor Jackie and friends who came to my birthday party. It was really nice to see you! It made my party special.
Deanna Alexander

It takes many people to care for you when you are sick. Mom and I had Covid at the same time and we have many people to thank. Thank you to Pastor Jackie and Jane Uzzell for meals at home. Thanks to Darlene Korthals for gelato and a new book to read. Thank you to Jane for being a substitute secretary. Thanks to everyone for the prayers as we continue to heal.
Sue Allyn

AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

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

Anniversary

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 7

Communion: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell
Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams
Reader: Verletta Olson
Leader: Chuck Balsiger
Flowers:

August 14

Ushers: Susan Surber and Mike Synovec
Greeters: Rita Woodard and Charlene Fosdick
Reader: Reese Uzzell
Flowers: Susan Surber

August 21

Ushers: Stacie and Reese Uzzell
Greeters: Ben and Grace Uzzell
Reader: Jane Uzzell
Flowers: Karen Allyn

August 28

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Rita Woodard
Greeters: Mike Synovec and Barb Koenig
Reader: Grace Uzzell
Flowers:



SEPTEMBER

September 4

Communion: Tom McConnell and Ben Uzzell
Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams
Greeters: Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska
Reader: Scott Williams
Leader: Tom McConnell
Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

September 11 Rally Day

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Verletta Olson
Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Reader: Lori Williams
Flowers:

September 18

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Jane Uzzell
Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals
Reader: Chuck Balsiger
Flowers:

September 25

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Susan Surber
Reader: Verletta Olson
Flowers:

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

July

From 6/25/22 through 7/31/22

The deposit for 7/31 is not included and end of the month bills include some from June.



Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ - 2,160.83
Food Pantry	\$ 200.00
Funeral	\$ 260.00
Transfer from savings	\$ 2,500.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 10,826.27</u>
Subtotal	\$ 11,625.44
Salary	--\$ 7,404.26
Church Maintenance	—\$ 3,089.26
Office Expenses	—\$ 570.85
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Food Pantry	—\$ 200.00
Funeral	—\$ 90.42
Pastor's Continuing Ed	—\$ 70.00
OCWM, Strengthen the Church	—\$ 487.00
Lilies and Carnations	— \$ 110.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	—\$ 966.35

▶ August 2022

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

1 2 3 4 5 6

Sue out of
office

5:30 PM Girl
Scouts

10 Worship
Ministry

Sue out until
9:30

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

10:15 Worship
Renewed Hope
4-7 FH

5:30 PM Girl
Scouts

10 Book club

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

10:15 Worship

5:30 PM Girl
Scouts

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

10:15 Worship

NECC begins

5:30 PM Girl
Scouts

28 29 30 31

10:15 Worship
Antique Car
Club guests

▶ September 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

10:15 Worship
Renewed Hope
4-7 FH

OFFICE
CLOSED

5:30 PM Girl
Scouts

10 Worship
Ministry

Sue out of
office

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

5:30 PM Girl
Scouts

10 Book club

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Sue out of
office until
9:30 AM

5:30 PM Girl
Scouts

25 26 27 28 29 30

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

5:30 PM Girl
Scouts