

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



August 2024

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Mercy Meals is again sponsoring Pack Away Hunter on October 5 and 6. They are asking for \$200 when registration is sent in and any additional money later to pay the \$432 it costs to pay for the food, package it and ship it. The shift is about an hour and one-half. We will request a time on Sunday afternoon. Please look for more information about sign up and we will begin collecting donations now to help pay for this important work.



**Pastor's
Office Hours**

Office Hours
 Monday-Thursday 9-12
 Afternoons by appointment



Church Secretary

Office Hours
 Monday-Friday
 8-12

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Brian' Beacon-Aug.

It is so nice to be here meeting and learning about all of you at First Congregational Church. I know this is different for all of us because you have had a good pastor for a long time. It is my hope that as we develop our relationships they will grow and be spiritual. I believe that God will bless our time together. Since I have been here, I have enjoyed worship and the book club and just meeting different people. You have a kind and loving church. I want to thank you for giving me grace because I know that I do things differently than Jackie did. We can learn to work through all that. This is a quiet time of year, yet I know that there are some things we can look forward to. I plan to start an adult Sunday school class in September. So, it is my hope that you will plan to be a part of that. We will be studying a Max Lucado book.

Because it is summer, I enjoy having a garden. My garden is not very big, but I do enjoy the cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, and the green peppers.

I have some friends who have given me beets, green beans and zucchini from their gardens. All so good and I'm so lucky that Andrea, my wife, likes cooking all those good vegetables for me. In the Bible we find the word (Fruit:karpos) Gr. which means the fruit of plants, trees, or one's body, such as a person's offspring. From this word in Galatians 5:22,23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The moment you received Jesus as your Savior by faith, God sowed His Spirit and Word into your heart like a seed. And just like apples always produce apples, God's seed inside you immediately began to produce God! The kind of seed always determines the outcome of the fruit; therefore, you should expect your life to yield the fruits of the Spirit, for that is the seed God has sown into your heart.

So when we garden, let's all remember the fruit that we should be producing in ours too!

Hope you have a great summer, and it is so good to be serving you here at First Congregational Church

Pastor Brian



Adult Sunday School

Starting on September 15 a new adult Sunday school class will begin. They will be meeting in the Unity room. Class is at 9. Pastor Brian will be teaching with the Max Lucado book and DVD series Come Thirsty. He poses the question Are You Thirsty? We are busy people. Burdened people. Burned-out people. We need to take a walk in still waters and drink deeply of the Lord's comfort, rest and refreshment. Are you ready to receive what your soul longs for? Come, and come thirsty.

This is a conversational class perfect for you and our group. Let Pastor or Susan know if you are coming so he knows how many study books to have on hand.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Funny for the Month

“After a very delicious fried chick dinner prepared by the Swedish Lutheran ladies at a missionary society conference held in our small church, the conversation moved from the dinner to other small talk. The speaker for the conference asked my mother, a pastor’s wife: ‘How many children do you have?’ In the noise and commotion, my mother thought he asked, ‘How many chickens do you have?’ a normal question because most families in our small community had chickens in their backyards. My mother replied: ‘I really don’t know because my husband takes care of them. They stay penned up in the backyard, and he sees to it that meal scraps got out to them. Every now and then, one gets out, but that doesn’t happen very often.’”

Albert O. Karlstrom of Champaign, Illinois



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2024 JOINT ANNUAL MEETING



LIVING
connected

I am the vine, you are the branches - John 15:4-5

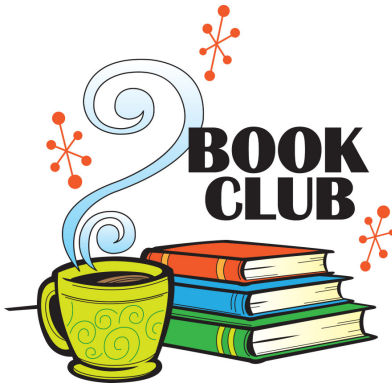
To register, go to: <https://ucctcm.org/jam2024/>

*The Joint Annual Meeting (JAM 2024) will be held **September 27-28, 2024** at Countryside Community Church located at 13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha, NE. Come participate in business meetings, workshops, and worship.*

This meeting would be great to attend! Why?

It will take place at Countryside UCC on the campus of Tri-faith in Omaha, the new General Minister and President of The United Church of Christ, Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, will speak, and other attendees are coming from all three states: Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota.

A Jamaican immigrant, a mom, and a grandmother, Dr. Thompson has served in the National Setting of the United Church of Christ since 2009 as minister for racial justice and minister for ecumenical and interfaith relations. Prior to joining the national staff, she was on staff for UCC's Florida Conference, as a church planter in Florida and in family ministries in New York. She is the first woman to be elected to lead the denomination. Do consider attending!



Book Club will meet August 14 at 10 AM. *Halal Hotdogs* by Susannah Aziz. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.



Overflowing With Thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful shared worship and fellowship time on June 30th, my last Sunday before retirement. The cake and icing were delicious and the steel cart filled with gardening gifts and cash was such a great surprise! I'm looking forward to putting these to use, dreaming of what to plant where, and shopping local green houses. Thank you also for all your cards, notes, and words of blessing. As I said that Sunday, being part of this community of faith has been a blessing to me.

Cheerfully in Christ,
Jackie Perry

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! Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402) 640-6623.



AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2nd Garry Podliska
- 6th Ginge Dudley
- 27th Alice Dudley

Anniversary

- 2nd Randy and Kay Nueharth
- 10th Ben and Stacie Uzzell
- 16th Tom and Susan Surber
- 29th Chuck and Kathy Balsiger



August 4

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Ushers: Tom McConnell and Evonne Burkink
Greeters: Mike Synovec and Jane Uzzell
Reader:
Leader:
Flowers:

August 11

Ushers: Pat Jenny and Rita Woodard
Greeters: Tom McConnell and Verletta Olson
Reader: Grace Uzzell
Flowers: Mark and Vicki Walker

August 18

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Susan Surber
Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Reader: Lori Williams
Flowers: Susan and Tom Surber

August 25

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Verletta Olson
Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Reader: Ben Uzzell
Flowers: Karen Allyn



September

Sept 1

Communion: Verletta Olson and Tom McConnell
Ushers: Stacie and Reese Uzzell
Greeters: Ben and Grace Uzzell
Reader: Randy Neuharth
Leader: Jane Uzzell
Flowers: Alexander Children

Sept 8

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams
Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Susan Surber
Reader: Reese Uzzell
Flowers: Erik and Katie Gamerl

Sept 15 Rally Day

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig
Greeters: Pat Jenny and Rita Woodard
Reader: Jane Uzzell
Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

Sept 22

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Greeters: Barb Koenig and Grace Uzzell
Reader: Verletta Olson
Flowers:

Sept 29

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Susan Surber
Greeters: Tom McConnell and Bonnie Dewell
Reader: Scott Williams
Flowers:

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

The software the church uses to track all financial information is being migrated from the desktop to the cloud. There have been some glitches that are currently being fixed and so I do not have accurate reports of our financial position at this time. Next month I will post both July and August reports.



▶ August 2024

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

1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

10:15 Worship GS 6-7:30
6-9 PM Girl
Scouts FH

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

10:15 Worship Norfolk begins
school 10 Book club

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

10:15 Worship NECC begins
Unity Council school
GS 6-7:30

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

10:15 Worship

▶ September 2024

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

10:15 Worship

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

10:15 Worship

10 Book club

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

Rally Day
9 Sunday
School

GS 6-7:30

10:15 Worship

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

9 Sunday
School

10:15 Worship

Tri-Conference
Meeting

Tri-Conference
Meeting

Sue out of the
office

29 30

9 Sunday
School

10:15 Worship

Potluck Dinner