

First Congregational Messenger
 First Congregational United Church of Christ
 1102 W. Norfolk Ave.
 Norfolk, NE 68701
 402-371-0701

firstconougcc@fastmail.com
Serving God with love and faith



August 2025

Volume 5, Issue 130



Rev. Roberto Ochoa (Tri-Conference Minister): will be leading worship on August 31. Linaje Escojido will be joining us for the service. We will worship in the sanctuary and share a meal in Fellowship Hall following the service.



It's time to begin: Anyone interested in participating in the discernment process, please let Ben know. We need to determine who we are and where we want to go before we can begin filling out our church profile.



Pastor's
Office Hours

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12
 Afternoons by appointment



Church Secretary

Office Hours Monday-Friday

8-12

May be gone to the
 doctor with Mom

Pastor's pages	2
Announcements	3-4
Serving	5
Financial Page	6
Calendar	7-8



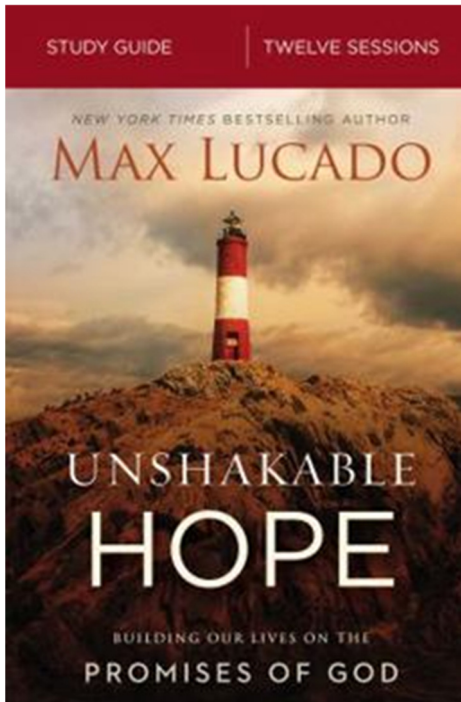
Brian's Beacon

These past two months we have had great amounts of rain. This is great for the garden but not so great for other things. It's hard to keep up with the grass. It has been hot too. Water is needed for our bodies to be healthy. Jesus spoke of water too. He said that he was living water. In John 4 Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman about water. The woman said to him, how can you ask me for a drink because she was a Samaritan and Jews did not speak to them let alone a woman. But Jesus always went beyond barriers to care and reach out to people. Jesus said to her "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks her for a drink you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water" At this point the question becomes what is living water? She wants it because she does not want to thirst again. Jesus says you will never be thirsty because the water he gives is a spring of water welling up to eternal life. He desires to have a spiritual relationship with her. He is the Christ, the Messiah, the person who gives life everlasting.

All people including you and I need this kind of relationship. We need it if we are never to thirst again spiritually.

It's my hope that you have this kind of relationship.

Pastor Brian



Sunday School/Bible Study

On September 7th we will kick off our fall Sunday school. We will be studying Max Lucado's book Unshakable hope! Plan on sharing in a great class with good fellowship and learning. Let Pastor know if your coming so that you can have your own book.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

What feels shaky in your world? Maybe you feel hurt by the past, disappointed by the present, or worried about the future. If so, there is hope. For every problem in life, God has given you a promise.

In the *New York Times* bestselling book, *Unshakable Hope*, Max Lucado unpacks 12 of the Bible's most significant promises, equipping you to overcome difficult circumstances by keeping your focus on the hope found in the promises of Scripture. Whether it's heart disease or cancer, job failure or addiction, natural disasters or family disasters, mass murders or mental illness, there are so many reasons to be overwhelmed, and hope can feel hard to come by. Now more than ever, we need the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God.

In this book, you will be reminded that God's promises are irrevocable because:

- God is unchanging
- God is faithful
- God is strong
- God cannot lie

What is your life built on—the circumstances of life or the promises of God? The answer to that question changes everything. Join Max as he takes a closer look at Scripture's unbreakable promises and shows you how to live with unshakable hope.

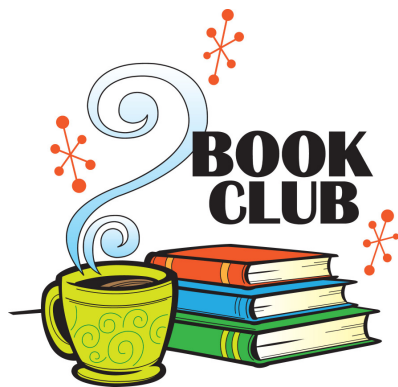
Looking forward to our class time on Sept. 7th

Pastor Brian

Bible Reading for the Month

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Isaiah 18-22	2 Isaiah 23-27
3 Isaiah 28-30	4 Isaiah 31-35	5 Isaiah 36-41	6 Isaiah 42-44	7 Isaiah 45-48	8 Isaiah 49-53	9 Isaiah 54-58
10 Isaiah 59-63	11 Isaiah 64-66	12 Jeremiah 1-3	13 Jeremiah 4-6	14 Jeremiah 7-9	15 Jeremiah 10-13	16 Jeremiah 14-17
17 Jeremiah 18-22	18 Jeremiah 23-25	19 Jeremiah 26-29	20 Jeremiah 30-31	21 Jeremiah 32-34	22 Jeremiah 35-37	23 Jeremiah 38-41
24 Jeremiah 42-45	25 Jeremiah 46-48	26 Jeremiah 49-50	27 Jeremiah 51-52	28 Lamentations 1-3:36	29 Lamentations 3:37-5	30 Ezekiel 1-4
31 Ezekiel 5-8						



Book Club will meet August 13 at 10 AM. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell. Thank you for coloring the monarch butterflies in July. They have been mailed to Susan, the head of Monarch Joint Venture in Georgia. Shelter will send them on to Mexico. But I did not pay the fee and sign up as a school, so we will not receive a return packet from the students in Mexico in October. Sorry.

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.

The October 8 book club book is about a rescue dog. So in September, if you are able, please bring pet items to church. They will be given to the Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska when Lisa, the shelter manager comes to share information with us on October 8. Next month there will be a list of wishes for the shelter.

**Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!**



Announcing the birth of Kilile Nathaniel Kroeger born to Nate & Kamie Kroeger on June 20, 2025. Grandparents are Mike & Jessica Kroeger. Great-Grandparents are Gene & Bonnie Kroeger. Great Aunts are Melanie Kroeger, Melissa Alden, & Michelle Indra. Cousins are Kennedy & Skylar Indra, Logan Alden, Kennedy & Beckett Kirchner and Tomas Olivares-Kroeger

AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Anniversaries

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



August 3

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams

Ushers: Pat Jenny and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Karen Allyn and Barb Koenig

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Leader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

August 10

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Verletta Olson

Greeters: Susan Surber and Andrea High

Reader: Grace Uzzell

Flowers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

August 17

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Ben and Grace Uzzell

Reader: Reese Uzzell

Flowers:

August 24

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Pat Jenny

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Karen Allyn

August 31

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Rita Woodard

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers:



September 7

Communion: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Ushers: Stacie and Reese Uzzell

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Mike Synovec

Reader: Lori Williams

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

September 14

Ushers: Andrea High and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

September 21

Ushers: Karen Allyn and Barb Koenig

Greeters: Lynne Bichlmeier and Tom McConnell

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:

September 28

Ushers: Bonnie and Gene Kroeger

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Andrea High

Flowers:

July

From 7/1/25 through 7/31/25

Checking account information

Beginning balance	—\$ 9,569.72
Air conditioner fund	\$ 6,100.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 18,485.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 15,015.28
Salary	--\$ 7,259.41
Church Maintenance	—\$ 3,306.11
Office Expenses	—\$ 656.64
Faith Development	—\$ 51.56
Worship	—\$ 215.00
Scholarship	—\$ 500.00
Insurance	—\$ 1,031.08
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Nebraska Conference	—\$ 160.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 1,265.48



▶ August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

					1	2
--	--	--	--	--	---	---

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

10:15 Worship

10	11	12	13	14	15	16
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

10:15 Worship

Norfolk Public
School begins
[10 Book club](#)

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

10:15 Worship

[Unity Council](#)

Northeast
Community
College begins

24	25	26	27	28	29	30
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

10:15 Worship

31

10:15 Worship
Potluck follow-
ing

► September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 6:30 Youth Group	4	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	8	9	10 10 Book club	11	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	15	16	17 6:30 Youth Group	18	19	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	29	30				