

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



February 2022

Volume 5, Issue 88

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**March 2, 2022 at 5:30PM**  
**First Congregational UCC**  
*A joint service of*  
*First Presbyterian,*  
*Trinity Episcopal, and*  
*First Congregational Churches*

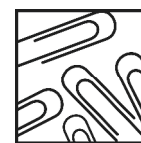


Pastor's  
Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 10-4

Other times by appointment

May be out of the office for  
meetings or visits



**Office  
Hours**

**Office Hours**

Mon-Wed-Fri

Tues-Thurs

8-12

8-10:30

## Valentines

My favorite way to pray is in color. A few years ago, I discovered the book *Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God*, by Sybil MacBeth. In the book the author shows examples of how to create prayers from a prayer list. Your list may be in your head or on paper. Macbeth encourages folk to create simple doodles by drawing triangles, circles, and rectangles, then fill in the shapes with a name. If you like to doodle and sometimes fumble with words for prayer, give this a try.

I discovered that simple mandalas work great for this practice. Mandalas originated from various eastern religions to aid in meditation. They have become popular in recent years. For use in prayers, I google “simple mandalas” and click “images”. I find a free one and print it out or cut and paste the image if I want to shrink the size.

I use colored markers or colored pencils. When I complete one, I might date it and tuck it away in a little sketch/prayer book I keep or mail them to a person on the list.

This is an example of one from our weekly prayer list with a few additional names and words that came to mind. There are many ways to pray without words. This method helps me to bring people to mind and hold them up to God.

In February, I will leave a few mandalas printed for use at church or to take home. Whether you keep them or mail them to someone, they are kind of like valentines to God.

Peace,  
*Pastor Jackie*



*Note: N.F.D = Norfolk Fire Division, N.P.D = Norfolk Police Division*



**March 2, 2022 at 5:30PM**  
**First Congregational UCC**

*A joint service of  
First Presbyterian,  
Trinity Episcopal, and  
First Congregational Churches*

Our joint Ash Wednesday Service on March 2 at 5:30 pm begins the season of Lent. This year's worship series will center around kindness and civility. What are the God-shaped qualities that flow from Christ? How can Christians witness to God's kindness in our community and world? We all have stories and experiences of kindness that we can share. I'm looking forward to hearing your stories!

—Pastor Jackie

**When the kindness and love  
of God our Savior appeared,  
he saved us.**

Titus 3:4-5, NIV



### **Plowing Our Spirits**

Lent is also a time when we look within. Stewardship is a spiritual practice that the church encourages everyone to explore, because we are seeking ways individuals can help to build a greater whole—the church—in order to fulfill our purpose:

*“We bind together, to worship God and discern God’s will.”*

One writer calls this time, “plowing our spirits”. In early March, watch for an invitation and more information about the upcoming Stewardship discernment.



Book Club will meet February 9. *Change Sings* by Amanda Gorman. 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.



Many thanks for the Christmas cash. I never consider my work for the church a "job" but a joy as I share my God-given talent with all of you and my Lord. I consider it a blessing in my life...the music and the church family I share it with. God's blessings to all of you. Jill Waterbury



Dear Congregation, Thank you for the Christmas money. I appreciate your kindness and generosity. Peace, Pastor Jackie

Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas gift of money. It is a blessing to work for the church and all of you. May you continue to be a blessing for others.

Sue Allyn



**Birthdays**

- 4th Suzan Podliska  
Paige Uzzell
- 5th Tim Ernst
- 15th Barb Koenig
- 17th Garrett Korthals  
Mary (Whealy) Rhodes
- 18th Bonnie Dewell
- 27th Mike Synovec
- 28th McKenna Waterbury



# February

## February 6

**Communion:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger  
**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams  
**Greeters:** Verletta Olson and Tom McConnell  
**Reader:** Chuck Balsiger  
**Leader:** Susan Allyn  
**Flowers:** Tim Ernst

## February 13

**Ushers:** Susan Surber and Barb Koenig  
**Greeters:** Gene and Darlene Korthals  
**Reader:** Verletta Olson  
**Flowers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

## February 20

**Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger  
**Greeters:** Barb Koenig and Evonne Burkink  
**Reader:** Henry Gamerl  
**Flowers:** Garry and Suzan Podliska

## February 27

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals  
**Greeters:** Bonnie Dewell and Susan Surber  
**Reader:** Reese Uzzell  
**Flowers:** Jane Uzzell



# March

**March 2**      **Ash Wednesday at 5:30 PM**  
**Ushers:** Tom McConnell and Randy Neuharth  
**Greeters:** Jane Uzzell and Reese Uzzell  
**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

## March 6

**Communion:** Verletta Olson and Charlene Fosdick  
**Ushers:** Ed Lindsay and Jane Uzzell  
**Greeters:** Chuck Balsiger and Mike Synovec  
**Reader:** Lori Williams  
**Leader:** Scott Williams  
**Flowers:** Barb Koenig

## March 13

**Ushers:** Evonne Burkink and Rita Woodard  
**Greeters:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell  
**Reader:** Jane Uzzell  
**Flowers:** Rita Woodard

## March 20

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams  
**Greeters:** Suzan Podliska and Verletta Olson  
**Reader:** Randy Neuharth  
**Flowers:**

## March 27

**Ushers:** Mike Synovec and Susan Surber  
**Greeters:** Tom McConnell and Rita Woodard  
**Reader:** Verletta Olson  
**Flowers:**

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

# January

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

The deposit for 1/30 is not included.



TREASURER'S REPORT

## Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 4,766.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 11,154.56</u>
Subtotal	\$ 15,920.56
Salary	--\$ 7,625.02
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,447.15
Office Expenses	—\$ 830.52
Worship Ministry	—\$ 14.06
Substitute Organist	—\$ 140.00
Substitute Pastor	—\$ 147.96
Pastor Continuing Education	—\$ 140.00
Poinsettias	—\$ 217.80
Renner's	—\$ 755.00
<u>OCWM, Christmas fund</u>	<u>—\$ 1,294.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 3,064.05

# ▶ February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 GS 5:30	2 10 Worship Ministry	3	4	5
6 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	7 Pastor @ UCC Clergy retreat (online)	8 GS 5:30 Pastor @ UCC Clergy retreat (online)	9 10 Book Club Pastor @ UCC Clergy retreat (online)	10	11 Delphians 12-3 FH	12
13 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship 4:30-8 FH Renewed Hope Church	14 GS 5:30 GS 6:30 FH	15 GS 5:30	16	17	18 Sue out of the office	19
20 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	21	22 GS 5:30	23	24 7 PM Unity Council	25	26
27 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	28 GS 5:30 GS 6:30 FH					

# ▶ March 2022

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

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1                      2                      3                      4                      5

GS 5:30

**Ash  
Wednesday  
5:30**

10 Worship  
Ministry

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6                      7                      8                      9                      10                      11                      12

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship  
  
4:30-8 FH  
Renewed Hope  
Church

GS 5:30

10 Book Club

Delphians  
12-3 FH

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13                      14                      15                      16                      17                      18                      19

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30  
GS 6:30 FH

GS 5:30

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20                      21                      22                      23                      24                      25                      26

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30

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27                      28                      29                      30                      31

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30  
GS 6:30 FH