

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*



### What if in-person worship is cancelled?

We hope it is rare, but when the church needs to cancel worship on short notice due to bad weather, no water in the building, or late notice of a Covid-19 exposure, consult these news outlets under “weather, closings”. Pastor Jackie will try to post a notice on Facebook as well. If we know soon enough, Susan can send notices through an “Email Blast”. She also calls those who do not have email. We will do our best to get the word out.

January 2021

Volume 5, Issue 75

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

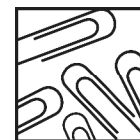


Pastor's  
Office Hours

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



## New Year

When officials at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center asked for staff volunteers to be among the first to take the coronavirus vaccine, Sandra Lindsay raised her hand. Nurse Lindsay was the first person in the U.S. to receive the vaccine on Monday, December 14. I marked it on my calendar, so as not to forget.

After a nurse at Tampa General Hospital received the first coronavirus shot in the state of Florida, the dean of the University of South Florida College of Medicine, likened the moment to watching American astronaut Neil Armstrong become the first human to step on the moon in 1969. "This is our magical Neil Armstrong moment," Lockwood said.

One newspaper reporter wrote, "The vaccine has shown 95% effectiveness in clinical trials and was developed in less than a year, a fraction of the time it would usually take as researchers worldwide frantically sought an antidote to a virus discovered in China in December 2019."

At the end of an extraordinary year, and at the start of a new one, I'm thinking about God in all of this. God is Alpha and Omega, our beginning and end, so nothing happens in history that excludes God. God has been with us throughout the year, guiding, protecting, comforting, urging, reassuring, admonishing, loving, caring, and saving us humans, God's children.

Throughout the pandemic, I have carried with me the image of Jesus in a small boat with two of his disciples, as depicted in our stained glass window. No matter how hopeless it seemed, the image comforted me, believing that Jesus is always with us, even when we are anxious and afraid, I can hear his words: Don't fear, or Why are you afraid?

I also love the picture of Jesus calming the sea (and his disciples) as the waves crashed over their boat. Christ's steady presence has been so powerfully present to me in 2020, in the midst of all the disappointments and joys the year brought.

As the year draws to its last days, I am grateful to God for sending those with gifts, training, and a desire to save people into hospitals, nursing homes and laboratories. I have been thankful for Christ's wisdom and advice to his disciples, saying, "Don't worry about tomorrow, today has enough worries of its own."

Thanks be to God for new vaccines that are to bring health and hope to millions of people. In the meantime, we care for ourselves and others, continuing with the masks, distancing, and hand washing. I'm grateful to be part of a congregation who cares for one another, even when we all have grown weary of this holy routine. —

Peace, Pastor Jackie



**Only 8 Left! 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wooden Christmas Ornaments \$5.00** and comes with a red bow in a plastic bag. Please make check to: First Congregational UCC with the note "ornaments". For sale in the office.



*December 13, 2020 - Runaway Joy: An Old Time Christmas Play by Rev. Katie Miller, Omaha, NE*



*December 2020 - Giving Tree was overflowing for the children of Westside Elementary. Thanks to all who donated, including many from our Linaje Escogido friends!*



Book Club will continue in January on the 13th. Jane Uzzell will have more information as the time comes closer.

Dear church family,

Thank you so much for all of the letters and cards! I love and appreciate each and every one of them. It always brightens my day when I get a mail call! I'm still doing well out here, its fall over here so the high temps are now in the 90's instead of over 100, which I really appreciate. I'm keeping busy over here, working and going to the gym and if we have some free time my team and I have movie nights which is always relaxing, and hilarious. I'm not sure how COVID is affecting you all over at home, but we have a flair of it here, so everything is closed and we cannot be out in groups and we have to wear masks all the time. We're on essential staffing here and cannot be with any other company, everyone basically has to avoid each other but we have high hopes that it will send soon! I'm thinking of you all and hope you are all staying healthy, happy and safe! Sending love, Paige Uzzell



## JANUARY Birthdays

### Birthdays

8th	Stan Staab
11th	Tom McConnell
19th	Beth Janell Rhoades



### January 3

**Communion:** Evonne Burkink, Verletta Olson

**Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Greeters:** Susan Surber and Evonne Burkink

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**Leader:** Jane Uzzell

**Flowers:** Susan Allyn

### January 10

**Ushers:** Cole Uzzell and Jane Uzzell

**Greeters:** Verletta Olson and Barb Koenig

**Reader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:** Scott and Lori Williams

### January 17

**Ushers:** Susan Surber and Barb Koenig

**Greeters:** Karen Allyn and Terry Hamilton

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:**

### January 24

**Ushers:** Verletta Olson and Evonne Burkink

**Greeters:** Tom McConnell and Ed Lindsay

**Reader:** Karen Allyn

**Flowers:**

### January 31

**Ushers:** Suzan Podliska

**Greeters:** Cole Uzzell and Jane Uzzell

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Flowers:**



### February 7

**Communion:** Ben Uzzell and Susan Surber

**Ushers:** Tom McConnell and Ed Lindsay

**Greeters:** Mike Synovec and Chuck Balsiger

**Reader:** Lori Williams

**Leader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:**

### February 14

**Ushers:** Terry Hamilton and Barb Koenig

**Greeters:** Rita Woodard and Susan Surber

**Reader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:**

### February 17 Ash Wednesday

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Reader:** Jane Uzzell

### February 21

**Ushers:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Greeters:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Reader:** Chuck Balsiger

**Flowers:**

### February 28

**Ushers:** Bonnie Dewell and Cole Uzzell

**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**Flowers:**

Please notify the office if you are not able to attend on Sunday.

# December

From 12/1/20 through 12/31/20

This does not include the deposit for 12-27



## Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 828.01
Poinsettias	\$ 52.00
Good Neighbors	\$ 100.00
Mitten Tree	\$ 50.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 11,720.72</u>
Subtotal	\$ 12,750.73
Salary	--\$ 6,950.24
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,665.10
Office Expenses	—\$ 476.30
Renner's	—\$ 755.00
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Substitute Pastor	---\$ 177.90
Worship Ministry	—\$ 56.97
Mittens	—\$ 50.00
Poinsettias	—\$ 130.00
Good Neighbors	—\$ 100.00
<u>OCWM, Christmas Fund</u>	<u>---\$ 450.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 1,869.22

Linaje Escogido \$900.00 was deposited in Madison County Bank.

# ▶ January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 OFFICE CLOSED 7 Card Group	2
3 10:15 Worship Rev. Kenn Leischner	4 Jackie vaca- tion	5 5:30 Girl Scouts Jackie vaca- tion	6 Jackie vaca- tion	7 Jackie vaca- tion	8 1-3 FH Delphians 5 Card Group Jackie vaca- tion	9
10 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Undecorate the church	11	12 5:30 Girl Scouts	13	14	15	16
17 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	18	19 5:30 Girl Scouts	20	21	22	23
24 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	25 NECC begins	26 5:30 Girl Scouts	27	28	29	30
31 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship						

# ► February 2021

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6
--	---	---	---	---	---	---

5:30 Girl  
Scouts

7 Card Group

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	----	----	----	----

9 Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

5:30 Girl  
Scouts

1-3 FH  
Delphians  
5 Card Group

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

9 Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

5:30 Girl  
Scouts

Ash  
Wednesday  
Services

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

9 Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

5:30 Girl  
Scouts

28
----

9 Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship