

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



January 2022

Volume 5, Issue 87

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Removal of the Greens



We will be packing away the Christmas decorations after the worship service on January 9. Please plan to stay for a few minutes after the service to help put things away.



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

January 2, 2022 – Lessons and Carols: A Pentecostal Christmas

Where is the Holy Spirit in the Christmas Story?



The “*Service of Lessons and Carols: A Pentecostal Christmas*” on Sunday morning, January 2nd will highlight the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Christmas story.

Our Christmas cards, nativity sets, and storybooks are filled with the characters of the Christmas drama: Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, angels, shepherds, magi, even Simeon and Anna. But in the Bible, Jesus’ birth in the opening chapters of Matthew and Luke, refers again and again to another member in the Christmas drama--the Holy Spirit.

Though often unnoticed it is the Holy Spirit who comes to Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, and Simeon. In the same way, the Old Testament prophets who tell of God’s kingdom often speak of the coming of the *Spirit of the Lord*. The Holy Spirit is the forgotten member in the Christmas story.

We don’t see or hear much about the Holy Spirit in Christmas cards, or in the music for the season. There are dozens of shepherd carols, magi carols, angel carols, and Mary and Joseph carols, but precious few that lift up the work of the Spirit. The service will feature readings and carols to bring awareness of the work of the Holy Spirit in both the life of Christ, and in us.

This perspective might make our understanding of Christmas more active and personal. The same Spirit that came to Mary, the same Spirit that anointed Jesus to preach good news to the poor and raised him from the dead, has now been poured into our hearts.

The same God who sent the Spirit to answer the waiting people of Israel is at work restoring creation and giving us hope. The Spirit makes us participants in the Christmas story.

Some might say the Holy Spirit is “the shy member of the Trinity,” because the Spirit always points us to Christ. Still, Scripture points to the work of the Spirit, in part to reassure us that: our recognition of Christ, our coming to faith, and our sharing in Christ’s anointing is not something we make happen, but rather is something we receive as a gift.

From alternative lessons and carols from *The Worship Sourcebook*, p. 498; and “A Pentecostal Christmas”, a resource of The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

Pastor Jackie's Time Away

Pastor Jackie will be on vacation December 30 through January 10. She returns to the office Tuesday, January 11. Chaplain Jim Wonnacott from Faith Regional Health Systems will be on-call for emergency pastoral care. His cell phone # will be on Pastor's voice mail. In worship:

January 2 *Lessons & Carols (communion postponed until 2/16)*

January 9 Guest Preacher, Sandro Daniel Sandoval (See his bio below);
Removal of the Greens (after worship)

January 16 Communion

Sunday, January 9, 2022 - Guest Preacher: Sandro Daniel Sandoval

Sandro is currently a Seventh-day Adventist pastor of Northeastern Nebraska. He is husband to Sarah with whom he has two children: Stella (7yr) and Sebastian(5yr). He has served as a pastor and missionary in several areas of the United States and three countries.



During his life his family moved 17 times. He spent most of his early years in the Amazon region of Peru where his parents served as missionaries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He loved interacting with the church and community members of many native cultures, ethnic groups, and spiritual traditions.

Sandro believes that his church must be relevant to both his community and to the members. He is president of the Norfolk Area Ministerial Association, Coordinator of the Northeastern Nebraska Ministerial Association, and member of the Norfolk Area Diversity Council.

Sandro studied Theology in Perú, Religion and Pastoral Care at Union College in Nebraska, and earned a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis in World Missions at Andrews University.



Appeal: Severe Storms 2021:

To make a contribution for recovery from the December tornadoes in Kentucky and other states, you may write a check to: First Congregational UCC and note "*Spring Storms 2021 – December Tornadoes*".



Christmas Program 2021

On Sunday December 12th, the youth presented THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY by Mike Synovec. The Christmas play was about “a little drummer boy who discovers the gift in a manger through the eyes of the animals present in a stable”.

Mr. & Mrs. Clause visited at the end of the worship. Mrs. Clause read the traditional story book, “The Night Before Christmas”. The book was a gift to her from Sandee Lindy. Characters included:

Little Drummer Boy	Cole Uzzell
Angel	Grace Uzzell
Donkey (a person)	Henry Gamerl
Lamb (a person)	Skylar Indra
Camel (a person)	Kennedy Indra
Ox (a person)	Reese Uzzell

Darlene Korthals, Gene Korthals, Jill Waterbury, Jane Uzzell, Susan Allyn, Mike Synovec, Suzan Podliska, Verletta Olson and Pastor Jackie helped to make the Christmas program and fellowship hour a success. Due to Covid, for the second year, we opted to skip the annual Christmas Dinner. Remaining Santa gift bags were donated to the Rescue Mission.





Book Club will begin a new year of reading books for younger readers and the focus this year is social-emotional learning. January 12 is learning about your unique self with *Just Like Me* by Vanessa Brantley-Newton. 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.



JANUARY Birthdays

Birthdays

- 8th Stan Staab
- 11th Tom McConnell
- 19th Beth Janelle Rhoades



January 2

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Barb Koenig
Greeters: Rita Woodard and Chuck Balsiger
Reader: Many voices
Flowers: Jane Uzzell

January 9

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Charlene Fosdick
Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell
Reader: Tom McConnell
Flowers:

January 16

Communion: Susan Surber and Charlene Fosdick
Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell
Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Mike Synovec
Reader: Kay Neuharth
Leader: Tom McConnell
Flowers: Ron and Virginia Barritt

January 23

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Suzan Podliska
Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams
Reader: Ben Uzzell
Flowers:

January 30

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



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:

February 13

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

February 20

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Greeters: Barb Koenig and Evonne Burkink
Reader: Henry Gamerl
Flowers:

February 27

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

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

December

From 12/1/21 through 12/31/21

The deposit for 12/26 is not included.

Payroll for the end of the year is included, but some of the year end bills are not.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 691.95
Poinsettias	\$ 13.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 17,055.72</u>
Subtotal	\$ 17,760.67
Salary	--\$ 6,587.79
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,753.63
Office Expenses	—\$ 402.97
Worship Ministry	—\$ 11.98
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Property Insurance	—\$ 3,125.50
Pastor Continuing Education	—\$ 70.00
Poinsettias	—\$ 217.80
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 755.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 4,766.00

▶ January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Jackie vacation
2 10:15 Worship 4:30-8 FH Renewed Hope Church Jackie vacation	3 Jackie vacation	4 GS 5:30 Jackie vacation	5 Jackie vacation	6 Jackie vacation	7 Jackie vacation	8 Jackie vacation
9 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship Jackie vacation	10 GS 5:30 Jackie vacation	11 GS 5:30	12 10 Book Club 10 Worship Ministry	13	14	15
16 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	17 NECC begins MLK Day	18 GS 5:30	19	20	21	22
23 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	24 GS 5:30	25 GS 5:30	26	27	28	29
30 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship	31					

▶ February 2022

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

1 2 3 4 5

GS 5:30

10 Worship
Ministry

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Pastor @ St
Benedicts

GS 5:30

10 Book Club

Pastor @ St
Benedicts

Pastor @ St
Benedicts

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

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

GS 5:30

GS 5:30

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30

27 28

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
