First Congregational Messenger

First Congregational United Church of Christ
1102 W. Norfolk Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701
402-371-0701
firstcongoucc@fastmail.com

Serving God with love and faith

January 2023

Volume 5, Issue 99

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Undecorating the church will follow the worship service on January 8. Please stay for a few minutes and help put away Christmas.

Monday-Thursday 10-4

Other times by appointment

May be out of the office for meetings or visits

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8-12

Pastor's Time Away
Wednesday, December 28 through Friday, January 6. Returning to work Saturday, January 7. Chaplain Jim Wonnacott (cell 401.992.2468) will cover emergency pastoral care coverage. Call him directly (leave a message, he will call you back). Jim's cell phone number will also be on Pastor Jackie's voice mail.

Hearing Loop Installed in Fellowship Hall: An Update

With help from the Gamerls (Katie, Henry, and Adam), Sheryl Butler, Loop Engineer for Hearing Assist Solution, LLC returned to the church December 17th and 18th to complete the work she started in July.

What is Hearing Assist Technology? A "hearing loop" is a wire that circles a room and is connected to the sound system. In the sanctuary, Sheryl threaded the wire under the carpeting, so it is invisible. In Fellowship Hall, she taped the flat copper wire to the ceiling and concealed it with white tape.

The loop transmits the sound electromagnetically. The electro-magnetic signal is then picked up by the telecoil in the hearing aid or cochlear implant.

To use a hearing loop, one just flips the t-switch on the hearing aid or cochlear implant. No additional receiver or equipment is needed.

In May 2022, Council also approved a loop in both the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. See the August 2022 church newsletter for more details about the project. Several churches in Norfolk are also using this technology or looking into it.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers – December 14

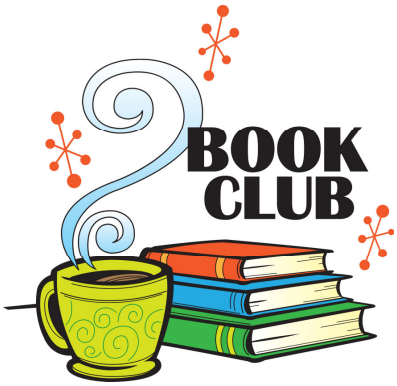
Major Jesus Trejo brought hot cocoa to our Confirmation Class who served as bell ringers for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. They also did some caroling with kazoos. The kids (and adults) all tried something new and served others during a cold holiday season. Stocking caps off to: Reese, Avery, Alex, Joel, Pat, Jane, Myrtle, Larry and Mary, Pastor Brian and Pastor Jackie.

During the 5pm - 8pm shift, First Presbyterian and First Congregational churches got it done! Thanks to the many people who put money in the red kettle as they made the mad dash from their cars to *Hy Vee West* doors to get out of the cold. A confirmand asked, "Can we do this next year?" *YES!*

Thanks to all who participated in the Christmas program 2022. **"Christmas Symbols & Their Traditional Meaning"** was adapted from an article online. Mike Synovec offered the idea, and we scanned symbols from his collection of Christmas cards through the years. Participants included: Mike, Brian, Skylar, Kennedy, Reese, Grace, Ben; with Jane and Sue joyfully ringing bells; and Pastor Jackie operating the computer screen.

Hanging of the Greens November 27

Thanks to all who participated in decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons, including the homemade chicken soup and sandwiches after.



Book Club will meet January 11. *Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall will be the first of past Caldecott winners. (Best picture book of the year) The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

Thanks to all who donated to the Christmas Fund! We will be sending $506 to assist retired church folk and give health assistance to those currently serving.

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.

Birthdays

8th	Stan Staab
11th	Tom McConnell

January 1
Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell
Greeters: Sue Surber and Chuck Balsiger
Reader: Kay Neuharth
Flowers: Susan Allyn

January 8
Communion: Sue Surber and Charlene Fosdick
Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Bonnie Dewell
Reader: Tom McConnell
Leader: Scott Williams
Flowers: Karen Allyn

January 15
Ushers: Mike Synovec and Suzan Podliska
Greeters: Tom McConnell and Charlene Fosdick
Reader: Reese Uzzell
Flowers:

January 22
Ushers: Sue Surber and Grace Uzzell
Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Barb Koenig
Reader: Randy Neuharth
Flowers:

January 29
Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams
Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals
Reader: Verletta Olson
Flowers:

February 5
Communion: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Jane Uzzell
Greeters: Suzan Podliska and Mike Synovec
Reader: Grace Uzzell
Leader: Susan Allyn
Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

February 12
Ushers: Verletta Olson and Evonne Burkink
Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams
Reader: Ben Uzzell
Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

February 19
Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Rita Woodard
Greeters: Verletta Olson and Jane Uzzell
Reader: Lori Williams
Flowers:

February 26
Ushers: Barb Koenig and Reese Uzzell
Greeters: Rita Woodard and Grace Uzzell
Reader: Scott Williams
Flowers:

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

December

From 12/1/22 through 12/31/22

Does not include deposit for 12-25.
Most bills are paid through the end of the month.

Checking account information

Beginning balance	$	4,345.95
Funds Transfer	$	1,300.00
Weekly deposits	$	10,803.78
Subtotal	$	16,449.73
Salary	--$	7,620.53
Church Maintenance	—$	2,972.82
Office Expenses	—$	715.33
Substitute Organist	—-$	70.00
Poinsettias	—-$	231.00
Faith Development	-—$	144.00
Worship Ministry	—--$	23.41
Pastor's Continuing Education	——$	70.00
Renner's	—-$	500.00
Final Balance	$	4,102.64

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15 Worship Renewed Hope 4-7 FH Jackie vacation	2 OFFICE CLOSED Jackie vacation	3 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Jackie vacation	4 Jackie vacation	5 Jackie vacation	6 Jackie vacation	7
8 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	9 6 PM Girl Scouts	10 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	11 10 Worship Ministry 10 Book club Confirmation 6-7 FH	12	13 Sue out for the day	14
15 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	16	17 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	18	19	20	21 9-1 Girl Scouts FH
22 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Unity Council	23 6 PM Girl Scouts	24 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	25 Confirmation 6-7 FH	26	27	28
29 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Potluck	30	31				

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 Worship Ministry	2	3	4
5 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Renewed Hope 4-7 FH	6	7 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	8 10 Book club	9	10	11
12 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	13 6 PM Girl Scouts	14 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	15	16	17	18
19 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	20	21 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
26 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	27 6 PM Girl Scouts	28 5:30 PM Girl Scouts				