

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



January 2026

Volume 5, Issue 135



Pastor's
Office Hours

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

Afternoons by appointment

Pastor Brian and Sue will be out of the office Dec. 25-Jan 4. If you have an emergency, please call Ben Uzzell at 402-649-2902 and he will connect you with the correct people.



Church Secretary

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8-12

May be gone to the doctor with Mom



Brian's Beacon

In the new year we often try to make resolutions of things that we want to change or make better. Sometimes it is losing weight, exercising, saving money, and going places. But I think it is important to make spiritual resolutions to help us spiritually become better people for the Lord. Maybe it is to read through the Bible or improve our prayer life. So my question is: what is your resolution? Will it make a difference or will it only last a week or two? My resolution is to read more and bike more. These two things can bring real change to my life. Resolutions are what we want to change to a better person for the Lord.

The new year always brings change just because nothing stays the same. New people will come into your life. We should embrace those relationships. And we will lose people too. Some by moves and others going home to the Lord. This change can be hard but it is so real. So ask the Lord to help us with these changes. We truly need the Lord involved in everything we do thus we can make a great impact on the world for Christ.

I knew a lady once that had a new goal every year of how many people she would personally win to the Lord.

Most of us don't even think about these terms. But maybe we should. It would affect our prayers and outreach.

So my charge for you is make a spiritual resolution besides just a plain resolution.

Looking forward to the New Year,

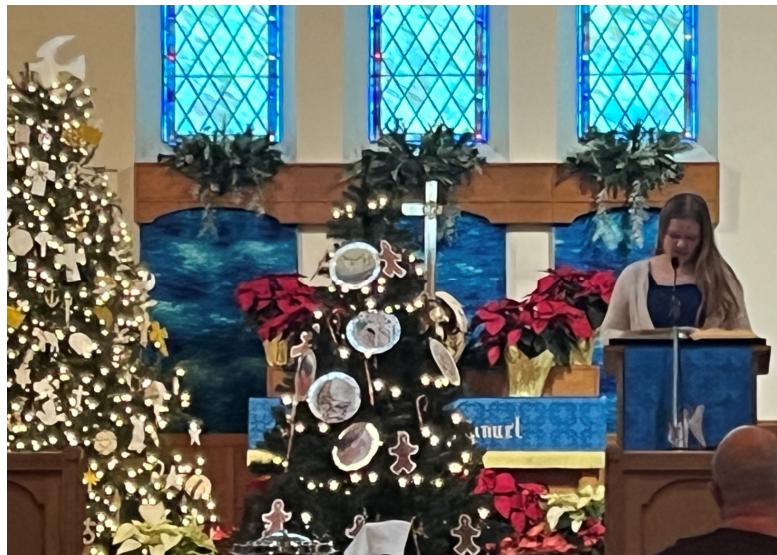
Pastor Brian

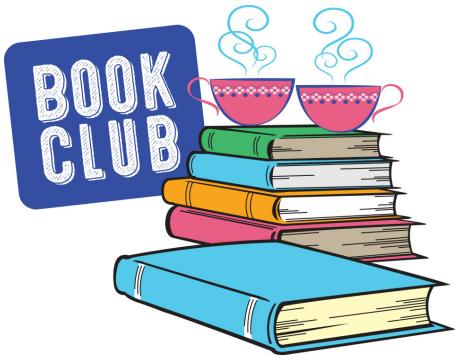
Bible Reading for the Month

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Genesis 1-3	2 Genesis 4-7	3 Genesis 8-11
4 Genesis 12-15	5 Genesis 16-18	6 Genesis 19-21	7 Genesis 22-24	8 Genesis 25-26	9 Genesis 27-29	10 Genesis 30-31
11 Genesis 32-34	12 Genesis 35-37	13 Genesis 38-40	14 Genesis 41-42	15 Genesis 43-45	16 Genesis 46-47	17 Genesis 48-50
18 Exodus 1-3	19 Exodus 4-6	20 Exodus 7-9	21 Exodus 10-12	22 Exodus 13-15	23 Exodus 16-18	24 Exodus 19-21
25 Exodus 22-24	26 Exodus 25-27	27 Exodus 28-29	28 Exodus 30-32	29 Exodus 33-35	30 Exodus 36-38	31 Exodus 39-40

Christmas Program





Book Club will be traveling the United States as we celebrate 250 years of being a nation. January celebrates Alaska and the night sky. Books are available in Fellowship Hall and questions can be answered by Jane.

Thank you to everyone who decorated our Giving Tree with hats and gloves for the Norfolk Public Schools Pre-K through 4th grade students who need them. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!
Faith Development Ministry Committee



The Joy of Giving

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.



JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

11th Tom McConnell
22nd Amber Kittle

Anniversary

1st RJ and Lynne Bichlmeier



February

February 1

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Ushers: Karen Allyn and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Andrea High and Pat Jenny

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Leader: Tom McConnell

Flowers:

February 8

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Mike Synovec and Tom McConnell

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers:

February 15

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Grace Uzzell

Reader: Andrea High

Flowers:

February 18 Ash Wednesday

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Jane Uzzell

February 22

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Bonnie Dewell

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

January 4

Communion: Ben Uzzell and Tom McConnell

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Susan Surber and Barb Koenig

Reader: Reese Uzzell

Leader: Andrea High

Flowers:

January 11

Ushers: Pat Jenny and Andrea High

Greeters: Karen Allyn and Reese Uzzell

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers:

January 18

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Tom McConnell

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Rita Woodard

Reader: Grace Uzzell

Flowers:

January 25

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers:

December

From 12/1/25 through 12/19/25

Bills are paid through the 19th. End of the month paychecks
are not included.

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 5,100.95
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 4,831.38</u>
Subtotal	\$ 9,932.33
Salary	-\$ 3,943.84
Church Maintenance	-\$ 2,564.51
Office Expenses	-\$ 359.91
Substitute Organist	-\$ 210.00
Youth	---\$ 12.92
Poinsettias	---\$ 277.75
Insurance	---\$ 1,031.08
Conference	---\$ 50.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>---\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 982.32



► January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Sue vacation	Sue vacation	
				Brian vacation	Brian vacation	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:15 Worship			Galatians 6:30			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 Sunday School	Girl Scouts 5:30-7		10 Book club		7 PM Car club	
10:15 Worship Faith Development Meeting						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 Sunday School			Galatians 6:30			
10:15 Worship						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:00 Sunday School	Girl Scouts 5:30-7					
10:15 Worship						

► February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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9:00 Sunday

School

10:15 Worship

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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9:00 Sunday Girl Scouts
School 5:30-7

10 Book club

10:15 Worship

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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9:00 Sunday
School

10:15 Worship

Ash Wednesday
Trinity
Episcopal
5:30 PM

7 PM Car club

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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9:00 Sunday Girl Scouts
School 5:30-7

10:15 Worship