

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*



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

### Office Hours Monday-Friday

8-12

May be gone to the doctor with Mom

Pastor's pages	2-3
Announcements	4-5
Serving	6
Financial Page	7
Calendar	8-9



## 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

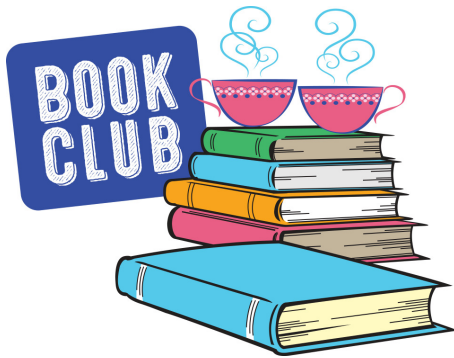
### January 2026

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



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

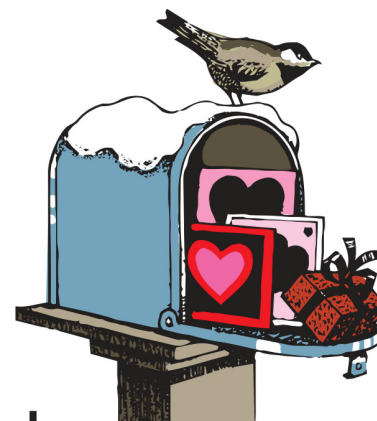
### Birthdays

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



# ► February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	Girl Scouts 5:30-7		10 Book club			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	Girl Scouts 5:30-7					