

First Congregational Messenger  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Norfolk, NE  
*Serving God with love and faith*



Pastor Jackie will be on vacation July 1-15 and Sunday, July 19. We wish her a relaxing time with her family and a safe trip to Mayo Clinic with her mom.



July 2020

Volume 5, Issue 69

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Pastor's  
Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 10-4  
Other times by appointment  
May be out of the office for meetings or visits



**Office Hours**

Mon-Fri

8-12

Mon-Thurs

1-3

## VACATION

As I make plans for vacation and clergy coverage, I'm thankful for time to rest and be with family. I'm also filled with gratitude:

- for your concern and prayers for my family (Sis is on the road to recovery);
- for FRHS working to keep our congregation and community healthy;
- for June 23 ministerial association ZOOM meeting with Police Chief Don Miller, as local churches work to support police and learn more about diversity.
- for a small group considering ways that our congregation might faithfully respond to current cries concerning race, injustice, and law enforcement, as an alternative to a 'comfortable silence'.
- For Confirmation student, Cole Dohmen, his family, and teacher, Rev. Avidano;
- for June 23 resumption of 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team meeting and next steps;
- for how church members share their gifts and serve the community and world in order to make it a place where young and old may grow...

I could type more, but now it's time to rest! See you on the 16<sup>th</sup>. – Pastor Jackie



### PASTOR'S TIME AWAY

Pastor Jackie will be on vacation July 1 thru July 15, returning to the office Thursday July 16.

She will also be off Sunday, July 19. Guest Preachers:

**June 5 & 12** Linda Steele, Elder, First Presbyterian Church

(No communion in July)

**June 19** Gordon Braun, Chaplain Asera Care

Chaplain Jim Wonnacott will be available for emergency pastoral care. Find his phone # on Jackie's voice mail. Pastor Brian Johnson, First Presbyterian Church, will be available for funeral services. Worship Team has developed COVID-19 season guidelines for funeral/memorial services.

*“First Congregational Church has always been a place where you can have a conversation.” – Cal Allyn*



**Topics around Race** – It’s not news to anyone that we are living in a time of conflict, division, and disagreement. We are a people who can’t seem to find a way out of the “us vs. them” pit. It does not matter who you think is “us” and who is “them”. We all feel stuck.

How does the church share their faith and offer hope in times like these? On June 24, a small group and Pastor Jackie met to discuss ways First Congregational might faithfully respond to recent events around topics of injustice, race, and police reform. Participants volunteered to review a group resource on dialog as a starting point. The group may also explore various books and movies and check out the library for suggestions. A couple people shared engaging editorials from various newspapers that named the issues and called for change.

Pastor Jackie reminded the church that we have had difficult conversations in the recent past and “they didn’t tear up our relationships”. Instead, these intentional conversations moved us more toward unity even while we held diverse perspectives. As in the past, we can use dialog techniques that help us talk with each other with kindness and respect. The group plans to meet again later in July.

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## FCUCC Funeral Guidelines in the Season of Covid-19



Covid-19 has disrupted our usual patterns of daily life and worship. On June 22, Worship Team discussed and approved new Covid-19 season guidelines for funeral/memorial services at FCUCC. For the complete guidelines, ask Sue Allyn for a copy.

**Summary** - People have several choices when it comes to funeral or memorial services. They may choose to hold: a graveside service and/or schedule a memorial service later, a service and visitation at a funeral home, or a service and visitation at First Congregational UCC. As an option, we encourage families to consider holding visitations at the funeral home the day before.

Though the church may request that people wear masks, we understand most may not, which makes social distancing even more important. With social distancing in place, we may accommodate these numbers:

Sanctuary	Up to 70 people
Balcony	Up to 10 people
Fellowship Hall	Up to 50 people (for overflow: audio/speaker only)

We would rely on funeral home staff for the number of ushers needed. And at this time, receptions and food sharing are not permitted. Be assured, at the time of planning a funeral or memorial service your church and funeral home will work with you to create a meaningful service.

Funerals and memorial services are worship services. That we may live out our values of caring, compassion, and welcome, we ask guests, friends, and members to maintain these healthy practices as we do for Sunday worship:

- Please wear a mask throughout the service, and while you are in the building
- Social distancing 6 feet minimum between family groups
- Arrival and dismissal will encourage social distancing
- Come directly into the sanctuary when you arrive, and distance outside after the service if you wish to visit
- Ask children to remain with parents or guardian
- No indoor social hour prior to the service
- No food sharing or receptions for a while



## Summer confirmation class for Cole Dohmen

Cole is Amanda Avidano’s brother. His mother is Jayne Allen. Rev. Mary Avidano (Elgin) will provide weekly Confirmation lessons via ZOOM. First Congregational UCC welcomes Cole and Jayne to worship and confirmation class. Church, please introduce yourselves after worship, and ask Cole how it’s going! It’s a little harder to meet and greet with masks on, but we can do it – outside!



## Butterfly Release 2020 – Faith Regional Hospital – July 25

“See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands . . .” (Isaiah 49:16). Faith Regional Health Services cordially invites those who have experienced the loss of a baby or child to attend this year’s Butterfly Release Memorial Service. The gathering will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 25 in the Bradford Spirituality Garden on our West Campus. If you are interested in participating or if you have any questions, please call Jim Wonnacott at 402-992-2468 or Patrick Roche at 402-644-7522. Please RSVP by July 8.



**150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Committee**  
 The 150<sup>th</sup> Team met June 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss plans in light of Covid-19. They continue to make plans for the celebration weekend September 12 & 13 including checking with caterers’ timelines, and program content. They will meet again July 22 to decide whether to change/ adapt the scheduled events. Stay tuned.

<b>Birthday</b>		<b>Anniversary</b>	
6th	Verletta Olson	5th	Tom and Sandy McConnell
10th	Evonne Burkink		
12th	Merle Rix	15th	Erik and Katie Gamerl
17th	Chuck Balsiger		
18th	Terry Hamilton		
19th	Kellen Rossman		
28th	Randy Neuharth		
30th	Pat Jenny		



### July 5

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams  
**Greeters:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell  
**Reader:** Vicki Staab  
**Leader:** Stan Staab  
**Flowers:** Jeff and Evonne Burkink

### July 12

**Ushers:** Jane Uzzell and Terry Hamilton  
**Greeters:** Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell  
**Reader:** Scott Williams  
**Leader:** Tom McConnell  
**Flowers:** Merle Rix

### July 19

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals  
**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger  
**Reader:** Randy Neuharth  
**Flowers:** Ed Lindsay

### July 26

**Ushers:** Bonnie Dewell and Verletta Olson  
**Greeters:** Suzan Podliska and Barb Koenig  
**Reader:** Stan Staab  
**Flowers:**



### August 2

**Communion:** Scott and Lori Williams, Tom McConnell and Ben Uzzell  
**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth  
**Greeters:** Mike Synovec and Tom McConnell  
**Reader:** Chuck Balsiger  
**Leader:** Susan Allyn  
**Flowers:**

### August 9

**Ushers:** Evonne Burkink and Barb Koenig  
**Greeters:** Bonnie Dewell and Rita Woodard  
**Reader:** Jane Uzzell  
**Flowers:**

### August 16

**Ushers:** Susan Surber and Suzan Podliska  
**Greeters:** Verletta Olson and Karen Allyn  
**Reader:** Tom McConnell  
**Flowers:** Susan Surber

### August 23

**Ushers:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell  
**Greeters:** Jane Uzzell and Cole Uzzell  
**Reader:** Randy Neuharth  
**Flowers:** Karen Allyn

### August 30

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams  
**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth  
**Reader:** Verletta Olson  
**Flowers:**

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

# June

From 6/1/20 through 6/30/20

## Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$10,429.29
Food Pantry	\$ 50.00
Orphan Grain Train	\$ 65.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$10,754.81</u>
Subtotal	\$21,299.10
Salary	--\$ 8,283.81
Church Maintenance	—\$ 846.31
Office Expenses	—\$1,529.04
Insurance	---\$2,246.00
Renner's	—\$ 755.00
Transfer to Madison County	—\$ 400.00
Orphan Grain Train	—\$ 450.00
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
<u>OCWM, Strengthen the Church</u>	<u>—\$ 1,070.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 5,648.94



Linaje Escogido \$800.00 was deposited in Madison County Bank.

The office expense includes a new electronics board for the copy machine not covered by our lease contract.

# ▶ July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Pastor vacation	2 Pastor vacation	3 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7 Card Group Pastor vacation	4 Pastor vacation
5 10:15 Worship Pastor vacation	6 Pastor vacation	7 Pastor vacation	8 Pastor vacation	9 Pastor vacation	10 5 Card Group Pastor vacation	11 Pastor vacation
12 10:15 Worship Pastor vacation	13 Pastor vacation	14 Pastor vacation	15 Pastor vacation	16	17	18
19 10:15 Worship Pastor vacation	20	21	22	23	24	25 Graduation Party
26 10:15 Worship	27	28	29	30	31	



# ▶ August 2020

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

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1

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2            3            4            5            6            7            8

10:15 Worship

7 Card Group

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9            10           11           12           13           14           15

10:15 Worship  
Antique Car  
Club joins us

5 Card Group

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16           17           18           19           20           21           22

10:15 Worship    NECC begins

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23           24           25           26           27           28           29

10:15 Worship

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30           31

10:15 Worship