

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

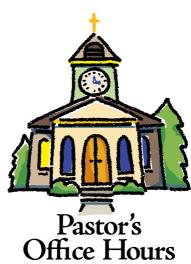


July 2025

Volume 5, Issue 129



Celebration of graduation for Skylar Indra and Kailee Feenstra. Recognition given by Darlene Korthals, Kay Neuharth, and Pastor Brian High.



Pastor's
Office Hours



Church Secretary

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

Afternoons by appointment

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8-12

May be gone to the
doctor with Mom

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Brian's Beacon



Real Freedom in Jesus

The Fourth of July is known as Independence Day for Americans because we have a freedom that most people do not have. This freedom came about through the blood, sweat and tears of those who came before us. It is freedom that people come to America to find.

In Christ we have a special freedom. Freedom from sin, guilt, and we have this freedom because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. It is here that his shed blood brought forgiveness, which is the highest freedom.

John 8:36 states “So if the son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” It’s clear that the word of God reveals that God will heal the heartbroken and will meet every person’s needs. Whether it is physical or mental, Jesus is there to set you free. He knows our needs even before we ask. He longs to care, love and help us each day. He is the joy giver that brings us “Real Freedom”.

The key to enjoying this freedom is understanding that Jesus is faithful to his cause. His cause is seeking and saving the lost. You and I are his pursuit; thus, each one of us will have true freedom.

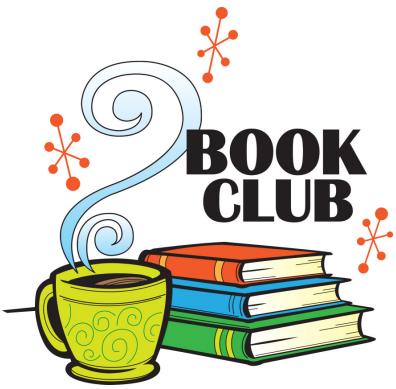
So, as we enjoy the month of July and celebrate the fourth of July, please remember you are privileged to have freedom. This freedom is found in various ways. Freedom by being a citizen of the United States and freedom by being a child of God. Real Freedom is in Jesus.

Pastor Brian

Bible Reading for the Month

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Psalm 90-95	Psalm 96-102	Psalm 103-105	Psalm 106-107	Psalm 108-114
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Psalm 115-118	Psalm 119:1-88	Psalm 119:89-176	Psalm 120-132	Psalm 133-139	Psalm 140-145	Psalm 146-150
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Proverbs 1-3	Proverbs 4-6	Proverbs 7-9	Proverbs 10-12	Proverbs 13-15	Proverbs 16-18	Proverbs 19-21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Proverbs 22-23	Proverbs 24-26	Proverbs 27-29	Proverbs 30-31	Ecclesiastes 1-4	Ecclesiastes 5-8	Ecclesiastes 9-12
27	28	29	30	31		
Solomon 1-8	Isaiah 1-4	Isaiah 5-8	Isaiah 9-12	Isaiah 13-17		



Book Club will meet July 9 at 10 AM. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell. This month is the Orbis Pictus Award. This is the best non-fiction for children.

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.



JULY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

6th	Verletta Olson
10th	Evonne Burkink
12th	Merle Rix
	Michelle Indra
17th	Chuck Balsiger
19th	Andrea High
28th	Randy Neuharth
30th	Pat Jenny
	Anniversaries
5th	Tom and Sandy McConnell
15th	Erik and Katie Gamerl



July 6

Communion: Andrea High and Pat Jenny
Ushers: Karen Allyn and Susan Surber
Greeters: Tom McConnell and Bonnie Dewell
Reader: Tom McConnell
Leader: Susan Allyn
Flowers: Burkink Children

July 13

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Rita Woodard
Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Reader: Andrea High
Flowers: Ginge Dudley

July 20

Ushers: Ben and Grace Uzzell
Greeters: Stacie and Reece Uzzell
Reader: Verletta Olson
Flowers: Pastor Brian and Andrea High

July 27

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams
Greeters: Verletta Olson and Lynne Bichlmeier
Reader: Jane Uzzell
Flowers: Mark and Vicki Walker



August 3

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams
Ushers: Pat Jenny and Evonne Burkink
Greeters: Karen Allyn and Barb Koenig
Reader: Kay Neuhardt
Leader: Randy Neuhardt
Flowers:

August 10

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Verletta Olson
Greeters: Susan Surber and Andrea High
Reader: Grace Uzzell
Flowers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

August 17

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuhardt
Greeters: Ben and Grace Uzzell
Reader: Reese Uzzell
Flowers:

August 24

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Pat Jenny
Reader: Scott Williams
Flowers: Karen Allyn

August 31

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Mike Synovec
Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Rita Woodard
Reader: Ben Uzzell
Flowers:

June

From 6/1/25 through 6/30/25

The deposit for June 29 is not included.



Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 3,122.65
Air conditioner fund	\$ 1,500.00
Transfer from savings	\$ 3,250.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 6,690.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 14,562.65
Salary	-\$ 7,135.91
Church Maintenance	-\$ 14,125.14
Office Expenses	-\$ 435.15
Faith Development	-\$ 69.99
Worship	-\$ 195.10
Weeding	-\$ 500.00
Insurance	-\$ 1,031.08
Substitute Organist	-\$ 140.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>-\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	-\$ 9,569.72

The maintenance total includes: downstairs kitchen ceiling repair \$3,250

Sprinkler system valves replacement \$1,456.50

Air conditioner for sanctuary \$8,040

► July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1	2	3	4	5		
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OFFICE
CLOSED

Linaje in
kitchen

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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10:15 Worship
Linaje at noon

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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10:15 Worship

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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10:15 Worship
Unity Council

27	28	29	30	31		
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10:15 Worship

► August 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10:15 Worship

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

10:15 Worship

Norfolk Public
School begins

10 Book club

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

10:15 Worship

Northeast
Community
College begins

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

10:15 Worship

31

10:15 Worship