

First Congregational Messenger  
 First Congregational United Church of Christ  
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*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
		<i>1</i> Psalm 90-95	<i>2</i> Psalm 96-102	<i>3</i> Psalm 103-105	<i>4</i> Psalm 106-107	<i>5</i> Psalm 108-114
<i>6</i> Psalm 115-118	<i>7</i> Psalm 119:1-88	<i>8</i> Psalm 119:89-176	<i>9</i> Psalm 120-132	<i>10</i> Psalm 133-139	<i>11</i> Psalm 140-145	<i>12</i> Psalm 146-150
<i>13</i> Proverbs 1-3	<i>14</i> Proverbs 4-6	<i>15</i> Proverbs 7-9	<i>16</i> Proverbs 10-12	<i>17</i> Proverbs 13-15	<i>18</i> Proverbs 16-18	<i>19</i> Proverbs 19-21
<i>20</i> Proverbs 22-23	<i>21</i> Proverbs 24-26	<i>22</i> Proverbs 27-29	<i>23</i> Proverbs 30-31	<i>24</i> Ecclesiastes 1-4	<i>25</i> Ecclesiastes 5-8	<i>26</i> Ecclesiastes 9-12
<i>27</i> Solomon 1-8	<i>28</i> Isaiah 1-4	<i>29</i> Isaiah 5-8	<i>30</i> Isaiah 9-12	<i>31</i> 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.



## 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 Neuharth  
**Leader:** Randy Neuharth  
**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 Neuharth  
**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>\$</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>—\$</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
		1	2	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 Linaje in kitchen
6 10:15 Worship Linaje at noon	7	8	9 10 Book club	10	11	12
13 10:15 Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:15 Worship Unity Council	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:15 Worship	28	29	30	31		

# ▶ August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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10:15 Worship

10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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10:15 Worship

Norfolk Public  
School begins

[10 Book club](#)

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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10:15 Worship

Northeast  
Community  
College begins

24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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10:15 Worship

31						
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10:15 Worship