

First Congregational Messenger
 First Congregational United Church of Christ
 Norfolk, NE

Serving God with love and faith



Following a brief worship service on June 7, we will hold our annual meeting. All voting members are invited to attend. Please remember to wear a mask.

May 15, 1870 – May 15, 2020
 CELEBRATE
 BY Verletta Olson

IN THE HOME
 With a Congregational heart
 A Church will start
 If you want to be there
 Bring your own chair

75 YEARS
 The People are strong
 A Fire comes along
 The Building is gone
 The Celebration carried on

150 YEARS
 The Building is strong
 Covid-19 comes along
 The People are gone
 The Celebration carries on

Stuff happens and we carry on

June 2020

Volume 5, Issue 68

Pastor's page	2-4
Serving	5
Financial Page	6
Calendar	7-8



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

Worship to Regather Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 10:15am

After much thoughtful discussion at their meeting May 11, Unity Council decided to *open worship with limits* at First Congregational UCC on May 31.

Council figured given our average worship attendance and sanctuary space, we would be able to safely comply with the 6-foot minimum social distancing recommendations.

Worshippers would also be encouraged to wear their masks throughout the service. If they don't have one with them (no problem), the church will gift worshippers with their own mask (Thank you to Jill Waterbury's sewing skills and generosity).

Pastor Jackie invited the congregation to stay open to the reality that their worship experience will be different than when we last worshipped together

March 15--not better or worse, just different--because we plan to maintain these healthy practices (Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services):

- Social distancing (6' minimum) between family unit
- Arrival and dismissal will encourage social distancing
- Worshippers will be asked to come directly into the sanctuary when they arrive and distance *outside* after the service if they wish to visit.
- Greeter will hold the door open so no one has to touch door handles
- Encourage worshippers to wear a face mask
- Ask children to remain with parents or guardian
- No *indoor* social hour prior to or after the service.
- No passing of offering trays (there will be a basket at the main sanctuary exit)
- No gatherings in Fellowship Hall or food sharing for a while

We encourage those who are sick or at risk to stay home.

I wonder...What will it be like to pray with a mask on as a community for those who are required to wear masks at work: healthcare workers, meat processers, and the like. O Lord, hear our prayer. —Peace, Pastor Jackie

All around us throughout the world, we are being reminded of the vulnerabilities and limits of being a creature and yet at the same time the depth of our communion as a human family.

— Prof. Dr Dirk G. Lange, LWF Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations Office



During the Covid-19 pandemic, we still encourage those who are sick or at risk to stay home. We will be developing our online presence as we look forward to adding music and readers.

You may access Pastor Jackie's weekly reflections on Scripture through Facebook. Enter this search phrase: 'First Congregational UCC Norfolk NE' then click on the purple cross quilt square. If you LIKE our page, it will be easier for you to find and follow. Access these reflections on our church website at www.firstconougcc.org, then click 'Sermons' tab that will take you to the FB link.



Thanks to all who participated in Mother's Day Drive-Through Communion, May 10.

All nurturing women received a carnation and Pastor Jackie and Sue Allyn served communion. This was the 3rd drive-through event since suspending worship on March 22 due to Covid-19 recommendations.

Grateful for free gallons of Hand Sanitizer and Disinfectant Wipes made in Nebraska!

Orphan Grain Train distributed these to nursing homes, hospitals, churches, hotels, and businesses in Norfolk, Grand Island and other spots. Donated by Nebraska Ethanol producers and their supply companies, Husker Ag and Vit-E-Men provided the packaging. Thanks, Sue, for acquiring these for the church.



Thank you to Donnie Seda of Columbus, NE. Donnie salvages and repairs lawn mowers. He repaired our 16 year old mower at no charge!!

“Together we grow stronger”

On **Sunday, May 31st**, will collect and dedicate the **Strengthen the Church Offering**, which furthers the work of our conference and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults.

Thank you to the congregation for maintaining your giving through these extraordinary times. Though much of our in-person ministries have been curtailed, the church continues to stay open, learning new ways to carry out Christ’s ministry. Please continue your giving in ways that work for you (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.). Thank you for your support of the church.

Stay strong, stay hopeful,
Pastor Jackie

Update on Food Pantry Fund Drive

Area churches were invited to give to Norfolk Food Pantries in May. Orphan Grain Train is co-ordinating the effort. In just the first week, OGT collected \$3700 and had spent \$2000 on food. They are now in regular communication with the pantries to see how each is doing and what exacting they need. Thank you to all who donated money through our church or online.



We are scheduled to work the Good Neighbors Food Pantry June 16-30. I have not received any information about how that works now with Covid-19. More information will be given as soon as I get it.

JUNE
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday

- 8th Jeff Burkink
- 9th Scott Williams
- 18th Desiree Martinson
- 19th David Thompson
- 26th Susan Allyn
- 27th Lori Williams

Anniversary

- 4th Steve and Jane Uzzell
- 20th Scott and Lori Williams



June 7 Annual Meeting

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger, Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Ushers: Stan and Vicki Staab

Greeters: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Verletta Olson

Leader: Stan Staab

Flowers: Bonnie Dewell

June 14

Ushers: Rita Woodard and Cole Uzzell

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Cole Uzzell

Flowers:

June 21

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Mike Synovec

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

June 28

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Stan and Vicki Staab

Reader: Vicki Staab

Flowers:



July 5

Communion: Terry Hamilton, Vicki Staab, Suzan Podliska,

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Vicki Staab

Leader:

Flowers: Jeff and Evonne Burkink

July 12

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Terry Hamilton

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Tom McConnell

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

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:

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

May

From 5/1/20 through 5/31/20



Checking account information

Beginning balance	—\$ 2,977.50
Covid-19 SBA Loan	\$10,500.00
Strengthen the Church	\$ 155.00
Orphan Grain Train	\$ 285.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,830.00</u>
Subtotal	\$17,792.50
Salary	--\$ 5,803.24
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,031.22
Office Expenses	—\$ 493.75
<u>Lilies</u>	<u>—\$ 35.00</u>
Final Balance	\$10,429.29

Due to Covid-19, May 10 was drive through communion and recognition of nurturing women.

On April 20, 2020, we received a Covid- 19 Small Business Administration Loan for assistance to pay for bills. It must be used for salary and utilities.

Linaje Escogido \$400.00 was deposited in Madison County Bank.

▶ June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					7 Card Group	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:15 Worship					5 Card Group	
Girl Scouts FH 1-3 PM						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:15 Worship		9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:15 Worship	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	
28	29	30				
10:15 Worship	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	9:30-11:30 Food Pantry				

▶ July 2020

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

1 2 3 4

**OFFICE
CLOSED**
7 Card Group

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

10:15 Worship

5 Card Group

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

10:15 Worship

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

10:15 Worship

Graduation
Party

26 27 28 29 30 31

10:15 Worship