

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

June 2022

Volume 5, Issue 92

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WEAR RED FOR  
**Pentecost**

June 5 is Pentecost Sunday. Wear red this Sunday to celebrate the birth of the church!



Yard cleanup and landscaping project is set for Saturday, June 18 at 8 AM. If you are free to help, please come ready to work! The labyrinth needs to be cleaned up, so if you have a "weed whacker" for use, that would be helpful.

Norfolk Food Pantry is our responsibility from June 15-June 30. Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. We need at least 3 people each day working from 9:30-11:30. There is no more computer entry work. All the information is gathered on paper for others to do data entry.



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



 **Office Hours**

**Office Hours**  
 Monday-Friday  
 8-12

**Rivers of Wickedness**  
**On the Uvalde School Shooting, May 24, 2022**

**Psalm 18:1-2a, 4-6 (CEB)**

“He said: I love you, Lord, my strength.  
The Lord is my solid rock,  
my fortress, my rescuer.”

“Death’s cords were wrapped around me;  
rivers of wickedness terrified me.  
The cords of the grave surrounded me;  
death’s traps held me tight.  
In my distress I cried out to the Lord;  
I called to my God for help.  
God heard my voice from his temple;  
I called to him for help,  
and my call reached his ears.”

According to Education Week, there have been 27 school shootings this year.\*

***Rivers of wickedness.***

On my drive home to Southeast Iowa, I travel through Des Moines—a city where I discovered my call to ministry. Driving on the highway that cuts west to east through DM, I pass the Iowa State Capital on the right, and then East High School on the left. I always look up at the red East High sign because my old college roommate went to East—a small connection. When I arrived home to SE Iowa on March 7th, I learned on the news that three students were shot at East High that same day. Later six teenagers would be charged for killing one student and injuring two others.

***Rivers of wickedness.***

As I think about the latest school shooting in Uvalde, Texas *yesterday* that killed nineteen school children and two teachers, I think of my sister (a school teacher) and all the children I know. We don’t have to personally know the Texas victims, to feel sad and angry over another senseless human-made disaster.

***A child’s spirit cries out.***

First Responders held a disaster drill yesterday in Norfolk that included other responders in the region, the hospital, and the school. The school even asked the High School Drama Club and their friends to take part as ‘injured bus riders’. The Emergency Manager for Region 11, Bobbi Riser, said in a news report that these emergency drills are important to area agencies to learn how to best coordinate with one another.”

They get to learn each other's ways and personalities. It allows everyone to effectively work together in chaotic situations."\*\*

***A child's spirit cries out.***

As I searched Scriptures today, Psalm 18 seems to reflect the grief I feel, and so gives me comfort. The Psalmist sings,

"In my distress I cried out to the Lord;

I called to my God for help.

God heard my voice from his temple;

I called to him for help,

and my call reached his ears."

***Will it reach ours?***

Might First Responders and Emergency Managers give us a clue as to the importance of "learning each other's ways and personalities; and allowing everyone to effectively work together in chaotic situations"? As a church, we are to be doing whatever God is doing.

Psalm 18:16 states what God does:

"From on high, God reached down and grabbed me; he took me out of all that water."

***How might the church help to pull people out of all that water?***

***How might the church help to pull our country out of all that water?***

Spiritual questions we might ponder in June.

*Peace, Pastor Jackie*

**Pastor's Time Away** – Pastor Jackie will be on vacation June 1 through June 14, returning to the office June 15. Guest Preachers include:

6/5 – Linda Steele (Licensed Elder, First Presbyterian Church)

6/12 – Rev. Kenn Leischner (This will be Communion Sunday in June.)

Rev. Gordon Braun will cover pastoral emergency coverage (including hospital visits), except June 9, 10, and 11—Rev. Brian Johnson, Pastor at First Presbyterian Church will cover these dates.

Notes: \*<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/school-shootings-this-year-how-many-and-where/2022/01>

\*\* Norfolk Daily News 5/25/22 at: [https://norfolkdailynews.com/news/area-agencies-participate-in-emergency-drill/article\\_3c239a78-dc3b-11ec-9937-ffb1fead710b.html?fbclid=IwAR0vqOqS-MZF1hGS5BRzV-PgVYpprMHjyKRofaFTgeQPErNA48NJZKm4Y\\_M](https://norfolkdailynews.com/news/area-agencies-participate-in-emergency-drill/article_3c239a78-dc3b-11ec-9937-ffb1fead710b.html?fbclid=IwAR0vqOqS-MZF1hGS5BRzV-PgVYpprMHjyKRofaFTgeQPErNA48NJZKm4Y_M)

## Youth Service – Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska



Thanks to all who donated supplies and volunteered at the Animal Shelter, Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We pulled weeds and mulched in the memorial garden and played with puppies! Volunteers included: Reese, Adam, Grace, Darlene, Stacie, Cole, Charlene, and Pastor Jackie



**Love Your Neighbor Blood Drive**

COMMUNITY  
**BLOOD DRIVE**

**Wednesday, July 13, Noon to 6 p.m.**

**@ First Congregational UCC**

A joint American Red Cross drive with the Seventh Day Adventist Church (Pastor Sandro Sandoval) and First Congregational Churches.

*More detail to come in July.*



*18<sup>th</sup> Annual*  
**Christian Cross Festival**  
FREE ADMISSION

**Skyview Lake, Norfolk Nebraska**

## **2022 CCF SCHEDULE**

*Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>*

- 2:50 Pre-Show**
- 3:00 Adelaide**
- 4:00 Love & The Outcome**
- 5:00 CAIN**
- 6:30 I AM THEY**
- 8:00 David Nasser (Speaker)**
- 9:05 Jordan Feliz**
- 10:44 Fireworks**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.christiancrossfestival.org](http://www.christiancrossfestival.org)

**Join us on Facebook @ CCROSSFEST**

**Join us for Christian Music, Speakers, & Fellowship.**

Bring your family and friends, lawn chairs and blankets.

Food Vendors, Kids Tent,

Inflatables, Kayaks and Fireworks

Financial sponsors and volunteers needed!



### Monetary Donations

can be made to  
**Salvation Army**  
if you prefer not to shop!

*This list of school supplies is not an all-inclusive list but needed most.*

*Any school supply donation is welcome.*

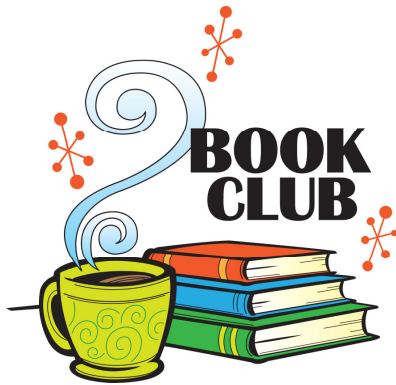
- Backpacks
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Pencils & Pens
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Highlighters
- Messenger Bags
- Hand Sanitizer
- Dry Erase Markers
- Index Cards
- Colored Pencils 12 ct
- Headphones
- Zippered Binders
- Wide Rule Spiral notebooks



### Want to serve Norfolk in a hands-on way?

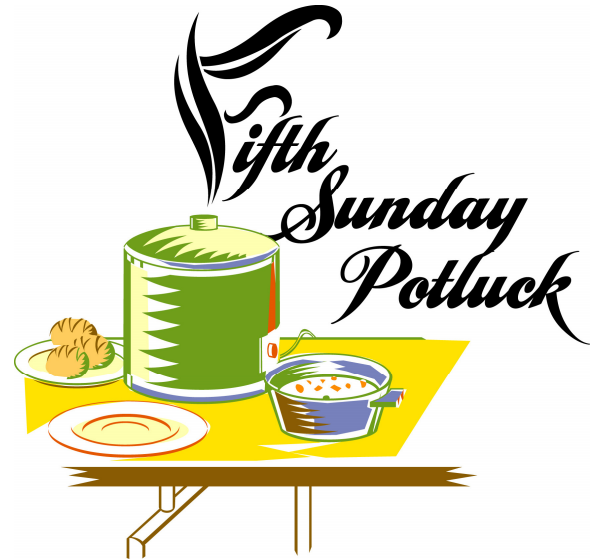
5<sup>th</sup> Annual - To Norfolk With Love, Saturday morning, September 10, 2022 Save the date! TNWL is a well-organized and fun service event. People of all ages and abilities may volunteer. There are all kinds of projects from which to choose. Last year, Jane Uzzell and Pastor Jackie joined a team to weed the gardens at the Vets Home.

Leaders guide the process and bring tools if need. Volunteers gather at First Baptist Church for donuts, welcome, and instruction. Then then go to a site to work for a few hours, then return to an after-party (optional). The 2022 goal is to have 300 volunteers, 20 churches, 25 projects. They provide childcare. See the video and website for more info. <https://www.tonorfolkwithlove.com/>. More info to follow.



Book Club will meet June 8. *I'll Go and Come Back* by Rajani LaRocca and *Plant, Cook, Eat!: A Children's Cookbook* by Joe Archer. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

They're coming back! When there is a 5th Sunday in the month, we have a potluck dinner following that Sunday's worship service. So . . . Sunday, July 31, let's join together and have a potluck! A basket will be available for donations to the church's scholarship fund. Hope to see you—July 31, for a yummy potluck meal!



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! Please help out. The gift cards fit right in your billfold by your dollar bills, so it's even easy to remember to use them when you go to pay for your groceries. Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402)640-6623.

## JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- 6th Tom Surber
- 8th Jeff Burkink
- 9th Scott Williams
- 18th Desiree Martinson
- 19th David Thompson
- 26th Susan Allyn
- 27th Lori Williams
- 29th Timothy Braezel

### Anniversary

- 8th Glenn and Lois Williams
- 20th Scott and Lori Williams



**June 5 Guest Preacher-Linda Steele**

**Ushers:** Jane Uzzell and Evonne Burkink

**Greeters:** Verletta Olson and Barb Koenig

**Reader:** Reese Uzzell

**Flowers:** Jane Uzzell

**June 12 Guest Preacher- Rev. Kenn Leischner**

**Communion:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Greeters:** Evonne Burkink and Suzan Podliska

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Leader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:** Bonnie Dewell

**June 19**

**Ushers:** Susan Surber and Mike Synovec

**Greeters:** Jane Uzzell and Ed Lindsay

**Reader:** Lori Williams

**Flowers:** Scott and Lori Williams

**June 26**

**Ushers:** Suzan Podliska and Rita Woodard

**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Reader:** Jane Uzzell

**Flowers:** Susan Allyn



**July 3**

**Communion:** Charlene Fosdick and Verletta Olson

**Ushers:** Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Reader:** Chuck Balsiger

**Leader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:** Jane Uzzell

**July 10**

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Greeters:** Tom McConnell and Susan Surber

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**Flowers:**

**July 17**

**Ushers:** Ben and Grace Uzzell

**Greeters:** Stacie and Reese Uzzell

**Reader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:** Ed Lindsay

**July 24**

**Ushers:** Jane Uzzell and Charlene Fosdick

**Greeters:** Chuck Balsiger and Ed Lindsay

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:**

**July 31 Potluck after service**

**Ushers:** Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska

**Greeters:** Evonne Burkink and Bonnie Dewell

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Flowers:**

Please notify the office if you are not able to attend a service.



# May

From 5/1/22 through 5/31/22

The deposit for 5/29 is not included.



## Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ -1,676.64
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 14,729.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 13052.36
Salary	--\$ 6,912.01
Church Maintenance	—\$ 923.43
Office Expenses	—\$ 4,349.85
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Faith Development	—\$ 348.01
Worship Ministry	—\$ 82.32
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
<b>Final Balance</b>	<b>—\$ 133.26</b>

Weekly deposit includes a \$3000 transfer from savings.

Office expenses include \$3,149.95 for a 3 year subscription to Quickbooks for accounting and payroll updates and tech support.

# ▶ June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 GS 6:30 FH Pastor on vacation	2 Pastor on vacation	3 Pastor on vacation	4 Pastor on vacation
5 10:15 Worship Pentecost Renewed Hope FH 4-8 Pastor on vacation	6 Pastor on vacation	7 Pastor on vacation	8 10 Book club Pastor on vacation	9 Pastor on vacation	10 Pastor on vacation	11 Pastor on vacation
12 10:15 Worship Communion Pastor on vacation	13 Pastor on vacation	14 Pastor on vacation	15	16 Food Pantry	17 Food Pantry	18 8 AM Yard cleanup and landscaping
19 10:15 Worship Unity Council	20 Food Pantry	21 Food Pantry	22 Food Pantry	23 Food Pantry	24 Food Pantry	25
26 10:15 Worship	27 Food Pantry Sue on vacation	28 Food Pantry Sue on vacation	29 Food Pantry Sue on vacation	30 Food Pantry Sue on vacation		

# ▶ July 2022

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

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1      2  
Sue on  
vacation

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3      4      5      6      7      8      9  
10:15 Worship      OFFICE  
Renewed Hope      CLOSED  
FH 4-8      10 Worship  
Ministry

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10      11      12      13      14      15      16  
10:15 Worship      10 Book club  
Blood Drive  
FH 12-6 PM

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17      18      19      20      21      22      23  
10:15 Worship

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24      25      26      27      28      29      30  
10:15 Worship

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31  
10:15 Worship