

First Congregational Messenger  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
1102 W. Norfolk Ave.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
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firstcongoucc@fastmail.com  
*Serving God with love and faith*



March 2022

Volume 5, Issue 89

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**March 2, 2022 at 5:30PM**  
**First Congregational UCC**  
*A joint service of*  
*First Presbyterian,*  
*Trinity Episcopal, and*  
*First Congregational Churches*



Pastor's  
Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 10-4

Other times by appointment

May be out of the office for  
meetings or visits



**Office  
Hours**

**Office Hours**

Mon-Wed-Fri

Tues-Thurs

8-12

8-10:30

## Kindness

*"They showed us unusual kindness". (cf. Acts 28:2)*

Phyllis Ames shares her story of kindness, as told to daughter, Char.

A kindness that I remember well was extended to us by the Congregational Church when we first moved to Norfolk from Hartington, NE. We were members of the Congregational Church in Hartington and when we moved to Norfolk, our minister contacted Norfolk's Congregational Church to let them know we were coming so they were waiting for us and our new family.



We moved into a house across the street from the church and within hours people were there from the church to introduce themselves. The church was not that big but that little church welcomed us and our new little baby.

They told us how happy they were to have us there with our little family.

They invited us to come, and they continued to let us know what was going on in the church, so we became members right away. Even though we did live right across the street, whenever there was an activity, they would make sure I was picked up with my new little baby. The members of that church were there for us from Day One.

That Norfolk church was a welcoming church for us and our new little baby. They had groups for young couples, Ladies' Aid for mothers, and activities for little babies. I was invited to take part right away. I was involved right away. I was encouraged to take an active part and I had never done anything like that before. I was a young bride with a new baby, and I was right at home in that church.

Dale had grown up going to a Congregational Church, so this was his church, and he was so proud of it. Because of that, we did more together with the church because he felt like he belonged. As a result, he was involved right away too.

You could always feel the love and kindness of the members of that church. It was a family, and all people were encouraged to be a part of the church and encouraged to find their own way to fit in and feel at home with that church family.

~Phyllis Ames



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February 21, 2022

Dear Church Members and Friends,

On Sunday, **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we will celebrate **Stewardship Sunday** at First Congregational Church. This is when we invite you to place in the offering basket your envelope containing your Pledge Card and Time & Talent Sheet for the coming church year. In a couple of weeks, you will receive a letter from Gene Korthals with the forms and more information.

The theme this year centers on our *rootedness*. In the spring, we know that plant shoots need roots to grow. It seems to me that roots hold two meanings. First, they indicate stability and a measure of contentment in routine. Second, roots indicate adaptability to change. A plant can endure changing weather, but if it is rooted, it is more able to adapt to changes, and even adversity.

As Christians, we are rooted in our Judeo-Christian heritage (we have thousands of years behind us). We are rooted in Christ Jesus, himself, who tells us that he is the vine and we are the branches, and that we abide in him and he abides in us. Our church also has deep roots in our local community (over 150 years).

Lent is a time of spiritual discipline in preparation for celebration of Easter. The season invites us to examine our lives. At the heart of it, stewardship is about where we place our trust. In the coming weeks, I invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge of time, talent, and money to the church. We can trust God to guide us in this process.

Peace and grace to you,

Pastor Jackie Perry



## Lenten Worship Series

This worship series centers around kindness and civility. Kay Neuharth cross stitched our “anchor image”. What are the God-shaped qualities that flow from Christ? How might Christians witness to God’s kindness in our community and world? We all have stories and experiences of kindness to share. I look forward to hearing yours! –Pastor Jackie

**When the kindness and love  
of God our Savior appeared,  
he saved us.**

Titus 3:4-5, NIV



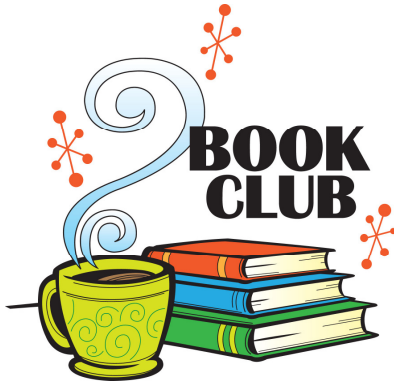
## Stewardship Sunday will be April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Lent is a time when we look within. Stewardship is a spiritual practice that the church encourages everyone to explore, because we are seeking ways individuals can help to build a greater whole—the church—in order to fulfill our purpose: “*We bind together, to worship God and discern God’s will*”. One writer calls this time, “plowing our spirits”. Throughout March, watch for an invitation and more information about our Stewardship discernment.



## Under Construction

After 30 plus years, our parking lot steps need to be replaced. As Support Team works on this project, be aware that both cement staircases in the parking lot have been closed. Be mindful of those of us who really need to park on the lower level. If you are able bodied, consider parking on the upper level and walking around. If you need to park closer, *do so!*



Book Club will meet March 9. *Henry at Home* by Megan Maynor. The books can be found in the office or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

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.



## Valentine's Day 2022

Thanks to all who helped send valentines to our friends at Skyline Apartments. Reese and Grace designed the cards, and during fellowship hour many folded, stuffed and stickered envelopes. We delivered 100 valentines for residents and staff.

## MARCH Birthdays

### Birthdays

- 3rd Charlene Fosdick
- 4th Ron Barritt
- 5th Glenn Williams
- 14th Nina Bahm
- 18th Rita Woodard
- 28th Eirk Gamerl



## March

### **March 2 Ash Wednesday at 5:30 PM**

**Ushers:** Tom McConnell and Randy Neuharth

**Greeters:** Jane Uzzell and Reese Uzzell

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

### **March 6**

**Communion:** Verletta Olson and Charlene Fosdick

**Ushers:** Ed Lindsay and Jane Uzzell

**Greeters:** Chuck Balsiger and Mike Synovec

**Reader:** Lori Williams

**Leader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:** Barb Koenig

### **March 13**

**Ushers:** Evonne Burkink and Rita Woodard

**Greeters:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Reader:** Jane Uzzell

**Flowers:** Rita Woodard

### **March 20**

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Greeters:** Suzan Podliska and Verletta Olson

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:**

### **March 27**

**Ushers:** Mike Synovec and Susan Surber

**Greeters:** Tom McConnell and Rita Woodard

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**Flowers:**



### **April 3**

**Communion:** Ben Uzzell and Tom McConnell

**Ushers:** Bonnie Dewell and Charlene Fosdick

**Greeters:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Reader:** Lori Williams

**Leader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:**

### **April 10 Palm Sunday**

**Ushers:** Suzan Podliska and Rita Woodard

**Greeters:** Evonne Burkink and Barb Koenig

**Readers:** Ben Uzzell, Jane Uzzell, Tom McConnell

**Flowers:** Palms

### **April 14 Maundy Thursday**

**Communion:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Ushers:** Evonne Burkink and Barb Koenig

**Greeters:** Susan Surber and Jane Uzzell

### **April 17 Easter**

**Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Greeters:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Flowers:** Lilies

### **April 24 Annual Meeting**

**Ushers:** Tom McConnell and Ed Lindsay

**Greeters:** Bonnie Dewell and Suzan Podliska

**Reader:** Chuck Balsiger

**Flowers:**

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

# February

From 2/1/22 through 2/28/22

The deposit for 2/27 is not included.



TREASURER'S REPORT

## Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 3,064.05
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 10,332.94</u>
Subtotal	\$ 13396.99
Salary	--\$ 6,546.97
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,770.83
Office Expenses	—\$ 755.23
Pastor's Discretionary	—\$ 151.40
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Scholarship	—\$ 500.00
Pastor Continuing Education	—\$ 70.00
Insurance	—\$ 1,429.00
Renner's	—\$ 755.00
<u>OCWM</u>	<u>—\$ 662.00</u>
<b>Final Balance</b>	<b>\$ -323.44</b>

We have had a theft of checks written to businesses and are working with the bank to fix the problem.

# ▶ March 2022

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

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1                      2                      3                      4                      5

GS 5:30

**Ash  
Wednesday  
5:30**

10 Worship  
Ministry

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6                      7                      8                      9                      10                      11                      12

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship  
  
4:30-8 FH  
Renewed Hope  
Church

GS 5:30

10 Book Club

Delphians  
12-3 FH

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13                      14                      15                      16                      17                      18                      19

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30  
GS 6:30 FH

GS 5:30

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20                      21                      22                      23                      24                      25                      26

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30

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27                      28                      29                      30                      31

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30  
GS 6:30 FH



# ▶ April 2022

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

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1      2

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3      4      5      6      7      8      9

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship  
Stewardship

GS 6:30 FH

GS 5:30

10 Worship  
Ministry

Delphians  
12-3 FH

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10      11      12      13      14      15      16

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30  
GS 6:30 FH

GS 5:30

10 Book Club

Maundy  
Thursday

Good Friday

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17      18      19      20      21      22      23

Easter

10:15 Worship

GS 5:30

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24      25      26      27      28      29      30

9 AM Sunday  
School  
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30  
GS 6:30 FH

GS 5:30

Annual  
Meeting