

First Congregational Messenger
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1102 W. Norfolk Ave.
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Serving God with love and faith



March 2023

Volume 5, Issue 101



Stewardship is the topic for March. Watch for your time and talent sheet and your giving card. The time and talent sheet is very important for the office, so please return it, even if it is after the dedication Sunday. Dedication of stewardship and One Great Hour of Sharing will be March 19.

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



Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8-12



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February 23, 2023

Dear Church Members and Friends,

Throughout our faith journey, we are extended several invitations. From the invitation to make our confession of faith to the invitation to care for a sick neighbor, to the invitation to bring food to the next church event, to the invitation to Christ's Table, our life in a community of faith is full of invitations.

Jesus invites us to bring all that we are and all that we have when we become a follower, a disciple of Christ. It is a walk with God that is meant both to form us and, through study, worship, prayer, service and generosity, to strengthen us in becoming powerful agents for the good that God is doing in the world.

Our faithful financial stewardship is one way we are invited to respond to Christ's invitation. Our generosity funds the mission and ministry of the church that we are deploying as a sign that God's Kingdom is among us. In March we begin to reflect on the stewardship theme this year, "From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving". This time of prayerful reflection will top off on **Stewardship Sunday, March 19, 2023** when we dedicate our intentions by offering our Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets for the coming church year. In a couple of weeks, you will receive a letter from Ben Uzzell with the forms and more information.

God continues to do wonderful things through us and with us – things that matter in our community. Your prayers and your participation are keys to creating a pathway to discipleship. We know that when the early church gathered to break bread and share with one another, they did so with glad and generous hearts. 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

From **BREAD** and **CUP** to **FAITH** and **GIVING**.



God's Light Shines Through the Cross

Lent 2023 - Worship Schedule

- 3/5 Lent 2** "Invitation to a New Start" / Communion Sunday
Stewardship Kickoff
- 3/12 Lent 3** "The Saving Goodness of God"
Stewardship Moment
- 3/19 Lent 4** "Darkness Cannot Overpower the Light"
Stewardship Sunday – Dedication of our Pledge Cards and Time & Talent sheets.
Dedication of OGHS special offering
(One Great Hour of Sharing)
- 3/26 Lent 5** Guest Preacher: Randy Neuharth
(Note: Annual and committee reports due to the Office)

Holy Week

- 4/2** Palm/Passion Sunday – Worship in Sanctuary
- 4/6** Maundy Thursday Service, at First Presbyterian Church
(more information to follow)
- 4/9** Easter



Pastor Jackie will be away March 24-26 to be with family and officiate at a family memorial service that Saturday. Thank you to Randy Neuharth for preaching that Sunday. Emergency Pastoral Care coverage to be announced.

IT'S TIME TO SHARE



In Galatians, the Apostle Paul encourages followers of Jesus to generously help and care for others. Though there is great need in the world and we can grow weary because we do not know how to help, God's Spirit energizes and re-energizes us in every season.

We can make a difference. We do make a difference. Your generosity makes all the difference. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world.

The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. **It's time to share.**

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

Esmerelda Robles lives in rural Honduras. She and her neighbors participate in a "pass chain" program. A family receives a pregnant pig, sheep, or cow; families are taught how to feed and care for the animals. When the next piglet, lamb, or calf is born, it is passed on to another family, which in turn will do the same. "A dream we have as a family is to have a micro-business for the production and sale of meat," Esmerelda says. Families now envision a future not possible before. This is just one part of a program to improve food security. This program and its components are made possible because of your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing.



So let's not allow ourselves to get
fatigued doing good. At the right
time we will harvest a good crop
if we don't give up...

— Galatians 6:9

One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

ucc.org/oghs

Top photo by Craig Thompson

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, April 1 at 11:00 AM

First Congregational United Church of Christ

1102 W. Norfolk Ave

AGES THRU 5TH GRADE

Please join us in the Easter Egg Hunt.

Eggs are filled and waiting to be
found

Please bring a bag or basket to carry
your eggs home



Sponsored by:

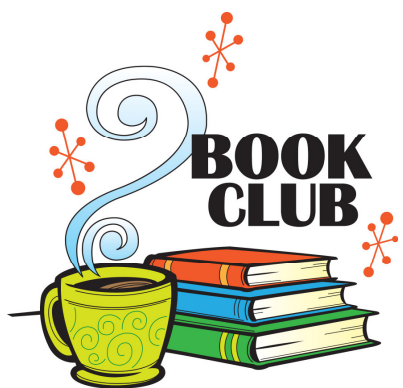
Trinity Episcopal Church

First Presbyterian Church

First Congregational

United Church of Christ

Rain Date Saturday, April 8



Book Club will meet March 8. *Wolf in the Snow* by Matthew Cordell will be the third of past Caldecott winners. (Best picture book of the year) The books can be found in Fellowship Hall 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.



Birthdays

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



March

March 5

Communion: Tom McConnell and Ben Uzzell

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Scott Williams

Leader:

Flowers: Ron and Virginia Barritt

March 12

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Tom McConnell and Sue Surber

Reader:

Flowers: Brian Seier and Xaven Hollmann

March 19

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers:

March 26

Ushers: Sue Surber and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams



April 2 Palm Sunday

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Ushers: Suzan Podliska and Tom McConnell

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Barb Koenig

3 Readers: Reese Uzzell, Verletta Olson, Randy Neuharth

Leader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Palms

April 9 Easter

Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Lilies

April 16

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Charlene Fosdick and Suzan Podliska

Reader: Grace Uzzell

Flowers:

April 23

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Mike Synovec

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers: Erik and Katie Gamerl

April 30

Ushers: Grace Uzzell and Verletta Olson

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:

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

February

From 2/1/23 through 2/28/23

Does not include deposit for 2-26.



Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 3,724.76
Baby Caleb Garcia	\$ 370.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 10,824.62</u>
Subtotal	\$ 14,919.38
Salary	--\$ 6,825.40
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,714.54
Office Expenses	—\$ 428.27
Substitute Organist	—\$ 140.00
Edward Jones Scholarship	----\$ 930.00
Baby Caleb Garcia	—\$ 370.00
OCWM	—\$ 667.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 2,344.17

▶ March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 Worship Ministry Confirmation 6 PM FH	2	3	4
5 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Stewardship Kickoff Renewed Hope 4-7 FH	6	7 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	8 10 Book club Confirmation 6 PM FH	9	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	13 Sue out for the day 6 PM Girl Scouts	14 Sue out for the day 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	15	16	17	18
19 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Stewardship and OGHS Dedication	20	21 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	22 Confirmation 6 PM FH	23	24 Jackie on vacation	25 Girl Scouts 8-5 FH Jackie on vacation
26 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Jackie on vacation	27 6 PM Girl Scouts	28 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	29	30	31	

▶ April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Renewed Hope 4-7 FH	3	4 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	5 10 Worship Ministry	6 Maundy Thursday service	7	8
9 10:15 Worship	10 6 PM Girl Scouts	11 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	12 10 Book club Lifeline Screening 8-6 FH	13	14	15
16 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	17	18 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	19	20	21 Girl Scouts Overnight start at 5 PM	22 Ends at 10AM
23 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	24 6 PM Girl Scouts	25 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	26	27	28	29
30 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Potluck						