

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



November 2024

Volume 5, Issue 121

Sunday, November 3, is the end of Daylight Savings Time. Set your clocks back one hour.



We are hosting the Thanksgiving Eve service with First Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal. Communion will be served.



Christmas Potluck



Christmas potluck with Linaje Escogido on Dec. 8. Turkey and ham will be provided. Please sign up so we have a count for meat preparation.



Pastor's Office Hours

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12
 Afternoons by appointment



Church Secretary

Office Hours
 Monday-Friday
 8-12

May be gone to the doctor with Mom

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How I love this picture because it gives us hope.

Hope yes because we all know this turkey will be pardoned for Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving is a great time for giving thanks for family, friends, and the good life we have. I'm sure our friend feels that way. This month we will celebrate Thanksgiving without war on our soil, and for most Americans, with food in our tummies. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because I spend it with family and loved ones.

One of my favorite scriptures is Psalm 100, which I learned at an early age. When I was in school, in Ft. Wayne, IN, we were allowed to go to religious education one hour a week. A group of churches had a trailer that they would pull up to the parking lot one day a week and by choice you could go to the religious education class for one hour a week. What a great time we had learning! That is where this Psalm became real to me. The teacher used this Psalm to teach during the week of Thanksgiving. We learned about Thanksgiving from a Christian point of view. This most likely would not be allowed today but I am thankful I learned it.

In the month of November, I will be preaching on the Psalms. There are so many good ones. Here is November's sermon series.

November 3- Psalm 23

November 10- Psalm 37:1-7

November 17- Psalm 51:1-12

November 24- Psalm 100

Be encouraged during this time of year for God is Good all the time and enjoy family! Serving You, Pastor Brian



We had a wonderful time on Sunday, October 6. Eight of us went to Mercy Meals to work and bag meals for those who need food . The meals that we bagged all went South to feed those in need following the devastation caused by hurricanes.





Youth Group continues to meet every other week!

First Congregational Youth and First Baptist Youth are meeting – they fellowship, learn, play and pray together!

Pumpkin lesson and carving!



Handbell choir to begin practice on Thursday, Nov. 7 at 5:15 PM.
Practice will be every Thursday at this time.



Food Pantry Needs

Canned Soup

Spaghetti Sauce

Meat helpers (hamburger, tuna, chicken)

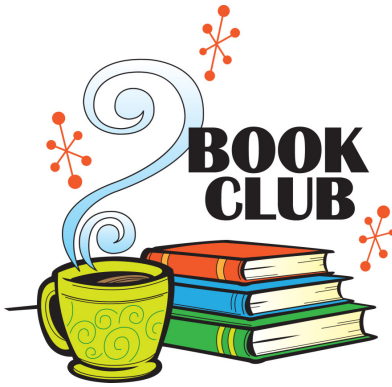
Peanut butter (15-16 oz. size)

Boxed or pouches of Rice dishes (Rice-a-Roni type)

Canned fruit (applesauce, peaches, pears)

All canned & boxed food items are welcome.

Youth are collecting food for the pantry during the month of November.
The food will be dedicated November 24 and delivered after that.



Book Club will meet November 13 at 10 AM. *Bubbie & Rivka's Best Ever Challah (So Far!)* by Sarah Lynne Reul. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

Thank you for all the prayers and all who sent cards, called or came to see me while I was ill. It was nice to hear from my church family and know you were thinking of me. Thanks also to Rev. Brian for his calls and prayers and my sister, Betty who brought food and called nearly every day. Also to my husband who took good care of me, and my children who were there when I needed them. It is great to know you have a family who cares.

God Bless all of you.

Bonnie Kroeger



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.



NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

4th Susan Surber

19th Kay Neuharth

Anniversary

14th Ron and Virginia Barritt

25th Merl and Jeanne Rix



November 3

Communion: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Grace Uzzell
Greeters: Mike Synovec and Jane Uzzell
Reader: Grace Uzzell
Leader: Ben Uzzell
Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

November 10

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Reese Uzzell
Greeters: Darlene Korthals and Pat Jenny
Reader: Verletta Olson
Flowers: Mark and Vicki Walker

November 17

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell
Greeters: Barb Koenig and Susan Surber
Reader: Reese Uzzell
Flowers:

November 24

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Reader: Ben Uzzell
Flowers:



December 1 First Advent

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams
Ushers: Susan Surber and Mike Synovec
Greeters: Rita Woodard and Evonne Burkink
Reader: Jane Uzzell
Leader: Tom McConnell
Flowers: Poinsettias

December 8 Program and Dinner

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Pat Jenny
Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Verletta Olson
Reader: Randy Neuharth
Flowers: Poinsettias

December 15

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams
Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Reader: Tom McConnell
Flowers: Poinsettias

December 22

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Barb Koenig
Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell
Reader: Scott Williams
Flowers: Poinsettias

December 24 Christmas Eve

Ushers: Darlene Korthals and Jane Uzzell
Greeters: Bonnie and Gene Kroeger
Reader: Kay Neuharth
Flowers: Poinsettias

December 29

Ushers: Tom McConnell and Rita Woodard
Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams
Reader: Lori Williams
Flowers: Poinsettias

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

October

From 10/1/24 through 10/31/24

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$	2,555.57
Poinsettias	\$	100.50
Mercy Meals	\$	96.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	\$	<u>17,149.80</u>
Subtotal	\$	19,901.87
Transfer to Savings	—\$	7,110.00
Salary	--\$	6,949.91
Church Maintenance	—\$	2,105.52
Office Expenses	—\$	739.08
Mercy Meals	—\$	47.00
Tri Conference Meeting	—\$	228.41
Insurance	—\$	1,857.67
Conference	—\$	1,555.00
<u>Renner's</u>	—\$	<u>500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$	—1,190.72



▶ November 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

End Daylight
Savings Time
9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

GS 6-7:30

Youth Group
6:30 PM

Bells 5:15
GS 6-7

Sue in Omaha
for dr's appt

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30-7

10 Book club

Bells 5:15

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

GS 6-7:30

Youth Group
6:30 PM

Bells 5:15
GS 6-7

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
Unity Council

GS 5:30-7

Thanksgiving
Eve service
5:30 PM

OFFICE
CLOSED

OFFICE
CLOSED

▶ December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 Hanging of the Greens 10:15 Worship	2 GS 6-7:30	3	4 Youth Group 6:30 PM	5 Bells 5:15 GS 6-7	6	7 Rehearsal
8 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Potluck with Linaje Escojido	9 GS 5:30-7	10	11 10 Book club	12 Bells 5:15	13	14
15 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Open House at Pastor Brian's 2-4 PM	16 GS 6-7:30	17	18 Youth Group 6:30 PM	19 Bells 5:15 GS 6-7	20	21
22 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	23 GS 5:30-7 Sue on vacation	24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve service Sue on vacation	25 OFFICE CLOSED Sue on vacation	26 Sue on vacation	27 Sue on vacation	28 Sue on vacation
29 10:15 Worship	30	31				
	Sue on vacation	Sue on vacation				