

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



November 2025

Volume 5, Issue 133



Please bring the Operation Christmas Child boxes to the church for the November 2 worship service. We will pray over and dedicate the boxes before sending them to be shipped.

Hanging of the Greens will follow the worship service November 23. Soup, sandwiches and salad will be served when the decorating is finished.



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

Pastor's pages	2-3
Announcements	4
Serving	5
Financial Page	6
Calendar	7-8



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## Brian's Beacon

I love the season of fall because of many things. Things like color, cold crisp days, change of the season helps me think about how God is in control. He has set the world in order. Not man and I am so glad. This gives me hope and happiness.

Speaking of happiness, I have come to realize that many people don't realize that happiness is not determined by other people but by God and my attitude. Knowing that God is in control of life and not the news, people, money, food, health, but in the end it is God who brings happiness. So, the word of the day is happiness! How about you, are you happy? There is plenty of stuff to be unhappy about, but I believe that happiness is a choice. The scriptures speak to this for me. Joy is the key word for happiness in the bible. We find Joy in God. And being content in all circumstances, and the blessings that come from living with God. In Philippians 4:4, which says "Rejoice in the Lord always", which encourages people to enjoy the good gifts of God. Yes, we find happiness through faith. I like Psalm 144:15 "Happy are the people whose God is the Lord". Or I Timothy 6:6 "But godliness with contentment is great gain".

One of the great old movies I enjoy is Pollyanna. One reason I like the movie is Pollyanna confronts the preacher about the happy passages in the bible. Over 800 passages! Wow!!!

We all need Pollyanna's heart and attitude and then the world would be a better and happier place.

So, as we move to enjoy the fall, be thankful and happy for all that God has done and is doing in your life.

Pastor Brian

Bible Reading for the Month

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Luke 19-20
2 Luke 21-22	3 Luke 23-24	4 John 1-2	5 John 3-4	6 John 5-6	7 John 7-8	8 John 9-10
9 John 11-12	10 John 13-15	11 John 16-18	12 John 19-21	13 Acts 1-3	14 Acts 4-6	15 Acts 7-8
16 Acts 9-10	17 Acts 11-13	18 Acts 14-15	19 Acts 16-17	20 Acts 18-20	21 Acts 21-23	22 Acts 24-26
23 Acts 27-28	24 Romans 1-3	25 Romans 4-7	26 Romans 8-10	27 Romans 11-13	28 Romans 14-16	29 1 Corinthians 1-4
30 1 Corinthians 5-8						



**Book Club** will meet November 12 at 10 AM. This month's book is the American Indian Youth Literature Award winner. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.



October 26 we celebrated those members who have belonged for 50 years or longer. Pictured are: Barb Koenig, 50; Verletta Olson, 55; Evonne Burkink, 64; seated: Alice Dudley, 61; Rita Woodard, 72; Bonnie Dewell, 73, and Merle Rix, 77. We are fortunate to have so many members with so many years of service!

I would like to thank Pastor Brian for the prayers, visits, cards and the lovely service for Michael. Also to the church family for all the prayers, cards and concerns in this last year of our journey. Special thanks to sister Bonnie for all her help with Mike's funeral. With heartfelt thanks; Tim, Shannon, Wyatt, Keagan, Jo-E, Jenny, Jo-C, Ainsley and Betty Morrison

## NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

4th Susan Surber  
19th Kay Neuharth

### Anniversaries

14th Ron and Virginia Barritt  
25th Merle and Jeanne Rix





### **November 2**

**Communion:** Verletta Olson and Bonnie Kroeger

**Ushers:** Evonne Burkink and Andrea High

**Greeters:** Stacie and Reese Uzzell

**Reader:** Grace Uzzell

**Leader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:**

### **November 9**

**Ushers:** Karen and Susan Allyn

**Greeters:** Barb Koenig and Rita Woodard

**Reader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:** Mark and Vicki Walker

### **November 16**

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Greeters:** Pat Jenny and Mike Synovec

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Flowers:**

### **November 23**

**Ushers:** Jane Uzzell and Grace Uzzell

**Greeters:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Reader:** Lori Williams

**Flowers:**

### **November 30 First Advent**

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Greeters:** Evonne Burkink and Lynne Bichlmeier

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**Flowers:** Poinsettias



### **December 7**

**Communion:** Susan Surber and Andrea High

**Ushers:** Tom McConnell and Reese Uzzell

**Greeters:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Reader:** Jane Uzzell

**Leader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

### **December 14**

**Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Greeters:** Bonnie Dewell and Jane Uzzell

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

### **December 21**

**Ushers:** Barb Koenig and Susan Surber

**Greeters:** Ben and Grace Uzzell

**Reader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

### **December 24 Christmas Eve**

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals

**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Reader:** Andrea High

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

### **December 28**

**Ushers:** Bonnie Dewell and Mike Synovec

**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Reader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:** Poinsettias

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

# October

From 10/1/25 through 10/31/25

## Checking account information

Beginning balance	——\$ 5,016.38
Transfer from Savings	\$ 5,000.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 23,877.06</u>
Subtotal	\$ 23,860.68
Salary	--\$ 7,245.49
Church Maintenance	—\$ 1,463.32
Office Expenses	—\$ 576.37
Living Waters Association	—\$ 258.00
Youth Group	—\$ 25.31
Insurance	—\$ 1,031.08
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Nebraska Conference	—\$ 1,185.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	——\$ 11,506.11



# ▶ November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 LWA Meeting
2 Daylight Savings Ends 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	3	4	5 6:30 Galatians Group	6	7	8
9 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	10 Girl Scouts 5:30-7	11	12 10 Book club	13	14 Delphians 1 FH	15
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Hanging of the Greens	24 Girl Scouts 5:30-7	25	26 Thanksgiving Eve at First Presbyterian 5:30 PM	27 Thanksgiving Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29
30 10:15 Worship Unity Council						

# ► December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Program and dinner	Girl Scouts 5:30-7		10 Book club			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship						Burkink Wedding
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	Girl Scouts 5:30-7 Sue vacation	Sue vacation	Christmas Eve service Sue vacation	Sue vacation Brian vacation	Sue vacation Brian vacation	
28	29	30	31			
10:15 Worship	Sue vacation Brian vacation	Sue vacation Brian vacation	Sue vacation Brian vacation			