

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.



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

Afternoons by appointment



Office Hours
Monday-Friday

8-12

May be gone to the
doctor with Mom

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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.

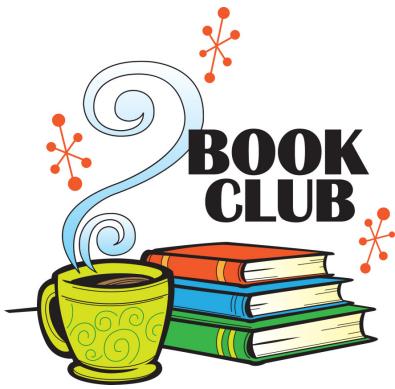
So, as we move to enjoy the fall, be thankful and happy for all that God has done and is doing in your life.

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

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 |
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| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | LWA Meet-ing |

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|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| Daylight Savings Ends | | | 6:30 Galatians Group | | | |
| 9:00 Sunday School | | | | | | |
| 10:15 Worship | | | | | | |

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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
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| 9:00 Sunday School | Girl Scouts 5:30-7 | | 10 Book club | | Delphians 1 FH | |
| 10:15 Worship | | | | | | |

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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
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| 9:00 Sunday School | | | | | | |
| 10:15 Worship | | | | | | |

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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
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|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|---------------|---------------|--|
| 9:00 Sunday School | Girl Scouts 5:30-7 | | Thanksgiving Eve at First Presbyterian 5:30 PM | Thanksgiving | | |
| 10:15 Worship | | | | Office Closed | | |
| Hanging of the Greens | | | | | Office Closed | |

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| 30 | | | | | | |
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| 10:15 Worship | | | | | | |
| Unity Council | | | | | | |

► December 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
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| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
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|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------|--|--|--|
| 9:00 Sunday School | Girl Scouts 5:30-7 | | 10 Book club | | | |
| 10:15 Worship | | | | | | |
| Program and dinner | | | | | | |

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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
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| 9:00 Sunday School | | | | | | Burkink Wedding |
| 10:15 Worship | | | | | | |

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| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
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| 9:00 Sunday School | Girl Scouts 5:30-7 | | Christmas Eve service | | | |
| 10:15 Worship | | | | Sue vacation | Sue vacation | |
| | Sue vacation | Sue vacation | Sue vacation | Brian vacation | Brian vacation | |

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| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
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| 10:15 Worship | Sue vacation | Sue vacation | Sue vacation | | | |
| | Brian vacation | Brian vacation | Brian vacation | | | |