

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



October 4, 2020

World Communion Sunday –Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

October 2020

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A quilt was donated by Nancy Brown to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. We will raffle it with the winner to be announced on Oct. 25, UCC Higher Education Sunday. Tickets can be purchased on Sundays or in the office.

1 ticket for \$1, 6 tickets for \$5, 12 tickets for \$10, 25 tickets for \$20.



Pastor's Office Hours

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



Office Hours
 Mon-Fri
 8-12

Holy, Holy, Holy



Our 150th Anniversary started a couple of years ago when Gene Kroeger built the replica of our first church building for the 150th city parade. By January 2018, Nancy Brown, Evonne Burkink and Susan Surber were asking the congregation to pick a square for the 150th Anniversary Quilt project; delivering the completed quilt that fall! Support Team scheduled outdoor painting (west) for 2019, and the Korthal's power washed the building this summer.

The 150th Team (Bonnie Kroeger, Verletta Olson, Rita Woodard, and I) began meeting in 2019 and planned much by the time of the covid-19 shut down in March. We postponed a summer neighborhood picnic and a Saturday September 12th dinner and program with honored guests.

In worship Sunday, September 13th, the church finally celebrated 150 years of ministry. A Touch of Brass: Dave Bohnert-Trumpet, Gary Reeves-French Horn, Randy Neuharth-Trombone, Josh Calkin-Tuba, and Keven McCouth-Trumpet, and our organist, Jill Waterbury, played music throughout the service. The Brass played for fifteen minutes before the service. As requested, worshipers wore masks throughout the service.

The congregation sang selected verses of: 'The Church's One Foundation', 'Holy, Holy, Holy' and 'How Great Thou Art'. Often, we sang 'Holy, Holy, Holy' as an opening hymn and at church anniversaries. We sang it in the new City Auditorium at the first worship service immediately after fire destroyed our second church building on January 12, 1944.

We welcomed former Interim Pastor (2000-2002), Rev. Dr. Suzanne Burris and her husband, Arne, who drove from Mitchell, SD. I read blessings from Revs. Tom Guenther and Coral Parmenter. Nebraska Conference Minister, Rev. Darrell Goodwin, recorded an electronic blessing. Jim Luellen's note came the following Monday and is printed in this newsletter.

Scripture Reader, Ben Uzzell, read the story and responsive hymn from Exodus 14 and 15 about the Israelites' escape through the sea and Moses and Miriam's victory song. My reflection, "In It for the Long Haul", announced that God is with us for the long haul, as God has been with our ancestors.

Verletta Olson shared stories of our early founder, Col. Charles Mathewson and "Leading the Way Pastors" including: Kidder, Parker, Booth, Andress, Adams, Johnson, Kline, and Brinkmeyer. Pictures of the pastors were shown on the screen. The team plans to share more stories in the future that they have collected about the laity and the building. Under my mask, I am smiling. – Pastor Jackie



Rev. Darrell Goodwin has been called to be Conference Minister of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Conference came into being on January 1st this year with the coming together of the historic Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Conferences. Thank you, Darrell, for your work in Nebraska.



THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE!

Chaplain Gordon Braun has been called by Pierce United Church of Christ as their new one-quarter-time Pastor. He will also continue as Chaplain for Ascera Care hospice in the region. Gordon said that his many years with First Congregational/Norfolk as Guest Preacher makes him excited about serving a UCC congregation.



Worship - Upcoming Dates

- October 4** **World Communion/Neighbors In Need Special Offering**
- October 11** **Heritage Sunday** – honoring members of 50 years or more.
- November 1** **Remembrance Saints** – Remembering saints of the past (sometimes referred to as “All Saints Sunday”), with special attention on those who have died since early November 2019.



Thanks to A Touch of Brass!

Thanks to Randy Neuharth for suggesting and generously sponsoring A Touch of Brass to play at our 150th worship celebration on September 13. The music provided by The Brass and Jill Waterbury (organist) was meaningful and memorable.

Welcome to the family of First Congregational UCC! Henry Gamerl was confirmed September 20, 2020.





Community Update

Stacy Schenk, Community Support Specialist at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, met with clergy at their weekly Zoom on September 22nd. By guiding people to DHHS, she said, churches can be of help for those seeking assistance for rent, medical bills, and other bills. Nebraska received grant dollars to aid people during the pandemic and is look-

ing for people to help because the money must be spent by the end of December. The church has an updated “Pink Sheet” that helps people connect with various agencies.

Ms. Schenk reported that “thousands more” are seeking economic assistance. In April was the highest number of inquiries in the last 15 years, and the numbers are still at record highs. Because of COVID-19 fall out people’s income is decreasing due to job cuts, health issues, higher cost of food for example. For people 16 to 62, if they qualify, they may get help through Medicaid expansion. They are accepting applications now and on October 1st, funds begin to be available.

Stacy is one of four coordinators in the state and works with Family Norfolk Collaborative, Community Response Group, and others to help families. They have many specialty programs including funds to help refugee resettlement and certain programs to help kids.



Adult Education: GED and ESL Classes. Northeast Community College has a grant to provide GED (Grade Equivalent Diploma) and ESL (English as a Second Language). Classes are free for all students with a commitment to complete the entire program (40 hours GED, or 60 hours ESL). They are seeking more volunteer teachers, and more students. Teachers will receive an orientation (date/time TBA), lesson plans and Burlington English software. Classes may be taught in person or through Zoom. Libraries and churches often have meeting space. Contact: Amaris Stebbing at astebbi1@northeast.edu .

An Invitation from Norfolk Area Pride:

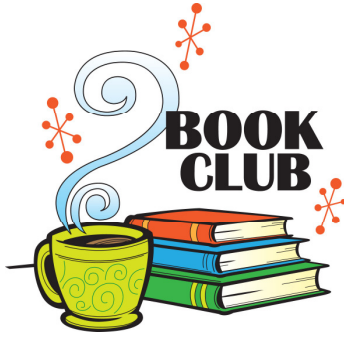
Norfolk Area Pride is coming out on

National Coming Out Day: Sunday, October 11.

“Calling all LGBTQ+ folks and allies to show solidarity on October 11 by sporting some awesome new swag. Just type in the link below to order your t-shirts, window clings, and yard signs, then display them on October 11!!! <https://forms.gle/xHZAn1e5CJvjeJc86> All proceeds support Norfolk Area Pride!”

We're
COMING OUT
SUNDAY 10/11/2020





Book club meets October 14, Fellowship Hall at 10 AM.
Bring your own beverage.

Large Crystal Punch bowl with 12 cups. Indiana glass design, red trim on edge in very good condition \$25 Contact Mike Synovec 402-379-4042



Dear friends at First Congregational UCC,
Norfolk, NE

Best wishes for a wonderful 150 celebration even though everything is curtailed at this difficult time. Greetings to all of you who will be present and to those who, like us, will be present in thoughts only. Sincerely, Jim and Diane Luellen

Dear Members of First Congregational UCC,
We are so happy to hear of your special celebration of your 150 years! Here's to another 150 years of faithful service to God and your community. During these times of COVID-19, it was truly a special celebration, I'm sure. Congratulations!
Sue Shear and NE Conference UCC
Board of Directors



October 17, 2020 – All online
IA, NE, SC Joint Annual Meeting
“Faith in Public, the Church’s Role in Civic Life”

For more info, visit: <https://ucctcm.org/annualmeeting/>



Birthday

7th Phyllis Ames

Anniversary

2nd Gene and Darlene Korthals



October 4

Communion: Scott and Lori Williams,
Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Cole Uzzell

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Scott Williams

Leader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Garry and Suzan Podliska

October 11

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Barb Koenig

Reader: Chuck Balsiger

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

October 18

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Verletta Olson

Greeters: Terry Hamilton and Suzan Podliska

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

October 25

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Susan Surber

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:



November 1

Communion: Evonne Burkink, Verletta Olson,
Scott and Lori Williams

Ushers: Barb Koenig and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Susan Surber and Jane Uzzell

Reader: Verletta Olson

Leader: Chuck Balsiger

Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

November 8

Ushers: Lori and Scott Williams

Greeters: Tom McConnell and Cole Uzzell

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers:

November 15

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Rita Woodard

Reader: Karen Allyn

Flowers:

November 22

Ushers: Suzan Podliska and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Mike Synovec and Ed Lindsay

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

November 29 First Sunday of Advent

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers:

Please notify the office if you are not able to attend on Sunday.

September

From 9/1/20 through 9/30/20



Checking account information

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning balance | \$ 330.58 |
| <u>Weekly deposits</u> | <u>\$11,269.00</u> |
| Subtotal | \$11,599.58 |
| Salary | --\$ 7,227.83 |
| Church Maintenance | —\$ 1,714.75 |
| Office Expenses | —\$ 859.38 |
| Renner's | —\$ 755.00 |
| Insurance | —\$ 2,246.00 |
| Substitute Organist | ---\$ 70.00 |
| Cash | —\$ 100.00 |
| OCWM | —\$ 689.00 |
| <u>Gift Card</u> | <u>---\$ 50.00</u> |
| Final Balance | \$ -2112.38 |

Linaje Escogido \$800.00 was deposited in Madison County Bank.

▶ October 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 7 Card Group | 3 |
| 4 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship World Communion | 5 | 6 5:30 Girl Scouts | 7 | 8 | 9 1 Delphins FH 5 Card Group | 10 |
| 11 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 12 | 13 5:30 Girl Scouts 7 PM Unity Council FH | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Tri-Conference Digital Annual Meeting |
| 18 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 19 | 20 5:30 Girl Scouts | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 26 | 27 5:30 Girl Scouts Sue vacation | 28 Sue vacation | 29 Sue vacation | 30 Sue vacation | 31 Sue vacation |

▶ November 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|----------------|---|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Daylight Saving Time Ends 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | ?Sue vacation? | 5:30 Girl Scouts ?Sue vacation? | ?Sue vacation? | ?Sue vacation? | 7 Card Group ?Sue vacation? | ?Sue vacation? |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | | 5:30 Girl Scouts 7 PM Unity Council FH | | | 5 Card Group | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | | 5:30 Girl Scouts | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | | 5:30 Girl Scouts | Thanksgiving Eve service | OFFICE CLOSED | OFFICE CLOSED | |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |
| 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | | | | | | |

Poinsettias

This year Shamrock Nursery will be offering poinsettias, in a 7 1/2” pot for \$13. We are able to get them in red, white, burgundy, or ice punch. Please indicate your color and if you would like a message in the bulletin for the season. Orders need to be in by **Nov. 1**

- red
- white
- burgundy
- ice punch

Order for: _____

Message:

Burgundy



Ice Punch

