

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



September 2021
Volume 5, Issue 83

Sunday School begins again on September 12. There will be regular class to begin the new season. Balloons will decorate the church and we will have cookies in a bag after services.



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A congregational meeting has been called for September 19 following the worship service to vote on a by-law change for the number required for a quorum and to discuss the finances of the church.



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

Confidence



To highlight the church's 150th Anniversary Free Summer Concert, The Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors arrived on Wednesday morning, August 18th to congratulate the church and offer best wishes. Members of the red blazer brigade were curious about the church replica that Gene Krueger had built in 2016 for a parade float celebrating Norfolk's 150th anniversary. Verletta shared how the first pastor's wife, Mary Kidder, was involved with early education in our pioneer town. Gene told the story of the fateful fire of 1944.

About the fire, one ambassador commented, "That's amazing; you held it together after the fire for 6 years with no church building, and no internet!"

I'd never heard it put quite that way and have been reflecting on this. In 1944, church membership was quite large, and many people were off to war. How did we communicate? How did we hold it together?

The ambassadors presented the church with a certificate that read: "*May the confidence you have shown in this community and its economy be rewarded with a lifetime of success.*" I'm grateful for these words, and I would add these words of our faith:

"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
And he is the head of the body, the church... "(Colossians 1:17-18).

The confidence we have in Christ gives us the vision to see that Christ has always held us together.

Peace, Pastor Jackie

Free Summer Concert: A good time had by all



Nearly 70 people turned out for the concert by A Touch of Brass, Sunday afternoon August 22nd. Memorial funds from the family of Steve Uzzell made the free community concert possible. The event was in honor of the church's 150th Anniversary. Due to the pandemic, we had to postpone summer 2020 celebration plans.

The band played a wide range of music including a premier of a piece titled, "Pioneer Trail", that had been commissioned through an Air Force grant. The composer, Daniel Thrower, is a friend of band members, Randy Neuharth and Josh Calkin. A Touch of Brass is one of 10 Quintets to premier the piece. The concert ended with the hymn, 'Beautiful Savior'. On a windy day, neither the sheet music nor tents blew away—God is good!

Youth are planning a food drive in October

They will invite the congregation to bring in canned goods October, 3, 10 & 17 for Norfolk Community Food Pantry. Here is a list of their needs:

- Boxed potatoes
- Rice (white & brown / regular & minute types)
- Canned beans (not green beans)
- Canned vegetables (peas, carrots, corn, etc.)
- Peanut Butter
- Canned tomatoes
- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Crackers (soup & snack types)
- Chicken & Tuna Helper
- Vegetable oil
- Baking items & spices





October 3. Neighbors in Need (NIN) Special Offering to be Dedicated The 2021 Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects serving our homeless and immigrant neighbors and communities. 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 provide funding grants to the UCC churches and organization leading

justice initiatives and advocacy efforts and direct service projects in their communities.



Worship in the Season of Covid-19

Worship Team met in August. In light of an increase in recent Covid cases, the team encourages people to wear a mask and to social distance.

August 24 we were the recipient of \$5,000 from the Rev. Gail Axen trust held by Sharon Sanford. Rev. Axen was a pastor at Stanton and was the pastor for Civil Air Patrol for many years when they met here. Sharon was in charge of the Civil Air Patrol when they met here and agreed with Rev. Axen that we had been excellent hosts and should be a beneficiary of his estate. What a Blessing!!!!





**Pack Away Hunger Day,
Sunday October 3, 2021, 4PM-5:30PM**

First Congregational UCC has reserved a table that will accommodate 8-10 volunteers to assemble and package meals to be sent to children around the world. Mercy Meals is asking for \$260 to cover food and shipping. To donate, you may write a check to the church with the note "Mercy

Meals". Volunteers 7 years of age or older are welcome. A sign-up sheet will be available in September.

September 19

We plan to honor veterans from
First Congregational UCC:
Merle Rix, Gary Podliska,
Jeff Burkink, Ben Uzzell,
Paige Uzzell



**PAYING TRIBUTE TO
OUR VETERANS**

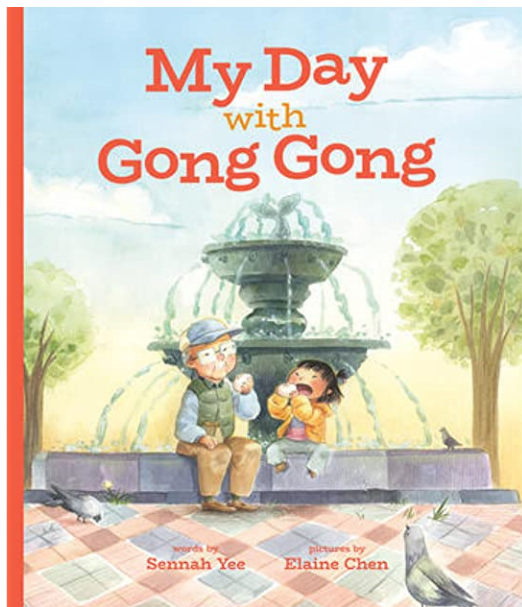
Our family would like to thank everyone for all of the kindnesses extended when we lost our Lowell! Special thank you to Pastor Jackie for the beautiful and comforting service. And Gene- thank you for setting up Fellowship Hall! Evonne- the tables for the luncheon looked beautiful and a tribute to Lowell! ♥

We are forever grateful!

Pat Jenny and family

**THANK
you.**

Thank you for your understanding and patience as I have been in and out of the office helping Karen. As we go forward, my office hours may need to change to allow me to continue to care for her. Thank you!
Susan Allyn



Book Club will continue on September 8 with *My Day with Gong Gong* by S. Yee. Jane Uzzell will have the book if you are interested.



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. The church buys \$1000 of gift cards for \$970, so we get \$30 for the budget. 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.

SEPTEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2nd Jill Waterbury
- 4th Gene Korthals
Candice Korthals
- 9th Sara Wingett
- 16th Cole Uzzell
Benjamin Wingett
- 18th Sara Putters
- 21st Jackie Perry
- 24th Vicki Staab
Brandi Rossman
- 26th Lois Williams
- 28th Sandy McConnell





September

September 5

Communion: Verletta Olson and Susan Surber

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Barb Koenig

Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Bonnie Dewell

Reader: Lori Williams

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

September 12 Rally Day

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Henry Gamerl

Flowers: Erik and Katie Gamerl

September 19 Veteran Recognition

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

September 26

Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Verletta Olson

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers:



OCTOBER

October 3

Communion: Ben Uzzell and Tom McConnell

Ushers: Suzan Podliska and Susan Surber

Greeters: Evonne Burkink, Barb Koenig

Reader: Chuck Balsiger

Leader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

October 10

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers:

October 17

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

October 24

Ushers: Charlene Fosdick and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Chuck Balsiger

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers: Jane Uzzell

October 31

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Verletta Olson

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers:

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

August

From 8/1/21 through 8/31/21

This does not include the deposit for 8/29.



Checking account information

Beginning balance	—\$ 7,124.34
Scholarships	\$ 1,000.00
Gift from Rev. Axen	\$ 5,000.00
Transfer from Ed Jones	\$ 8,000.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 10,077.34</u>
Subtotal	\$ 16,953.00
Salary	--\$ 5,744.70
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,555.29
Office Expenses	—\$ 1,459.42
Faith Development	—\$ 34.21
Substitute Organist	—\$ 210.00
Scholarships	—\$ 1,000.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 755.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 5,194.38

▶ September 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

10 Worship
Ministry

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

10:15 Worship

OFFICE
CLOSED

10 Book Club

To Norfolk
with Love

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

7 PM Unity
Council

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
Congregational
meeting

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

26 27 28 29 30

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

Pastor Jackie
on vacation

▶ October 2021

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

4 PM Mercy
Meals

10 Worship
Ministry

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

10 Book Club

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

31

Remembrance
9 AM Sunday
School
10:15 Worship