First Congregational Messenger

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

September 2022
Volume 5, Issue 95

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The new program year begins on September 11. Sunday School begins at 9 AM.

Monday-Thursday 10-4

Other times by appointment

May be out of the office for meetings or visits

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8-12

Gratitude

Imagine this hammock hanging between two tall corn stalks. For my time away, September 15-21, I will be in Iowa visiting my brother and sister-in-law, who live in Georgia but will be visiting my mother in Iowa. I regret that I will miss my hometown's *Great Pumpkin Bash* by one week. Maybe next year.

This winter, the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences asked United Church of Christ congregations to give their pastors an extra week of paid vacation as a way to acknowledge their leadership through a long and often stressful season of Covid. This request was also made in light of what has been called, The Great Resignation.

The Conference created a worship liturgy (prayers, call to worship, etc.) for the Sunday the pastor is away. I forwarded the request letter to the Moderator. It really was a joy for me to receive this bonus vacation of a week. It felt like an affirmation from Council and a generous congregation with whom I have traveled through this long, weird pandemic.

Covid is still with us, but now we have vaccines and other drugs to help people get over the virus more quickly, keeping most folks out of the hospitals and out of danger.

Thank you to Randy Neuharth, who will serve as guest preacher on September 18; to the congregation for your leadership through this season; and for this bonus time away.

In appreciation,
Pastor Jackie

Opportunities to "Serve with faith and love"

Saturday Morning, <u>September 10th</u>, 2022, will be the 5th annual **To Norfolk With Love** event. Each year TNWL organizes projects all around Norfolk which benefit our city, non-profit organizations, and individuals in need in our community. No matter the volunteer's ability level, we have a project they can volunteer to participate in. Event Day Registration and Check-In begin at 8:00 am, a Send-Off Prayer and Celebration at 8:40am, and Project Kick-Off at 9:00am. A free T-shirt is guaranteed for everyone who registers by September 1st. You may volunteer as a group, a family, or as an individual. It's a fun, well-organized event and you are done by noon. Register online and chose a project at https://www.tonorfolkwithlove.com/

Saturday afternoon, <u>September 10th</u> Noon to 6 PM
A free family event at the Norfolk Art Center, including Love & Belonging Story Corner, Panel Discussions, Live Music, Vendors, Food Trucks, Crafts, Keynote Speaker, Bounce Houses, and more.

When I attended this event last year I was delighted by all the smiles, and amazed by all the efforts of so many to create this family event in Norfolk. I was especially impressed by the parents' panel discussion—moms and dads telling stories about when their children came out to them. These were stories of transformation. I wanted to hear from other panelists about what it was/is like to live in Norfolk as an LGBTQ person.

I go *to support* my brothers and sisters who are LGBTQ and their families; and *to help* my city to be a welcoming place. I go as a witness. A witness is "One who testifies to what is known to be true, especially in relation to the Christian gospel." You and I are witnesses to Jesus Christ (John1:7) and the Christian faith (Acts 1:8, 2:32).

What do you do when the church is invited to attend the Pride family festival?
I want *to go and see*. For more information, go to:
https://www.norfolkareapride.org/pride-fest *--Pastor Jackie*

Do you want to make a difference in World Hunger? FCUCC is waiting to receive an **October 2,** afternoon time slot for the annual **Pack Away Hunger event.** Sign-up sheet coming soon!

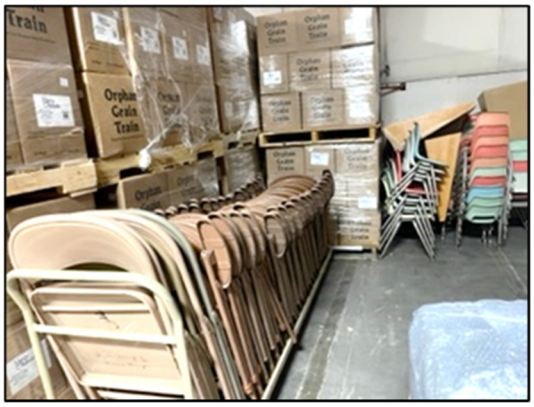
Confirmation Class to Start

The joint Confirmation class, led by Pastor Jackie and Pastor Brian Johnson from First Presbyterian Church, will be using a new curriculum, *Confirm Not Conform* (CnC). Various versions are designed for UCC, Presbyterians, Methodists and other denominations.

The purpose of CnC is to encourage youth to be honest about what they believe, to ask questions, to search for answers, and to discuss ideas. The class will include class work, field trips, and service opportunities. As in the past, we will invite people from the congregation to join us on a trip or for a class, so the confirmands may learn from others that following Christ is a life-long journey.

UPDATE: Donations Shipment to Democratic Republic of Congo

Alice messaged that the donations from First Congregational and other churches have not been shipped yet from Orphan Grain Train. Hopefully they will ship soon, and the churches in Africa will have the robes and chairs in November.



Pastor Alice sent these pictures to show *why* the chairs are so needed. Please pray that the trailers will be shipped soon.

Living Waters Association ▪ Annual Fall Gathering to be held on November 12, 2022. The LWA Council is excited to share that we will be meeting in person this year at the Pierce United Church of Christ. We will also again be offering virtual attendance. More details to follow at https://www.livingwatersassociation.org/

Conference Joint Annual Meeting ▪ Every year the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences of the United Church of Christ (UCC) gather to make important decisions regarding their ministry, business, and future. It is also a time for us to learn, grow, and celebrate! Depending on the year, the three Conferences gather separately or all together.

In 2022, we will be gathering jointly on the afternoon of October 9th through the morning of October 11th. The event will be hybrid, offering ways to participate in person or online. The in-person form of the gathering will take place in Sioux City, IA. The event will be centered around the theme

"Loving Is Who We Are" and 1 Corinthians 13:7 – *There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.*

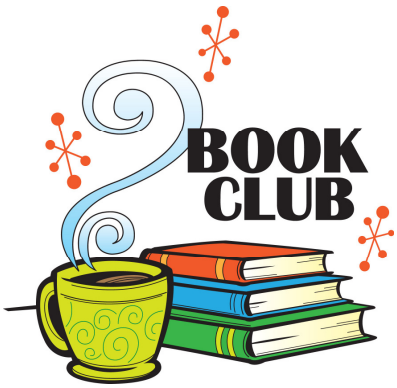
For more information go to: https://ucctcm.org/annualmeeting/

Church Photo Directory

STAY CONNECTED
Susan will print the new friends and members church directory after Labor Day. It will be ready to pick up Rally Sunday, September 11th.

Pastor Jackie will be on vacation September 15-21, returning Thursday, September 22nd. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Chaplin Jim Wonnacott (402-992-2468) Sunday, September 18 he will be out of town.

Book Club will meet September 14. *The Elephants Come Home* by Kim Tomsic. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.



Thanks for all the thoughts, sympathy and cards given to us at the loss of Garry's brother and sister-in-law. We appreciate the support of our church family.

Garry and Suzan Podliska

Birthdays

2nd	Jill Waterbury
4th	Gene Korthals
	Candice Korthals
8th	Jeanne Rix
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 4
Communion: Tom McConnell and Ben Uzzell
Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams
Greeters: Verletta Olson and Suzan Podliska
Reader: Scott Williams
Leader: Tom McConnell
Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

September 11 **Rally Day**
Ushers: Bonnie Dewell
Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Reader: Lori Williams
Flowers:

September 18
Ushers: Barb Koenig and Jane Uzzell
Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals
Reader: Chuck Balsiger
Flowers:

September 25
Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Susan Surber
Reader: Verletta Olson
Flowers:

October 2
Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals
Greeters: Tom McConnell and Ed Lindsay
Reader: Kay Neuharth
Leader: Randy Neuharth
Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

October 9
Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth
Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger
Reader: Tom McConnell
Flowers:

October 16
Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Mike Synovec
Greeters: Chuck Balsiger and Bonnie Dewell
Reader: Ben Uzzell
Flowers:

October 23
Ushers: Susan Surber and Tom McConnell
Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Charlene Fosdick
Reader: Reese Uzzell
Flowers:

October 30
Ushers: Suzan Podliska and Grace Uzzell
Greeters: Barb Koenig and Reese Uzzell
Reader: Jane Uzzell
Flowers:

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

August

From 8/1/22 through 8/31/22

Checking account information

Beginning balance	$ — 966.35
Transfer from savings	$ 4,915.00
Weekly deposits	$ 9,756.20
Subtotal	$ 12,984.85
Salary	--$ 7,519.11
Church Maintenance	—$ 2,142.30
Office Expenses	—$ 1,410.31
Substitute Organist	—-$ 140.00
Mercy Meals	—-$ 150.00
Faith Development	—--$ 149.00
Pastor's Continuing Ed	——$ 140.00
OCWM,	—-$ 1,069.00
Renner's	—-$ 500.00
Final Balance	—-$ 234.87

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:15 Worship Renewed Hope 4-7 FH	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	7 10 Worship Ministry	8	9 Sue out of office	10
11 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	12	13 Sue out of office 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	14 10 Book club	15 Jackie on vacation	16 Jackie on vacation	17 Jackie on vacation
18 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Jackie on vacation	19 Sue out of office until 9:30 AM Jackie on vacation	20 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Jackie on vacation	21 Jackie on vacation	22	23	24
25 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	26	27 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	28	29	30	

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Renewed Hope 4-7 FH	3	4 Sue out of office until 10 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	5 Sue out of office until 10 10 Worship Ministry	6	7	8
9 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Tri-Conference Annual Meeting	10 Tri-Conference Annual Meeting	11 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Tri-Conference Annual Meeting	12 10 Book club	13 Sue out of office until 10	14	15
16 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	17	18 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	19	20	21	22
23 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	24	25 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	26	27	28	29
30 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Potluck	31					