

First Congregational Messenger
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1102 W. Norfolk Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701
402-371-0701

firstconougcc@fastmail.com
Serving God with love and faith



September 2025

Volume 5, Issue 131



Rally Sunday is September 7. Sunday School begins again and the Adult class will be working through Max Lucado's book "Unshakable Hope" Classes begin at 9 and all are welcome to join.



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	4-5
Serving	6
Financial Page	7
Calendar	8-9



Brian's Beacon

As the season progresses, so does our spiritual life. Each day is a new day and a day to grow closer to God. We can grow closer by our prayers, study, reading and fellowship with him.

By the time you read this, we will have a great start to our fall programming. Rev. Roberto Ochoa has been here and blessed us as well as the Linaje Church.

Youth groups have begun and school has started. The leaves will be changing, and weather has cooled down. But our life spiritually needs not to cool down but to warm up. Maybe Sunday School will help you with that since it starts on September 7th. The book the adults are studying is "Unshakable Hope" which unpacks 12 of God's promises. My encouragement to you is get involved. I'm praying about starting a Bible study group that would meet every other Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00pm. If you're interested, please let me know! It would be a study through a book of the Bible.

I hope that you will grow with me this fall!

Pastor Brian

Bible Reading for the Month

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> Ezekiel 9-12	<i>2</i> Ezekiel 13-15	<i>3</i> Ezekiel 16-17	<i>4</i> Ezekiel 18-20	<i>5</i> Ezekiel 21-22	<i>6</i> Ezekiel 23-24
<i>7</i> Ezekiel 25-27	<i>8</i> Ezekiel 28-30	<i>9</i> Ezekiel 31-33	<i>10</i> Ezekiel 34-36	<i>11</i> Ezekiel 37-39	<i>12</i> Ezekiel 40-42	<i>13</i> Ezekiel 43-45
<i>14</i> Ezekiel 46-48	<i>15</i> Daniel 1-3	<i>16</i> Daniel 4-6	<i>17</i> Daniel 7-9	<i>18</i> Daniel 10-12	<i>19</i> Hosea 1-7	<i>20</i> Hosea 8-14
<i>21</i> Joel	<i>22</i> Amos 1-5	<i>23</i> Amos 6-9	<i>24</i> Obadiah- Jonah	<i>25</i> Micah 1-7	<i>26</i> Nahum 1-3	<i>27</i> Habakkuk- Zephaniah
<i>28</i> Haggai 1-2	<i>29</i> Zechariah 1-7	<i>30</i> Zechariah 8-14				

Yard cleanup crew worked to eliminate weeds, trim trees, put mulch around the roses, and clean the parking lot. Pictured are Pastor Brian, Micah, Jane, Ben and Grace. Not pictured are Stacie, Reese, and Josh.



Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled **Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By filling ordinary shoeboxes full of toys and other fun items, you can be part of giving boys and girls what may be their first gift ever! Local churches in more than 100 nations hand out these Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way. Each box bursting with items such as a soccer ball, doll, or stuffed animal becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community.





Book Club will meet September 10 at 10 AM. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

The October 8 book club book is about a rescue dog. So in September, if you are able, please bring pet items to church. They will be given to the Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska when Lisa, the shelter manager comes to share information with us on October 8.

Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska wish list. Please share what you can September thru October 8. Thank you!

NON-CLUMPING Cat Litter
 Purina One Dry Dog Food
 Purina One Dry Cat Food
 Purina One Dry Kitten Food
 Kitten Milk Replacer
 Tri-fold Paper Towels
 Laundry Detergent
 Bleach
 Floor Cleaner/Pine Sol
 55 Gallon heavy duty Trash Bags
 Gift Cards--from any of these: Walmart, Chewy, Hy-Vee, or Visa

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.

See you at the table in Fellowship Hall! Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402) 640-6623.



SEPTEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

2nd Jill Waterbury
 4th Gene Korthals
 Candice Korthals
 8th Jeannie Rix
 16th Cole Uzzell
 18th Sara Putters
 26th Lois Williams
 28th Sandy McConnell

Anniversaries

26th Pastor Brian and Andrea High



September 7

Communion: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Ushers: Stacie and Reese Uzzell

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Mike Synovec

Reader: Lori Williams

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

September 14

Ushers: Andrea High and Jane Uzzell

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

September 21

Ushers: Karen Allyn and Barb Koenig

Greeters: Lynne Bichlmeier and Tom McConnell

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:

September 28

Ushers: Bonnie and Gene Kroeger

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Andrea High

Flowers:



October 5

Communion: Bonnie and Gene Kroeger

Ushers: Pat Jenny and Susan Surber

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Tom McConnell

Leader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:

October 12

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Verletta Olson and Andrea High

Reader: Reese Uzzell

Flowers: Mark and Vicki Walker

October 19

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Karen Allyn and Susan Surber

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers:

October 26

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

August

From 8/1/25 through 8/31/25

This does not include the deposit for 8/31



Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 1,265.48
Transfer from Savings	\$ 3,500.00
Transfer from Ed Jones	\$ 5,000.00
Transfer from Scholarship	\$ 500.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 6,475.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 16,740.48
Salary	--\$ 7,212.58
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,334.77
Office Expenses	—\$ 2,090.37
Mercy Meals	—\$ 200.00
Insurance	—\$ 1,031.08
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Nebraska Conference	—\$ 1,105.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 2,196.68

Office Expenses include Pastor's new laptop.

► September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 6:30 Youth Group	4	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	8 Girl Scouts 5:30-7	9	10 10 Book club	11	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	15	16	17 6:30 Youth Group at First Baptist	18	19	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	22 Girl Scouts 5:30-7	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	29	30				

► October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Youth Group at First Baptist	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	6	7	8 10 Book club	9	10	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	13 Girl Scouts 5:30-7	14	15 6:30 Youth Group	16	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	27 Girl Scouts 5:30-7	28	29 6:30 Youth Group	30	31	