

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*



June 2024

Volume 5, Issue 116

# Congregational Meeting



Congregational Meeting is set for June 9 to elect a new vice moderator. Brian Seier has moved and Ben Uzzell has volunteered to serve.

Pastor Jackie's last Sunday will be June 30. A Conference representative will be here to witness her release from our congregation. Come celebrate her 10 years of ministry with us on the 30th!



## PASTOR'S HOURS

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



Office Hours  
Monday-Friday  
8-12

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# Logos

Someone recently said, “Gen-Z loves abbrev’s”. Abbreviations and words are just *symbols* for something or an idea, such as “FB” is used for Facebook. Below are a few symbols that we might commonly see around the church.



The symbol of the **United Church of Christ** comprises a crown, cross and orb enclosed within a double oval bearing the name of the church and the prayer of Jesus, “*That they may all be one*” (John 17:21). It is based on an ancient Christian symbol called the “Cross of Victory” or the “Cross Triumphant.” The crown symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ. The cross recalls the suffering of Christ - his arms outstretched on the wood of the cross - for the salvation of humanity. The orb, divided into three parts, reminds us of Jesus’ command to be his “*witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). The verse from Scripture reflects our historic commitment to the restoration of unity among the separated churches of Jesus Christ. The 1960s logo was refreshed in 2019.



**The Comma.** Inspired by a quote from Gracie Allen:

“*Never put a period where God has placed a comma*”, the comma reminds us:

- of God’s boundless love.
- that God is still speaking, and that God speaks in multiple ways.
- that “*There is more truth and light to break forth from God’s holy word.*” (Pastor John Robinson told the Pilgrims as they set sail for the Netherlands).
- that we are on a continuous faith journey.



**The symbol of the basin, pitcher and towel refer to John 13.** Jesus stood up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet. After he had washed their feet, he told them that they ought to wash one another’s feet.

He gave his disciples a new commandment, “*that you love one another, just as I have loved you, you should love one another.*” Jesus is our example of servanthood.

Our local church created the logo during a visioning session in June 2014, and artwork was completed by Custom Sports Screen Printing. The logo includes our motto: “*Serving God with love and faith*”.



**LE** stands for **Linaje Escogido**, which is translated as “chosen lineage”. The *j* and the *g* sound like *h*. The name symbolizes 1 Peter 2:9, “*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s won people, in order that you may proclaim the*

*mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*” In the letter, Peter, an apostle of Christ, writes to exiles who have been chosen by God, and made holy by the Spirit to be obedient to Christ. The Garcia family has been leading congregations for at least three generations. The church began in Mexico as a response to an American pentecostal missionary who had moved there.



### **June Dates to Remember**

**June 9** – 10:15 a.m. **Worship**, followed by a **congregational meeting** and then a 1:00 p.m. **joint church picnic** with Linaje Escogido (see details in this newsletter). At the Congregational Meeting we will vote on a new Vice President. Since Brian Seier has moved, Ben Uzzell volunteered to serve if elected.

**June 17-21 and 24-28 (mornings)** – **Food Pantry**. FCUCC volunteers at Norfolk Community Food Pantry – please see sign-up sheet.

**June 30** – **Farewell for Pastor Jackie**. Elaine Miller, a UCC deacon in the Nebraska Conference, will be on hand in worship to lead the Farewell for Pastor Jackie, who is retiring and will be moving back to Iowa.

*take note*

**Temporary Situation** - At the April Meeting, Unity Council gave permission to LE Pastors to use the former pastor’s office (now archives room) for confidential conversations (counseling). Pastor Abel has been using his own home for this and all acknowledged that this is not ideal. There is a need to have a confidential place at church for LE pastoral counseling. We hope there will be space downstairs for pastoral counseling in the future. For now, the former pastor’s office may occasionally be used for these conversations.



### **Congratulations New Graduate!**

**Henry Gamerl** graduated from Norfolk Senior High on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The church celebrated with cards, blessings, a devotional book, and prayers on May 12. Henry will become a Maverick at the University of Nebraska in Omaha where he plans to study chemistry in the fall.

Congratulations also to **Taylor Rossman**, who graduated from Northeast Community College in May. She will start her new position at Gordon Memorial Hospital in Gordon, Nebraska this Spring!

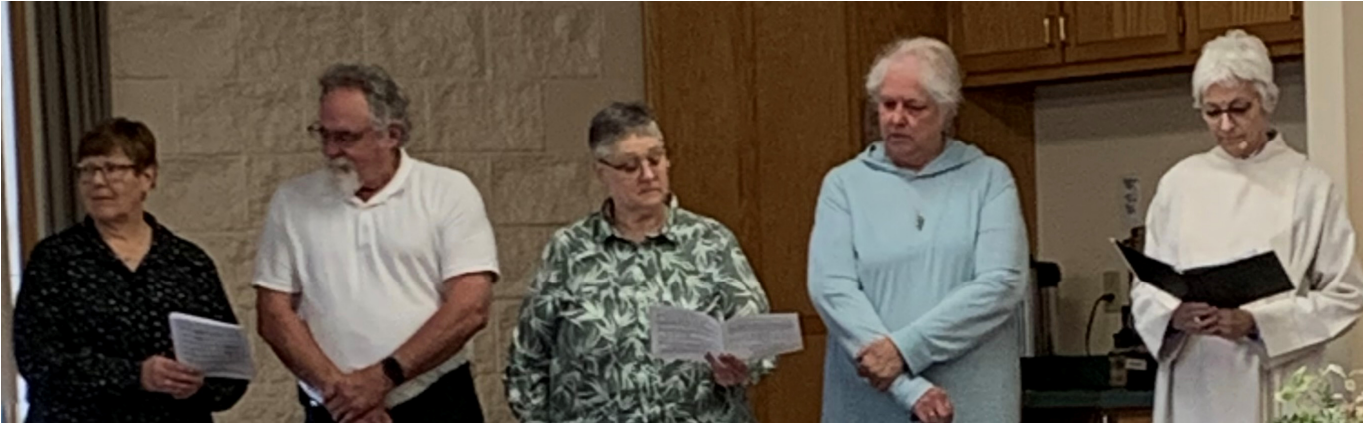
# *Thank You!*

**Thanks to all who donated** to *The Strengthen the Church* special offering of the United Church of Christ. We raised \$267. Your generosity will help plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



**Thank you, Sylvester Celis**, for all your volunteer weed removal and trimming around the church in May. With the great rains this season, everything is green, and growing *wildly!* If you need landscaping and de-weeding, Sylvester can give you a bid per job at 402.860.4276





Thankful for teachers who work during the school year to continue the growth of us all.



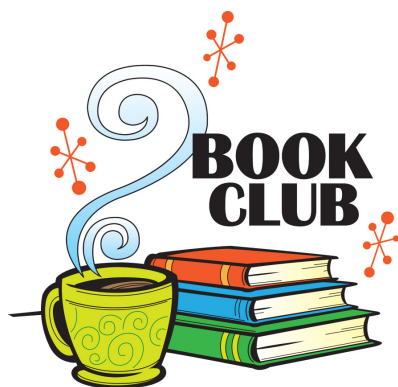
**To register, go to: <https://ucctcm.org/jam2024/>**

*The Joint Annual Meeting (JAM 2024) will be held **September 27-28, 2024** at Countryside Community Church located at 13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha, NE. Come participate in business meetings, workshops, and worship.*

**This meeting would be great to attend! Why?**

It will take place at Countryside UCC on the campus of Tri-faith in Omaha, the new General Minister and President of The United Church of Christ, Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, will speak, and other attendees are coming from all three states: Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota.

A Jamaican immigrant, a mom, and a grandmother, Dr. Thompson has served in the National Setting of the United Church of Christ since 2009 as minister for racial justice and minister for ecumenical and interfaith relations. Prior to joining the national staff, she was on staff for UCC's Florida Conference, as a church planter in Florida and in family ministries in New York. She is the first woman to be elected to lead the denomination. Do consider attending! -Pastor Jackie



**Book Club** will meet June 12 at 10 AM. *The Breaking News* by Sarah Lynne Reul. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.



# FOOD PANTRY *Volunteers*

June 17 through 28 is our time to serve the food pantry. Work is from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. They would like to have 3 or 4 workers every day. If you can work, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

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.



## **JUNE** Birthdays & Anniversaries

6th	Tom Surber
9th	Scott Williams
18th	Desiree Martinson
19th	David Thompson
26th	Susan Allyn
27th	Lori Williams

### Anniversary

7th	Lee and Michelle Indra
8th	Glenn and Lois Williams
20th	Scott and Lori Williams



### **June 2**

**Communion:** Verletta Olson and Susan Surber

**Ushers:** Mike Synovec

**Greeters:** Rita Woodard and Bonnie Dewell

**Reader:** Jane Uzzell

**Leader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:**

### **June 9**

**Ushers:** Susan Surber and Verletta Olson

**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Reader:** Susan Allyn

**Flowers:** Burkink Children

### **June 16**

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:**

### **June 23**

**Ushers:** Grace Uzzell

**Greeters:** Mike Synovec and Reese Uzzell

**Reader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:** Scott and Lori Williams

### **June 30**

**Ushers:** Tom McConnell and Barb Koenig

**Greeters:** Verletta Olson

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Flowers:** Susan Allyn



### **July 7**

**Communion:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Greeters:** Pat Jenny and Evonne Burkink

**Reader:** Jane Uzzell

**Leader:** Susan Allyn

**Flowers:** Barb Koenig

### **July 14**

**Ushers:** Ben and Grace Uzzell

**Greeters:** Stacie and Reese Uzzell

**Reader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:** Ginge Dudley

### **July 21**

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Greeters:** Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

**Reader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:** Ed Lindsay

### **July 28**

**Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Greeters:** Susan Surber and Rita Woodard

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**Flowers:**

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

# May

From 5/1/24 through 5/31/24

## Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$	3,800.37
Strengthen the Church	\$	267.00
Transfer from savings	\$	5,000.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>5,780.00</u>
Subtotal	\$	14,847.37
Salary	--\$	7,382.68
Church Maintenance	—\$	3,130.22
Office Expenses	—\$	947.97
Worship Ministry	—\$	90.00
Substitute Organist	—\$	140.00
Continuing Education	—\$	70.00
Insurance	—\$	950.67
Conference	—\$	893.95
Transfer to savings	—\$	1,500.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Final Balance	<b>—\$</b>	<b>758.12</b>



Maintenance total includes a new hot water heater for the basement. \$1,752



▶ June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:15 Worship						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:15 Worship Congregational Meeting <a href="#">1 Picnic with Linaje church</a>			<a href="#">10 Book club</a>			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:15 Worship						
	Food Pantry	Food Pantry	Food Pantry	Food Pantry	Food Pantry	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:15 Worship	Life Line Screening					
	Food Pantry	Food Pantry	Food Pantry	Food Pantry	Food Pantry	
30						
10:15 Worship <a href="#">Pastor Jackie's last day</a>						

# ▶ July 2024

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