

First Congregational Messenger
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1102 W. Norfolk Ave.
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firstconougcc@fastmail.com
Serving God with love and faith



March 2024

Volume 5, Issue 113

Daylight Savings Time
begins March 10.
Spring ahead one hour!



Time to
Spring Ahead



March 24 Palm Passion Sunday

March 28 Maundy Thursday Service
at First Presbyterian Church Time to be announced (Light meal prior to worship)

March 31 Easter Sunday (no Sunday School)

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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Lost and Found

Have you ever lost something you treasured? Did you put it somewhere to keep it safe? Did you loan it to someone? Did you toss it out by accident?

It's easy to lose what we value. The church is wise to offer us the season of Lent. It can be a time to find what is missing in our lives. It can be a time to deliberately search for what we have forgotten, loaned out, or discarded along the way. Lent can be a time to search out, restore, and renew.

Lent is the season to ask: What do I value in my life? What is it that I hide from? Am I missing something in my life? How can I recover what I hold dear?

The gospels are filled with stories of lost treasure being found. The lost things are treasure worth seeking. When we seek, we can find that all the true treasure is in the heart of God. Lent is a time to come to know the One who continues to search for us and finds us. Here are just a few Scriptures from Luke to pray with and ponder:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Luke 2:22-35 | A prayerful man finds the one he has long been waiting for. |
| Luke 3:1-18 | Jesus seeks strength in the Spirit. |
| Luke 4:42-44 | Jesus finds inner renewal in a "lonely place". |
| Luke 5:1-11 | Faith is found in a catch of fish. |
| Luke 7:36-50 | A woman finds the peace she has lost. |
| Luke 9:10-17 | The crowd finds Jesus and he gifts them with nourishment. |
| Luke 10:38-42 | Mary has found "the better part". |
| Luke 11:5-13 | Persistence. "The one who searches always finds." |
| Luke 19:1-10 | The Son of Man has come to seek out and save the lost. |



March Worship

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| March 3 | Lent 3 |
| March 10 | Lent 4 Stewardship dedication / Mission Moment: Kamp Kaleo with Holly Gage |
| March 17 | Lent 5 One Great Hour of Sharing dedication |
| March 24 | Palm Passion Sunday |
| March 28 | Maundy Thursday Service at First Presbyterian Church <u>Time to be announced</u> (Light meal prior to worship) |
| March 31 | Easter Sunday (no Sunday School) |

Stewardship Dedication March 10

Our theme this year: *Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives*, is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen.



Our choice to grow in our generosity enables the church to increase the impact of the difference it makes. Unity Council affirmed at the February congregational meeting that people have been giving faithfully. They also ask members and friends to please consider increasing their pledge, because costs in utilities and maintenance have increased.

By choosing to give (even a little bit more) we will expand our shared quest to change lives – even our own. Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) 2024



We will dedicate our special offering to **OGHS, Sunday March 17.** Through this offering you engage development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing, and women's empowerment. Find more info at: ucc.org/oghs

Getting Your Taxes Done for Free.

Rick and Jill Waterbury volunteer doing taxes for free through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide at Norfolk Library Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am – 2pm. See bulletin board information, ask Jill for more information, or online at <http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide>.

KALEO ON THE RIVER

Holly Gage will share information (and her zeal) for Kamp Kaleo during a Mission Moment in worship March 10. Holly, a former camper herself, serves as camp counselor and as a member of the Board of Directors. She will talk about children and youth camps, as well as adult events at the camp. Kamp Kaleo is located near Burwell, NE. You will enjoy talking with Holly!

Established in 1965, Kamp Kaleo is a place set aside to encounter God in nature and in community. The camping program is overseen by the Youth and Outdoor Ministries Committee (YOMC) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska and the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Youth and Outdoor Ministries Committee mission statement is:

Inspired by God's Spirit, we seek to create radically inclusive spaces and places for faith exploration.



LINKED
BY *Love* **2024**
CAMPING SEASON


— KAMP —
KALEO
BURWELL, NE
REGISTRATION
OPENS DEC. 1ST

REGISTER BEFORE
MARCH 1ST FOR \$100 OFF
REGISTER BETWEEN
MARCH 2ND AND APRIL 1ST
RECEIVE \$25 OFF

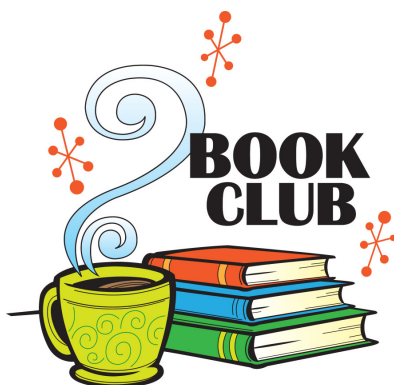
MAY 28-31 - AIC KAMP
JUNE 2-6 - JUNIOR KAMP
JUNE 7-9 - LITTLE KAMPERS #1
JUNE 16-21 - JR/SR HIGH KAMP
JULY 5-7 - LITTLE KAMPERS #2
JULY 7-12 - FAFA/FANS KAMP
JULY 14-17 - ROBOTICS KAMP
AUGUST 1-5 - ADULT KAMP

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE
FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER VISIT: WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM



Building Improvement

The last of the north non-stained-glass windows was completed in February by Custom Carpentry of Norfolk. The project, which included 72 panes of glass on the North side of the building, began last fall. The task included replacement of cracked panes, new caulking, and painting. The crew of two was able to take advantage of the unseasonably warm weather last month to paint. The project cost \$6425 and was listed in the 'Maintenance' line item in the budget.



Book Club will meet March 13 at 10 AM. Chocolate by Hershey. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

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.



MARCH Birthdays

- 3rd Charlene Fosdick
- 4th Ron Barritt
- 5th Glenn Williams
- 14th Nina Bahm
- 18th Rita Woodard
- 28th Erik Gamerl

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, March 23 at 11:00 AM

First Congregational United Church of Christ

1102 W. Norfolk Ave

AGES THRU 5TH GRADE



Please join us in the Easter Egg Hunt.

Eggs are filled and waiting to be found

Please bring a bag or basket to carry your eggs home

Sponsored by:

First Presbyterian Church

First Congregational United
Church of Christ

Rain Date Saturday, March 30





March 3

Communion: Evonne Burkink and Kay Neuharth

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Brian Seier

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Tom McConnell

Leader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

March 10 Stewardship Sunday

Ushers: Mike Synovec and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Barb Koenig and Ed Lindsay

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

March 17

Ushers: Susan Surber and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers: Rita Woodard

March 24 Palm Sunday

Ushers: Verletta Olson and Tom McConnell

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Mike Synovec

3 Readers: Reese Uzzell, Ben Uzzell and Verletta Olson

Flowers: Palms

March 31 Easter

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Rita Woodard and Brian Seier

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers: Lilies



April 7

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Ushers: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Jane Uzzell and Grace Uzzell

Reader: Randy Neuharth

Leader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers:

April 14

Ushers: Reese Uzzell

Greeters: Susan Surber and Verletta Olson

Reader: Grace Uzzell

Flowers:

April 21 Annual Meeting

Ushers: Rita Woodard and Grace Uzzell

Greeters: Tom McConnell

Reader: Brian Seier

Flowers: Brian Seier

April 28

Ushers: Barb Koenig

Greeters: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Erik and Katie Gamerl

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

February

From 2/1/24 through 2/29/24

Checking account information

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning balance | \$ 4,615.53 |
| Lilies | \$ 32.00 |
| <u>Weekly deposits</u> | <u>\$ 33,433.42</u> |
| Subtotal | \$ 38,080.95 |
| Transfer to savings | —\$ 22,475.00 |
| Salary | --\$ 7,596.98 |
| Church Maintenance | —\$ 4,913.04 |
| Office Expenses | —\$ 334.48 |
| Faith Development | —\$ 249.89 |
| Computer for office | —\$ 1,449.99 |
| Conference | —\$ 517.00 |
| <u>Renner's</u> | <u>—\$ 500.00</u> |
| Final Balance | \$ 44.57 |



Maintenance total includes \$1,050 for painting the windows to finish the job.

► March 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 6:30 PM Girl Scouts | 6:15 PM Girl Scouts | | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Daylight Savings Time 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Stewardship Sunday | 6 PM Girl Scouts | 5:30 PM Girl Scouts | 10 Book club | | 5:30 PM Girl Scouts FH for overnight | 9 AM Girl Scouts FH |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 6:30 PM Girl Scouts | 6:15 PM Girl Scouts | | | | Egg Hunt 11 AM |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Palm Sunday 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 6 PM Girl Scouts Annual Reports Due | 5:30 PM Girl Scouts | | Maundy Thursday | OFFICE CLOSED | |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| Easter 10:15 Worship | | | | | | |

▶ April 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----|--|--|
| | 1 6:30 PM Girl Scouts | 2 6:15 PM Girl Scouts | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 8 6 PM Girl Scouts | 9 5:30 PM Girl Scouts | 10 10 Book club | 11 | 12 Delphians 12 Girl Scouts Overnight 5 PM | 13 Girl Scouts Overnight 9 AM |
| 14 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Faith Develop- ment Unity Council | 15 6:30 PM Girl Scouts | 16 6:15 PM Girl Scouts | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Annual Meeting | 22 6 PM Girl Scouts | 23 5:30 PM Girl Scouts | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship | 29 | 30 | | | | |