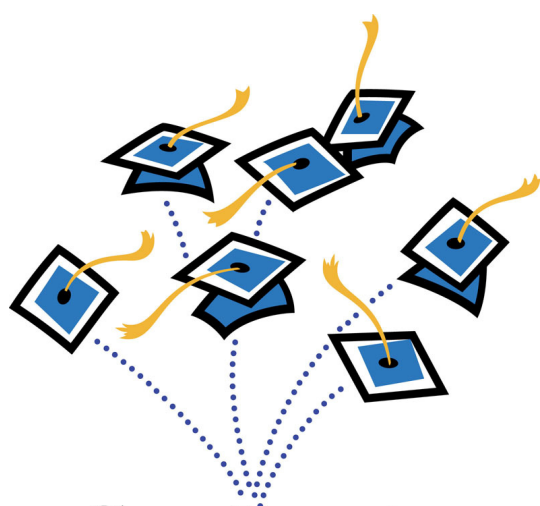


First Congregational Messenger
 First Congregational United Church of Christ
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Serving God with love and faith



May 2024
 Volume 5, Issue 115



Graduation

Henry Gamerl will graduate from high school in May. May 12 we will celebrate this milestone at church during the worship service and a reception following. Congratulations Henry!

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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MAY SEEDS

Joyce Rupp is well known for her work as a writer and spiritual retreat and conference speaker. She is a member of the Servites (Servants of Mary) community and was a volunteer for Hospice for fifteen years. She currently resides in Des Moines, Iowa.

Rupp invites people to give a portion of their day to inner nourishment. She's realistic, believing that people might give 15 minutes of their day to personal prayer, using Scriptures as a foundation, and (for some) using a journal for reflection.

I don't regularly keep a journal, but from time to time, I will draw or write down something that I want to remember. In her devotional book, *Fresh Bread and other gifts of Spiritual Nourishment*, Rupp compares people to a handful of dough, inviting us to use our gifts to be the leaven for others.

In *Fresh Bread*, Rupp writes about seeds and offers some Scripture readings for daily prayer. I include a few from Mark's gospel to give you an idea of how readings can prompt our prayers. -Peace, Pastor Jackie

	<i>The seed of...</i>
Mk 1:16-20	following Jesus.
Mk 1:29-34	healing.
Mk 1:35-39	solitude.
Mk 1:40-45	sympathy.
Mk 2:1-12	forgiveness.

SUMMER UPDATE



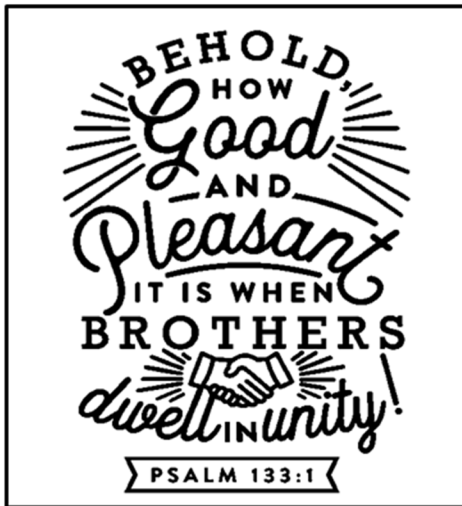
I'd like to update the Church Directory to help the future Interim Pastor. You can help by letting Susan or me know if you have changed your contact information since the last directory was printed July 2023. We plan to gather the information and any new pictures through the month of May. The directory includes *active members and friends of First Congregational Church*, because its purpose is to stay connected!

If you'd like a new picture, please send one via email to Sue or me. If you prefer, we can scan a paper copy. Just bring it to the office; it takes just a minute. – Peace, Pastor Jackie

May / June Worship Schedule

- May 5 Teacher Appreciation / Holy Communion
May 12 Mother's Day / Graduation Sunday (Henry)
Last day of Sunday School
June 2 Holy Communion
June 9 Regular Worship
1:00pm LE & FCUCC Joint Church Picnic
June 30 Pastor Jackie's Retirement - last Sunday

Pastor's Time Away – Pastor Jackie will be on vacation in Iowa to see her brother May 27-May 30.



Linaje Escogido
First Congregational UCC
Joint Church Picnic

Sunday, June 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars!

More info to come.

Youth make May Day Baskets



On Sunday afternoon, April 28, Reese, Grace, Darlene, and Pastor Jackie (not pictured) made May Baskets for our friends.

Desi Martinsen bought the supplies and will distribute the baskets.

Vote on the Proposed Budget: Moderator Scott Williams opened a discussion on the budget. Treasurer Lori Williams explained the new budget, April 2024-2025: pg. 24-25.

When we have our stewardship time and receive pledges, the number that is pledged is historically not the amount in the next year's proposed budget. We always give more than we pledge. This year, the 2024 - 2025 budget is based on the prior 2 years' actual giving, divided by 2. The amount proposed is a little higher than the pledges collected this year. The rent from Linaje is also a little higher this year, but that is a recent increase that was not reflected in the budget. The expenses were compared to the prior year. The expenses are based on what the real numbers were last year. The salary projected is what would be appropriate for an interim minister. As Pastor Jackie is soon retiring, there was no salary increase for her. There was an increase in salary for secretary, Sue Allyn.

A motion to accept the Proposed Budget was made by Jeanne Rix , 2nded by Brian Seier. Motion passed.

Vote on Nominations: Nominations for church offices were reviewed. Because of the steps needed to find a suitable interim minister, then discernment of the whole congregation as to expectations for a settled minister, Rev. Jonna Jensen suggested, with the agreement of the Unity Council members, that the current Unity Council leaders serve at least another year.

Therefore, Nominated Officers are: Scott Williams, Moderator, Brian Seier, Vice Moderator, Erik Gamerl, Past Moderator, Lori Williams, Treasurer, and Jane Uzzell, Clerk.

Sue Surber motioned for nominations to cease. Ben Uzzell seconded. Ben Uzzell then motioned to accept the nominations. Randy Neuharth, seconded. Motion passed.

Commissioning of Officers: Reverend Jackie Perry led the Commissioning of Officers, as found on page 27 of the annual report.

The Unity Council members are hereby reinstalled as officers. Congregation members are charged to support the officers as they serve this year in their positions.

Adjournment: Randy Neuharth motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m..

Closing Prayer was offered by Reverend Jackie Perry.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Uzzell, Clerk

Annual Meeting, April 21, 2024, First Congregational United Church of Christ

Call to Order: The Annual Meeting was called to order on April 21, 2024, by Moderator Scott Williams at 10:45 a.m. A quorum was declared present.

Opening Prayer: Reverend Jackie Perry opened the meeting with prayer.

Blanket Acceptance of Yearly Reports: Scott Williams opened the reports up to questions. Ben Uzzell motioned to rename Budget as Financial Report. Tom McConnell seconded. Motion passed. Randy Neu-harth motioned to blanket accept the following yearly reports as written. Erik Gamerl seconded. Motion passed.

The following reports are the yearly reports motioned to be accepted: Congregational Meeting Minutes, Pastor's Report, Clerk's Record, Historian's Report, Cradle Roll, Faith Development Ministry, Worship Ministry, Transformation Ministry, Financial Reports from: Memorial Fund, General Fund, Budget-changed to Financial Report.

Pastor's Moment by the Reverend Jackie Perry: Pastor Jackie's report was a highlight of her last 10 years at First Congregational United Church of Christ. The highlights were about strengthening our relationships. Pastor Jackie is retiring June 30. Something she would like to have happen is to have a joint meal with the members of Linaje Escogido. Several Linaje leaders are professional musicians. They do go out on tour, probably leaving again in June. Pastor Jackie asked us to think of and find a date before the musicians go out on tour to have this meal. Perhaps a Wednesday, like the 22nd of May or a Sunday in early June, June 5 would work. Pastor Jackie will ask the Linaje leaders for workable dates. She will ask Sue Allyn to put out an email blast with a date.

For her final Sunday, June 30, Pastor Jackie requests just a cake for Fellowship time. She chooses to see the combined meal with Linaje as her more formal goodbye. "Perhaps it is time for us to cook for them." It was 4 1/2 years ago when members of FCUCC met with the Linaje members for a meal and to discuss the rental of portions of the basement of the church. Having a meal with both congregations together was also proposed at that time. Then Covid came along and a meal together never happened. In light of Pastor Jackie's retirement, a meal together would also reassure them that their place in our church is secure.

Nebraska Conference Deacon Elaine Miller will be present on June 30 for the formal ritual release of Pastor Jackie. Perhaps having a potluck and her requested cake, was suggested for Pastor Jackie's last Sunday.

Report on assistance from the conference for securing an interim minister. Rev. Jonna Jensen was the initial contact made by Scott Williams, Lori Williams, Erik Gamerl, and Ben Uzzell. She has medical issues and has retired. The four have met with a person who is possibly available as an interim minister for us. That gentleman is currently an interim at another church, so an offer to be our interim is not yet formalized. The interim minister would be a full time position. Once an interim is in place, there are steps to take, led by him and the conference, as to whether we have a full-time (or other time) settled minister.



Book Club will meet May 8 at 10 AM. "Dumplings for Lili" by Melissa Iwai and I'm talking Asian dumplings, not Scandinavian/Midwest. . The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the lunch for Deanna Alexander. It was beautifully done and we really appreciate all of the work. Thank you. Dana and Rachelle



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.



MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

15th Cole Williams
 23rd Reese Uzzell
 25th Grace Uzzell
 30th Megan Williams
 31st Darlene Korthals

Anniversary

26th Garry and Suzan Podliska



May 5

Communion: Tom McConnell and Susan Allyn

Ushers: Ed Lindsay and Evonne Burkink

Greeters: Scott and Lori Williams

Reader: Verletta Olson

Leader: Brian Seier

Flowers:

May 12 Mother's Day

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Barb Koenig and Evonne Burkink

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers: Scott and Lori Williams

May 19

Ushers: Jane Uzzell and Bonnie Dewell

Greeters: Gene and Darlene Korthals

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers: Bonnie Dewell

May 26 Memorial Weekend

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Ed Lindsay and Brian Seier

Reader: Lori Williams

Flowers: Pat Jenny



June 2

Communion: Verletta Olson and Susan Surber

Ushers: Brian Seier and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

June 9

Ushers: Susan Surber and Verletta Olson

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Brian Seier

Flowers: Burkink Children

June 16

Ushers: Scott and Lori Williams

Greeters: Rita Woodard and Bonnie Dewell

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: Brian Seier and Verletta Olson

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Flowers: Susan Allyn

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

April

From 4/1/24 through 4/30/24

Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$	739.79
Lilies	\$	68.00
Funeral	\$	350.00
Transfer from savings	\$	3,200.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>12,052.44</u>
Subtotal	\$	16,410.23
Salary	--\$	7,040.47
Church Maintenance	—\$	1,942.09
Office Expenses	—\$	401.36
Lilies	—\$	112.00
Funeral	—\$	109.27
Insurance	—\$	950.67
Conference	—\$	1,554.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$	3,800.37



► May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	6:30 PM Girl Scouts	6:15 PM Girl Scouts	10 Book club		OFFICE CLOSED Sue in Omaha	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	6 PM Girl Scouts	5:30 PM Girl Scouts				Graduation Party
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:15 Worship Unity Council	6:30 PM Girl Scouts Sue vacation	6:15 PM Girl Scouts Sue vacation	Sue vacation	Sue vacation	Sue vacation	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:15 Worship	6 PM Girl Scouts OFFICE CLOSED Jackie vacation	5:30 PM Girl Scouts Jackie vacation	Jackie vacation	Jackie vacation	Jackie vacation	

▶ 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 1 Picnic with Linaje church			10 Book club			
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 Pastor Jackie's last day						