

**Straight to the Point**

**November 19, 2019**

**Prayer for this Week**

Show me the suffering of the most miserable;

So I will know my people’s plight.

Free me to pray for others;

For you are present in every person.

Help me take responsibility for my own life;

So that I can be free at last.

Grant me courage to serve others;

For in service there is true life.

Give me honesty and patience;

So that I can work with other workers.

Bring forth song and celebration;

So that the Spirit will be alive among us.

Let the Spirit flourish and grow;

So that we will never tire of the struggle.

Let us remember those who have died for justice;

For they have given us life.

Help us love even those who hate us;

So we can change the world. Amen.

 -César Chavez (1927-1993)

**Daily Gratitude Moment**
At the end of the day, consider:

How were you blessed by God’s goodness today

Who are you called to pray for tonight?

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**This Week at FCUCC**

Tuesday,11/19 9:00 am – Stretch & Flex

Wednesday, 11/20 10:00 am – Prayer and Reflection Group

 6:00 pm – Women’s AA Group Meeting

Thursday, 11/21 9:00 am – Stretch & Flex

Friday, 11/22 1:30 pm – Weekly Study @ Pierce Street Coffee Works

Saturday 11/23 10:00 am – Set up for Thanksgiving Dinner

 6:30 pm – AA Group Meeting

Sunday, 11/24 9:00 am – Admiration Series Adult Class

 9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal

 10:30 am –Worship

 12:00 noon – Thanksgiving Dinner

 1:00 pm – Adulting Session immediately following dinner

 4:00 pm – Beer & Theology @ Jackson Street Brewing

 Monday, 11/25 12:00 pm – Straight to the Point deadline

 6:30 pm – Zen Meditation Group

Tuesday,11/26 9:00 am – Stretch & Flex

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**Annual FCUCC Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Sunday, Nov. 24th at noon (after worship)**

The FCUCC Thanksgiving Dinner is set for Sunday, Nov. 24th at noon after worship. There are sign-up sheets for attending, bringing food, helping set up on Saturday, Nov. 23rd, and helping clean up following the dinner.

**If you haven’t signed up, please call the office by Thursday!**

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**Sanford Thanksgiving Baskets Update**

We raised over $800 for the Sanford Thanksgiving Baskets during the past couple weeks.

Thank you to all who gave!

Your support is appreciated.

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**We are grateful for those who served us last week:**

Connector: Ginger France

Children’s Sunday School: Suzanne Johnson

Ushers: Mike Timblin and Anne Shaner

Worship Leader: Jay Rosenberg

Scripture Reader: Ruth Koster

Fellowship: Hoselton-McCarthy Family

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**Highlights from the Church Council**

Buildings and Grounds will be working with Greg Gregerson to purchase a digital church sign to replace the sign at the bottom of the hill.

The Nomination Committee has completed its roster for the 2020 church year for Council and Committees. The roster has been approved by the Council to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

Names have been submitted for the Search Committee. Serving on our Search Committee will be Chris Schwerin and Jay Rosenberg from Council; Dick Owens and Mary Elder from the Pastoral Relations Committee; and Constance Popken from the congregation. If anyone else from the congregation would like to participate on the Search Committee, please notify Pastor Anne, Greg Gregerson, or the church office as soon as possible so the committee can begin the search process.

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**Sharing an Advent Lunch & Decorating the Church**

**Sunday, December 1st after worship**

**On Sunday, December 1st, after worship, the congregation is invited** to share a Soup, Bread, and Cider lunch. Afterward, we will all join together to decorate the church for the holiday season.

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**Our 2019 Christmas Giving Tree**

Giving holiday gifts to the clients of Siouxland Mental Health has been a long-standing tradition at FCUCC, and a great way for us to share the spirit of Christmas.

Here’s how to participate:

1. Select a tag from the tree, sign your name on the list.

Put your name next to the number that corresponds with your tag.

SAVE YOUR TAG!

1. Purchase and wrap your gift. Tape the tag securely onto the gift.
2. Return your gift to the church on or before December 15th.

Suggested giving amount: $25

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**Christmas Worship**

Please save these dates and times on your calendar:

**December 24th – 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**

**December 29th – 10:30 am Carol Service**

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**New Members will Join our Church on Sunday, December 15th**

New members will be joining our congregation on Sunday, December 15th.

If you are interested in joining, let Pastor Anne know.

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**Sermon Series: Making a Life - Christianity for the Long Haul**

**This Week: Service**

*“I’ve learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.”* (*Maya Angelou)*

This Sunday we will be continuing our 13-week series on Christian living. For centuries, there have been spiritual practices that have sustained Christians through challenging times. **This week our focus will be on the practice of Service.**

Each week, a video of the sermon will be posted on our new church website.

In addition, there will be handouts accompanying this newsletter (and available in hard copy on Sundays) so that you have the option to create your own Spirituality Binder/File.

This link will get you to the sermon video for the past week, as well as prior sections for your Spirituality Binder/File: https://www.1stcongregationalucc.org

Also, **on Fridays from 1:30 to 3:00 pm we will be meeting at the Pierce Street Coffee Works to consider the spiritual practice for the coming Sunday.**

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**Offering a Warm Welcome**

**A message on behalf of the FCUCC Communication Team**

Remember to welcome our visitors – before and after worship.

The warm welcome and care we give them is a sign

of our own belief that we are loved by God.

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**Christian Education Opportunities for All Ages**

**CHILDREN** (3 years – 3rd Grade)

**NURSERY:**

Sundays, 10:00 to 11:30 am

A well-appointed, happy space is staffed and available for young ones as an alternative to the staying in the sanctuary on Sundays, if that’s helpful. Care is also available at other times, as needed.

**WORSHIP ACTIVITY BOXES**

Pick one up on the way into the sanctuary for some quiet, in-the-pew activities.

**GODLY PLAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL STORY-TIME**

Offered during worship.

After the choir anthem, children will be invited to the Nursery for Bible-based stories and guided play and crafts.

**YOUTH** (Ages 8th Grade – College**)**

**THE ADULTING SERIES**

Meeting monthly after worship on Sundays.

Monthly sessions will include meal and social time, and education, with topics ranging from:  “Basic Car Car” (changing a tire, filling low tires, wiper replacement, using a map), “Sewing and Hemming,” “Understanding Finances,” “Preparing a Fine Meal,” “What to Do When You Feel Sick,” and “Traveling.”  Youth will also be working to plan a mission trip.

**November 24th: Adulting Class will meet immediately after Thanksgiving Dinner.**

**January 2nd: Adulting Class will meet; our focus will be on Finances and Goal-setting.**

**ADULTS**

**ADMIRATION SERIES**

Meeting before worship at 9:00 am on Sundays in the Parlor.

This is an interactive series for adults and older youth led by our Intergenerational Education Coordinator, Todd Seifker. Each week we will be introduced to ancient and modern examples of Christ-like, faithful living.

**MAKING A LIFE – CHRISTIANITY FOR LONG HAUL LIVING**

Fridays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Pierce Street Coffee Works

*“I’ve learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.”* (*Maya Angelou)*

These sessions are a complement to the current series on the spiritual disciplines that have supported Christian living for centuries. With the weekly handouts (sent with this newsletter or available on our church website, or in hardcopy form on Sunday morning) participants will be able to create their own Spirituality Binder (or online file).

**BEER & THEOLOGY**

Sundays, 4:00 pm to 6:00ish pm at Jackson Street Brewing

Gather for a discussion of current theology, philosophy, and life. Led by Chris Schwerin.

**JOY (Just Older Youth) CLUB – Aging Gracefully for Everyone**

Meeting in the early evening, every 1-2 months

Social time, education on topics relevant to aging–up gracefully, healthily, and happily. Each session will include dinner, social time, entertainment/education and devotion.

Although the topics are focused on some age groups, everyone is invited! Bring friends

and neighbors! If it interests you, or you have some expertise, please join us in providing lessons and learning. Contact the CE Crew if you have questions, suggestions or time to help!

 **Thursday, January 9th: Our JOY topic will be Winter Survival: Food, Exercise & Safety.**

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**Emergency & Hospital Visits**

When you or a family member are sick, in the hospital, or recovering -- or if you have an emergency -- here’s who to call for care:

 Jan Nowlen – 712-490-5328

 Rev. Anne Dilenschneider is available on Friday and Sunday – 605-906-5404
 Rev. Elaine Miller is available on Wednesday and Thursday – 712-258-8278
 Donna Popp is available on Monday, Tuesday, & Saturday – 712-251-5535

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**Prayer Concerns**

Ailene Hutton George Owings
Jason Olson Marly Van Berkum’s sister

Bob and Leone Eidsmoe Katherine Trautman

Neil Stuart Rosenberg Arlene Baldes

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**HyVee grocery receipts and General Mills box tops**

There’s a collection box for these items in the narthex (the church entry) –

The box is wrapped in balloon paper.

We will donate these to a local school!

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**The Tithe.ly App Option**

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The financial support you provide allows us to continue our Missions, Charitable Giving, and Intergenerational Christian Education programs. It also helps us support local agencies, the groups that use our facilities, and our search for a new pastor.

     In addition to the Sunday offering, there are other ways to give to our church. These include mailing in checks, dropping off payments anytime during the week, and setting up automatic payments from your bank.

**You can also contribute through a simple App called****Tithe.ly****.**

      Tithe.ly is our online, app and web-based giving system. Tithe.ly is convenient because it:

* Accepts debit, credit or bank account info
* Can be set up for a one-time payment, or automatic regular payments
* Can be changed at any time (there are no contacts or commitments)

Go to http://get.tithe.ly to sign up online, or download the app on any iPhone/Apple or Android device.

Of course, we can always take cash, and checks made payable to First Congregational Church.

(Note: Tithe.ly does charge us a small fee for using the app, but you can opt to pay that fee yourself.)

If you have questions, please contact myself, Jeff Stellish (treasurer), Chris Schwerin (bookkeeper), or any other member of the Church Council.

Thank you!
Jeff Stellish, Treasurer
treasurer@firstcongregational.net

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**Church Office Hours Church Contact Information**

Mon & Fri 4:00pm-8:00pm          712-239-3385
Wed 4:00-4:30 office@firstcongregational.net
Tues-Thurs 1:00pm-5:00pm

Sat 1:00pm-5:00pm (call ahead)

**Church Staff:**

**Rev. Dr. Anne Dilenschneider**, Interim Pastor 605-906-5404 (cell)
leadwithsoul@mac.com
*Pastor Anne will return calls, texts, and emails as soon as she can. She is available in the office on Friday mornings (10:00 am -12:30 pm); she leads Bible Study and visits Friday & Sunday afternoons.*

**Maddie Schwerin**, Church Administrator  office@firstcongregational.net
**Todd Siefker**, Intergenerational Coordinator   tsiefker@gmail.com

**Rick Darrow**, Organist darrowpipe@aol.com

**Nate Hettinger**, Choir Director hettingern@morningside.edu

**Church Directory**

**If you are interested in receiving an updated 2019 church directory please contact our church administrator Maddie at**office@firstcongregational.net **or call 712-239-3385.**

**The “Straight to the Point” Deadline is Monday at Noon!**