

THE CONGREGATIONALIST

FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ
Established 1856

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www.firstcentral.org

Volume 15 Issue 23

June 9, 2011



Please remember in your thoughts and prayers: : *Elizabeth & Kamaal Patterson*, as they celebrate their marriage; *Elizabeth Grams*, who had surgery last week; *Steve & Susan Dolezal*, whose father, *Wilber*, died last week; *Garret & Rachel Higginbotham*, as they celebrate the birth of *Isabella Piper*, born on June 6th; *Bob Hammond*, recently hospitalized.

Need a Ride?

If you need a ride to church, see the upcoming driver schedule below. Please call the driver directly for the Sunday you'd like to attend:

June 12, *Sam Pfeifer*, 402-691-8776

June 19, *Allan Bucknam*, 402-393-7092

Congregational Outreach Ministry

CrossOver Prison Ministries

CrossOver's annual fundraiser, *Bouncin' Blues and BBQ*, will be held Saturday, June 11th, from 4-8 p.m. at Benson Park. Tickets will be available the day of the event for \$7.

Habitat for Humanity

Fred Felger

Update on insurance: *those who are insured or uninsured may work on the site*. Those who are insured will find Habitat has a wrap-around policy for them. Those without insurance will be covered by a primary Habitat Policy.

This year, we provide meals for the Habitat Build crew on Friday and Saturday, June 24th and 25th. We need lots of help. People are needed to supply juice, breakfast bars, and milk for the 9:30 a.m. brunch. For lunch, we need sandwiches, chips, pop, and dessert. We also need people to transport the food from the church to the build site. Please sign up for these opportunities in the parlor. Thanks to all who help meet the meal needs of the 20 volunteers.

Teams, teams teams!

Have you seen the new **Ministry Teams Directory**? This is the *Matching Members to Ministry Committee's* effort to list all First Central teams, along with descriptions of what they do and who to contact if you're interested in joining. Of course, this is just the first step. They need lots more information from you to make it complete and up-to-date.

If you don't already have a copy of the booklet, pick one

up in the parlor or narthex. Look it over and tell us what's missing, incomplete or out of date. Just let *Sara* know, or tell a member of the MMM Committee (*Nancy Northcutt, Michael Cich-Jones, Kathy Hoyt, Cheryl Roche*). And while you're at it, see if there isn't a team you'd like to be a part of. As *Scott* says, it's all about finding our calling and following it. If you want to start a new team, get a group of people together and register to be a First Central team. Registration forms are available in the parlor, or ask *Sara* for one.

Rainbow Celebration/Heartland Pride

First Central will again have a booth at Heartland Pride on Saturday, June 25th, from noon to 6. The event will be held at Lewis & Clark Landing. Congregational Outreach Ministry is hosting the booth. If you would like to volunteer, please email sara@firstcentral.org, or call 402-345-1533. Even if you can't volunteer, stop by the booth and say hi!

Conversational Dinner – date change

Please note: the Conversational Dinner has been re-scheduled to Sunday, June 26th. This is the last dinner of the season. Please RSVP to *Jenny Pfeifer*, 402-691-8776, or *Val Himes*, 402-345-1339.

Pursuit of Blessing

Scott Jones

Our summer sermon and worship series, beginning June 19, will be an exploration of some stories from the Book of Genesis with the theme "Pursuit of Blessing." The lectionary primarily focuses on the stories of Jacob, that scoundrel who still received God's blessing, and Joseph, his son sold into slavery. But first up are the creation story on June 19 and the sacrifice of Isaac, that most difficult text, on June 26. Join us in worship as we explore these powerful stories.

Super Sale! Final Update

Sam Pfeifer and Peg Peterson

The final tally for this year's Super Sale was over \$3,000, with 1600 earned from plants, 800 from books, and 600 from the Thrift Shop. New participants this year were Sewing Team members, coordinated by *Arlene Luther*, who added another \$60.75 to our profits. Thanks again to all the helpers from our church who made this event possible.

NU Community Meal Success *Rick Brenneman*

What an experience this first meal has been! Twenty volunteers gathered Friday evening and/or Saturday morning (May 27 - 28) in the First Baptist Church kitchen to prepare and serve our first *Neighbors United Community Meal*. At 7 p.m. on Friday, the team began browning ground meat and making bread sticks, and by 9:30, between 30 and 40 gallons of spaghetti sauce was cooling in the refrigerators and 300 bread sticks were pre-baked in readiness for Saturday's serving. At 8 a.m. on Saturday, team members began boiling water to cook the pasta, heating the spaghetti sauce and chopping salad ingredients. When others arrived at 9:30, desserts were cut and plated, coffee and lemonade prepared, bread sticks were finished off and the line was prepared.

The team is working just as we had hoped when the new governance was adopted. New and long-time members and even a volunteer from another congregation came together as one. A second non-member has since asked to be included for the next meal. Congregational support in our request for dessert help was instrumental in the success of the meal. An anonymous donor has come forth to fund the meal outside the FCC budget. Two hundred forty three plates were served (and I guess you could add 20 more since the volunteers mostly ate in the kitchen out of sight from our official counter). The neighborhood was served, as well as some of our friends we recognized from the Siena/Francis House from our 3rd Friday meal servings there.

The FCC kitchen was overwhelming when we began packing up the desserts to take to First Baptist. I wish I knew the names of each person or family who donated a dessert. I would thank each of you personally. I want to thank the team members who were able to participate in this meal: *Val & George Himes, Courtney Pinard, Pat Lange* (who all cooked and also helped with the shopping), *Wendy & Bernie Monbouquette, Michael Cich-Jones, Nicole Day, Susan & Steve Dolezal, Joan Eddy, Don Ferber, Lucy Wanzanreid, Scott Jones, Deb Kirwan, Shelley & Gary Kiel, and Xaysana (Felix) Sihakhom*. A most special thanks goes out to *Alice Love* whose leadership in managing the kitchen Friday night and Saturday morning made the whole meal come together with time to spare!

Our next meal is scheduled for August 27. We will be calling out for desserts, and there is always room for other volunteers in shopping, prep work, cooking, serving, conversation with the neighbors and funding the cost of the meal. We need volunteers to sit with the people of the neighborhood and learn their stories. While serving a nutritious meal to those who need one is so very important, this meal provides us with the opportunity to dialogue with our neighbors and learn what needs exist at not only the community but also the family level. These conversations can help us better determine how First Central can direct our neighborhood mission efforts. If you have the talent of conversation, the ability to listen and

care, your help on the Neighbors United Community Meal team can help mold the future directions of our local mission work.

Women's Fellowship

Jenny Pfeifer

Women's Fellowship enjoyed a talk by *Jan Rigenbach* on container planting May 20th. We are fortunate to have such an authority as a fellow member and friend.

The June 17th meeting will be a planning session for next year's calendar. All church ladies are invited to attend. Bring your ideas for programs and projects. We will meet in the church parlor at 10 a.m.

Church Women United

May Friendship Day was observed by Church Women United on May 24th. The program was entitled "Women of the Bible," and *Arlene Luther* took part in the skit which was presented. All participants were given an honorary key.

Arlene Luther volunteered to be Chairperson of the State Assembly for the next three years.

Uta Halee is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in June.

Twitter, Facebook, and More

First Central has joined Twitter. Our Twitter name is *FirstCentralUCC*. If you use Twitter, you can follow us at <http://twitter.com/#!/FirstCentralUCC>. We will use Twitter primarily for sending out information about the church and church events and re-tweeting information from the UCC and other partners.

Participation on our Facebook group has increased in recent months. It has become an important source not only for information on the church, but also for church members to share ideas, discuss topics, share photos, and more. It has really turned into a valuable social network.

Remember that you can also watch *Scott's* weekly video giving a preview of the sermon and worship. You can catch this on the above sites and also on YouTube and Vimeo.

If you didn't understand any of the above, don't worry. All the traditional means of communication are still open as well, and we will continue to work to improve them, while also reaching new audiences through new technologies. Demographic data reveals that the largest population living in the church's neighborhood (21%) are ages 25-34.

MARCOS

Back by popular demand, MARCOS will be going to Mahoney State Park on Friday, June 24th. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., and the show starts at 8:30 p.m. *Ellie Bucknam* is signing a contract that reserves 15 tickets. The cost is \$14 for dinner only, and \$7 for the melodrama, *Foul Play*; \$19 for both. Please RSVP to Ellie at 402-393-7092 by June 14th. *Allan Bucknam* will drive the van, if necessary.

Christian Education



Come to the CARNIVAL

Church Patio
June 18th 4-7 pm
Fun for All Ages!

FirstYOUTH Mission Trip Fundraising

First YOUTH are hosting a carnival on Saturday, June 18th to earn money for the mission trip. There will be music, food, and activities for all ages, including a bounce house, hot dogs, snow cones, cotton candy, balloon hats, and booths with all sorts of games with prizes. Come and test your luck/skill.

Have you been wondering how our First Central family can help the YOUTH get to Pine Ridge this summer? Here's your answer! In addition to attending with your friends and family, please consider donating the following items:

- Individual cans or bottles of pop—any size/flavor
- Baked goods—bars or cookies only please, no cakes or other foods that require a plate or utensils
- Small prizes such as stickers, Happy Meal toys, or toys from Nobbies
- We also need to borrow a few pop-up sun shades, the type you see at a craft fair

All donated items can be brought to church and left in the parlor near the Penny Wars table. Please drop off your donations no later than Friday, June 17. Questions about your donations? Call *Maggie or Marian Fey* at 402-932-5449. Can you help set up, clean up, or staff a booth on the 18th? Call *Lamar Jones* at 402-201-1158.

FirstYOUTH Classes: Sunday morning discussions are finished for the summer. Teens are invited to attend or help with any of the “*We Are the Church*” workshops for Grand Central Stations – we always appreciate their help.

First Forums: Adult Education

June 12 – Signs of the Spirit

Come hear *Rev. Donald Wester*, Minister of Spiritual Formation, present some introductory understandings of the creative work of the spirit in our post-modern life.

June 19 –The Role of Music in Spiritual Formation

Music is a bridge between people, cultures, eras, and between people and God. Come learn about some transcendental aspects of music and how it helps our spiritual formation. *Stephen Bouma* will be facilitating.

June 26 – The Re-emergence of Spirituality

Join *Scott Jones*, Sr. Minister of First Central, as he presents some introductory understandings of the creative work of the spirit in our post-modern life.

Grand Central Stations

We are the Church together

This summer, all of the church school classes (10:45 to 11:30) are open to parents, YOUTH, new members, or anyone who would like to learn more about the church.

June 12 – Where did First Central come from? *Laura Mitchell* and *Tina Spencer* will explain the importance of the pilgrims in bringing Congregationalism to America and the Midwest.

June 19 – Learn about the history of First Central's building: previous locations, mergers with other congregations, how the current structure was built. (*David Fortina* and *Curt Cannon* teach the 19th & 26th.)

June 26 – Who works here and just what do they do? Join *Sara Sharpe*, our office administrator, and *Sam Pfeifer*, our Sexton, for tours and demonstrations of the work areas.

Classroom Cleaning

Volunteers are needed this summer to help consolidate and deep clean the church school classrooms, including carpet cleaning, window washing, and moving/organizing the costume rack. If you have a few hours to volunteer, please talk to *Peg Peterson*. Anyone who has questions about upcoming changes to the Grand Central Station rooms, please speak with *Peg Peterson, Nancy Schalles, or Barb Switzer*, or read the in-depth report in the June minutes of the Education Ministry (available on-line).

Conversations with the Children

On June 5th *Scott Jones* and *Peg Peterson* held a training for volunteers doing the Conversation with the Children. Here are two points from the session:

What is the purpose of the Children's Conversation? It is a way to involve our children in worship, give them our attention, and show our love for them as a congregation. It helps us get to know the children and helps them get to know the adults. It often serves to introduce the theme of lesson for the day, which gives them more time to explore the theme in their classes.

How do I get scheduled for a Children's Conversation?

Contact our Director of Christian Education, *Peg Peterson*. She usually tries to schedule volunteers a month or a season in advance. An excellent handout is available (check the CE table in the parlor) and Peg can provide ideas and materials for your topic.

Sunday Mornings

Regularly scheduled events

- 9:00 Coffee in the Parlor
- 9:15 First Forum (Adult Education), 3rd floor
- 9:15 Nursery Care to 11:45 a.m.
- 10:30 Service of Worship
- 10:45 Grand Central Stations (church school for Pre-K – 6th grade)
unless otherwise stated
- 11:30 Coffee Hour, Parlor

next newsletter deadline

Sunday, June 19th

email articles to sara@firstcentral.org

Week of Sunday, June 12

Sunday, June 12

First Forum, 9:15 a.m. “Signs of the Spirit”
Strengthen the Church special offering
 Evergreen Thrift Shop open after worship
 Communication Team, 11:40 a.m., Pastor’s Study
 Bell Choir, noon, back balcony

Monday, June 13

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.
 CrossOver Prison Ministries, 6 p.m., First Christian
 American Guild of Organists concert, 7 p.m., sanctuary

Tuesday, June 14

Tai Chi, 11:30 a.m., third floor parlor
 Worship Ministry, 6 p.m.
 Ministry Support, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 15

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 16

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 18

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Yoga, 10 a.m., third floor parlor
 First YOUth Carnival 4-7 p.m., patio & Memorial Hall
 YOUth lock-in, 7 p.m. until noon Sunday

Week of Sunday, June 19

Sunday, June 19

First Forum, 9:15 a.m., “The Role of Music in Spiritual Formation”

Church Tour, 11:40 a.m. meet in parlor
 Bell Choir, noon, back balcony

Monday, June 20

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.
 CrossOver Prison Ministries, 6 p.m., First Christian

Tuesday, June 21

Tai Chi, 11:30 a.m., third floor parlor

Wednesday, June 22

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 23

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 25

Heartland Pride, noon–8 p.m., Lewis & Clark Landing
 Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Yoga, 10 a.m., third floor parlor

Sunday, June 26

First Forum, 9:15 a.m., “The Re-emergence of Spirituality”
 Conversational Dinner, 6-8 p.m. at church

“THE CONGREGATIONALIST” (USPS563-160) is published semi-monthly from August 1 through August 1 by: First Central Congregational Church, 421 S. 36th St., Omaha, NE 68131

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to First Central Congregational Church, 421 S. 36th St., Omaha, NE 68131.

Periodicals postage paid at Omaha, NE.