



Prayers

Judy Blazek, recovering from eye surgery; *Norma Nelson*, who had surgery on a broken arm and is recovering at home; *Pete Peterson*, recovering from hip surgery; *Stephanie Gonzalez*, on the death of her uncle, *Richard Baum*; *Bob Vassell*, on the death of his cousin, *Keith Cordes*; *Dorothy Rydberg*, now recuperating at home; *Helen Sawtell*, hospitalized at Methodist; *Kaia Kessler*, Pat Kessler's granddaughter, recently hospitalized; *Tara Obner*, on the recent death of her father, *Robert Oberembt*; *Maryhelen Graul*, *Susan Dolezal* and *Sandy Lee's* mother, hospitalized in Lincoln; *Rev. Ellis Arnold*, Associate Conference Minister, recently hospitalized.

Joys:

Lucy Franks Wanzenried & Tom Jaworski, celebrating their marriage last week! *Daniel & Meryl Hoyt*, celebrating the birth of *Ira Scott Hoyt* – proud grandmother is *Kathy Hoyt*.

Super Sale!

First Central's Annual Super Sale is back, so save the date for Saturday, **May 8**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

With guidance from the Regathering Task Force, we'll be able to host this event safely by making a few adjustments like holding the plant sale in Memorial Hall and limiting capacity in that room and the Thrift Shop.

There are lots of opportunities to get involved:

- If you have extra 4"-12" pots, please bring them to church and leave them under the seedling tables by the courtyard windows. If you need pots, get them here.
- Dig up perennials in your yard or houseplants, place them in pots and bring

them to the church office April 24-May 5, prior to the sale. Please label your plants, including the color of the blooms, and if you have a picture of your plant – all the better!

- If you have plants in your yard you'd like to contribute but need help with digging and potting, OR you'd like to volunteer to dig/pot plants from members' gardens, email or call *Cherie Ferber* or *Barb Switzer*, or call the church office.
- Volunteers are needed on Friday, **May 7**, to prepare Memorial Hall and move plants, during the sale on **May 8**, and clean up afterward. We'll give public-facing tasks to those who are vaccinated, and those who aren't can help with other jobs.

There's plenty to do and lots of help is needed to make this fundraiser for our church a success!

Contact *Barb*, *Cherie* or the church office with any questions!



Parking Info

If you've not been to the church to worship in person for a while, you might be surprised to see that the parking lot to the west of the church is quite full on Sunday mornings. Since it is now a public parking lot, guests at the Cottonwood Hotel now use it. It is also now a pay lot, but you do not have to pay on Sunday mornings!

Congregational Care Ministry News

With the return of in-person Coffee Hour, comes the need for coffee purchases from our friends at *Just Haiti Coffee*! If you would like to help off-set the cost of our monthly purchases, please contact *Tina Grossenstein* or call the church office.

Ministry Support News

The contract has been signed for repairs to the Parlor, gym ceiling, and third floor kitchen after this winter's water damage. Work will begin after the Super Sale. Things will start looking normal again in no time!

Community News

The Hot Shops Art Center Spring Open House is May 1-2, Saturday from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Look for *Joyce Wilson's* studio! Timed tickets are required (and masks!). Go to hotshopsartcenter.org/openhouse to reserve your time.

Happy Anniversary, Jim!

Sunday, **May 9th**, we will celebrate the 50th (plus one year) anniversary of *Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon's* ordination! Jim will be at the pulpit. And we'll have special treats for coffee hour on the patio! Make plans now to join the celebration.

Patio Coffee Hour

With guidance from the ReOpening Task Force, in-person coffee hour returns on **Sunday, May 2nd!** For now, we will gather on the patio when weather permits. In an effort to keep germs at a minimum - as well as promote our own sustainability - we encourage you all to BRING YOUR OWN CUP to use. You can leave it at the church or better yet, take it with you and bring it back with you next time. Disposable cups will be available, but why not use this opportunity to build a new church practice and bring your own?



Climate Change Sabbath

Last Sunday we joined the churches of the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ in celebrating a Climate Change Sabbath. One of the best things anyone can do to help address a changing climate is to plant a tree. The Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ received a grant of fifty trees from the Arbor Day Foundation as part of our Climate Change Sabbath. Churches and church folk across the state are planting trees as part of this initiative, so that together we can demonstrate how our faith calls us to action on behalf of the world. We planted our tree last Sunday following worship.





Please check out our FIRSTKids YouTube Channel for our Quarantine series...

FIRSTKids CORNER

Join Pastor Katie every other Sunday for YouTube Sunday school, in which we will be discussing some classic and not-so-classic Bible stories and how they relate to our pandemic lives!

Twice-A-Month

FIRSTKids IN PERSON

Assuming virus rates remain low/steady, we will return to in person (social distanced and masked!) Sunday school twice a month!

From now through the summer, we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month during worship: children will be dismissed to class right after the Children's Conversation. All ages will meet in Memorial Hall, with designated areas for the children to remain in, individual craft supplies, and other safety measures. Following the service, children will meet their adults on the patio.

Masks will be required for all children and adults involved at all times!

We recognize this still presents Covid risk, and encourage you to decide what is best for your family and your safety at this time. FIRSTKids Corner videos will be posted on the non-in person weeks, and we are investigating zoom options for families who do not feel safe coming to church but still wish to participate in the in-person option.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Pastor Katie at the church or via email: Katie@firstcentral.org



During social distancing, we are scheduling youth group events as we go, and are looking to plan summer outdoor gatherings. Please call/email Pastor Katie if you would be like to be put on the email list!
katie@firstcentral.org

A Note from Rev. Katie

Hi friends!

I've been here at First Central for 5 years already. Can you believe it? Such a wonderful time with wonderful people, and I am so grateful and blessed every day to be with you all.

Five years means that, as per my call agreement, this summer I will be taking a sabbatical from May 31st - August 28th, returning on Homecoming Sunday, August 29th. I will be spending my sabbatical working on a few projects, including crafting curriculum for a year and editing, revising, and writing some children's plays to publish for the masses. I will also be volunteering at Kamp Kaleo for their bubble camping season. Covid has put a damper in some of my travel plans, but I am so very excited (and a bit overwhelmed) about this time of work and reflection and, yes, rest.

During my absence, volunteers will be taking on the education duties here, and I am so grateful for all of them who are able and willing to take those tasks on for the summer.

Thank you all so much for your care and support of me and my work here at First Central! I will miss you all and look forward to hopefully, maybe, POSSIBLY hugs in the early fall.

Rev. Katie Miller

Week of May 2

Sunday, May 2

Online or in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.
Fifty year member recognition during worship
Food Pantry Sunday

Monday, May 3

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study

Wednesday, May 5

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Choir, 7 p.m.
Vespers with Katie, 8 p.m., FaceBook Live

Thursday, May 6

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

Friday, May 7

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

Saturday, May 8

Super Sale! 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Week of May 9

Sunday, May 9

Online or in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.
FirstKids, Memorial Hall following the Convergence with the Children. Masks required.
Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon 50+ ordination anniversary

Monday, May 10

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study
Eves, 7 p.m., Zoom

Tuesday, May 11

Council, 7 p.m., Zoom

Wednesday, May 12

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Choir, 7 p.m.
Vespers with Katie, 8 p.m., FaceBook Live

Thursday, May 13

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

Friday, May 14

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

Saturday, May 15

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Week of May 16

Sunday, May 16

Online or in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.
Graduate recognition during worship

Monday, May 17

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study

Wednesday, May 19

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Choir, 7 p.m. (last for the season)
Vespers with Katie, 8 p.m., FaceBook Live

Thursday, May 20

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Congregational Care Ministry, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 21

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

Saturday, May 22

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Week of May 23

Sunday, May 23

Online or in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.
FirstKids, Memorial Hall following the Convergence with the Children. Masks required.

Monday, May 24

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study

Wednesday, May 25

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
All-Church Picnic, 5:30 p.m. Elmwood Park
Vespers with Katie, 7 p.m., FaceBook Live (last for the season)

Thursday, May 27

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

Friday, May 28

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

Saturday, May 29

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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