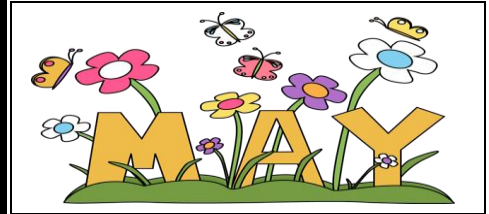


New England Messenger

New England Congregational Church
805 Oak St., PO Box 655, Stanton, NE 68779
Church 402-439-2175 (Cell 402-910-4009)

e-mail congregationalchurch@stanton.net

Rev. Linda Mohr



This Month: May 2022

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- Meeting Minutes Pages 4 & 5
- Attendance & Collection Page 3

May Birthdays

May 1	Paul Poeschl
May 2	Zak Hansen, Lynette Mandl,
May 8	Lois Kingsley
May 10	Donna Stuenkel
May 11	Teresa Chamberlain
May 15	Jackson Benson
May 16	Maci Schellpeper
May 21	Candece Hansen, MacKenzie Poeschl, Robert Stuenkel
May 23	Frankie Hansen, Jeanette Davidson, Alexia Arguello-Barth
May 24	Cheryl Hansen
May 30	Bob Chilcoat, Joel Scheidegger
May 31	Delores Geu

*Wishing you a very special day filled
with God's blessings!*

These are the birthdays that are part of the permanent records at church. If one has been missed, please let Rev. Linda know so that she can add the name to her list of birthday special prayers. Thank you.



Calendar

Pastor Linda's office hours are generally Mondays and Wednesday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Her schedule is a little varied during May – Please call ahead to make sure she is in the office, if you need to visit with her in her office. It's also important to call ahead, if needing to use the pantry. Food will be boxed for you. Thank you!

Office – (402) 439-2175

Pastor Linda – (402) 910-4009

May 1 9:30 am Diaconate Meeting
10:30 am Worship with
communion



May 7 Fellowship hall being used

May 8 9:30 am Trustee Meeting
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship

May 15 10:30 am Worship

May 18 4:00 pm Chapel at SHC

May 22 10:00 am Fellowship

May 28 Fellowship hall being used

May 29 10:30 am Worship



**Thank you to the sponsor
for this month:
Don and Louise Eberly**

The cost to sponsor a month's newsletter is \$58.00
Thank-you for all your generous support.

Newsletter Deadline: 5/25/22

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Lord!

Last month when I wrote my article, we were still in the season of Lent---not merely a season, but a forty-day intentional journey. It was an encounter, a time to let go of things that were keeping us from a right relationship with God and a time of reflection and realignment. And as I write today, we've finished the season of Lent, triumphed with our Lord on Palm Sunday, moved through the sadness of Holy Week and celebrated the risen Lord on Easter. As you look back over those days and events, how was your journey this year?

We might be wondering where we go from here now that Lent and Easter are over. The obvious answers might be that we now get to have all of the things that we've given up or we might get to rest from the added challenges we've given ourselves during this time. But there's a bit of a problem with that. As Jesus reminded Mary Magdalene at the tomb – the resurrection isn't the end! There is new life and with that new life comes much work. Easter morning didn't mean we could put away the season and not think about it until next year. Instead, we are just beginning the time of faith growth, much as the spring season is (hopefully) beginning.

We certainly haven't heard the last of Easter yet. **GOD IS STILL AT WORK IN OUR WORLD AND IN THE LIVES OF GOD'S PEOPLE!** There's no way to tell, of course, how long this After-Easter Excitement will last. We humans can seemingly have such short attention spans, I'm afraid. What should we do to keep the Easter message alive? Do we just attend Easter services and that's it? Shouldn't there be something more? I believe that there are three "musts" for us to fulfill in the After-Easter joy: Live passionately, Speak humbly and Love sincerely.

The apostle Paul was willing to forget his past in order to pursue and know Christ. He was willing to give up everything for the sake of Christ. If that isn't passion, I don't know what is! Not everyone can preach or teach like Paul, but everyone CAN do something to serve Christ in the church and outside the services of the church. If we are passionate for Christ, we should always be looking for opportunities to serve, to bless and to help because whatever we are interested in CAN be used for Christ.

Speaking humbly means that, as Easter people, we must be ready with an answer when someone might ask about Easter and the hope that we have. Not all will hear and not all will believe, but through our words, we are to teach the genuine love, care and respect we've received by believing in the resurrection power and the expectation that we share. As it's often said, "People don't care how much we know until they know how much we care." The only way to talk about Jesus is by showing first of all that we truly care about others and then when the timing seems right, present Christ to others honestly and humbly.

God wants us to love all people the best we can: the attractive and unattractive, the compassionate and the uncompassionate, the sensitive and the insensitive, the spiritual and the non-spiritual. Christ didn't die on the cross for believers only, He died for everyone! All human beings are priceless to God. We must demonstrate love to all, following Jesus' many examples. We need his heart in our living!

The Easter season and Resurrection Sunday may be over, BUT Christ is risen and Christ lives on. We've only just begun our gift of renewed and refreshed Christian living. You and Jesus, me and Jesus and our congregation and Jesus; we've just begun sharing Easter. Hand-in-hand and heart-in-heart. Easter may be past, but it's really NOT over. We've got much to do! I encourage each one of us not to get so wrapped up in our daily activities that we don't stop and see the beauty of all God's creation. Take some time this spring to be reborn, renewed, refreshed, refocused and thankful for Easter in our daily living.

God's blessings be with each one of you!

Pastor Linda



Blessings

MOBILE FOOD TRUCK & FOOD PANTRY

Anyone living in the Stanton County area is welcome to use the pantry housed at our church if they are in need of food. Hours are generally 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Mondays and Wednesdays or other times, if arranged with Pastor Linda. At this time, it's necessary that people call the church or Pastor Linda and boxes or bags will be filled and handed out to the recipients.



Because of so many very generous donations, our shelves are full right now. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for this outreach ministry.

NEWSLETTER REMINDER

If you would prefer NOT to get a paper copy of the monthly newsletter and would prefer to get a copy sent to your email, please call the church office and let us know. Thank you.



Worship Restrictions Continue

Because we want to protect **everyone** who gathers for worship, we will continue to follow certain restrictions for gathering. The offering plate will continue to be at the back of the sanctuary and communion will be served using pre-filled cups.

PLEASE REMEMBER You are invited to **attend as you feel comfortable**.

Rev. Linda will continue posting her sermons on the church website – stantonnecucc.org and on her Facebook page – Linda Mohr.

TECHNOLOGY SCREEN

May 1	Tami Barth
May 8	Barb Hansen
May 15	Tami Barth
May 22	Tami Barth
May 29	Jack Best

GREETERS

May 1	
May 8	Dee and Jim Geu
May 15	
May 22	Lois Kingsly
May 29	Jan Reese

FOR YOUR INFORMATION – ATTENDANCE & COLLECTIONS

Offerings to our Church: When you cannot attend, it may be mailed to our financial secretary, Karen Beyke, 1516 4th Street, Stanton, NE 68779. She may be reached at **402-649-8993**. Please leave a message. Thank you!

Date	Attendance	Collections
March 27	32	\$1231.00
April 3	37	\$2476.73
April 10	45	\$1409.00
April 17	102 (2 Easter Services)	\$

TRUSTEES MEETING

Board of Trustee's
April 10 2022



The meeting was called to order by chairman Bob Chilcoat at 9:30. Other members present were Scott Davidson, Joyce Goshorn, Michael Eberly, Gary Benson, Jim Dorsey and Howard Schuetz. Also in attendance Rev. Linda Mohr, Janet Roenfeldt and John Mandle.

There were no minutes to approve as there was no quorum at the last meeting in March.

Rev. Linda presented her report of events and new leadership in the Tri-Conference. She expressed gratitude to the Boy Scouts for collecting pantry items and delivering them to the church. Pantry is pretty well stocked but could use paper products and boxed food items (Hamburger Helper and similar).

Janet presented the bills and Treasurer's report. She pointed out that giving has declined somewhat in the past few months while the bills have run a little higher in late winter.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills by Jim Dorsey. Second by Michael Eberly. After short discussion of the financial situation the motion was approved. All present voted for the motion.

Under old business:

Gutter cleaning is still not complete, and we continue to wait for favorable weather and wind to get the job done.

The trustee Chairman will collaborate with the newsletter staff to reword last month's notice regarding the parking lot out front. Assurance needs to be given that there is no current plan to raise funds or undertake a paving project.

Motion by Howard Schuetz to transfer \$5000 from the endowment fund to the church general fund. Second by Gary Benson. All present voted for the motion

New business items:

Motion by Howard, second by Gary to approve Rev. Linda's request to be gone May 15 for her granddaughter's graduation. All present voted for the motion.

Motion by Jim, second by Gary to approve request from the Library Board to use our west parking lot area to host a community paper shredding event on April 30. Motion was approved with the provision that any heavy trucks or equipment be kept off the parking lot due to the condition of the concrete.

Motion by Howard, second by Jim to approve the following requests for use of the of the Fellowship Hall:

Ryan Hansen and family – April 17, 2022

Kingsley Family – May 28, 2022

Ashker Family – June 18, 2022

All present voted for.

There being no further business and no objection, the meeting was declared closed @ 10:05

A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

As you may be noticing, the front parking lot is reaching the point that it will need to be replaced.

No work will be done until funds for the project are secured. Donations, ear-marked for that purpose, are always welcome and appreciated.

Prayer Requests This Week

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A NAME ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

If you know someone in the hospital, or the nursing visit, please let us know by phone or e-mail –

53fraumohr@gmail.com

402-910-4009

402-439-2175

congregationalchurch@stanton.net

Church website at stantonnecucc.org.

All who have been affected in so many ways by the Coronavirus. All races, genders and ages to be honored-as all are created by and loved by God.

Diaconate

April 3, 2022

Attendees: Tami Barth, Jerett Rolf, Jack Best, Bill Johnson, Don Eberly, Barbara Hansen, Pastor Linda. John Mandl, SueAnn with Sunday School

Opening prayer was given by Pastor Linda

Minutes of previous meeting: approved as presented

Pastor's report:

Various hospital visitations; regular office hours; pantry distribution; Ash Wednesday and mid-week Lenten services; Nebraska Conference Board of Directors meetings; Sunday School worships; various local church board meetings; posting on website/FaceBook; Zoom Conference meetings; Zoom Living Waters Covenantal Learning Group; Zoom UCC 5-week Pastoral Care class; visitation for funeral; funeral for non-member; attended out of town funeral; Funeral for Federated Church member; zoom Living Waters Council meeting; Zoom Living Waters Church and Ministry meeting; UCC and Disciples Joint Ministerial gathering.

Discussion concerning Pastor having to come an hour early to post service when posting actual service is working. It is a request and Pastor said she doesn't mind doing it.

Youth reports:

Sunday School will end the last of April Youth are studying the Ten Commandments as living in today's world and is Pre thinking before confirmation.

Bible School – Curriculum is here, following what was used last year. Financing: Methodist church not having any children here but still sent \$200 and \$150 will come from St. Luke's. Our trustee's will donate the \$250 the Diaconate asked for. If Methodist church closes, do we official invite them to join us? No date set yet.

No Unfinished business.

New business

Camp Kaleo has new management and will have camp during the month of June this year.

Given a Telephone List of members; we are to update and bring to the May meeting.

Pastor Linda will be attending her granddaughter's graduation on May 15. (Bill, Barbara) moved to have Linda do service on-line that day with someone from Diaconate doing the other part.

Other? Comment in general concerning the west Parking lot: "hope that we have all the money in hand before we start construction."

Announcements

Next meeting – May 1, 2022 – 9:30 Church Council meeting – April 24, 2022 – 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday – April 14, 2022 – 6:30 pm
Easter April 17, 2022 – Sunrise service – 6:30, breakfast following. Easter Egg hunt. Traditional service – 10:30 am

Liturgists

May 1 – John Mandl
May 8 – Lois Kingley
May 15 – Jim Dorsey
May 22 – Delores Geu
May 29 – Jim Dorsey

WORK GROUP FOR April & May

Bernbeck, Con & Lorena Co-Chair
Hansen, Bill & Jan Co-Chair
Benson, Brian & Wendy
Benson, Gary & Bonnie
Benson, Tim & Nancy
Bernbeck, Cody & Alysha
Beyke, Rod & Karen
Colsdon, Joy & Ron
Daniel, Grant
Daniel, Kevin & Jacque
Daniel, Jill
Denney, Lola
Kolhoff, Jerry
Kuester, Linda
Noelle, Dennis
Schellpeper, Ron & Joanne
Stamm, Tim
HONORARY
Davidson, Jim



This year VBS is at our church. It will be in the evenings from 5pm to 7pm. More information will be announced regarding the dates and exact times. As soon as we know, we will share that information.

Taken and condensed from Faithgateway

After 2,000 years, we've heard the Easter story so many times we often think we know everything about it. But there are some aspects that are not as well known. Here are a few things the disciples did after Easter that may surprise us:

#1. The disciples were skeptical. The Gospel records are clear: many of Jesus' closest followers were openly skeptical of the early reports of the resurrection. When the women who first saw Jesus alive reported what they had seen, the other followers dismissed it as "an idle tale" and "did not believe them" ([Luke 24:11](#)).

The Gospel of John says that one of Jesus' closest followers, named Thomas, refused to believe that God had raised Jesus to life. He would have to put his finger in the nail holes in Jesus' hands before he would believe such a thing.

On a mountain in Galilee, Jesus appeared to eleven of His disciples and they worshiped Him there, but, Matthew reports, "some doubted" ([Matthew 28:17](#)). For us today it means that Christians should acknowledge the skepticism they encounter about the Christian testimony.

#2. They broke bread in Jesus' memory. It appears that the Last Supper rite that Jesus bequeathed to His followers was put into practice very early, perhaps within *days* of the Crucifixion.

A story related briefly in Mark and in Luke concerns two followers who had an encounter with the risen Jesus near the village of Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. The disciples did not recognize the risen Jesus but invited Him to eat with them. At the table, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and, the disciples' eyes were opened. They reported the incident to the entire community, saying that Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread ([Luke 24:12-35](#)).

Christian denominations differ on how they interpret what the Last Supper means, but it's clear from the New Testament that Jesus' earliest followers followed Jesus' command to "do this in memory of Me."

But Jesus' followers didn't break bread only. They did something else as well...

#3. They searched the Scriptures. With a few exceptions, the earliest followers of Jesus were devout Jews, steeped in the traditions and laws of their ancestors. It was natural, then, for them to search their ancient holy books (or holy scrolls) to find explanations for the extraordinary events that had happened in their midst.

Modern skeptics make much of the parallels between the Gospels and Old Testament texts, examples of what scholars call *midrash*, the Jewish technique of stitching Biblical passages together to expand on a given point or interpret an event. They claim that this shows New Testament incidents were just made up. But this is to misunderstand what *midrash* is.

A modern equivalent might be a journalist who says a current U.S. president "cannot tell a lie," deliberately referencing a very old saying about George Washington but *also*, at the same time, making a comment on a real situation in the present day.

#4. They took care of the sick. A major component of Jesus' mission on earth appears to have been free healing. One of the first things the gospel of Mark says about Jesus is that He was a healer: [*Jesus*] *healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons.* — [Mark 1:34](#) and Jesus commanded His followers to do the same.

According to Matthew's account, Jesus called His twelve apostles and instructed them to heal "every disease and every affliction" ([Matthew 10:1](#)). In Luke, Jesus sends out seventy-two of His disciples as

#5. They invited others into their fellowship. In the 20th century, some New Testament scholars claimed that Jesus never intended to launch a movement or form a fellowship.

But that is precisely what the earliest Christian records say. The Gospels and the rest of the New Testament are emphatic that Jesus instructed His followers to "make disciples of all nations" ([Matthew 28:19](#)).

From the very beginning, it appears, this was Jesus' intention for His followers. Jesus' first challenge to the Galilean fisherman Simon bar Jonah, for example, was for him to follow Jesus and He would make him "a fisher of men."

Indeed, that was one of Jesus' metaphors to explain what the kingdom of God is like, a fishing net. "The kingdom of Heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind," He told a crowd one day on the lakeshore.

Within weeks of Easter, then, Jesus' followers were inviting everyone who would listen into their fellowship. According to Acts, after Simon Peter's sermon to the crowds gathered at Pentecost, "about three thousand" people joined the community in a single day.