

# CONGREGATIONAL CLARION

2150 FOOTHILL DRIVE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
801-487-1357

November 2020



**First Congregational Church**

**2150 S. Foothill Drive**

**Salt Lake City, Utah 84109**

Phone: (801) 487-1357

Email: [firstcongo@qwestoffice.net](mailto:firstcongo@qwestoffice.net)

Website: [www.firstcongregationalslc.org](http://www.firstcongregationalslc.org)

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30am – 3:00pm

Friday: 8:00am – Noon

**Sunday Worship Services:**

Traditional Worship at 10:30am Live Streaming

Nursery Provided

**Worship LIVE STREAMING - Facebook SUNDAYS @10:30AM**

<b>Interim Minister:</b>	Rev. Janie Gebhardt
<b>Moderator:</b>	Cissy Wolff
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Assoc. Moderator:</b>	Carla McIntire
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Assoc. Moderator:</b>	Mike McIntire
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Paul Kelley
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Mike McIntire
<b>Church Clerk:</b>	Ken Rockwell
<b>Board of Trustees:</b>	Bob Baird
<b>Board of Deacons:</b>	Phil LeHoux
<b>Outreach Board:</b>	Ashton McDonald
<b>Christian Education:</b>	
<b>Youth Director:</b>	Molly Connor
<b>Membership Board:</b>	
<b>Parish Nurses:</b>	Diane Forster-Burke, Marge Kimes, Lynne Calame
<b>Camp Fellowship:</b>	Christine Madsen and Shaun McIntire
<b>Garden of Grace:</b>	Scott & Jeanne Hansen
<b>Choir Director:</b>	Devon Bettolo
<b>Organist:</b>	Teresa Clawson
<b>Church Secretary:</b>	Kristi Hanson

**TIME CHANGE** Remember to move your clocks back (FALL BACK) for Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Janie's Jottings ~ Rev. Janie Gebhardt

Reflecting on our most recent Council meeting – I know making difficult decisions is hard! I began thinking about the story often used in Interim Ministry. It's the Exodus story – Moses leading the people to the Promised Land, but the journey takes 40 years. And there are many challenges and points of disagreement on the way. I recognize it was a huge transition from being under the thumb of Pharaoh to being free, but the story reminds us it took a long time – whatever “40 years of wandering” represents. We are in that wilderness time as we try to discern what our future may hold.



Other churches who have faced challenges similar to ours agree it's hard and not everyone sees the situation the same way. The reason the decision is so agonizing is the decisions placed before us are not really the decisions we *want* to make – to sell the building, merge with another congregation or simply close. Even if we have the resources to maintain for another 3 to 5 years that probably won't change the need to make a decision about our future. The decision to leave the old building to come to Foothill Drive was full of hope and possibility, especially after a fire made turning back impossible, but I'm sure that old building held many memories of life events marked within its walls. Weddings, baptisms, Sunday School adventures or the connections made in basketball or youth fellowship – all are special connections to a building but that is not all there is to being a church. Those connections exist here on Foothill Drive too, but we can still be a faithful church beyond these particular walls.

Who will we be going forward? That was a question that faced those who followed Moses. I think of the parts of that wandering where people had to be reminded of what it meant to be God's people and to not be distracted by things like golden calves. As we head toward the Promised Land our task is to carefully discern what God is calling us to be and to do.

Accompanying you on the journey ~  
Janie

## **FROM THE MODERATOR - Cissy Wolff**

Council has evaluated the information gathered from the investigations that have been ongoing to help determine our church's future. Here is an update of those investigations:



- No one volunteered to contact a leasing agent to investigate the possibility of leasing portions of our church as commercial or office space.
- When churches were contacted about sharing our church's space, two churches expressed interest in buying our church and would potentially keep the structure intact if they purchased the property. They also offered rental space for our church to gather within the building.
- One church expressed interest in a long term lease/partnership arrangement of 2-5 years. There was excitement about the potential of helping and partnering with a young, vibrant, energetic congregation. However it was unclear if this arrangement would bring the type of growth, energy, and financial benefit that would keep our church viable. Questions were also raised about our ability to oversee and manage this partnership given the volunteer pool that we have now.
- All Saints Episcopal Church, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church offered places for our church to gather if we sold our property.
- Salt Lake RDA (Redevelopment Agency) has completed its FIT study which included 4 potential options for our property. Two of the options included maintaining the sanctuary as a worship space for us.
- We have had 2 unsolicited offers to buy the property. One for 4 million dollars and the other for 5.6 million dollars.
- Last year a church expressed interest in purchasing our property with the intent to raze the building and build a new church.
- Finances: We are relying on revenue coming from our Trust to pay for maintenance of the building and property. That revenue combined with revenue we receive from the antenna leases is covering our building expenses. Giving is not covering the salaries

that we pay to our minister and staff. This need was communicated to the membership.

- Conversations with Michael Chittum at the NACCC helped us determine what services may be useful for us. He suggested that we may want to engage with the Center for Parish Development after our church determines that it is viable and committed to staying together, whether in the present building or in another place. He gave encouragement that churches of our present size are typical of modern day Protestant churches and can be thriving, vital, spiritually uplifting communities of faith.
- Information from Appreciative Inquiry helped us identify our core values and discover that we have shared hopes and dreams that honor our comradery and the many things we do well, such as the Parish Nurse Program and Camp Fellowship. Our dreams for this place include having spiritually uplifting worship services, putting faith into action, listening to one another, not worrying about the building and being ready to embrace change. We still need to articulate our "Why"--What do we stand for, and we need to determine our destiny.

In August of this year 8 of 13 Council members (present and past) did **not** feel ready to present a motion to sell the property before the congregation. There was a desire to see the results of the various investigations. They recommended that the results of the investigations be reviewed in 6-8 weeks. After approximately 8 weeks had elapsed, and at the October 21 Council meeting, 7 of 11 Council members (1 opposed, 2 abstained, 1 absent) decided that it was time for the congregation to decide if we see ourselves continuing to be owners and caretakers of this property as part of our destiny.

**As a result of this vote, Council will draft a motion asking the congregation to decide if they are ready to sell all or part of the real property of First Congregational Church.**

It is anticipated that the results of this vote will be a first step in helping us articulate our "Why"--What do we stand for?. If the congregation votes to sell all or part of the real property of FCC, then the next step

will be to determine to whom we will sell. Based on our investigations we have many, many options. These discussions could be a wonderful opportunity to articulate who we are, what we dream to be, and what we stand for. If the congregation does not vote to sell the property then we are accepting and committing to the responsibilities of being owners and caretakers of the property. We will still need to determine what we stand for and determine how owning and taking care of this place reflects the "Why" of our existence.

Please be on the lookout for information that will have the official motion that will be presented to the congregation. A mail-in ballot will likely be planned to ensure that all voting members have an opportunity to participate in this important decision. Council will determine the best ways to communicate to the congregation and the best ways for people to ask questions about this important vote.

Thank you to all of the people who participated in Appreciative Inquiry, who worked so diligently to get concrete information to help determine our future, and who continue to work to coordinate and support meaningful spiritual experiences.

### **GARDEN of GRACE: Fall Renewal**

The Garden needed a lot of care after a long hot summer. Clover had moved in and covered most of our pathway stones. I am grateful to Scott, Jon, & Ryan for their hard work to bring the Garden back. We also added some mulch in some areas. The Honeybees are enjoying the light purple Aster blooms. Enjoy your Fall!  
Jeanne Hansen



## **OUT & ABOUT**

The Springville Museum for Art 96th Spring Salon FALL EDITION is open now: Wed. Oct. 22, 2020 through Wed. Jan.13th 2021.

My painting "Zion's Path was juried into the exhibit.

Springville Museum of Art

126 East 400 South, Springville, Utah 84663

801-489-2727 No admission fee

Hours: Tues,Thurs,Fri.&Sat. 10am-5pm

Wed.10am-8pm

Hope you can see this beautiful exhibit! High ceilings & bring a mask.

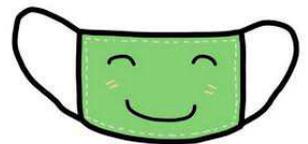
Jeanne Hansen



## **Parish Nurse Health Tip**

### **What We Know So Far About Masks and Coronavirus**

#### **Here's A Refresher Course**



It's been a half-year since we started wearing masks and other face coverings to guard against the new coronavirus. Yet confusion and controversy still surround masks. Controversy? Really?!

### **Do Masks Actually Work?**

- **YES!** Remember that masks protect others when we cover our faces. And other people's masks shield us from their respiratory droplets.
- A growing number of studies show that when entire communities mask up, the virus loses its power to spread from person to person. That's especially important now that studies suggest that large droplets from coughs or sneezes aren't the only way to transmit the virus. It may also happen when we talk or breathe heavily and exhale aerosols, which are lighter, smaller particles that can hang in the air for much longer and travel farther than socially distanced 6 feet.
- Two unwitting hairstylists in Missouri demonstrated the protective power of masks when they went to work for days despite showing symptoms of COVID-19. None of the 139 customers and others they came into contact with caught the virus. The reason? The stylists and all their clients covered their faces the entire time in the salon.

- Don't forget to put an extra mask in your car. How often have you forgotten your mask and had to go back home. Never ever say, "Oh never mind. I'm going to wing it."

### **When and Where Should We Mask Up? Follow the "Three C's".**

- **Crowded places.** Like restaurants and bars (really!?). Staying 6 feet apart may not be safe or possible if people are packed around you. That goes for both indoors and outdoors.
- **Closed spaces.** Like offices, clinics, elevators, hair salons (long hair is a good look, now-a days). This is especially important in poorly ventilated rooms. Open windows and good airflow let outside air in, which helps lower the concentration of airborne viruses. That's music to Diane's ears! She is always opening windows.
- **Close-contact settings.** Like face-to face talking. Masks are a necessary safety accessory whenever you get up close and personal with anyone outside your "safety bubble."

### **What Type of Mask Should I Wear?**

*First, any type of covering is probably better than no covering at all. Barely.*

- **Right fit.** This means tightly covering *both* your mouth and nose. And be sure to leave it *on*; a mask that dangles by the loop from your ear is a useless mask. It should fit snugly over the bridge of your nose down to your chin. Any gaps will let droplets and aerosols escape. Take care not to touch the mask itself when you put it on and take it off to avoid contamination. Put on and take off by the ear loops.
- **Fabric.** Lab studies show that tight weaves are best for filtering microscopic viral particles. If you can see individual fibers when you hold the mask up to a light, the material likely is too thin and loosely woven. Pure cotton is better than synthetic material such as polyester. The CDC recommends masks with at least two layers. Homemade ones are one choice. You can add a coffee filter in between to boost filtration. Masks with a wire that you pinch over the bridge of your nose may keep your glasses from fogging.
- **Breathability.** If you can't breathe well through your mask, chances are you are not going to use it. Some materials are great at blocking particles, but may be uncomfortable to wear. And even if you can tolerate, say, a layer from a vacuum bag, do some research. Some HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters have fiberglass, which is harmful if you inhale it.

### How Often Should I Wash Cloth Masks?

- It's best to launder after each use. Then you best have a reserve!
- Use soap or detergent and hot water.
- You can air dry it. Just make sure it's fully dry before donning it again.
- Damp fabric makes it hard to breathe through and may encourage bacterial growth.

### Which Is Better: Gaiters or Face Shields?

- **NEITHER**, at least when compared to cloth masks.
- Gaiters are a tube of fabric that hangs on your neck and which you pull up over your mouth and nose. They're probably better than going barefaced.
- Researchers don't really know how much protection gaiters offer.
- Plastic face shields may be even less protective. Without a mask underneath, it's unclear that a shield alone can keep people safe.

### Should I Get Medical-Grade Masks?

- Two main ones are surgical masks and N95 masks. Both are meant to be disposable –which is COSTLY!
- Surgical masks are often blue and pleated. They're designed mostly to contain large droplets and spit from your mouth and nose from reaching other people.
- N95, on the other hand, are tight-fitting respirators that protect both the wearer and those near them. You don't need an N95 mask unless you regularly are near people who have COVID-19.
- If you are a front-line worker in a school, grocery store, airplane, or similar places, the CDC advises that you wear a reusable cloth facemask to stay safe.
- Some N95 masks and reusable masks have exhalation valves or vents to make breathing easier. But those aren't recommended because they can release your viral particles into the air. That raises the risk of getting others sick if you're positive for COVID-19.

Hi Everyone, Lynne here. I finally found a mask that I love. My daughter, who is the queen of research and whose husband is an emergency department doc, loved my mask. She has two boys. They hated the cutesy pie masks out there. And my youngest grandson was too small for an adult mask, and too old and big for the silly pediatric masks, loved my masks. They fit the criteria by having adjustable ear fittings - And a space to insert a PM2.5 filter – Which you can purchase 50 or so online for a song. I found this “crafter” on Etsy, Mulbora. She

has a billion fabrics (they are a combo cotton/polyester) from which to choose, an ear adjustable “cinch” and a lightweight strap like the old lady eyeglass chain holders of yesteryear you can choose to purchase extra.

Here’s the long and short of it! DON’T GET COMPLACENT! KEEP WEARING  
THOSE MASKS! BELIEVE IN THE SCIENCE!

Here’s my last plea, if you still are unconvinced about masks. The next time you or one of your loved ones goes in for surgery. You tell that surgeon, you don’t want her or anyone in the OR to wear a mask or wash their hands.



Cuz, by God you are an American!

Sources: Dawn O’Shea, Medscape Nurses, September 29, 2020, NEHA PATHAK, MD, WEB MD, October 06, 2020



P.S. Are you still washing your hands and using hand sanitizer?  
DON’T GET LAZY!

Remember, only we can prevent Forest Fires and Covid-19!

### From the Deacons

The deacons continue to meet regularly (via Zoom) and struggle with ways to adapt our remote worship, which seems to be destined to continue in this fashion for an indeterminate period. Alas, we do not have the capability for fancy productions, but feel that maintaining contact with and among our church community is the important focus. That said, our young people showed us what was possible, and how the recent addition of the excellent musical accompaniment to the recent Children’s Sabbath enhances the worship experience for all, and suggested that this could be a more-regularly featured link to our worship. Our technical crew have indicated that they could record and add

performances to accompany our Sunday worship, though likely on a pre-recorded basis, since we only have a single stationary microphone at the lectern. We are therefore extending an invitation to our many talented members to share those talents with the congregation as part of our worship. We have done this throughout the summer during our traditional choir hiatus, and this has been well-received. If you would like to be included in a worship by sharing your musical talent or would like to explore how your individual or group performance could be safely recorded, please contact any deacon or the church office.

Sadly, the ongoing requirement to maintain social distancing will likely preclude a "Hanging of the Greens" this year. We will try to bring a bit of the upcoming Thanksgiving and Advent seasons by placing the traditional Cornucopia and Nativity on the communion table and moving the Sunday worship immediately in front of them. We also plan to do the traditional lighting of the Advent wreath this year and would invite individual or family groups to participate. We can assure you that behind the scene, our small working group easily maintains social distancing in our sanctuary and mask wearing is a must while not isolated on camera.

Another level of uncertainty may also arise along with difficult winter travel. As Reverend Janie commutes from Pocatello weekly, travel conditions may preclude getting to the city. If need be, the Sunday worship will then be conducted from her home, as was done when we first started our online activities. Of course, as all other activities are also online (coffee with the pastor, bible study), these should also not be affected by travel conditions.



## **Treasurer's Explanation of the Church Financial Report – September 2020**

We ran a \$5,570 surplus in September. For the first three months in this fiscal year the general fund deficit is \$8,313.

Consequently, the general fund balance has fallen from \$199,490 on June 30 to \$191,177 on September 30.

Unrestricted Giving was \$17,270 in September, \$8,886 above budget. For perspective, last month's giving was the second largest amount ever recorded in September. For the year, Unrestricted Giving is \$27,581, \$1,176 above budget.

Church revenue was \$22,055 in September and \$77,424 for the fiscal year to date. Revenue received from the FCC Trust to reimburse cost of HVAC controls and church maintenance expenses was \$780 in September and \$37,691 year to date.

Revenue from the Trust and cellular antenna leases is covering building and ground costs so far this year. Revenue from those sources has totaled \$48,705 - \$4,782 more than Building and Grounds expenses. The other major revenue source, Unrestricted Giving, has fallen short of covering the cost of employees, administration and church activities by \$13,095 so far this fiscal year.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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### **For Period Ending September 30, 2020**

	September	Fiscal Year-to- Date
CHURCH GENERAL FUND		
Unrestricted Contributions	\$17,270.00	\$27,581.00
+ Other Unrestricted Revenue	\$4,460.04	\$387,413.31
+ Transferred to General Fund from Designated Accounts, Memorial Fund & FCC Trust	\$325.00	-\$337,569.87
= Total Income	\$22,055.04	\$77,424.44
Total Expenses	-\$16,485.14	-\$85,737.54
= <i>Net General Fund Surplus (-Deficit)</i>	<i>\$5,569.90</i>	<i>-\$8,313.10</i>

### Data for comparison

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Contributions	\$26,405.00
YTD Budgeted Total Income	\$108,519.00
YTD Budgeted Total Expenses	-\$107,192.10
Amt YTD Surplus is ahead of (+) or behind (-) Budget	-\$9,640.00

### DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS

	September	Fiscal Year-to- Date
Designated Contributions		
All Outreach Contributions	\$755.00	\$1,305.00
Other Designated Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00
= <i>Total Designated Contributions</i>	<i>\$755.00</i>	<i>\$1,305.00</i>

## November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Facebook Live Worship Service 10:30am  Ekklesia Worship Services 9am and 11:30am Gym and Downstairs areas  Daylight Savings – Set Clocks back 1 hour (Fall Back)	<b>2</b> AA group meeting virtually until further notice	<b>3</b> Deacons Meeting – Zoom @7pm  ELECTIONS USING GYM/FIRESIDE/KITCHEN AND DOWNSTAIRS RESTROOMS Full Day Use	<b>4</b> Men's Breakfast 7am  Pastor Coffee – Zoom 10am  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>5</b> Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Blood Drive Gym
<b>8</b> Facebook Live Worship Service 10:30am  Ekklesia Worship Services 9am and 11:30am Gym and Downstairs areas	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Zoom CE Meeting @7pm  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>11</b> Pastor Coffee – Zoom 10am  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>12</b> Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Facebook Live Worship Service 10:30am  Ekklesia Worship Services 9am and 11:30am Gym and Downstairs areas	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>18</b> Pastor Coffee – Zoom 10am  Zoom Council Meeting @7:00pm  Clarion Deadline  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>19</b> Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Facebook Live Worship Service 10:30am  Ekklesia Worship Services 9am and 11:30am Gym and Downstairs areas	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>25</b> Pastor Coffee – Zoom 10am  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>26</b> Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm  Office Closed  Thanksgiving	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  Facebook Live Worship Service 10:30am  Ekklesia Worship Services 9am and 11:30am Gym and Downstairs areas	<b>30</b>					

## December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Deacons Meeting – Zoom @7pm  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>2</b> Men's Breakfast 7am  Pastor Coffee – Zoom 10am  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>3</b> Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  Facebook Live Worship Service 10:30am  Ekklesia Worship Services 9am and 11:30am Gym and Downstairs areas	<b>7</b> AA group meeting virtually until further notice	<b>8</b> Zoom CE Meeting @7pm  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>9</b> Pastor Coffee – Zoom 10am  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>10</b> Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  Facebook Live Worship Service 10:30am  Ekklesia Worship Services 9am and 11:30am Gym and Downstairs areas	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>16</b> Pastor Coffee – Zoom 10am  Zoom Council Meeting @7:00pm  Clarion Deadline  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>17</b> Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  Facebook Live Worship Service 10:30am  Ekklesia Worship Services 9am and 11:30am Gym and Downstairs areas	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>23</b> Pastor Coffee – Zoom 10am  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @7:30pm Facebook Live Service  Office Closed	<b>25</b> Christmas Day  Office Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Facebook Live Worship Service 10:30am  Ekklesia Worship Services 9am and 11:30am Gym and Downstairs areas	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Office Closed  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>30</b> Pastor Coffee – Zoom 10am  Office Open morning hours  Building Rental Lacrosse – Gym 4:30pm – 6pm	<b>31</b> Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm  Office Open morning hours		

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2150 S. Foothill Drive

SLC, Utah 84109

November 2020

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**