

*News and  
Stories  
from the  
people of  
FCC of  
Anchorage*

August 2020

# The Northern Light

First Congregational Church of Anchorage

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## Message from the Moderator

My newsletter article this time is about encouraging you to do a couple of things: attend FCC ministry meetings (via Zoom) and visit the church.

First, the meetings. Have you ever served on an FCC ministry (or a board, the previous name for our ministries)? Have you ever thought about doing it (or doing it again)? When I agreed to be the FCC moderator, I decided I would attend as many of the meetings of the FCC ministries as I could, so I could stay informed about what was going on. I am actually enjoying seeing our ministries in action.

Would you be interested in "attending" a Zoom meeting of one of the FCC ministries? They are all open to anyone who is interested. Before you say, "No way," to the question of whether you would be interested in attending such a meeting, please consider the following:

1. The FCC ministries are made up of people you know and might like to know better, and other people you don't yet know but might like to know; watching them in action at a meeting is likely to help in that;
2. The FCC ministries take care of some very interesting things (and of course, some not so interesting);
3. If you are nosy and want to know what is going on "behind the scenes" at FCC, attending a ministry meeting can help you there;
4. During the pandemic, there is only so much naval gazing, junk TV watching and pacing that any one person should do, and attending a Zoom meeting can pull you away from those;
6. If you are a member of FCC, or are considering becoming a member, attending one or more ministry meetings is a great way to learn about what being a member of FCC is all about;

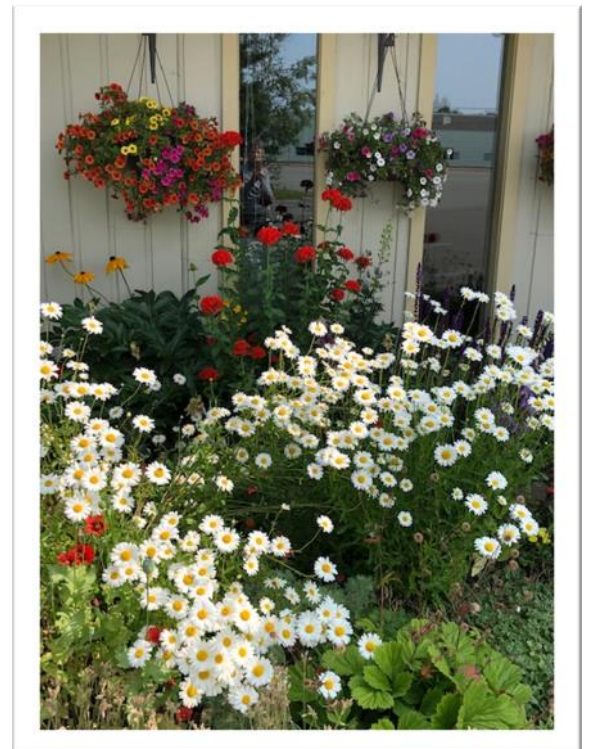
## Moderator, continued

7. If you are interested in FCC worship, FCC finances, FCC educational programs, FCC fellowship and/or FCC outreach beyond our FCC walls, there is an FCC ministry waiting for you to participate in; attending a Zoom meeting of that ministry before deciding on whether to agree to be nominated for a position on that ministry can help in your decision.

Second, consider stopping by the church. It's still there! Stop by and see the beautiful flowers (lovingly cared for by Julie & Scott McClure and Caroline Valentine), the plantings around the building and parking lots (mainly due to Jim Walker and friends), and the raised bed plantings in the lower parking lot.

I hope to see you (via Zoom) at one or more of these meetings, or in-person wandering around the church (masks on, of course).

*-Lynn Barber, Moderator*



# Worship Ministry

Thursday, July 30th I watched a good deal of the funeral service for John Lewis this morning. A poem was read and a song was sung that stayed with me all day, It was I Dream a World by Langston Hughes, and If I Can Help Somebody by Mahalia Jackson. Those two artists have influenced me in my faith journey at various times in my life, as they did in this service. Through all the suffering in their lives, they still held love for their fellow men (and women), and wrote and sang so eloquently about it.

Today, as we suffer through the anxiety of a virus that has removed us from our church building and kept us apart from each other, we must somehow keep on helping and caring for each other, until times are better. Our ministry is keeping track of those who are hurting and in need of solace, prayers, or just some contact. If you have a need, please let the church know, so that we can care for you.

We continue to pray for the family of Jim Walton. Take a moment to look at the list of prayer concerns in the bulletin and say a prayer, send a card, or give a call (not to Jim, though) to someone. It just might make their day a little easier to handle.

Here is a picture of our former moderator, Louise Smith, recovering from back surgery. She is now able to walk down the street and back, with a cane and someone to help. Keep up the good work, Louise!

*-Kathy Means, Chair*

## If I Can Help Somebody

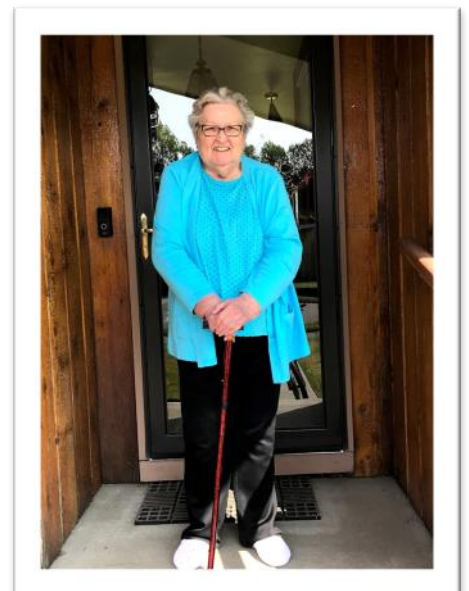
If I can help somebody, as I pass along,  
If I can cheer somebody, with a word or song,  
If I can show somebody, that he's travelling wrong,  
Then my living shall not be in vain.

My living shall not be in vain,  
Then my living shall not be in vain

If I can help somebody, as I pass along,  
Then my living shall not be in vain.

If I can do my duty, as a good man ought,  
If I can bring back beauty, to a world up wrought,  
If I can spread love's message, as the Master taught,  
Then my living shall not be in vain.

**-Mahalia Jackson**





# Life & Learning



COVID Communion from home



Youth Sunday 2019



AKEELA 2015



Youth Sunday 2016

# FCC Choir & Handbell Choir

The FCC choir has continued to meet throughout this time of distancing at the church. They gather to enjoy each other's company, as well as to continue planning the beautiful music that is shared during worship on Sundays. We are fortunate to have so many wonderful singers, musicians, and leaders that share their time and talents with the rest of us, and have stepped into uncharted territory and learned new ways of making music with one another while we cannot be physically together.



## I Dream a World

I dream a world where man  
 No other man will scorn,  
 Where love will bless the earth  
 And peace its paths adorn  
 I dream a world where all  
 Will know sweet freedom's way,  
 Where greed no longer saps the soul  
 Nor avarice blights our day.  
 A world I dream where black or white,  
 Whatever race you be,  
 Will share the bounties of the earth  
 And every man is free,  
 Where wretchedness will hang its head  
 And joy, like a pearl,  
 Attends the needs of all mankind-  
 Of such I dream, my world!

-Langston Hughes

## Stewardship Ministry

We will continue to meet via zoom. As always, the meetings are open to all. If there is a matter that needs to be brought before this Ministry, please email the office or contact Sharon Higgins. Our Church continues to need the support of the congregation and appreciates the donations coming in. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person in the near future, but the safety and health of everyone is our prime concern. Stay safe.

*-Sharon Higgins, Chair*

## FCC Weed Pick-Nik

### Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for our first, annual "FCC Weed Pick-Nik" on **Saturday, August 15, 1:00 pm**. We're gathering outside (six feet apart, of course) to pick weeds, neaten up the various beds, and harvest from the Church's edible landscape. Bring your own picnic lunch/plate/ utensils, your gardening gloves, and your mask. The Church will provide hand sanitizer if you need it. If you're not comfortable standing up to eat, bring a chair, a small table or a blanket to spread on the lawn.

*-Kate O'Dell, Fellowship Chair*





## How's Your Patience?

I am not alone in trying to take this time to do many household things that do not require anyone else to be present. We all have papers that we have set aside to deal with when we have time. In trying to purge and organize I have often run across something worth rereading and sharing. I am not certain when I received this poem and it does not have an author. It is in my opinion worth thinking about. It is titled Broken Dreams.

*-Sharon Higgins*

### Broken Dreams

As children bring their broken toys  
With tears for us to mend,  
I brought my broken dreams to God  
Because he was my friend

But then instead of leaving Him  
In peace to work alone,  
I hung around and tried to help  
In ways that were my own.

At last I snatched them back and cried,  
"How an you be so slow?"  
"My child," said He, "what could I do?"  
"You never did let go?"

*-Loretta P. Burns*





## First Congregational Church of Anchorage

2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
Phone: 907.272.8363  
Fax: 907.272.5124  
Email: [office@fccak.org](mailto:office@fccak.org)  
Website: [www.fccak.org](http://www.fccak.org)

A service that explores other ways to engage our faith and spirituality together.



*Member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches*

## People of First Congregational Church

### **Senior Minister**

Rev. Jacob L. Poindexter  
907.272.8363  
[jacobp@fccak.org](mailto:jacobp@fccak.org)

### **Organist; Director, Northern Lights Ringers**

Caroline Valentine  
907.272.8363

### **Director, Chancel Choir**

Lori Wasko  
907.272.8363

### **Administrative Assistant**

Krystal Poindexter  
907.272.8363  
[office@fccak.org](mailto:office@fccak.org)

### **FCC Sexton**

Scott McClure  
907.272.8363

### **Wedding Coordinator**

Sandra Skaggs  
907.622.1777

### Serving the NACCC

**Year Round Delegate**  
Sharon Higgins

**Board of Directors**  
Claudia Kniefel

### Serving the PNACCC

**Year Round Delegate**  
Kate O'Dell