

News and
Stories
from the
people of
FCC of
Anchorage

October 2020

The Northern Light

First Congregational Church of Anchorage

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Message from the Moderator

GETTING OUT THE VOTE, OUR VOTE!

People on the FCC Council and FCC Outreach Ministry are planning to make an effort to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) of our FCC church people. So that you won't be surprised if your phone rings and an FCC person is enthusiastically encouraging you to vote this year, following are the planned steps of this GOTV effort.

First, just a reminder of key November election dates:

Last day to register/update voter info.....	Oct 4
Absentee ballots start to be mailed out in Alaska.....	Oct 9
Early voting starts (in person/ballot drop off).....	Oct 19
Last day to apply for "by mail" absentee ballot.....	Oct 24
[Note: last day to register to vote for President only].....	Oct 24
Last day to apply for "by electronic" absentee ballot	Nov 2
Polls open / Election Day.....	Nov 3

As set forth in the information received from Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, which is leading this effort, "it is as simple as 'Faith, Love, and Action Together'. In today's environment, what is faith and love without action?"

The plan as set forth in communications from AUUF is for each of our members to be called 2 times by fellow FCC people. Short informational notices will be published in our Daily Updates. Calls and notices will remind our members of key election dates and provide general voter info (and links to other resource info). **This is a non-partisan GOTV effort.** AUUF will be preparing short write ups that our callers may use, as well as a 'one pager' voter information sheet to support our callers and inform our members. The plan is to have our first call be around/before when early voting starts (10/9-10/19) and the second call before the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot, 10/24. Online communications will correspond to this.

AUUF is sharing their plan and prepared written materials with us and other interested congregations, and will be providing copies of all drafted materials, both for making calls and publishing information notices for online communication. They will also provide callers and help coordinate planned activities, if we so request.

The next inter-congregational planning meeting will be on 10/6. Talk to Marilyn Lee or contact the church office if you wish more information on this project, and if you wish to help get out the vote of our FCC people.

-Lynn Barber; Moderator

“Jack-o-Lantern contest on Friday, October 23rd at 5:00 pm”

Let's Light Up the Night!

Get out your carving tools and create a prize-winning entry for FCC's Jack-o-Lantern Contest. We'll bring our carved pumpkins, gourds, or, if you're Irish, turnips, to the FCC lower parking lot at **5:00 pm on Friday, October 23**. The Fellowship Ministry will be creating the rules, the categories, and the prizes in the next few days, so watch the Daily Update and the Fellowship Ministry page on our website (www.fccak.org) for details.



Outreach Ministry

The grand total is 2,807 books in 60 boxes going up to Shungnak! Thanks to everyone who helped with this project for the Outreach Ministry!



2021 Budget Deliberations

The budget subcommittee of your Stewardship Ministry has been working on a budget for 2021 to be proposed at the Fall 2020 semiannual Congregational meeting in November. Overall, we are projecting a balanced 4.5% increase in revenues and expenditures compared to the current year budget that includes no use of savings or outstanding loans to service. Increased expenditures include:

- utilities (up 8%)
- building and grounds (up 10%); and
- salary and payroll tax total (up about 3%). The projected personnel increases are for modest raises for our hardworking church staff to show our appreciation for their work.



On the revenue side, the draft 2021 budget is showing:

- an increase in loose offerings (48%) to more accurately reflect a multiyear trend of increasing loose offering donations;
- a contractual 4% increase in parsonage rental;
- an anticipated decrease in facility rental (29%) resulting from the pandemic; and
- an increase in total pledge amounts of 3%. As you thoughtfully consider your 2021 pledges during the upcoming pledge drive, our subcommittee requests that you consider adding 3% to your 2021 pledge from this year's amount.

Working on the budget always refreshes my deep appreciation and gratitude for the generosity of our Church members and friends who continually provide for the ongoing financial support of our Church's missions and ministries. Thank you!

Feel free to contact subcommittee members Sharon Higgins, Fermen Dillon, Lynn Barber, Rev. Jacob Poindexter or me if there is anything that you would like to discuss or would like more information about.

- *Jim Munter; budget committee*



Have You Been Counted?

We know that we must Plan the Vote to make sure our voices are heard loud and clear in the upcoming election. However, another task that may just be more important than voting is to respond to the 2020 Census.

Did you know?

Even now, while the nation is coming to grips with a national crisis, the census is not to be taken lightly. It is crucial to the government's function, and we've been doing it for 230 years in the US — even during times of war.

The United States has far more incentive to get [the census] right [than in other countries], because the political stakes are so high, even beyond representative government. At last count, \$1.5 trillion in federal money was apportioned to state and local governments based on census data.

The census is also the baseline for every other statistical survey the government conducts. "It's this linchpin of the whole statistical system," author Andrew Whitby says. "I think it still plays an important part in framing the discussion about who we are as a country."

For just a few minutes of your time, you will contribute to the benefits of a complete Census for you, your family, and everyone else in the nation.

The 2020 Census is happening now.
You can complete your questionnaire
online, by phone, or by mail. Go to
<https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>
or call 1-844-330-2020.

Jenna & Nathan Amber Baby Shower

Thank you to everyone who came out to our socially distanced baby shower! Although we've certainly felt your love and support from afar while we've been meeting virtually this year, we truly enjoyed seeing you all in three-dimensions. It was so special to hear the stories from each of you about what was important to you in your childhood, and as you've raised your children. We are so grateful for the gifts that have been given and that will be given. Most of all, we're grateful for this loving community to raise our child in. We know that growing and learning about the world in the context of this community will teach him how to love and be loved, how to serve and be served.

- Jenna, Nathan & "Barney" ;)





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

Website: 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

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

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