

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

March 2021

The Northern Light

First Congregational Church of Anchorage

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Message from the Moderator

April Aires 2021

April Aires IS going to happen this year! (virtually, of course). It will be a joyous celebration of music and creativity. Caroline Valentine and Lynn Barber will be coordinating our 2021 program of visual and performance arts on the afternoon of Sunday, April 25 (time to be announced). Now is the time to start planning how you might be part of this event. We are hoping to involve more people, including young people, who have not previously participated in April Aires, so please consider getting together with others, or soloing, to sing a song, play a tune, read aloud, or record other types of creativity. All submissions should be no longer than 4 minutes. In addition to music/spoken word, there will be a virtual arts and crafts display interspersed with the prerecorded acts/presentations. Consider putting together a short video or time-lapse presentation of you doing your creative thing. You can also submit up to 3

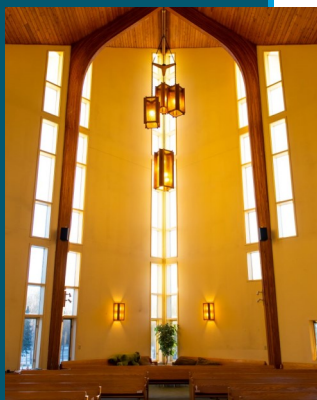
digital photos showing the beauty around us. As far as the special finger foods, etc. that usually accompanied our previous April Aires events, you will be on your own for that as we all watch our screens during the event.

Because the prerecorded acts for April Aires this year will be broadcast via Zoom and not just performed live, each act will need to meet federal copyright law requirements for recorded performances. This means that if the work you hope to perform is under copyright, you need to get permission, in writing, from the copyright owner (or the owner's representative) to perform it. Please note that copyrights last for 70 years after the death of the author (or for anonymous works, for the shorter of 95 years from the publication or 120 years after the creation of the work)! When in doubt, choose another piece of music. There are hefty penalties for copyright violations and there are no legal exceptions for nonprofits/

churches for performances at events that are not worship services. There are many online articles on this, most indicating that for a published musical work you need to go to the BMI, ASCAP and SESAC web sites and go through their procedures and pay for a license. How to avoid all this hassle? Write your own music, perform ancient folk songs, juggle, read aloud or show how to make or do something.

Please let us know as soon as you can, and **before March 15**, if you think you might want to perform, even if you haven't yet worked out the copyright issues. It's first come, first served. **By March 31**, you will need to send all submissions to Caroline, which for performances means sending a video or Acapella recording, the title and author of what you will be performing and a copy of the permission that you have obtained to do the performance. You may contact Caroline at (907) 230-9182 or via email: stay@camaibnb.com

-Lynn Barber, Moderator



Fellowship Ministry

An invitation to rest in the shade of the cross

One of our members recently described another member's reaction when he walked into the church for the first time since March...a sigh, as if he had come home again. When she described this, I thought that we might all be needing a way to spend a few moments sitting quietly in the Sanctuary or downstairs in Cary Mead Hall and feeling the embrace of all the friends who have left their warmth and caring within these walls. Rev. Jacob's sermon of February 28th came to my mind, and I sense that during Lent, we would gather strength to follow Jesus on the other side of Easter if we could rest for a time in the shade of the cross and in the physical home of our faith community.

With that in mind, we invite anyone who feels safe doing so to come to the church during times specified below and be quietly present in the building for up to 30 minutes. Someone will be there to take your temperature as you enter and ensure that you are masked. That person will also limit those in the building to six at a time including staff, always safely distanced from each other and anyone else who is present. Please observe all of the CDC guidelines for protecting yourself and others from contracting COVID-19 and stay home if you are feeling ill or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

-Kate O'Dell, Chair

Day	Date	Times
Monday	3/8, 3/15, 3/22	10 am to noon
Thursday	3/11, 3/25	11 am to 1 pm
Friday	3/12, 3/19, 3/26	4 pm to 6 pm

Outreach Ministry

Outreach has made some major decision in agency that we currently fund. We will still fund our student at the Pan American Institute and support the Children's Lunchbox. We will also support financially the Anchorage Hospice and Advocates in Residence (AIR). We will no longer support FISH and Bean's Cafe' who already have many funding sources. Desiree from Grandfamilies/New Relations will be speaking at our March meeting so we can rebuild/sponsor that relationship. We will have a box in the Narthex for FISH where individuals can leave canned goods. We will continue to sponsor socks and a winter clothing collection as well as the making of comfort caps and shawls. We will be involved with checking in on members and the Open and Affirming classes.

-Chris Walker, Chair

Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Ministry called a Special Congregational Meeting on February 21, 2021. The purpose was to approve funding the necessary repairs to the parsonage that exceeded \$3,000.00. That motion was approved and the work is now underway.

We will use money from savings. We have the funds in savings because of the continued support of all who give to our Church. We all hope to soon be able to safely meet in person. We are all blessed with the technology that allows us to meet remotely. Think about joining in any of the activities or meetings. If you are uncertain how to do that, contact the church office. You will be uplifted by seeing a smiling face you haven't seen in a while. As always, you are invited to attend the next Stewardship meeting on March 9, 2021.

Remember; giving is a blessing.

-Sharon Higgins, Chair

Worship Ministry

While going through my closet, I discovered a banker's box full of candles that I had collected in clearance aisles, thrift stores and rummage sales. Some are real finds. I don't light candles often for fear of forgetting about them and burning my house down. But for Lent this year, I dug into them and found six that I thought would work nicely to light during our Sunday services. I've lit two so far during our church services for this the second week of Lent. Candle lighting is a nice ritual to help me keep me focused on Lent, and a visual reminder of the time before Holy Week when we reflect on the impending events leading up to it.

In our Taizé services on Tuesdays at 6 pm, we also begin with candle lighting, then we sing meditative chants, read scripture, pray, observe a period of silence, and have communion together. Someone shares a reading or a poem. Last Tuesday, Kate O'Dell shared this poem:

*It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.*

— **Madeleine L'Engle, *For Lent* 1966**

*It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.*

We have four more weeks of Lent. Palm Sunday is March 28 and April 4 is Easter.

-Kathy Means, Chair





“It is vital that we bring our excitement and energy, it is also necessary to bring our questions, concerns, fears, and disagreements BEFORE we vote as a congregation.”

Open & Affirming (ONA)

For the past several Fridays, members of the congregation have gathered on Zoom to discuss what it means to officially become an “Open & Affirming” congregation. If you haven’t joined one of the Friday night discussions, they are an important step for the members of FCC. This process will ultimately lead to a vote to pass (or not) an official welcoming covenant for our church.

This process is meant for the entire congregation. While it is vital that we bring our excitement and energy, it is also necessary to bring our questions, concerns, fears, and disagreements BEFORE we vote as a congregation. Anyone that feels uncomfortable asking questions over Zoom can speak to a member of the ONA planning group or Rev. Jacob privately. Questions or concerns that are submitted via email can also be addressed anonymously during the class.

There are still several weeks left, and each class has its own topic. Anyone that joins now won’t be “behind” on the information. If Zoom is difficult for you, or you just can’t stand another Zoom meeting, speak to Rev. Jacob so you can find a way to be included in the process as much as you want to be. Come and explore with us! Every Friday at 6pm in the Gathering Room.

~~2/05: Introduction—What is ONA? Why now?~~

~~2/12: ONA & the Bible~~

~~2/19: Intersectionality~~

~~2/26: Questions Session + example Welcome covenants~~

3/05: Pronouns, Acronyms, and “Alphabet” Soup

3/12: Transgender, Non-Binary, Gender Fluid, 2 Spirit

3/19: Guest Speakers or Documentary

3/26: Question Session + Welcome covenant brainstorm

4/02: Queer Theology

4/09: Preview of Welcome covenant draft

4/16: Wrap-up

-The ONA planning group members are Krystal Poindexter, Jenna Amber, Miguel De Marzo, Dave Barber, and Eric Johnson. The group is a sub-committee of the Outreach Ministry.

Family Food & Fun Night

Save the Date!

Fellowship Ministry is inviting everyone to join on Saturday, March 27th for a Family Food & Fun Night! The event will be held in the Zoom Gathering room from 6:00pm-7:30pm. There will be more information coming in a Daily Update, but for now, mark your calendar so you won’t forget to join the fun!

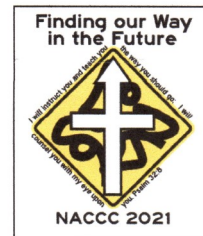
NACCC—Annual Meeting Update

Registration is now open for 2021 Annual Meeting. I encourage all to attend. It is Virtual so no plane fare, no registration fee, just a wonderful experience.

If you have any questions, please call the office or Sharon Higgins.



National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
67th Annual Meeting & Conference
Virtual via Zoom
Saturday, June 19 & Sunday, June 20, 2021



Dear NACCC Friends:

You may now register for the **June 19 & 20 Virtual Annual Meeting & Conference** by clicking below. There is no registration fee, but registration is required and necessary to connect via Zoom.

REGISTER HERE: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvf-2prjssGNagKTRFI-BuCQTVrwygd6Q2>

All necessary information and voting documents will be available on our Website. Please continue to watch for updates.

ANNUAL MEETING WEBSITE LINK: <https://www.naccc.org/2021-amc-information.html>

Please have your Church designate a **Delegate** and an **Alternate** and complete the Credentials Card that must be returned, by **5:00pm CDT on Saturday, May 1, 2021** to: Carrie Dahm/NACCC, PO Box 288, Oak Creek, WI 53154; or Scan/Email to cdahm@naccc.org; or Fax: 414.764.0319 and contact Carrie to confirm receipt.

The **Delegate** and **Alternate** must be able to connect via Zoom to vote. A person connecting via phone, will not be able to vote. Only Registered Delegates, [OR Registered Alternates if your Church's Delegate cannot be present], may vote.

NOTE: The 2021 Emergency By-Laws state, 'New business and nominations usually made from the floor during the meeting shall be received by the NACCC office **no later than 5:00pm CDT on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.**'

We look forward to seeing you on **Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20!**

Thank you,

Carrie Dahm
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
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A service that explores other
ways to engage our faith and
spirituality together.



*Member of the National
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Congregational Christian
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People of First Congregational Church

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Serving the NACCC

Year Round Delegate
Sharon Higgins

Board of Directors
Claudia Kniefel

Serving the PNACCC

Year Round Delegate
Kate O'Dell