



# Congregational Courier

## THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON

### SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

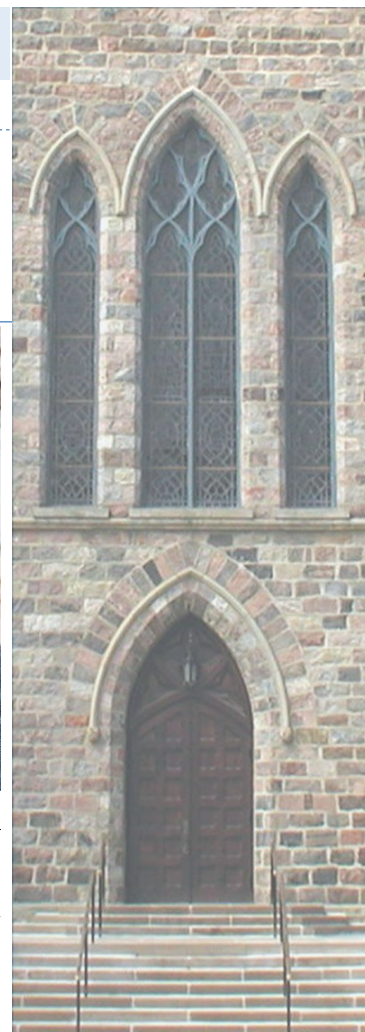
I have been blessed (thanks to you and your generosity in extending me a three-month sabbatical every five years!) to spend the month of July and the first half of August in Montana (hiking and sight seeing with my wife, Laura), Idaho (fishing for rainbow trout with my friends from Grand Rapids), and northern Michigan. I must confess, I absolutely love the splendor and majesty of the mountains, the beauty and magnificence of the wild flower blossomed meadows and rivers, and the opulence and loveliness of forests and Lake Michigan. For me, nothing brings me closer to God and the reality of the Divine than to spend time in God's incredible and awe-inspiring creation. Such experiences as these makes me want to sing out with the Psalmist, "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork." (Psalm 19:1) I certainly hope you also had opportunities this summer to find moments of relaxation and refreshment and to enjoy the out-of-doors.



Candidly, it is hard to imagine that summer will soon be over! Students will be returning to school. Camping equipment and recreation gear will be put away until next year. Bedtimes and everyday regimens will begin again. Saturday UM football will commence. And, of course, our regular church programing will resume!

With this in mind, please take a few minutes and look through the September Courier and see what may be calling your name as we begin our exciting new 2017-2018 church program year. There is uplifting worship (both contemporary and traditional), caring outreach and service projects, inspiring classes and study groups, relevant contemporary discussions,

*(Continued on page 2)*



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***Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here***

rousing musical groups and choirs, fun and inviting friendship groups, timely and interesting special events, and much, much more for you to consider. Your staff and lay leadership have been working hard throughout the summer to get things ready for Kick-Off Sunday on September 10th! I assure you, there is something at FCC for every person and for every age.

Now, as you know, we often make resolutions at the New Year. However, I suggest instead of waiting to do that in January, why not make a personal resolution today to be more involved in the life and ministry of FCC this fall? Simply decide what interests you and then come to church and join in.

I will look forward to seeing you on the 10<sup>th</sup> and welcoming you.

If you have any questions, please check out our website ([www.fccannarbor.org](http://www.fccannarbor.org)), the Friday email, or give one of our staff a call. Please know we are here to help and to serve.

Blessings,



Bob Livingston  
Senior Minister





## DARCY CRAIN

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER



#### The Still Small Voice

One day, Elijah had a huge victory. I mean huge. There's a tight battle for allegiance between this god named Baal and Yahweh, God of the Israelites, God and father of Jesus, the one we call God. There was a dramatic match in which Baal failed to show up to the challenge and God showed up and lit the place up. I am not using contemporary vernacular here, literally there was a moat filled with water around the altar table and God lit the whole thing on fire with only the plea and command of the prophet Elijah. It was a throw down victory of major proportions. It handed over many of the false Baal prophets to Elijah.

But afterwards, as sometimes is the case, the victory and adrenaline rush and feeling of being on top of the world was followed with a depression and a despair as that level of high couldn't be maintained.

Elijah was so distraught he sought death, but instead, after being coaxed by an angel of the Lord, he sought refuge on Mt. Sinai (also called) Mt. Horeb. It was not a convenient local coffee shop type of refuge. It was a 40 day journey on foot. Elijah sought the wisdom of this mountain so desperately that the journey was worth it. After all it was where Moses went for guidance from God; it was here he received the 10 commandments, it was here that God spoke; and so following the footsteps of his spiritual hero, it was at this mountain that Elijah believed he would experience refuge and renewal and wisdom and strength.

The way Elijah seeks out the mountain is often the way I seek out summer starting about the first of May. I am weary. I am no longer creative in packing school lunches or writing classroom curriculum or finding a story that the sermon needs. I am spent. Perhaps not depressed but certainly feeling like I can't give, or do, or create any more than I'm already doing. I seek the sabbath of summer, as Elijah sought the stillness of that mountain.

Sometimes, as is so often the case, the clarity and rest and presence of God on top of that mountain makes it so that you do not want to descend to do the work that is before you.

Such is the case with summer. We are excited about the new programming year, and yet, a bit reluctant to leave the slower pace we have experienced in the past couple months.

As I write this my descent has begun. I have learned these past few months that listening and sitting and being are not secondary to moving through a daunting to-do list. They are in fact the fuel and the clarity that you need to make sure what is on the to do list is what God is calling you to do and what utilizes your gifts the best way. While I didn't journey to a mountain, each summer brings its own sort of spiritual renewal. As we all descend the mountain together let us do so in confidence that the God whose wisdom we seek spoke to us in that still small voice. It is a voice that encourages. A voice that soothes. Seek out that silence so that you can hear God's voice before September demands its own agenda.

Let us descend the mountain together; renewed, refreshed, and ready to experience and share our loving God. Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darcy".

## SARAH CHAFFEE

### DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Dear FCC Family,

I am writing to let you know that I will be leaving FCC to pursue a new opportunity. I have been offered a full-time position with the Towsley Children's House through the University of Michigan. I will be working with preschool-aged kids and their families. Please know that this was an extremely difficult decision, and I am not leaving FCC with any hard feelings.

As I finish up my position at FCC, I am hoping to make the transition as easy, smooth, and seamless as possible. I will be at kick-off, continue to write lessons throughout the fall, and be back to "train" whoever is hired next to be the director of Christian education.

That being said, I think it's really important to have committed, consistent, and enthusiastic volunteers in our church school classrooms. Please reach out if you are interested in more information about what those responsibilities would entail.

I want to thank you all for making my time at FCC so great! I really enjoyed getting to know each of you and your kids. You all welcomed me warmly and you were patient with me while I learned about you and about FCC. Please know that I hope to still stay in touch and would be happy to be a resource or support your family in any way that I can.

I will miss you all, and I greatly appreciate your understanding and your support. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah".



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#### *Our Core Values:*

*Caring: We are a loving and mutually supportive faith community.*

*Proclaiming the Good News: We believe in a living and loving God.*

*Respect: We embrace openness, diversity, and individual faith journeys.*

*Compassion: We serve and support the needs of others.*

*Fellowship: We celebrate and enjoy life with each other.*

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## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### JUNIOR HIGH

Our middle school youth will kick off the programming year with a game night at church on September 15th. This is your opportunity to play the favorites: sardines, capture the flag, and more! We continue to be blessed by the leadership of our youth group volunteers, Chris Vermuelen and Ryan Munson.

The girls nights that took place on a monthly basis last programming year will be tabled until the hiring of our new Director of Christian Education is complete. However, the events were well received last year, and we are committed to insuring that there is continuity with the discussions, support, and fellowship we offer not only our middle school girls, but the middle school boys as well. This year we have a larger number of middle school boys in our program so we will be able to offer different fellowship and growth opportunities.

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### HIGH SCHOOL

The high school ministry shared in a wonderfully successful mission trip to Waukegan, IL to build homes for the Fuller Center, an organization that places poverty-income families in sustainable housing that would otherwise be unavailable to them. We are already forming the youth council to plan for 2018!

This year, we will gather for Sunday morning discussions led by our senior high leadership team. We will continue with the “Our Whole Lives” curriculum that teaches communication skills, values, and self-respect from the foundation of faith. Last year our youth wrote covenants to themselves of the kind of relationships that were life-giving; their relationship “makers” and “breakers,” so to speak. These covenants reviewed types of potentially abusive relationships (emotionally, mentally, etc.) and how different power dynamics between two people can effect the health of the relationship. These were mailed out 6 months later, so students should have received them towards the end of July. Interspersed with lessons on these skills we study the scriptural stories of our liturgical year; such as the righteous anger of Jesus in the temple, or the hopeful anticipation of Advent.

We will go on a Fall Retreat in November; details about the dates, location, and subject matter will be sent in a separate post card so that you can mark your calendars!

We look forward to reconnecting on Kick-Off Sunday, September 10th, for our discussion and will share in fellowship following worship during the Ministry Festival!



## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES—2ND SUNDAYS

SARA HOLMES

Peacemaking is the overarching theme for this year's contemporary issues programs. The series schedule is a work in progress and includes:

- Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Peacemaking in a World of Fear and Hostility  
George Lambrides, Co-Director Interfaith Roundtable of Washtenaw County
- Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> Food & Justice  
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice staff
- Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> Forgiveness Therapy  
Mariko Foulk, LMSW, ACSW University of Michigan Turner Geriatric Clinic
- Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>- Physicians for Prevention of Gun Violence  
James Peggs, MD, Clinical Professor Emeritus, Family Practice and Geriatric Medicine,  
University of Michigan
- Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – Music's Role in Peacemaking  
Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra, Ph.D. and Tim Huth, Ph.D.
- Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Welcoming the Stranger  
Anya Abramzon, Executive Director of Jewish Family Services
- Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Youth & Peacemaking  
Shannon Sykes, Program Director of Great Lakes Peace Jam



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*Our Mission: We are a beacon of God's love, hope, and Christian freedom.*

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## KICK-OFF SEPTEMBER 10TH

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, ELLEN RAMBO

Come and enjoy fun, food, and fellowship as we launch the new programming year. We will send Sarah off with a celebration of her successful ministry, friendship, and leadership this past year. In addition to a delicious lunch, our congregation can enjoy a bounce house, face painting, and clowns. Join us as we reconnect with our church friends, old and new! It will be a pot-luck style picnic, so families whose last name begins with A through M, please bring a side to share and families whose name begins with N through Z, please bring a dessert to share. Please remember, FCC is a peanut/tree nut free facility.



# PROGRAMMING YEAR AT A GLANCE

AS OF 8/10/2017

September 10	Kick-Off Sunday	January 7	Traditional Worship with Communion
September 11	Leader Dinner and Gathering		Church Un-Decorating
September 15	JH Game Night	January 12	Confirmation Retreat
September 24	Crop Walk	January 14	Second Sunday Presentation
October 1	Family Worship	February 2	Warming Shelter Begins
	Third Grade Bibles	February 11	Second Sunday Presentation
	World Communion		JH Fellowship
October 8	Second Sunday Presentation	February 14	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
October 15	Change of Pace with Animal Blessings	February 18	All Church Family Ski Retreat begins
October 21	Pumpkin Patch Family Ministry	March 11	Daylight Savings Time begins
October 22	New Member Brunch		Second Sunday Presentation
October 29	Heritage Sunday	March 23	FCC Anniversary Celebration
November 5	Veteran's Sunday	March 25	Palm Sunday
	New Member Sunday		171 Anniversary Food Drive
November 12	Second Sunday Presentation	March 29	Maundy Thursday
November 19	Pilgrim Sunday	March 30	Good Friday
	JH Fellowship	April 1	Easter Sunday
November 26	Church Decorating	April 15	New Member Brunch
November 27	Men's Rotating Shelter Begins (Runs through December 4)	April 22	JH Fellowship
		April 29	New Member Sunday
December 3	Special Music Performance 10 a.m.		Confirmation Baptisms
December 10	Special Music Performance 9 a.m.	May 1	Confirmation Dinner
	FCC Bake Sale	May 6	Confirmation Sunday
	Gingerbread Party		Covenant Sunday
December 17	Wrapped in Love	May 13	Mothers Day
December 24	Special Change of Pace Music	May 20	Youth Sunday
	Traditional Worship		All-Church Picnic
	Live Nativity	May 27	Remembrance Sunday
	Christmas Pageant	June 10	Annual Meeting
	Candlelight Communion		
December 31	Traditional Worship		

# MINISTRY FESTIVAL

## DICK MITCHELL, COUNCIL CHAIR

No one is ready to start thinking about summer in the past tense yet but, since we live in an academic community, mid-August does always find us preparing for the next season. AT FCC that means Kick-off Sunday and the Ministry Festival, which are scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> immediately after the 10:00 service.

Like last year, we are combining the usual kick-off events geared towards kids (jump house, a clown, etc.) along with the Ministry Festival, when all of the boards and committees at FCC offer opportunities for members to find out what they are up to and get involved.

We'll gather outside, or in Pilgrim Hall in case of rain. There will be enough food to call it "lunch" while we linger meeting new members and catching up with friends. This will be the one event all year when we all wear name tags.

All of the committees are doing great work, and I would like to draw your attention to a few to be sure to visit at the Ministry Festival:

### ***Contemporary Issues:***

Sarah Holmes chairs Contemporary Issues Committee. You will see another article in the *Courier* about the exciting lineup of speakers that are scheduled this year around the timely theme of peace and social justice. Please be sure to pick up one of their cards for your refrigerator at the Ministry Festival.

### ***Mission and Outreach:***

Pam Dabbs chairs the Mission and Outreach Committee and continues to work tirelessly. She could use some help. If anyone is interested in taking over the Backpack or the Christmas Tree gift programs it would be a big help to the Committee. Please ask Pam about that if you are interested.

### ***Christian Education:***

Ellen Rambo has taken over as chair of Board of Christian Education (her predecessor, Lynda Norton, is now the vice-chair of Church Council). Ellen's first months as chair have been busy with our search for a new director.

As you know by now, Sarah Chaffee is leaving FCC as Director of Christian Education. September 10<sup>th</sup> will be Sarah's last official day with FCC. Please seek her out and offer her thanks for the service she has provided and our best wishes with her new position at UM.

Sarah has been very thoughtful and diligent in helping Ellen, Bob, and Darcy make the transition smooth.

The day after her announcement, we were able to post the position with a number of outlets that has resulted in over 15 applicants, several of whom have been interviewed by Bob and Darcy. Nothing final to report on that yet, but we are enthused by the prospects and are moving aggressively to replace Sarah. Look for white smoke out of the chimney soon.

You will see another article in the *Courier* about the successful launch our new Vacation Bible School program with nearly 40 kids enrolled. Please take time to thank Sarah, Darcy, Renee, Janet Allen, Pat Brown, Beth Cron, Pam Dabbs, Rachel Dudley, Suzanne Edick, Sarah Giddings, Peg Jacobs, Cheryl Kurtz, Laura Livingston, Madeleine Livingston, Nigel Makin, Helena Myler, Robin Myler, Diane O'Connell, and Ellen Rambo for making that happen.

See you September 10th!

Dick Mitchell, Church Council Chair



## STEWARDSHIP

MARK SCHIRMER

Last month, as our 2017/2018 fiscal year got underway, the Stewardship Committee distributed a church-wide email detailing the successes of FCC's most recent stewardship campaign. The main message of that note: THANK YOU! The 2017 campaign was a great success, the best result in a number of years.

**WHATEVER  
YOUR STORY,  
WE NEED YOUR  
SUPPORT.**

The final numbers are worth restating: 208 financial pledges, a significant increase from the 176 we had in the gap year campaign. Our goal was to secure more than 200 pledges, and we beat that number. Thank you for the fantastic and enthusiastic support.

The total amount pledged was \$504,228. While below our goal, this amount is significant as it was the first time in many years we surpassed the \$500,000 milestone. Again, we could not be more pleased. Thanks to this generous support, the trustees were able to deliver a responsible 12-month budget, which was approved by Council and the congregation at the annual meeting. This budget helps keep us on firm financial ground, allowing us to maintain the many valuable ministries of the church.

Our next stewardship campaign will kick off in the spring of 2018. Remember: May is Pledge Month. It's not too early to start thinking about how you can support FCC. This past campaign, shouldered by so much support from so many people, was a great success and something we can build on together next year.

We will continue to share our thoughts on the importance of supporting the church throughout the year. Stewardship, Heritage Society, donating your time -- FCC is strong because of the great support it receives from our wonderful congregation. Please, don't let your commitment wane.

In the words of Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get. We make a living by what we give."

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, thank you for all you give.

Mark Schirmer  
Stewardship Chairman

# TREASURER'S REPORT

MIKE DABBS, TREASURER

## Treasurer's Report for January – June 2017 (Gap Year)

I am pleased to share with you this preliminary report (see below) of our actual revenue and expenses compared to our budget. Nancy still has some items to complete in order to close this Gap Year, which should be completed in August.

An appraisal of the church building and property was completed this summer, which was a requirement in order to finalize the mortgage and the Line of Credit. Final paperwork should be completed within the month in order for these documents to be able to signed.

	ACTUAL Jan - Jun 2017	PROPOSED Jan - Jun 2017	NOTES
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Pledges	\$ 239,334	\$ 230,000	Note 1
Other Income	\$ 34,096	\$ 50,000	
<b>Total Earned Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 273,430</b>	<b>\$ 280,000</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Ministry	\$ 106,616	\$ 113,716	Note 2
Administrative/Office	\$ 156,300	\$ 158,929	
Christian Education	\$ 23,105	\$ 26,050	
Music	\$ 34,438	\$ 34,325	
Missions & Outreach	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	
Maintenance & Utilities	\$ 44,705	\$ 63,300	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 369,664</b>	<b>\$ 400,820</b>	
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ (96,234)</b>	<b>\$ (120,820)</b>	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,140	\$ -	Note 3
TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION	\$ 70,127	\$ 86,238	Note 4
MEMORIAL FUND CONTRIBUTION	\$ -	\$ 5,000	Note 5
2016 UNSPENT MARKETING ALLOCATION	\$ 25,118	\$ 35,504	Note 6
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 151</b>	<b>\$ 5,922</b>	
2016 SURPLUS ANTICIPATED	\$ -	\$ 14,000	Note 7 - 2017 Contingency

**NOTES** - As shown with the original budget. Note 3 has been updated

- 1 Pledge amount revised based on pledge commitments received during Stewardship follow-up as of 12/31/16.
- 2 In 2017, the unspent 2016 advertising and marketing allocation of trust funds will be used to pay for these expenses.
- 3 No capital expenditures are being planned for during the Gap Year Budget period. Deposit paid for stain glass repairs.
- 4 In 2016, 5% of all investments as of Sep. 30, 2015 was the cap the Trustees built the budget on. In 2017, 5% of the past 20 calendar quarters statement balances for all investments except for Pastoral & Memorial Funds was used as a cap.
- 5 Bob recommends and the Trustees approved allocating 5% of the Memorial Fund to assist in balancing the budget. Unspent Balance of 2016 Trust Fund Allocation for Marketing will be carried over to 2017 to offset the 2017
- 6 marketing & advertising expenses.
- 7 2016 surplus of operating funds will be carried over to 2017 as needed for contingency unanticipated expenses

# FCC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SARAH CHAFFEE

Vacation Bible School programs not only give kids something to do during the summer, but the programs have a significant impact on children's futures. People who give of their time to be part of VBS programs do so because of the impact it has on their own lives and others. Giving our precious time to the group of kids we welcomed to FCC was a rewarding experience. While VBS programs target children to attend, the not so visible impact is on the families of these kids. Many of the kids who attended our Gadgets and Gizmos VBS week don't belong to a church, and this was an opportunity to expose FCC to these families in our community.

FCC's return to the VBS scene was an overwhelming success: 38 children spent the week building robots and their faith foundation. We played games, created care packs for our homeless community and children at Motts, built hovercrafts, sang inspiring songs, and learned new things every day.

## DAY 1

How you made me is amazing  
and wonderful. PSALM 139:13-16

**BOTTOM LINE:** God made you.



## DAY 2

Jesus heals the blind man.  
JOHN 9

**BOTTOM LINE:**  
God made you to trust Him.

## DAY 3

Nicodemus JOHN 3:1-21

**BOTTOM LINE:**  
God made you to follow Jesus.



## DAY 4

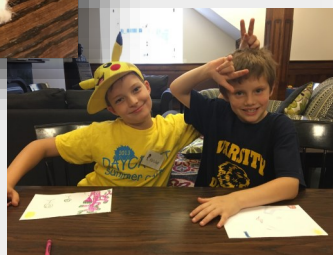
Good Samaritan LUKE 10:25-37

**BOTTOM LINE:**  
God made you to help others.

## DAY 5

Salt & Light MATTHEW 5:13-16

**BOTTOM LINE:**  
God made you to shine.





## MUSIC COMMITTEE

MICHELE JOHNS & MJ QUIGLEY-YOUNG

This year, our Music Committee will be led by 2 co-chairs: Michele Johns and Marijean (MJ) Quigley-Young. Plans are formulating for the committee's more active role in the church. It is our hope that members who are musically inclined will commit to sharing their musical gifts more frequently throughout the year with our help and support. We are fortunate to have outstanding musical talent and leadership in our music staff and we would like to highlight them more often. Much gratitude to Dr. James Nissen, Terry Farmer, Dr. Timothy Huth, and

Rebecca Jones for sharing their amazing talents so generously with us each and every week. We look forward to more performances from the Hand Chimes Choir under the direction of Cindy Bylsma, who recently revitalized the group that is fast becoming a marvelous contribution to our church and worship services. For more complete information about the FCC Music Committee, please visit our Music Ministries table on Kick-Off Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

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*FCC Vision Statement: We strive to be a joyous spiritual home, welcoming and valuing all people, embracing God's word and enriching lives.*

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NEW! A monthly meditation service is starting on September 10 from 7-8 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. This new small group will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.

Would you like to seek spiritual growth, serenity and wholeness in your life? Would you like a place where you can learn new techniques and expand your spiritual practices? Are you seeking healing and transformation for yourself, others or the world? Would you like to

deepen your prayer life, nurture your soul and participate in a supportive community of others? If so, please join us on this new journey by participating in "Healing Space." All are welcome!

Each session will include music, both silent and guided meditations, a teaching moment of a spiritual practice, and a time for group prayer. Healing Space on September 10<sup>th</sup> will include music by Barbara Sturgis Everett and a focus on "Graceful Hope." If you need further information contact Gail Haynes or Liz Larrivee. Healing Space will gather regularly on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 7-8 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall, beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

BETTY BISHOP

The First Congregational Church, Rochester was founded August 1, 1827, and was the first Congregational Church in Michigan. The Rev. Isaac W. Ruggles met with ten people in a log building on South Rochester Road. It would be twenty years later that our very own First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor was founded in March 1847. When the United Church of Christ was formed in 1957 (by the merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church), the First Congregational Church of Rochester became part of the United Church of Christ. For those interested, after much discussion, the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor remained independent and did not join the merger.

In its church history (published on their website), the Rochester church notes that Pastor John Robinson told the Pilgrims, as they prepared to sail to the New World on the Mayflower, "God has yet more light and truth to break forth out of his Holy Word." He meant that God's revelation could not be confined to a scripture, or a catechism, or a creed, nor could it be attributed to a particular event or religious body. This is the thinking which has led Congregational churches to be open and affirming to all people. It has also led to each and every Congregational church being locally autonomous, a very uncommon organizational structure among most Christian churches today.



## MISSION & OUTREACH

PAM DABBS

We certainly have had a busy summer doing important mission projects! We started off with our Sing & Serve at the end of June. Off we went to Whitehall Healthcare Center in Ypsilanti to paint 26 metal awnings over the resident



room windows. This was a big project, but with the help of 12 volunteers we had them all painted in 2 1/2 hours with only one major paint pail spill...we got that cleaned up in record time too! The very best part of the whole day occurred when

we finished painting, many residents joined us outside to enjoy the cookies and watermelon, which we brought to share with them. They loved the newly painted awnings, and many commented on how wonderful it was to have company, and could we please come back! I guess that says it all, the best outreach is showing people you care by spending time with them.

We have just wrapped up our annual backpack drive. We have collected more than one hundred backpacks with the help of The First Baptist Church. They are all filled to the brim with school supplies! My goodness, you are all so generous! We usually bag up 4 or 5 backpacks in large sacks to deliver to 3 housing areas but, this year we couldn't put more



than 3 or 4 in a bag because of the weight of the school supplies. Your generosity made us smile! Once again our kindhearted, generous congregation outdid themselves!



Our Grow-A-Row donations to Food Gatherers is weighing in at 90 plus pounds so far! The seedlings provided by Food Gatherers seem to be especially good this year! Keep your donations coming, they can be home grown or purchased to donate! Last year we had a 400 pound donation, so hopefully we can match or exceed that weight! This is our chance to give fresh produce to those who otherwise can't get a lot of fresh foods.

As we move into the fall, The Mission and Outreach Committee is moving into a new direction regarding our grant giving. We have decided to reduce the number of grants we give out and to focus on a theme. The theme for this year will be "Nourishing Our Neighbors." We will choose grant recipients based on needs revolving around food. As we work out the details we will keep you informed. As part of this endeavor, we will be working with our Marketing Committee for guidance in conveying this to the community.

Once again, we thank you all for being the foundation of FCC's mission work. You make it all happen with love, generosity and "hands-on" participation! You are the BEST!



## CROP HUNGER WALK

MARY MOSTAGHIM

**Date:** Sunday, October 15, 2017

**Time:** 1 p.m.: Turn in funds/canned goods/register

2 p.m.: Begin walk at Trinity Lutheran  
(1400 W. Stadium, end location TBD)



### PLEASE DONATE CANNED GOODS

Look for OUR FCC CROP HUNGER WALK BOXES near the back entrance lobby and upstairs in Pilgrim Hall beginning on Sunday, September 10. Please put your canned and non-perishable food in the boxes. Crop Hunger Walk donates food and funds to local food pantries.

### PLEASE DONATE FUNDS

Any size donation (cash or check to “CWS/CROP”) will be accepted in Pilgrim Hall by Mary Mostaghim or Suzanne Price, our FCC Team leaders, beginning Sunday, September 10th, or you can donate online at <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/fccannarbor>.

### PLEASE CONSIDER WALKING WITH THE FCC TEAM

Enjoy a beautiful fall day walking with your church friends in this year's 1, 3, or 5 miles walk. **See FCC Team leaders: Mary Mostaghim or Suzanne Price** after church to pick up a CROP WALK Packet in Pilgrim Hall on Sundays in September for your own donation and the support of your sponsoring friends and neighbors **or register to walk online (see website above).**

This Washtenaw Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk raises funds and awareness of hunger relief through Church World Service and local food charities.

\*CROP stands for: Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

BRIAN CONNELLY

**FCC Website is back and better than ever. Please try it!**

The newly revised and upgraded FCC web site is now back on-line and ready to use. We've upgraded the entire site to make it faster and easier to navigate. Give it a try. Enter [fccannarbor.org](http://fccannarbor.org), explore the site and send your feedback to Renee Bovee at [renee@fccannarbor.org](mailto:renee@fccannarbor.org). We hope you're going to love it!

# LOOKING FOR A WAY TO VOLUNTEER? TRY ONE OF THESE OPTIONS



## Clothing & Household Donations

The donation barrel is located in the stairwell closest to Maynard Street. A church member loads up its contents as necessary, and takes donations to The House By the Side of the Road. Please let us know if you'd like to help with delivery of these items, but feel free to drop donations off any time the office is open.

## Food Donations

The food box is located on the main floor in the Mayflower Lobby area. This year, we are looking for volunteers to take the bulk of its contents to the Second Baptist Church food pantry every other Monday morning to ensure that these items are providing the most benefit to our community. Gluten free foods are always in high demand, as are items high in protein that can be eaten without preparation. Please contact the FCC office if you are interested in volunteering for a delivery rotation.



## Toiletry Donations



There are collection tubs for toiletry donations on the food box. These toiletries are periodically packaged by children in church school and distributed to the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor, walk-ins, people that visit for the warming and rotating shelters, and other community members in need. We accept any and all toiletries, including hotel sized toiletries. Donations of gallon sized zip-lock bags are appreciated for the creation of the care packs.

## Glasses

Getting new eyeglasses? There is a box for eyeglasses on the food box. A volunteer from the Lion's Club collects these glasses periodically. The glasses are professionally cleaned, sorted by prescription strength, and packaged to be distributed to people in need. Children's glasses are especially in need.



## Donate Flowers for Communion Table

Fresh flowers on the communion table are something we have all come to enjoy. These flowers not only beautify our sanctuary, but are given to honor very special people and occasions in our lives. In addition to remembering a loved one, you can give flowers in celebration of marriages, anniversaries, baptisms, birthdays, to say congratulations or thank you, or just because. After the worship has concluded, the blooms are often delivered to shut-ins, hospitals, or other palliative facilities bringing beauty and community to those who cannot be physically present in church. Please sign up on our website or in the Pilgrim Hall lobby.



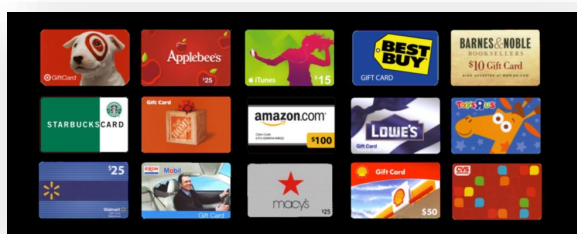
## Lay Reader



Lay Readers participate in worship by leading the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Invocation, and the Lord's Prayer. Individuals of all ages are encouraged to participate by signing up on our website or in the Pilgrim Hall lobby to lay read periodically.

## Church School Teachers

Now is a really important time for FCC to have committed and enthusiastic volunteers in our church school classrooms. Not only will it keep the program growing and vibrant, it will make the job of the new Director of Christian Education so much easier. Please give a little thought and consideration to whether this opportunity is right for you. If you are at all interested in volunteering this fall, please let Sarah know! We still need volunteers for the preschool classroom and the K-2 classroom.



## Great Lakes Scrip Program

Back to school supplies and clothes, school lunches, sports and tailgates – welcome to fall! The easiest fundraiser ever is here to help you shop for the change in season. Please visit the Scrip table in the Mayflower Lobby between the services

on Sunday morning for cash and carry cards for a large variety of retailers. We carry cards for gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants, department stores, online stores, hardware stores, book stores, pharmacies, hotels, car rentals, airline flights, and more. The very best way to engage in this fundraiser for mission/work trips by First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, is to sign up to purchase your Scrip cards online. Details can be found at the Scrip table. We also have a fine array of cash and carry cards.

How does this program work? We purchase the cards at a discounted rate and sell them at the full retail rate. (Rates vary by card – generally between 2-10%. Since we began the program, we have raised over \$8500 for mission/work trips! If you would like to be a part of this successful fundraising team, please talk to the terrific volunteers at the Scrip table on Sunday morning!



# Check out our Small Groups!

*Mind & Spirit*  
(1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month)

20/40  
(Wednesdays at 6:30 pm)

TNS  
(TUESDAYS AT 7 P.M.)



**Knight's Lunch Group**  
(4th Monday of each month)



**Text Breakfast**  
(Wednesdays @ 8:30 a.m.)

*Circle of Friends*

## SMALL GROUPS—TEXT BREAKFAST

We gather informally with senior minister Bob Livingston every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Classic Cup Café (4389 Jackson Road) for lively discussion. We discuss the scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon, sharing our understanding, insights, and our questions. We wrap up our morning about 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, September 6! Please join us.

## SMALL GROUPS—KNIGHT'S LUNCH CLUB

Please join us on the FOURTH Monday of the month for monthly lunch get-togethers with Bob Livingston and other FCC friends. This month, we are meeting on September 24 at 11:30 a.m. at Knight's on Dexter Avenue. Our lunch gatherings are highly informal and lots of fun, with welcoming and wide-ranging conversations. Everyone is welcome! We hope you can join us!

## SMALL GROUPS—TUESDAY NIGHT SERIES (TNS)

Please join us on Tuesday nights, beginning on Tuesday, September 26, and running through Tuesday, November 7 (We will not meet on Halloween night, October 31st), for our upcoming series of theological discussions based on six lectures by the popular, fascinating, and renowned Bishop John Shelby Spong. This 6-week series will include the following topics: "Separating the Fourth Gospel (John)", "The Cross in John: Not Tragedy But Triumph", "The Mother of Jesus: A Symbol of Judaism", "The Fourth Gospel Warns Against Literal Reading", and "Honest Prayer" (parts I and II). We meet on Tuesday nights in the Mayflower Room from 7-8:30 p.m. Please come and join us.

## SMALL GROUPS—CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends lost four of our "friends" this year who were supported and visited by devoted members. We gained one member and would welcome more! Elizabeth Goodrich will continue to do her great work scheduling flower deliveries to our friends. The year ended in May with a wonderful brunch in which we exchanged resources for Seniors and enjoyed each other's company.

Our group will reassemble in October on Sunday the 8th at 9 a.m. in the Mayflower Room. Our meeting on Sunday, November 12th will feature a speaker, Sara Eggleston, who will explain how she measures adults for wheelchairs so they can have the most comfortable fit. We will also be planning Christmas gifts for our friends.

If you would like to join us, please call Mary Ann Marquardt at [313-303-1989](tel:313-303-1989).

## SMALL GROUPS—MIND AND SPIRIT BOOK GROUP

The Mind and Spirit Book Group is a community of women of all ages. We enjoy reading and sharing our life stories as a means of personal and spiritual growth. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the Mayflower Room. Mind and Spirit will resume on September 6 when we'll talk about books we read over the summer. On September 20 we'll begin discussing *Seeing Allah, Finding Jesus* by Nabeel Qureshi. Qureshi, an American-born Muslim, tells of his Muslim upbringing and how he became a Christian.

## SMALL GROUPS—20/40 GROUP

We are a group of people in our 20s through 40s who are interested in trekking through the terrain of young adulthood, relationships, parenting, grad school, and more in a faithful community setting. We are single, married, and parents, and we have a blast together.

We gather at church on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Childcare is provided. On the last Wednesday of every month, we meet at Wolverine State Brewery (2019 W. Stadium Blvd) for trivia from 7-9 p.m. Please contact Darcy ([darcy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:darcy@fccannarbor.org)) to be added to our email thread of what's happening and when.

Our first study this year will be from the UCC "A Listen Up Bible Study" where we will explore Ecclesiastes, a four part series that will conclude on October 11th. See the schedule below.

September 6	Kick-off Potluck	FCC	6:30 p.m.
September 13	Ecclesiastes 1-2	FCC	6:30 p.m.
September 20	Ecclesiastes 3-4:8	FCC	6:30 p.m.
September 27	Pub Trivia	Wolverine	7 p.m.
October 4	Ecclesiastes 4:9-6:12	FCC	6:30 p.m.
October 11	Ecclesiastes 7-12	FCC	6:30 p.m.



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### FCC Office Hours

**Mon. — Fri.**  
**9 a.m. — 3 p.m.**  
**After Labor Day**

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*Whatever Your  
Story, You're  
Welcome Here*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Pilgrim Hall  
9:00 a.m. Change of Pace Service, Pilgrim Hall  
9:30 a.m. Communion Service, Douglas Memorial Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
(Church School during 10:00 a.m. worship service)  
11:00 a.m. Friendship Hour, Pilgrim Hall

(BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10th)

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

- 9/4 LABOR DAY—FCC OFFICE CLOSED  
9/5 REGULAR OFFICE HOURS RESUME (M-F, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.)  
9/6 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)  
(Matthew 5:3 - Poor in Spirit)  
6:30 p.m. 20/40 Kickoff Potluck (Meeting Room)  
9/10 KICK-OFF SUNDAY & MINISTRY FESTIVAL  
9/10 7:00 p.m. Healing Space (Pilgrim Hall)  
9/11 6:00 p.m. Leader Dinner & Gathering  
9/11 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Mayflower Room)  
9/12 1:00 p.m. Contemporary Issues Committee Meeting  
9/13 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)  
(Matthew 5:4 - Those Who Mourn)  
1:00 p.m. Marketing Meeting (Mayflower Room)  
6:30 p.m. 20/40 (Meeting Room)  
(Ecclesiastes 1-2)  
9/15 6:00 p.m. JH Game Night (All Church)  
9/17 9:00 a.m. Deacon Meeting  
3:00 p.m. AGO Young Person's Organ Recital  
9/20 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)  
(Matthew 5:5 - The Meek)  
6:30 p.m. 20/40 (Meeting Room)  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-4:8)  
9/25 11:30 a.m. Knight's Luncheon Group (2324 Dexter Rd.)  
9/26 7:00 p.m. TNS (Mayflower Room)  
9/27 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)  
(Matthew 5:6 - Hunger and Thirst)  
7:00 p.m. 20/40 Trivia (Wolverine State Brewing)