

Congregational Courier

THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON

SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

With summer coming to a swift conclusion, we think of such things as school starting back up, high school and college football games, and, of course, full programming at FCC. Please take a close look at your September Courier this month and check out the Sunday morning worship schedule along with the many small group activities and special events we offer. I sincerely hope you will be an active part of our mission and ministry this year!

One of my favorite events is Kick-Off Sunday which takes place on September 9 this year. On Kick-Off Sunday, we will return to our two worship services with our Change of Pace contemporary service at 9 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall with Terry Farmer at the musical helm (by the way, a continental breakfast is served each week beginning at 8:45 a.m.), followed by our more traditional worship service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary where each week we are lifted by the inspiring sounds of our Chancel Choir, under the new direction of Shohei Kobayashi, and we offer church school for children and youth during the service. At 9:30 a.m. our 15-Minute Chapel Communion Service continues in Douglas Chapel.

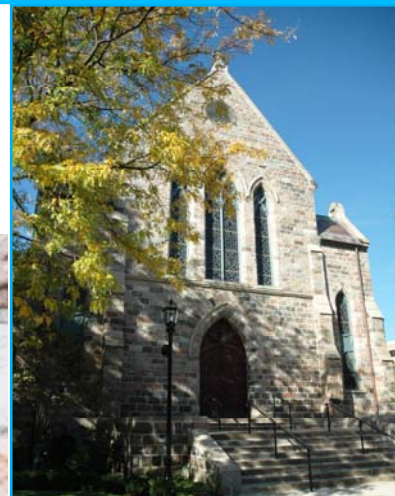
Then, on Kick-Off Sunday, following the 10 a.m. service, we will enjoy a picnic outside on the south side of the church building with lots of good food, beverages, and a variety of other side dishes and desserts. There will also be special activities for the kids. Everyone, of course, is welcome! Please invite a friend! I guarantee it will be a lot of fun...so I hope you will join us!

I look forward to greeting you on the 9th, if not before!

Blessings,



Bob Livingston
Senior Minister



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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.*

Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here



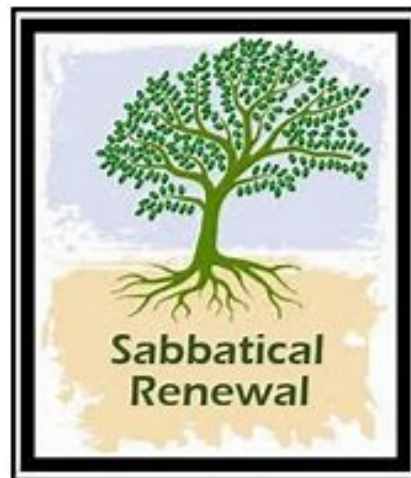
DARCY CRAIN MINISTER

Like many of us, I grow by getting out of my comfort zone. This summer, as I nervously entered into the transition area of the triathlon, I heaved my bike up on the rack next to my assigned number. I laid out my helmet, my water bottle, and finally my running shoes with great doubt that I'd actually last long enough to lace up those shoes. About two minutes later someone came by and said, "Are you number 38?" "Yes," I said, thrilled she asked me a question I could actually answer. "Your bike is on backwards."

She kindly explained how to place my bike and items in the correct way, where to enter and exit, and then drew a giant smiley face on my calf with a black sharpie so that everyone else knew it was my first triathlon and that I would likely make more rookie mistakes.

It made me think a great deal about perspectives. When you approach something new, whether out of choice for adventure or inevitable change you can't control, you can choose to draw a metaphorical smiley face for the world to see. You could also choose to pretend you know what you're doing when really you're clueless. And finally, of course, you could choose to scowl and be negative. The day that I did my first triathlon, the volunteer with the black sharpie helped make my choice for me, and I was so grateful she did. Smiling it was. I finished the race humbled by the phenomenal athletes that surrounded and passed me (mostly passed me) on the way.

These past three months during sabbatical, I had the wonderful gift of being able to reorient my perspective in anticipation of the next chapter of ministry at FCC. The gift of sabbatical and rest allowed me to unplug from the usual demands and deadlines and relax into a different pace of life. In this pace, I listened more, laughed more, and relished in the joys of nature, friends, and family. I am returning to FCC with a smiley face, literally and spiritually. I have missed you all and look forward to imagining and leading worship, growing in faith and mind, and serving those whom God has called us to.



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

I am so deeply thankful for the gift of renewal granted to me through this sabbatical and am returning with energy and excitement to head into the Fall and beyond!

RACHEL DUDLEY
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Vacation Bible School

Forty-eight kids joined thirty-five volunteers throughout the week of August 13th-17th for an exciting Vacation Bible School! From nine in the morning until three in the afternoon, kids enjoyed Bible stories, songs, crafts, games, mission projects and science experiments. Our special guest, Romper the Otter, visited us during our opening and closing assemblies. Romper helped us learn our Bible verse of the week.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” Isaiah 43:2



I extend my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful church family who volunteered to help before, during, and after VBS. The demand for Vacation Bible School was so great this year that we had to close registration early and form a waitlist. We were only able to care, love, and provide a fun week for 48 kids because of the generous volunteers!



Save the date! Next year's Vacation Bible School will be held June 24th-28th of 2019. The theme will be Hero Central and we will be finding our strength in God! The search is already on for superstar volunteers who would be willing to take charge and lead a station (with provided curriculum).



Games have already been claimed for next year. If you are interested, contact Rachel at rachel@fccannarbor.org.



Rachel

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Junior high

Our middle school youth will kick off the fellowship year with a game night and sleepover at church on October 6th. 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. Depending on numbers and chaperones, this will either be a game night or a sleepover. Looking forward to connecting with a wonderful group of middle schoolers!

Roll with the fun!



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Senior High



The high school ministry shared in a wonderfully successful mission trip to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, SD to work on a greenhouse and run a children's day camp for at-risk children on the reservation. The experience was overwhelmingly positive, and we sent off a powerful group of seniors to spread their wings in the next chapter of their education.



This year, we will gather for Sunday morning discussions twice a month that will be 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. Interwoven throughout our discussions we include church stories, discussions, and theology that are paired with the church calendar (Advent, Lent, etc.) and current events important in the lives of students.



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! Please watch the mail also for a semester schedule that includes our discussion dates as well as any fellowship and service opportunities.

We look forward to reconnecting on Kick-Off Sunday, September 9th, for our discussion and will share in fellowship following worship during the church picnic!

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIKE DABBS



The Summary Financial Statement as of June 30 is a preliminary report. Nancy has basically finished making final adjustments though, I would expect additional adjustments to be made following the review by the CPA firm. You will notice our pledge revenue exceeded the budget, which certainly is a highlight for the year. On behalf of the Trustees, and Mark Schirmer, Stewardship

Committee Chairperson, we thank you for your support.

An area of concern that I have raised with the Trustees is that our actual expenses for Ministry, Administrative/Office and Maintenance & Utilities exceeded the budget. These will be reviewed and may cause the Trustees to adjust the current year's budget should we determine that these spending levels are likely to be what is required for the current year and that they were not an anomaly last year. We will keep you informed about this. Missions & Outreach's exceeding the budget was principally due to our decision mid-year to reflect the cost of the Warming Shelter as part of the overall M&O expenses, which has not been done previously. Due to a number of generous members, there were restricted donations made that off-set this expense.



As we reported at the Annual Meeting of Members, a Request For Proposal (RFP) was sent to four CPA firms, of which three submitted responses. Within the month, Trustees will approve one of these firms to either an audit or a financial review of the church's finances. For those of you who are not familiar with the difference, an audit is a more stringent test of the books and procedures; while a review is less stringent. As you may guess, there are additional factors that distinguish them; but

hopefully, this simple distinction will assist you. Once the chosen CPA firm has completed their work, we will reissue our June 30th Financial Statement.

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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT MIKE DABBS

The Capital Campaign Fundraising Committee was formed in late-May following the congregation's nearly unanimous approval for the Trustees to proceed with planning a capital campaign.



Since the committee's formation much work has been accomplished preparing materials needed for the campaign. We are now starting an education/information phase of our efforts. You should have received the first three editions of the Capital Campaign Courier by email. These are being published approximately every two weeks. If you have not received them, please call the church office. For those of you without email, they are available throughout the church and will be mailed, as well. Please see the first issue of the Capital Campaign Courier for greater details of our campaign preparations.



During September, we expect to have a very brief video each week focused on key issues of the campaign, such as safety and security, accessibility, improvements to the Church School area, changes to Pilgrim Hall and the kitchen; and others.

In early September, we expect to announce small group meetings at members' homes and at the church. This will be another way to learn more about the campaign and ask questions about making a pledge.

Sunday Resource – Nancy Sauve

Let me introduce myself as your Sunday Resource Person. Nominated because I've been working here longer than dirt, doing the job because I want to help make Sunday mornings flow as effortlessly as possible. From helping the deacons find the artificial flowers to finding a key for a seldom used door to answering questions from the membership, I'm around on Sunday mornings during the programming year. Now that I've been doing this for a while, I thought I'd let you know the routine I've settled into (mostly).



You can find me in the Pilgrim Hall kitchen sometime between 7:30 and 8 a.m. where I start my morning. We prep there for the Sunday Change of Pace service. During the 9 a.m. service, I can usually be found sitting in the back of Pilgrim Hall near the door. Feel free to quietly enter during the service to ask me for assistance. During the 10 a.m. service, I can usually be found on the pulpit side of the Sanctuary in the pews under the transom or in the back of the church by the soundboard or in the narthex. After the service, I will usually be in my office. If you have a bookkeeping question, please find me at that time. I'm happy to look up information and would love to answer any other questions you may have.

MARKETING REPORT

BRIAN CONNELLY

We Want Our Membership To Grow

Everyone wants our membership to grow – and we’ve been working at doing just that with our marketing initiative for the last several years. We’ve been telling our story in the Ann Arbor Observer, on billboards, on radio and especially on social media and more. Our message is terrific – “Whatever Your Story, You’re Welcome Here” and our creative ads are hitting home with the target audiences.

So how are we doing? Not bad, but not great either. Clearly FCC has held its ground in both attendance and membership retention while most Christian churches have shown decline. Staying even is nice, but it’s not growing. Part of the challenge is that we haven’t been spending at a high-enough level to be impactful and move people to action. This year your Trustees have increased the marketing budget to hopefully make a difference. Plus, the church will be implementing a new membership recruitment initiative soon.



Growing the Membership Is Everyone’s Job

Unfortunately, good advertising can’t do the job alone. We need you to really be effective. Ask your friends and neighbors to give us a try, better yet, invite them to go with you to FCC.



Maybe it feels a little awkward, but, you might be doing them a huge favor. They might love the experience and fill a void in their lives.

Your Marketing Committee hopes you will try... and thanks you in advance for your willingness to help. Mike Dabbs, Michael Spath, Bob Livingston, Darcy Crain and Brian Connelly, Chair.

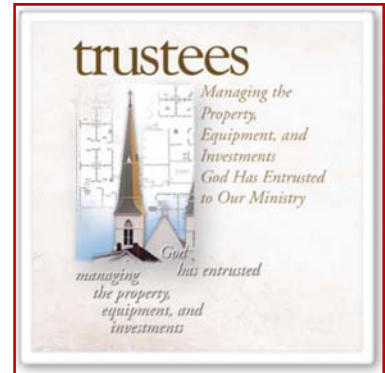
HAND CHIME CHOIR

Come join us on Wednesday evening, September 5, at 7 p.m. for our first practice of the year! All are welcome! We will play in the 10 a.m. worship services on an occasional basis. You are invited to a pizza supper in the Mayflower Room on September 5 at 6:00 p.m. before our first practice. We will normally practice on Sundays following the 10 a.m. service.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MARK FOSTER

The Board of Trustees met on July 23rd. The main points of discussion included:

- New Board member Betsy Petoskey was welcomed
- A new custodial service was hired to replace our longtime custodian, Steffen, who recently retired.
- New security measures are being installed due to some recent thefts.
- An RFP for a financial audit review was sent to 4 different firms and a decision will be made at the next trustee meeting.
- Stewardship
- Capital Campaign
 - ◊ Two key committees have been established: Fund Raising Committee and Design Committee. They will be lead by Mike Dabbs and Dan Jacobs, respectively.
- Investments
- New business
 - ◊ We are changing our website hosting services to greatly improve our website hosting speed.
 - ◊ A very successful Art Fair for FCC!



The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on September 10, 2018.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The following are the current members of the B & G Committee:

Chair, Peter Sandretto, Don Price, Scott Allen, Neil Adams, and Joe Denay.

Most of the current activity of the B & G Committee has involved support for the Design Committee working on current priority projects which are included as part of the Capital Campaign.



Other activity includes routine maintenance involving windows, plumbing, electrical, HVAC and grounds. Planned activity for the current fiscal year includes masonry repair for the east wall of the Sanctuary, sealing and striping of the parking area, and replacement of the SW basement exit door.

First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor
2017 - 2018 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Preliminary
June 30, 2018



	ACTUAL 6/30/18	APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/17 - 6/30/18	NOTES
REVENUE			
Pledges	\$ 502,667	\$ 470,000	Note 1
Gifts - Operations	\$ 46,920	\$ 55,000	
Pre-paid Pledges	\$ -	\$ 12,500	Note 2
Other Income	\$ 37,130	\$ 20,250	
Total Earned Revenue	\$ 586,717	\$ 557,750	
EXPENSES			
Ministry	\$ 246,039	\$ 227,505	
Administrative/Office	\$ 298,170	\$ 280,998	Notes 3, 4
Christian Education	\$ 44,103	\$ 45,334	
Music	\$ 70,703	\$ 70,430	
Missions & Outreach	\$ 35,174	\$ 30,130	
Maintenance & Utilities	\$ 111,526	\$ 104,860	
Total Expenses	\$ 805,715	\$ 759,257	
NET REVENUE	\$ (218,998)	\$ (201,507)	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 49,879	\$ 57,500	Note 5 Principal: \$25,897
	\$ 11,063		Capital Campaign Expenses
TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION	\$ 323,690	\$ 259,443	Note 6
BALANCE	\$ 43,750	\$ 436	Note 7

NOTES

- 1 2017-18 Approved Budget is amount shown; however, actual member pledges were \$505,000.
- 2 2017-18 Pre-paid Pledge balance is carryover from the Gap Year and is included in Actual Pledge Revenue
- 3 Increase in 2017-18 Budget due to marketing being included as an operating expense and a reduction in health care insurance for Assoc. Minister
- 4 Approximately \$9,100 should be recoded as capital expense. This expenditure was for the new server and related hardware authorized by the Trustees in May.
- 5 2017-18 Capital Expenses reflected in Capital Expense Budget. Major item is the mortgage principal payment & Loan Origination Fees of \$11,667. First payment made in October 2017.
- 6 2017-18 Budgeted Trust Fund Distribution reflects 5% from all investment funds and Endowments including Memorial & Pastoral; plus an additional \$57,500 from the General Investments in order to off-set the increase in operating expenses and the capital expenses.
- 7 While the actual \$43,000 net income is reflected for the year, this will be adjusted following the audit/review that will be done this fall.

STEWARDSHIP MARK SCHIRMER

THANK YOU! The 2018 stewardship campaign was a great success, the best result in a number of years.

The final numbers for the 2018 stewardship campaign are worth restating: 197 financial pledges with a total pledged amount at \$523,706. Thank you for the fantastic and enthusiastic support. While the total amount pledged was approximately 5 percent short of our \$550,000 goal, it was a 5 percent increase over last year. It is certainly something we can build on for next year.



Our Trustees have created a smart budget for the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year, which kicked off on July 1st. The church is in good financial shape thanks to your support. Our next stewardship campaign will kick off in the spring of 2019 — remember April is Pledge Month. It's not too early to start thinking about how you can support FCC next year.



We will continue to share thoughts on the importance of supporting the church throughout the year. In addition to the annual stewardship campaign, there are so many ways you can help make FCC great. The Heritage Society, donating your time and talents, or committing to the upcoming Capital Campaign to refresh our home on State Street ahead of our 175th Anniversary. FCC is strong because of the great help from its member families. Please, don't let your commitment wane.

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

Two events at the Ann Arbor YMCA

400 West Washington Street, Ann Arbor 48103

Red Cross Blood Drive, Tuesday, September 4, 9 a.m. –3 p.m. To sign up for a time slot, please go to: www.redcrossblood.org. Sponsor Code: AAYMCA.

Questions? Contact Jan Hack at 734.661.8047 or jhack@annarborymca.org.

Voter Registration Drive, Saturday September 15, 9-11 a.m. and Thursday September 20, 4-7 p.m. with the League of Women Voters. Election day is November 6, and you must be registered by October 9 to vote in this election! Register to vote, or if you are registered to vote elsewhere get information on how to make sure your vote is counted, and access material on ballot box issues. If you've moved since the last election, you can also update your registration. Experienced volunteers from the League of Women Voters and an official from the City Clerk's office will be available to help you fill out a voter registration form.

MISSION & OUTREACH

PAM DABBS

Once again, *YOU*....our members, along with a little help from The First Baptist Church, were so generous about buying and filling backpacks for our annual CAN Backpack Drive. It was amazing to see the tags taken so quickly and 104 brimming full bags were all returned back to the church....Thank you so much for your willingness to give like this, year after year! You're the best!



In addition, we are looking forward to seeing the results from our Grow-A-Row and hope everyone will bring their bounty to fill a truck on August 26th...of course it will all be completed by the time this article is printed! We don't know the outcome for this year, but last year we collected over 400 pounds of produce!!! The truck is merrily driven to Food Gatherers where it is unloaded, and distributed to those in need. We have a feeling this year will be even better than last....again, thank you for your generosity!

Mission & Outreach Committee

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ELLEN RAMBO

September 9 marks the beginning of church school programming! All of our teachers are returning to offer your children high quality Christian education. This fall, students will learn many things about our faith including the formation of the church following Jesus' resurrection, and the life and stories of Moses. Please join us after the 10:00 service for Kick-Off Sunday festivities.



FCC's website and Facebook page are, by design, community information tools. As such, we need your help as a faith community to populate the information and content we are promoting! If you have pictures you'd like to provide, or events you wish to promote, please email them to office@fccannarbor.org. Like us on Facebook and share our posts! Together we can make this beacon shine even brighter!

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES—2ND SUNDAYS
SARA HOLMES

Contemporary Issues Presentations

2nd Sunday Series
2018-19

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday, October 14 | What's On Your 2018 State Ballot?
Margaret Leary, League of Women Voters and Librarian
Emerita, University of Michigan Law School |
| Sunday, November 11 | Russia: Heading to Another Cold War?
Michael Makin, Ph.D. professor of Slavic Languages and
Literatures, University of Michigan and FCC member |
| Sunday, December 9 | Threshold Singers: Bedside Songs for Hospice and Healing
Karen Chalmer, Director |
| Sunday, January 13 | Interfaith Wisdom: Women Creating Alliances for
Friendship and Peace |
| Sunday, February 10 | Carbon Fee and Dividend: Effective Option for
Addressing Climate Change |
| Sunday, March 10 | Cass Community Social Services in Detroit: Tiny houses and
More
Sara and Bob Holmes, FCC members |
| Sunday, April 14. | Ann Arbor's Bicycling/Walking Infrastructure: Now and In the
Future
Raymond Hess, City of Ann Arbor Transportation Manager |

Ministry Festival

Sunday, Oct 7, 11 a.m. Pilgrim Hall

***Come and see the good things that are coming up this year
under the leadership of our boards and committees!***

It is a time to celebrate!

Please put this on your calendar and plan to join us!

ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

Kick-Off Sunday Picnic - September 9th

All are invited to come home to church and celebrate together Sunday, September 9th! This celebration, known as Kick-Off Sunday, will be the start of our programming year when we have two church services again on Sunday mornings and our small groups start up again.

The Kick-Off celebration will take place after the 11 a.m. service on September 9th. Sloppy Joes (and a vegan option), paper products and beverages will all be provided. We are suggesting items to bring to the picnic based on where you fall in the alphabet.

Last names that begin with A – M, please bring a side dish, and names beginning with N – Z, please bring a dessert. Picnic tables will be outside for all to enjoy a time of food and friends. In the planning of Kick-Off Sunday, the Board of Christian Education in partnership with the Activities and Fellowship Committee has a bounce house planned for the children to enjoy during the event.



To guarantee that all aspects of this event go smoothly, the Activities and Fellowship Committee (AFC) is requesting help with set-up and tear down of the picnic area. If you are available to help set up or tear down, please call Robbie Sawitski at 734-507-0418 or sign up on the sheet outside Pilgrim Hall. Thank you in advance to all who volunteer to help make this event great!

Seeking Committee Members



Are you interested in helping plan events for the church? The Activities and Fellowship Committee (AFC) is looking for additional helpers. All are welcome to attend the next meeting on Sunday, September 23rd at 11 a.m. to check out the committee. Please call Robbie at 734-507-0418 if you are interested in getting involved sooner!

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

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Mj Quigley-Young



Our Music Committee continues our second year of being led by our two co-chairs: Dr. Michele Johns and Marijean Quigley-Young. The active members of our Music Committee are: Kathy Beam, Cindy Bylsma, Bernard Patterson, Randy Webb, Larry Jones, with ad hoc members Sharon Weiland and Paul Fossum.

This year, we welcome **SHOHEI KOBAYASHI** as our new Chancel Choir Director at The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. He comes to us with many highly developed artistic musical skills and accomplishments. Shohei has a wealth of experience in guiding and directing others in the choral arts having been the **Director of the University of Michigan Residential College Singers**, and the **Chorus Master for the University of Michigan's production of Gounod's Romeo et Juliette**.



Currently, he is in his second of three years of study for his **Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Conducting** at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, having studied under Jerry Blackstone last year and studying under Eugene Rogers for these next two years. He is presently in his third year as the **Assistant Conductor UMS Choral Union** and fourth year as **Co-Conductor of the University of Michigan Orpheus Singers**.

Upon experiencing Shohei's conducting skills during rehearsal, some of our Choir members offered some very positive comments based on their knowledge of his past performances. Our Music Committee welcomes Shohei to our church and pledges to offer support and help throughout his tenure with us.

We plan to continue our encouragement for more people of all ages who are musically inclined to share their musical gifts more frequently during both our traditional and contemporary worship services.

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 *Shohei Kobayashi, Terry Farmer, Dr. Tim Huth, and Rebecca Jones* for sharing their amazing talents so generously with us each and every week.

We look forward to more performances throughout the year from the Hand Chimes Choir with *Cindy Bylsma* as the volunteer director.

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS!



Are you looking for a choir to call home? The FCC Chancel Choir is always looking for singers who want to join an enthusiastic choir that is dedicated to bringing great music to all of our weekly 10 a.m. worship services. We have room for more singers in all sections of the choir. We typically have two special music performances each year, one on the Second Sunday in Advent and the other on one of the Sundays in Lent, in addition to our weekly choral anthem performances. If you have previous choral experience singing any style of music (or even if you don't, but you still have an interest in participating), please contact our Chancel Choir Director, Shohei Kobayashi, at shohei@fccannarbor.org, for more information. Though the choir normally meets for their rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the downstairs Choir Rehearsal Room, there will be a special kick-off choir rehearsal on Wednesday night, September 5, beginning with a pizza social gathering at 6 p.m. in the Mayflower Room, followed by a special rehearsal at 7 p.m. in the Choir Rehearsal Room. Our regular choir season of rehearsals and performances begins on Sunday, September 9. Please consider joining us!

HISTORIAN'S CORNER BETTY BISHOP

In looking back over old church minutes and records, I found a few interesting facts. The Trustees started holding monthly meetings in 1934. In 1935 the "Every Member Canvas" raised \$6,606.54. That year also saw the start of church endowment funds. The church raised \$1076 in benevolence from 73 subscribers. There were 594 church members. Over 100 children attended Sunday School and there was an urgent need for more teachers. The minister, Rev. Heaps, was paid \$3050 a year.

Girl Scouts started at FCC in 1934 with over 25 girls in the troop and the first troop leader being Captain Lucy D. Slosson. In 1937 the Girl Scouts moved their meetings to University High School. **Boy Scouts** had started meeting at FCC before 1920 and the church continued to sponsor a troop for many years, at least into the 1990s.

In 1936, the average Sunday attendance was 176 with 600 church members. In October 1937, Rev. Leonard Parr came from Green Bay, Wisconsin as the senior minister. He remained until Christmas, 1957, being the longest serving minister at FCC at that time.



HEALING SPACE

Where music, meditation and prayer meet
Sunday September 16th, 7-8 p.m.
Mayflower Room

A monthly meditation service starts again on Sunday, September 16th. Healing Space will now be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 7-8 p.m. in the Mayflower Room.



Would you like to seek spiritual growth, serenity and wholeness in your life? 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 with others? If so, please join others by participating in the "Healing Space". All are welcome!

Each session will include music, both silent and guided meditations, a themed reflection and a time for group prayer. If you need further information contact Gail Haynes. Input is welcome and all are welcome. Come when you can!

MIND AND SPIRIT

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 read books that deal with spiritual or social justice issues. Our first book for the fall is God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine by Victoria Sweet. The book group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:15 -11:45 a.m in the Mayflower Room. We will meet on Wednesday, Sept 5 and start our book discussion on September 19. Questions? Please contact Gail Haynes (gehaynes@aol.com).

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) to be added to our email thread of what's happening and when. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 12 at the church.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

As someone who benefitted from the Circle of Friends program earlier this summer, I wanted to express my thanks and explain a little more about the program. Following major knee surgery in mid-May and a short stay in the hospital, Circle of Friends provided me with tasty and complete dinners every other night for just over two weeks. Not only did I enjoy a wide variety of good meals but I met some church members I did not know before which was fun. Generally there was enough extra food for either lunch or dinner the second day.

I was also aware that Circle of Friends would have helped me with rides to church if that had been necessary, but a couple of friends did that until I was driving myself again.

If you are interested in volunteering for Circle of Friends, for example to help with meals or driving, or if you would benefit from their help following an illness or hospital stay, contact Mary Ann Marquart at 313-303-1989. Thanks to everyone who has helped me – Betty Bishop

TUESDAY NIGHT STUDY GROUP

Please join us for the Tuesday Night Study Group beginning on Tuesday, September 18, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Mayflower Room. Our first five weeks will be focused on a five-part video series titled: *Jesus Fatwah: Love Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself*. This series will address many of the stereotypes we bring to our understandings of Islam and Muslim people, impressions that are often incorrectly based on fear and misinformation. In *The Jesus Fatwah*, Islamic and Christian scholars offer reliable information about what Muslims believe, how they live out their faith, and how we all can be about building relationships across lines of faith. Please join us for this interesting and relevant five-part series. All are welcome!

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 5! Please join us.

KNIGHT'S LUNCH GROUP

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 23 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!

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 our 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 special dates in your lives. 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 work of our 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 Rachel 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 many retailers. The picture



shows just some of these stores. 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.

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!



608 E. William Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 662-1679



FCC Office Hours
Mon. — Fri.
9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
After Labor Day

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734-926-0554
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Darcy Crain
Minister
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***Whatever Your
Story, You're
Welcome Here***

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE (BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9th)

- 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.)
- 11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall (Picnic on the 9th)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

- 9/3 LABOR DAY — FCC OFFICE CLOSED
- 9/4 REG OFFICE HOURS RESUME, M-F, 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
- 9/5 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
10:15 a.m. Mind & Spirit, Mayflower Room
6:00 p.m. Choir Pizza. Mayflower Room
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9/9 KICK-OFF SUNDAY & PICNIC
- 9/10 6:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting, Mayflower Room
- 9/12 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
1:00 p.m. Contemporary Issues Cmte, Mayflower Rm
6:30 p.m. 20/40 (Meeting Room)
- 9/16 7:00 p.m. Healing Space, Mayflower Room
- 9/17 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Mayflower Room
- 9/18 7:00 p.m. TNS, Mayflower Room
- 9/19 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
10:15 a.m. Mind & Spirit, Mayflower Room
1:30 p.m. Marketing Meeting, Meeting Room
6:30 p.m. 20/40 (Meeting Room)
- 9/24 11:30 a.m. Knight's Luncheon Group (2324 Dexter Rd)
- 9/25 7:00 p.m. TNS (Mayflower Room)
- 9/26 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
12 Noon CC Fundraising Committee, Meeting Room
6:30 p.m. 20/40 (Meeting Room)
- 10/2 7:00 p.m. TNS, Mayflower Room
- 10/3 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
10:15 a.m. Mind & Spirit, Mayflower Room
12 Noon CC Fundraising Committee, Meeting Room
6:30 p.m. 20/40 (Meeting Room)
- 10/7 11:00 a.m. Ministry Festival, Pilgrim Hall