

Congregational Courier

THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to the newest member of our church staff. That person is Sandra Beals, who on September 26 joined our staff as our new administrative assistant. Sandra is a fascinating person! In her own words, Sandra has managed and produced multiple publications, worked with databases, organized,



overseen, and tracked administrative activities, and much more! Sandra has lived and worked internationally, speaks Spanish fluently, has excelled in academic studies, served as a writing consultant, and most recently, while working toward her doctorate, was an instructor in the Department of English at Michigan State University. Born and raised here in Ann Arbor, Sandra is looking forward to returning home and working here at FCC. We, of course, very much look forward to her being with us, serving on our staff team, and learning from her and growing with her. Please join me in welcoming Sandra! When you are nearby, please stop in and say hi!

I would also like to personally thank Gary Brown and Betsy Hill, two of our former office staff, who helped us out incredibly and generously over the past two months in the main office, working to keep things running smoothly; Robbie Sawitski, another former office staff person, who has been assisting our new chancel choir director, Shohei Kobayashi, in the music library area organizing music; and member Judy Hallberg, a retired human resources professional from U-M, who volunteered scores of hours helping out in our main office and provided us with countless hours of help and expertise in our search for a new administrative assistant. As the saying goes, "It often takes a village," which is very true here! These special people deserve our sincere appreciation!

Finally, thanks to all of you for your participation in our ministries of worship, service, fellowship, compassion, and nurture.

Blessings on your October!



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

Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here



DARCY CRAIN MINISTER

Morning Madness!

On a typical morning my boys go through four pieces of toast, three Eggo waffles, two glasses of milk, a second outfit change due to a syrup or toothpaste incident, and me, losing my patience at them because we are late and I've asked them to put on their shoes five times now. If you have young children at home maybe your morning rush to get out the door sounds something like mine. The pace and schedules of young families is undoubtedly exhausting. We go from school to swimming, to Saturday hockey or dance or soccer. By the time Sunday rolls around, we could really use a morning off. I get it.

And yet, Sunday mornings, that one morning when you feel like you can sit in pajamas a little while longer, something integral to the development of your child and your family is happening. These pews have seen a great deal of change in the last 171 years. Changes in parenting styles and children's activities, changes in the demands placed on families and on our youth, changes in theology and how we speak about God. They have weathered the storm and still invite families to sit or slump, to take refuge from crazy mornings and hectic schedules. Come and sit. Come and be. Come and learn. Your children wiggle next to you, dropping hymnals or Cheerios, dancing in the aisles or needing to go to the bathroom an entire four minutes after you arrive. We get it. We welcome it. The great-grandparent whose family lives across the country looks at your little one with admiration and joy.

No one cares that your kid is in sweatpants with a hole in the knee and wears sunglasses through the entire children's circle. We care that you're here. We care that you made the morning madness to get to church and to teach your children what our faith is all about.

We want our children to grow into kind people who have a good work ethic and are generous; working towards the good of the greater community and world. We want them to think outside their own self-interests and be empathic and good leaders. These are the virtues our faith upholds. These are the stories they learn through Moses and Daniel, Miriam and Sarah, Jesus and Peter and Paul. They learn what it means to stand up for what is right. They learn why they should care about the poor. They learn that through community and shared values you can transform lives.

Of course, when I asked my son on Sunday afternoon what he learned about (knowing full well it was about Exodus) he shrugged and said, "I don't know, something about lights."

Continued on Page 3

DARCY CRAIN (CON'T)

I have seen kids like him come through our program. They turn into 8th graders that shrug when, in confirmation I ask a question about Exodus. If I push I get this: "Is that the thing when that Moses guy saw slavery, and he stood up for it, and he used to be rich and have everything, and he like, left it all because he wanted his people to be free? And I think he parted some sea and walked on the floor of it, but I don't really believe that part happened."

Yes. It's that thing. It's that guy. It's that story.

They get it. Church school teaches these stories, which teach these values, which raise these exhausting tiny humans into adults of integrity and faith.

So next Sunday, when you are cleaning syrup off of your children's faces, and struggling to find two shoes and get out the door on time, remember that you are welcome however you arrive. You are welcome and your time is precious. I am so thankful you're choosing to invest your time and your children at FCC. It makes the world of difference.



HISTORIAN'S CORNER BETTY BISHOP

While traveling on the west side of Michigan in late August, I came across the First Congregational Church of Saugatuck and attended the Sunday service there. The church was founded on January 11, 1860, eight years before Saugatuck was incorporated as a village. There were 16 founding members and the initial meeting was held in the Pine Grove schoolhouse. During the summer of 1860 a church was constructed, parts of which have been incorporated in the current church which is on the same site. There were 16 charter members including Rev. C. H. Eaton who was, apparently, the first minister. This was the first church built in Saugatuck and it was there that the local citizens rallied in April 1861 upon hearing of

the outbreak of the Civil War with the rebel firing on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. Currently there are about 100 church members, and there were about 50 people at the service I attended.

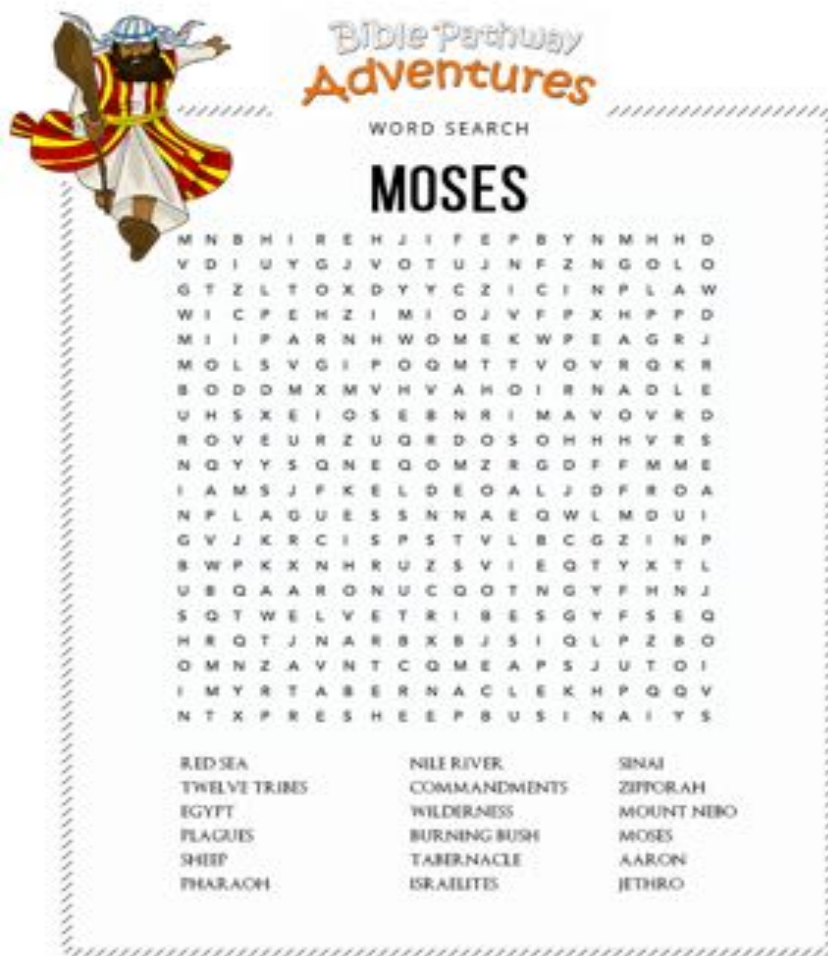


RACHEL DUDLEY DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



World Communion Sunday will be celebrated around the world on October 7th. We will have the opportunity to join in with others from around the world as we also celebrate and take communion during our World Communion Sunday service. On October 7th we will not have church school. All school age kids are asked to join their parents in the family friendly service. There will be childcare for those who have not entered school yet in the nursery. The church school lesson the week prior will cover what communion symbolizes, history, and what it represents for us.

Families are encouraged to discuss what communion means to their family and to decide if they would like their kids to take part in communion on World Communion Sunday.



Rachel

YOUTH MINISTRIES SENIOR HIGH

The Senior High group is gathering for Sunday high school discussions every other week. Discussions will be led by our leaders, Jean Wedemeyer and Scott Allen, with Dan Koester and Joy Keller filling in as well. We are preparing for our Cultural Connections field trip at Howell Nature Center on Sunday, October 7. Please meet at FCC at 9 a.m., and we will carpool to Howell Nature Center. The event is 10 am - 2 p.m.; we anticipate returning to FCC at approximately 2:45 p.m.

The calendar at a glance is below. We will likely add a fellowship event for November, but are awaiting responses from current participants before we advertise the date. Please note the **2019 mission trip dates** and save the dates!

Date	Time	Content	Location
10/7/18	9 am - 2:45 p.m.	Cultural Connections	Howell Nature Center*
<i>*We will meet at FCC and carpool to Howell</i>			
10/21/18	10:15 a.m.	SH Discussion	SH Room
11/4/18	10:15 a.m.	SH Discussion	SH Room
11/18/18	10:15 a.m.	SH Discussion	SH Room
12/16/18	10:15 a.m.	SH Discussion	SH Room
June 16-22, 2019		SH Mission Trip	Detroit, MI



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

MIKE DABBS



The summer has been filled with preparation of brochures, videos and related materials; training the campaign committee – a special thanks to Fritz Seyferth to doing the trainings; and discussions with key prospective donors – special thanks to Joe Fitzsimmons. We are now ready to publicly launch the campaign on Sunday, September 30 following the service. A special continental breakfast, brief remarks, a video, and an opportunity to sign up for one of the numerous meetings that will be held at the church will be part of this special morning. **We cordially invite all members to be part of this special event in the life of our church.**

October will be filled with meetings at the church and in various members' homes to discuss the importance of the proposed changes, as well as how each of us have an opportunity to make an impact and leave our legacy for future generations. If you miss signing up, call the church (734-662-1679) and ask for Kayla Gonyon, who is our Campaign Assistant to get scheduled, or for campaign information.

The campaign goal is \$2,000,000. With your help, we anticipate receiving all pledges by December 1 in order for the Capital Campaign Design Committee and architect to proceed with construction documents and selecting contractors in the first half of 2019.

FCC's 175th Anniversary is in 2022. We want to prepare our church for the future generations as we celebrate this major milestone.

What will OUR legacy be and how will YOU play a role?

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DESIGN COMMITTEE

The Design Committee has been busy this summer working on several projects. Contracts have now been signed and we are awaiting the construction or installation of several new systems. New windows for the classroom level of the Annex (portion of building housing Pilgrim Hall) are in process as are ladders to get out of those windows. New intercoms and security cameras are in progress. In order to be able to secure the lower level fully a new wall and door will be added to the hallway next to the meeting room going out to the north exit and a new door will replace the door at the base of the west stair. Unfortunately the busy construction environment we are currently in makes getting anything done slower than we would like as there are limited skilled tradespeople to do the work. We are on their schedules and look forward to the dust flying soon.

MARKETING REPORT

BRIAN CONNELLY

Look for Our New Billboards!

We're re-launching our popular billboard series around the Ann Arbor area with brand new, fun, engaging messages. Look for these two billboards at Stadium and Liberty, as well as I-94 at Dancer Road. We'll have more of these cheeky attention-getters in the coming months, so keep your eyes open when you're on the roads!



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ELLEN RAMBO

Kick-Off Sunday was a terrific success with many families meeting one another around the bounce house. Look for photos in the coming weeks. Thank you to BOCE members Diane O'Connell, Val Towery, Robin Myler, Ann Verhey-Henke, and Chris Vermeulen for volunteering their time and talents to this event.

Demand is such that we have added an infant room and a Young 5s–Kindergarten classroom to church school. This fall, our students will learn about the early church and the stories of Moses.

We are looking for more substitute teachers. If you enjoy being around children and/or adolescents, this is the volunteer opportunity for you. Our lesson plans provide background information for teachers, and the lessons are packed with a variety of activities that keep our students engaged and actively learning. Two teachers are assigned to a classroom, so you would not be alone! Please let Rachel Dudley know if you might be interested.

rachel@fccannarbor.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GAE MILLER

The Board of Trustees met on Monday, September 10. The following items were discussed:

- Janet Allen was welcomed as the newest member of the Board of Trustees.
- Financial Audit - Several companies were considered to conduct a financial review this year and financial audit next year for the church. After some interviews, followed by discussion of the Board, UHY was chosen to provide these services. This will be conducted this Fall.
- Building and Grounds - A leak on the east wall of the Sanctuary will be investigated and fixed by Grunwell Cashero. A contract has been signed for chemical treatment of the building, as is done annually. A quote is being requested to have the driveway/parking lot resealed this Fall.
- Capital Campaign - A contract has been let for a new wall in the basement to provide better security, the first project in the Capital Campaign. Sources of cameras, windows and ladders are also being explored. The Capital Campaign kicks off on September 30 with a goal of raising \$2 million by mid-December. There is lots of support for this effort so far.
- The ministers reported lots of positive activity going on this Fall.
- An easy-to-read quarterly report on our investments will be provided to the Trustees at the October meeting.
- Gae Miller will serve as secretary of the Board of Trustees. A Vice Chair is being sought.
- The Board of Trustees will be represented with the Treasurer and Capital Campaign Committee at the Ministry Festival on October 17.
- The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 8.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Here's a listing of our Building and Grounds Committee members.. Be sure and thank our dedicated volunteers when you see them!

Pete Sandretto
Don Price
Scott Allen
Joe Denay
Neil Adams

thank
you!

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIKE DABBS

For the first two months of this fiscal year, revenue and expenses met budget projections. Trustees reviewed the bids of three local audit firms and selected UHY to perform a financial review of the 2017–2018 fiscal year. It is anticipated that the review will be completed and the audit firm's report issued by December.

First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor 2018 - 2019 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT August 31, 2018

	ACTUAL 8/31/18	APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/18 - 6/30/19	NOTES
REVENUE			
Pledges	\$103,666	\$525,000	1
Gifts - Operations	\$4,327	\$48,000	
Other Income	\$5,900	\$33,250	
Total Earned Revenue	\$113,893	\$606,250	
EXPENSES			
Ministry	\$27,587	\$229,900	
Administrative/Office	\$49,165	\$323,160	
Christian Education	\$12,413	\$56,950	
Music	\$6,062	\$69,200	
Missions & Outreach	\$(732)	\$34,500	
Maintenance & Utilities	\$13,209	\$92,050	
Total Expenses	\$107,704	\$805,760	
NET REVENUE	\$6,189	\$(199,510)	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$4,100	\$40,000	2
	\$13,903		
TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION	\$ -	\$240,000	3,4
BALANCE	<u>\$(11,814)</u>	<u>\$490</u>	

Notes

- 1 2018 - 19 Actual Pledges Total was \$523,246.
- 2 2018-19 budget includes capital campaign expenses and mortgage principal payments. Capital campaign will contribute \$40,000 for costs of capital expenses, mortgage principal payments, and maintenance and repairs.
- 3 2018 - 19 Budget distribution is 5.5%, but a lower absolute amount than last year.
- 4 If additional funds are received from stewardship, they will go to reduce trust fund withdrawals, add to office staff and M&O in that order.

CHURCH COUNCIL CHRIS VERMEULEN

Elected Positions

Church Council Chair: Dick Mitchell
Church Council Vice-Chair: Lynda Norton
Secretary: Chris Vermeulen
Treasurer: Mike Dabbs
Clerk: Peg Jacobs
Historian: Betty Bishop

Remaining Positions Filled by Board and Committee Positions

Board of Deacons Co-Chairs	Nancy Vermeulen and Mitchell Dudley
Board of Trustees Chair	Mark Foster
Board of Christian Education Chair	Ellen Rambo
Director of Christian Education	Rachel Dudley
Missions and Outreach Committee Chair	Pam Dabbs
Music Committee Chair	Mj Quigley-Young
Nominating Committee Co-Chairs	Rick Muhs and Kristy Stoneburner
Activities and Fellowship Co-Chairs	Robbie Sawitski
Contemporary Issues Committee Chair	Sara Holmes
Marketing Committee Chair	Brian Connelly
Ministers	Bob Livingston and Darcy Crain

Current Activities

Staffing:

- We will soon have a full staff to handle the needs and tasks of the church. Looking forward to a great year.

Ministry Festival:

- The Ministry Festival will take place on Sunday, October 7! Be sure to check out all the activities going on in the Church. Each board and committee will be represented.
- The Strategic Plan is updated. A hard copy will be available at the Ministry Festival.

Contact Information:

- Feel free to contact any member of the Church Council with questions, comments, or concerns. We appreciate your feedback on the activities of the Church.

By Chris Vermeulen, Church Council Secretary

Next Scheduled Meeting: October 15, 2018

MISSION AND OUTREACH PAM DABBS

On behalf of the Mission & Outreach Committee, thanks to all of our members who donated funds to The CROP Walk or walked with our group on September 30. Our committee would also like to give special recognition and thanks to Suzanne Price and Mary Mostaghim for being the leaders from our church who helped to sign up participants and to collect funds for this important mission.



ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE ROBBIE SAWITSKI

The Kick-Off Sunday “Welcome Home” picnic was a tremendous success. So many smiling faces and hugs everywhere! There is so much truth in the adage, “Many hands make light work.” THANK YOU SO MUCH to all the many volunteers, committees, board members, and fantastic cooks who helped to make this event one that bears repeating next year.

Please plan to stop by the AFC Ministry Festival table on October 7th for some tasty treats. And you can sign up to help with our next three events:

The Advent Women’s Evening (AWE) on Thursday, December 6

We are looking for 10 volunteers to hostess tables and three volunteers to help with check-in. (This event is limited to 80 women, so please be sure to sign up early!)



The Christmas Decorating on Sunday, November 25

Please mark your calendars and come help make our grand lady beautiful for the holidays.

The Christmas UNdecorating Party and Lunch on January 6 after the 10 a.m. service

Stay tuned for details...

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES—2ND SUNDAYS

SARA HOLMES

2018–19 2nd Sunday Series

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 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, D. Phil. 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 |
| Sunday, January 13 | Interfaith Wisdom:
Women Creating Alliances for Friendship and Peace
A panel of five women from different faith backgrounds |
| Sunday, February 10 | Carbon Fee and Dividend:
Effective option for addressing climate change
Steve Kolk, ACAS, MAAA, climate actuarial expert, Evan
Murray, UM BS-Climate & Atmospheric Science |
| Sunday, March 10 | Cass Community Social Services in Detroit:
Tiny houses and more
Rev. Faith Fowler, M.Div., M.P.A. Pastor of Cass Community
United Methodist Church and Executive Director of Cass
Community Social Services. 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 |

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

TRAIN TRIP TO CHICAGO

December 3rd–5th

Have you been wanting to see the beautiful lights of Chicago during the holidays? Would you like to experience the big city festive holiday feeling, possibly see a show, do some Christmas shopping, visit a museum, or just spend time with FCC friends? We are heading to Chicago again this year to stay at the same wonderful place where we stayed last year.



Our group will travel by Amtrak train, leaving Monday Dec. 3rd at 7:20 a.m. from the Ann Arbor Amtrak train station. You will have two nights and almost three full days in Chicago. Our return trip will leave from Chicago Union Station on Thursday Dec. 5th at 6 p.m., returning to Ann Arbor by about 11:20 p.m.

While in downtown Chicago, we will be staying at the Hilton Embassy Suites Hotel on South State Street. Our group reservation includes a king bed room suite, a morning made-to-order breakfast buffet, and a nightly manager's social hour which includes beverages and light snacks.

Your itinerary in Chicago is your own! Plan your days together with friends on the trip or enjoy some private time with your special someone! There are lots of things to do and many theater and Broadway shows available! Your days and evenings are yours completely to schedule or to leave as open as you choose. We hope we can all have dinner together as a group on Monday night.

The cost for the hotel is \$293 total for the two nights we will be in Chicago, which you will pay directly to the hotel when we arrive. We will book your Amtrak ticket(s) for you once we have your reservation and deposit., \$75/person, for your Amtrak ticket. Transportation to and from Union Station is extra ... possibly about \$10–15 each way.

Reservations are limited. A non-refundable deposit of \$75/person is required by Nov. 5th. Please make your check out to "FCC/Chicago." Please contact Laura Livingston at 734-223-3181 (or laural88@att.net) if interested. It will be a fun and festive time! Please join us!

MUSIC COMMITTEE MJ QUIGLEY-YOUNG

Since “Kick-Off Sunday,” September 9th, our Chancel Choir has seen a dramatic increase in membership, presenting exquisitely under the direction of our new director, SHOHEI KOBAYASHI (pronounced Sho—hay).

The Hand Chime Choir also demonstrating an increase of participants, and, directed by CINDY BYLSMA, presented a prelude of celebration and welcome to Shohei at the 10 a.m. service on September 9th.

Music is such an important part of the worship experience that we hope our congregation’s experience will continue to be enhanced by all the carefully chosen and carefully prepared components of each worship service, including the organ Preludes and Postludes, and all the music in the Change of Pace service.

The Music Committee’s first meeting of the new year will include discussion on increasing the depth and breadth of the Music ministry at our church. ~ Mj Quigley-Young



FROM BOB LIVINGSTON:

There are a few changes in our 10 a.m. Sunday service, all of them intended to add to your worship experience. First, as you may have already noticed, the Chancel Choir is no longer going to be processing or recessing into and out of the service on a regular basis. The reason for this is two-fold; one being that the choir can then be seated to listen to our organist, Tim Huth's prelude selection in preparation for worship, and the other being that the choir can then offer the choral introit and lead the gathering hymn from the front of the chancel, which makes it easier for the congregation to hear them.

Secondly, we are changing the order of worship to include Tim's prelude selection after the morning announcements instead of before the announcements (though Tim will be playing beautiful and uplifting music as people enter the sanctuary at 9:55 a.m.).

Why are we doing this? We hope that having the prelude follow the announcements will offer us a quiet and meditative space in which to center ourselves for worship and connect our lives to God. Candidly, we live in a very hurried world where many of us find it difficult to find any quiet and unencumbered moments in our days.

I am optimistic that worship can be one of those needed places of calmness, and reflection, and refreshment in our lives...a sacred space where we can reconnect with God and self, and refocus on what is important, lasting and eternal. I sincerely hope you will find such peace and inspiration for your week, and for your life, as you worship with us each week.

WEBSITE—GREAT CHANGES

MADELEINE LIVINGSTON

With September quickly coming to a close, and fall creeping up on us, I thought it would only be fitting to draw your attention to all the fantastic progress that has been made with our website. This past month I have been working diligently updating, adding content, and aesthetically changing the overall quality of our website. As many know, our website is filled with tools, from Member Resources, to where to park on Sunday mornings. Within this last month, it has been my soul focus to update every inch of our website. While there are many moving parts, corrections to be made, and pictures to be added, I am confident our website will be better than ever.

Listed below are a few resources, as well as additions, to keep an eye out for the next time you visit our website;

- Member Resources—Password: Pilgrim
- The Home page will display a box that I will update each week with upcoming events, exciting news, and important reminders.
- Check out our new Junior High and Senior High pages, as well as the many pictures added to each page.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me at webmaster@fccannarbor.org. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to serve FCC. I want our website to not just remain functional, but to thrive and fully meet the varied needs of our church and community. I hope you will take the time to browse through the pages of our newly updated website and offer me your ideas as to how it can be improved.

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 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 next on Wednesday, Oct. 3.

Questions? Please contact Gail Haynes (gehaynes@aol.com).

HEALING SPACE

Where music, meditation and prayer meet

Sunday October 21, 7–8 p.m.

Mayflower Room

A monthly meditation service starts again on Sunday, October 21. 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 (gehaynes@aol.com). Input is welcome and all are welcome. Please come when you can!

20/40 GROUP

The 20/40 Group is currently reading *No Other Gods: The Politics of the Ten Commandments*, by Ana Levy-Lyons. We cover one chapter per week during our meetings. We gather weekly on Wednesday nights in the Meeting Room from 6:30–8 pm. The schedule is as follows:

Date	Location	Content
10/3/18	meeting room	session 3
10/10/18	meeting room	session 4
10/17/18	meeting room	session 5
10/24/18	meeting room	session 6
10/31/18	NO MEETING	Happy Halloween!
11/7/18	meeting room	session 7
11/14/18	meeting room	session 8
11/21/18	NO MEETING	Happy Thanksgiving!
12/12/18	meeting Room	Christmas party

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. It was fun. Generally, there was enough extra food for either lunch or dinner the following 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, which meets from 7–8:30 p.m. in the Mayflower Room. We are focusing on a video series titled: *Jesus Fatwah: Love Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself*. This series will address many of the stereotypes we bring to our understanding of Islam and Muslim peoples, 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 series. All are welcome!

TEXT BREAKFAST

We gather informally with our 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!

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 October 22 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? CHECK THESE OUT

Clothing and 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. 734-662-1679 or sandra@fccannarbor.org

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 Donations

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 the 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 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.

Church School Teachers

How about joining the group of committed and enthusiastic volunteers working with our church school children? It's exciting and fun. Volunteers help keep the program growing and vibrant. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rachel Dudley, rachel@fccannarbor.org.



Great Lakes Scrip Program

Let me tell you about our new deck. It's going to be terrific and I hope you can all come over to see it sometime! We took out the old deck and needed parts for infrastructure. These could be purchased from Amazon. We bought \$1000 in Amazon cards and \$1000 in Home Depot cards (\$62.50 back to FCC!). We didn't get enough in Home Depot cards and, as the



coordinator of the program, I had just placed an order. What to do?? I pulled up myscripwallet.com and ordered another \$750 in Home Depot cards, printed the ecard on my home printer and sent Mike off to Home Depot knowing we had contributed another \$30 to FCC mission work. One deck,

\$92.50 for the Scrip program benefitting mission trips at FCC. Easy. And the deck isn't finished yet.... If you'd like more information on myscripwallet.com, please stop by the Scrip table on Sunday morning. Information will be there waiting for you! Thanks so much!

—Nancy Sauve



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

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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.)
- 11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OCTOBER 2018 CALENDAR

- | | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Oct 2 | 11:45 a.m. | Men's Luncheon, Knights Restaurant |
| | 7:00 p.m. | TNS, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 3 | 8:30 a.m. | Text Breakfast, Classic Cup Café |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Mind & Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room |
| | 6:30 p.m. | 20/40, Meeting Room |
| Oct 7 | WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY/MINISTRY FESTIVAL | |
| | 9:00 a.m. | JH/SH Youth to Howell |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Ministry Festival, Pilgrim Hall |
| Oct 8 | 6:00 p.m. | Trustee Meeting, Meeting Room |
| Oct 9 | 7:00 p.m. | TNS, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 10 | 8:30 a.m. | Text Breakfast, Classic Cup Café |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Capital Campaign Gathering, Mayflower Room |
| | 6:30 p.m. | 20/40, Meeting Room |
| Oct 14 | 11:10 a.m. | Second Sunday Presentation, Mayflower Room |
| | 11:15 a.m. | Capital Campaign Gathering, Meeting Room |
| | 3:00 p.m. | Lee Meyer Private Memorial Service |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Capital Campaign Gathering, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 15 | 7:00 p.m. | Council Meeting, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 16 | 7:00 p.m. | TNS, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 17 | 8:30 a.m. | Text Breakfast, Classic Cup Café |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Mind & Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Capital Campaign Gathering, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 21 | 11:00 a.m. | New Member Orientation Brunch, Mayflower Room |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Capital Campaign Gathering, Mayflower Room |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Healing Space, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 22 | 11:30 a.m. | Knight's Luncheon Group, Knight's on Dexter Ave. |
| Oct 23 | 7:30 p.m. | TNS, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 24 | 8:30 a.m. | Text Breakfast, Classic Cup Café |
| | 6:30 p.m. | 20/40, Meeting Room |
| Oct 25 | 7:00 p.m. | Missions and Outreach Meeting, Meeting Room |
| Oct 28 | 4:30 p.m. | Capital Campaign Gathering, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 30 | 7:00 p.m. | TNS, Mayflower Room |
| Oct 31 | 8:30 a.m. | Text Breakfast, Classic Cup Café |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Mind & Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room |