

Congregational Courier

THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON

SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

The months of April and May propel us into some of the most celebrative Sundays of the FCC church year. Here are a few upcoming highlights:

On April 7, the congregation is being called to a special congregational meeting to vote on the design priorities for our anticipated capital improvements.

This is an exciting and important decision for our congregation as we update our beautiful building and address the future vitality of our church!

On April 14, Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, we look forward to the Second Sunday presentation on Ann Arbor's walking/bicycling infrastructure improvements (one of which will impact William Street), following the 10 a.m. worship service. And then at 5 p.m. in the evening we will celebrate the Passover Seder in Pilgrim Hall.

On Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m., we will gather in the sanctuary for a quiet and reflective service of readings, candles, and communion, which is commemorated on the night before Jesus' crucifixion. During the service, we will remember key elements of the life and teachings of Jesus. The service begins in light and ends in darkness, symbolizing Jesus' journey to the cross.

On Good Friday, April 19, we will join with First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor and First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor from Noon to 1:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, to share in three half-hour services in remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion. Three different preachers will help us focus on the meaning of the Good Friday event, along with prayers, readings, and hymn singing.

On Saturday evening, April 20, we will gather in Pilgrim Hall for the 4:09 p.m. Easter Eve Contemporary Service, the first of the two Easter celebration services we are offering this year. The 4:09 p.m. service will feature Terry Farmer and music from Jesus Christ Superstar and Darcy Crain as the preacher. Please note the odd starting time of 4:09 p.m.! Light refreshments will be served.



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

Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here

ROBERT K. LIVINGSTON
SENIOR MINISTER

On Easter Sunday morning, April 21, we will begin our morning of celebration with the 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Chapel Communion, followed by the 10 a.m. Easter Celebration Service, with very special music, in the sanctuary, followed by the traditional and always delicious Easter Pancake Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall. The 10 a.m. Easter Celebration Service this year will feature Mozart's Coronation Mass, an inspiring and outstanding musical piece for choir with string orchestra, brass, oboes, and timpani. I guarantee the whole morning will be a festive and moving experience as we celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection together.

On Sunday, May 5, Confirmation Sunday, we will celebrate the confirmation of three of our eighth-grade youth with a special confirmation ritual during our 10 a.m. worship service, and, of course, cake to follow in Pilgrim Hall.

On Sunday, May 12, Mother's Day, we will celebrate our mothers, our FCC women, and our families. This is always a special time!

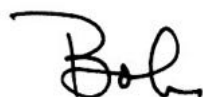
On Sunday, May 19, Christian Education and Youth Sunday, we will recognize our church school children and youth in worship, as we also thank our children's and youth group leaders. Our children and youth will take the lead in conducting the service.

Finally, on Sunday, May 26, Remembrance Sunday, we will recognize and remember those beloved church members who, during the past year, have entered God's eternal realm, as we also remember and honor persons who have died while serving our country and our own loved ones who have passed away.

As you can see, the months of April and May are busy months here at FCC! Please take a look inside the April-May Courier for more details on all of these special church events.

Finally, I would like to ask your help. In planning for Easter on April 21, I am hoping to gather a group of pictures that I can display on Easter Sunday morning during the 10 a.m. worship that depict images or symbols of resurrection. If you have such a picture and would be willing to share it with me, please send me the picture, along with a brief explanation of how/why the image reminds you of resurrection, to my email address: bob@fccannarbor.org.

Thanks and blessings to you all,



Bob Livingston
Senior Minister

DARCY CRAIN MINISTER



Corners of Your Mind

Lent began the way it does every year for me, with an Ash Wednesday service. As I remember Rev. Paul Duke saying, today is not a day to wallow in guilt. It's not to set resolutions; as if all God requires is a slightly better version of ourselves. It is about pushing everything that stands between us and God aside to fully live into who we were created to be.

That evening and the week to follow I prayed about what these things were. What stands between myself and God and the work God has called me to do? Am I properly identifying it? Am I willing to push it aside? It seemed I was looking for a giant road block type of barrier and was struggling to find what that giant barrier was. I wasn't loving the image my prayer life was giving me; myself on one side, God on another, the space between us impassable.

About a week later I went into the office for a "normal" day. I was spending most of the day in the office; prepping lesson plans, creating retreat programs, emailing, proofing bulletins, that sort of thing. Spoiler alert: there is no such thing as a normal day in ministry. So about noon, we had a distressed couple enter in the midst of a medical emergency. The woman could barely stand, she was so weak and tired. Our staff is compassionate and wonderful. Sandra attended to her needs, making sure she had a safe place to sit, then lie down, fruit, coffee, and water. The woman was in no state to make the 55-minute bus ride, with two to three transfers that she would require in order to get to her doctor's appointment on the other side of town. The couple asked if we could help them with an uber or cab to the appointment. I offered to drive them instead, quickly cleaning up the bits of goldfish crackers, half-finished water bottles, and cheerios that litter the back of my minivan on any given day. I chastised myself for not being cleaner, having tidier children, and also for keeping my gas tank at a perpetually near-empty state because I procrastinate.

On the way to the appointment, the woman asked her husband to sing for us; it always calmed her down. As I flew down 94, praying we wouldn't run out of gas before arriving, he sang a beautiful acapella version of a gospel song. One of the lyrics was a plea, that Jesus would come in and reach into the furthest corners of our mind. That lyric helped me understand Lent in a brand new way. I wasn't staring at an impassable abyss between God and myself, trying to identify and move some barrier that I had placed there with my own wrongdoings. No, Lent was the time to invite Jesus into the corners of my mind. The darkest corners. The corners where I keep my deep insecurities and hide my vulnerabilities. The corners that I don't want anyone to see, let alone Jesus. They are the corners Lent invites us to clean out. They are the spaces we invite Jesus into because these are the spaces he wants to shed light upon. There is no barrier; he is already there with us. Lent is the time to echo the song I heard driving down 94 on empty from a man willing to take Jesus by the hand into the dark corners of his own mind. As I dropped them off and headed to a gas station, I turned off the radio. I sat in the corners I'd rather ignore. I invited Jesus to come and sit with me.

So much for a normal day.

The work of Lent my friends is a different image to everyone. As we anticipate holy week and the joy of Easter morning I invite you to continue to do the spiritual work God calls us to; not to become a slightly better version of ourselves, but to live and love fully as the people God created us to be.

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



RACHEL DUDLEY
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The birds are singing and construction is surrounding us! This spring and summer are full of changes, improvements and events that will push and pull us out of our comfort zones. It's exciting, terrifying, and exhilarating! As we do our best to embrace change we will confront challenges. I am asking for your support, grace, and love as our church, block and campus stretch, grow and build. We are blessed to be a vibrant church that has the challenges that we have. I hear too many stories of churches who are putting in place plans to close their doors. I'm also reminded as I talk to church school parents that multiple churches our size don't have a single kid in attendance. I thank God that we do not face these issues. We truly are blessed!

If you ever find yourself needing to be reminded of how awesome our church is, check out some of these upcoming events!

Rachel



Kids Palm Parade during the 10 a.m. Service on Sunday, April 14th.

Easter Sunday will be filled with fun for the kids! The kids will be enjoying an Easter egg hunt during church school on Sunday, April 21st.



The students of our church will be leading the Youth Sunday Service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 19th.

All-Church Picnic follows Youth Sunday Service on Sunday, May 19th. There will be a bounce house, grilling, and a root beer keg!

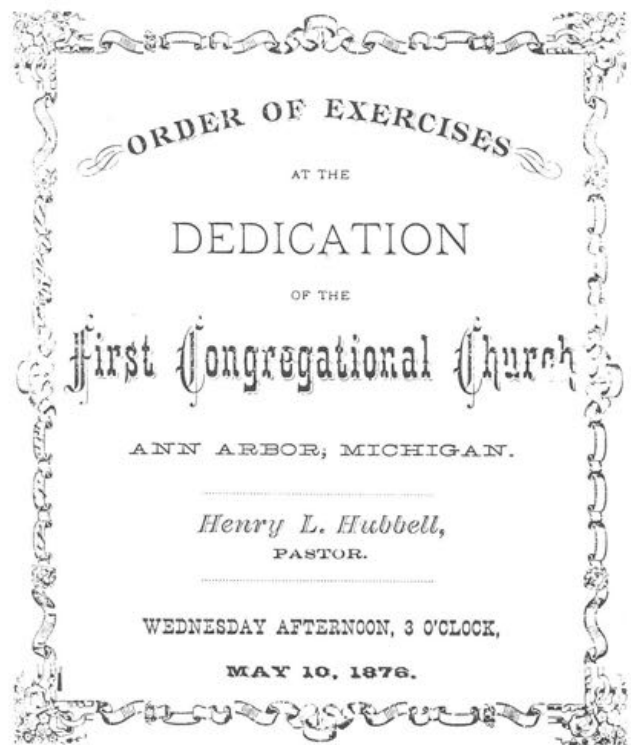


HISTORIAN'S CORNER

BETTY BISHOP

How did our present church come to be built? In 1865 the Church voted to build a new and larger church to replace the brick colonial-style church at the northeast corner of Fifth and Washington Streets. Money was a major concern and, despite various efforts, nothing more happened until the fall of 1869, when Judge Thomas Cooley of the State Supreme Court and an active member of the church made several resolutions. One added three women to the all-male committee charged with building the church while another increased pew rent by fifty percent, and a third established a "Ways and Means" committee to raise money for the purchase of a site and the building of a church.

By February 1870 there was enough financial support to purchase the site at the corner of State and William and make the first payment on the lot. In September 1871 the trustees employed Gordon W. Lloyd, the Detroit architect who had designed St. Andrews Episcopal Church. The plan was for a church of stone, with a basement, to resemble St. Andrews but somewhat shorter, somewhat higher, and with a tower and spire if the finances allowed those to be built. By June 1873 the cornerstone was laid with a copper box containing abstracts from the church records with a list of members and officers, information about the Sabbath School and various church societies, a list of trustees, the most recent church manual, various missionary magazines, city papers, the University calendar, and the Union School catalog. Finally, the church was completed and dedicated on May 10, 1876. It seated 650 and included a "splendid organ" just behind the pulpit. The dedication was attended by a large number including ministers from the First and Second Congregational churches of Detroit, Congregational churches in Jackson and Grand Rapids, and the Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian churches in Ann Arbor.



YOUTH MINISTRIES CONFIRMATION

In April our confirmation class will meet for the remainder of our two classes, on April 14 and April 28, from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.. On Sunday, April 14, our class will take place at Island Park for a special reaffirmation of our baptism services in the Huron River. Mentors, parents, and extended family are invited and encouraged to attend. Darcy will carpool the students there following church. We will arrive at approximately 11:45 a.m. and will conclude the service by 12:30 p.m. The final two events take place on May 2 (Thursday) from 6–8 p.m. in the Mayflower Room and Chapel. We will share in a dinner together with families and mentors and then go to the chapel to hear the youth read their faith statements and share communion. The semester culminates on May 5, with Confirmation Sunday during the 10 a.m. worship service.

BOARD of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ELLEN RAMBO

The Lenten and Easter seasons are busy times in church school. We will celebrate Easter with the annual Easter egg hunt during part of the regular church school time. School-aged guests are always welcome and encouraged to join us.

Please come down to the church school to see the new windows in the preschool rooms! Designed by FCC member and mission trip veteran Scott Allen, the windows are beautiful additions to the rooms, energy efficient, and allow for an unlikely emergency evacuation.

BOCE is responsible for the distribution of Scrip revenues which support the spring intergenerational mission trip and the summer high school mission trip. BOCE approved allocating \$500 to both the March 31st intergenerational in-house work day and the June senior high trip to Detroit. An additional \$500 was reimbursed to the church for the original Scrip program seed money.

Please keep in mind that Evening Vacation Bible School will take place July 7 through 13.

SENIOR HIGH ACTIVITIES

Our senior high youth group gathered for a spring retreat the first weekend of April, April 6–7, at the home of Nancy and Mike Sauve. They generously offered their beautiful Whitmore Lake home as a retreat facility for the weekend so that our youth could experience time away from Ann Arbor to disconnect from stressors of school and reconnect to God and the world God created.

We also are in the planning stages of Youth Sunday, which will take place on May 19 during our 10 a.m. worship. This is the service that is youth-led. This year will include voices and music from our middle school class as well as music from our youth hand chime choir. We need readers, ushers, musicians, dancers and anything creative you can bring to make this service amazing! Our planning sessions will be April 28, May 5, and May 12 during our church school hour.

We continue to get excited about our mission trip with Motown Mission in Detroit from June 16–22.

Please check out the schedule below for upcoming events:

Date	Time	Event	Content	Participants
4/6-7	2 p.m.–11 a.m.	Retreat		
4/28	10:15 a.m.	Discussion	Youth Sunday planning	
5/5	10:15 a.m.	Discussion	Youth Sunday	
5/12	10:15 a.m.	Discussion	Youth Sunday	
5/19	10 a.m.	Youth Sunday	Worship	

SPRING CLEANING FOR THE FCC LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found cubby in the office is overflowing! If you have left something behind at a church service or event—from reading glasses to umbrellas—it may be hanging out in Sandra’s office. Please stop by to get your stuff! As of April 14th, Palm Sunday, everything in the cubby will move to a box under the Scrip table in the Mayflower Lobby, and after that, the items will be donated. Thanks for claiming your items!



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 Elected by Board and Committee Members

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

Current Activities

Review of By-Laws: A group is reviewing the By-Laws and updating various sections to meet the current needs of the Church organization. The plan is to have the revised By-Laws approved at the Annual Meeting, June 9.

Review of Staff Handbook: A group will review the current staff handbook and make suggestions for updating to meet the current needs of the Church organization.

Documentation of Procedures: The Council is working on putting various procedures and policies, related to activities in the building, into a single document.

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.

Next Scheduled Meetings

April 15 and May 20, 2019
Annual Meeting, June 9, 2019

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

MARK SCHIRMER

April is Pledge Month!

Our annual stewardship campaign is now officially underway. April is Pledge Month!

This is an important part of our church year. Guided by stewardship pledges, our Trustees and Church Council members carefully plan a year of ministry and activities. We have a great year planned, with mission trips and community outreach, wonderful music each Sunday, a full schedule of Christian education, special services, and so much more. Stewardship pledges of both time and money help make the church run.

Mindful of the Capital Campaign, our stewardship goal this year is unchanged from 2018, when we raised a record \$525,000 for the stewardship of our church. This year, we will be approaching the campaign in a slightly different way. Here's how:

Did you pledge in 2018–19? That's great. We're simply asking you to continue supporting the church as you did so generously last year. Unless we hear otherwise, we will leave your commitment unchanged from 2018–19 and count on that support in the new year ahead.

Didn't pledge in 2018–19? That's okay too: You can always start now! One goal of this year's campaign is to increase the number of members who actively support the church. Please consider supporting stewardship by donating your time or talents to help in some meaningful way. Or consider making a financial donation to help support our many ministries. Every bit helps, no matter how small.

There are plenty of ways to make a new financial pledge or adjust your existing pledge. Look for the stewardship mailing that should be arriving via mail in early April. You can also pledge online at <http://fccannarbor.org/stewardship-pledge-form/> or simply contact the church office, or Nancy Sauve, our bookkeeper, at nancy@fccannarbor.org.

During this stewardship campaign, we're also asking everyone to consider donating their valuable time to the church. There's always a need for support, and your commitment is what helps to make FCC of Ann Arbor the best it can be. Please look for the stewardship mailing mentioned earlier—it will include our time-and-talent sheets. You can also fill out the form online at <http://fccannarbor.org/give-back/>

It's been a wonderful year for the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. Last year we embraced our first major Capital Campaign in more than 30 years, and the support is wonderful. To date we have raised more than \$1.6 million to help transform our historic home, making it more accessible and welcoming to everyone as we approach our historic 175th anniversary. In the coming year, we will begin to see the results of all that great work. Let's keep the positive momentum going!

In this month of Easter, as the church celebrates the miracle of the resurrection, we simply say *thank you* for being a part of FCC of Ann Arbor and for being an engaged, enthusiastic member of our Christian family. Together, we make a difference in our community and our world. Thank you for supporting stewardship.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

MIKE DABBS

On behalf of our Capital Campaign Fundraising Leadership Team, I am pleased to report that as of March 1, 2019, we have had 147 members make pledges of \$1,628,745 towards our \$2,000,000 campaign goal. For members who have yet to make a campaign gift, please know we would be pleased to receive them even though we are not actively soliciting gifts. Please contact either Nancy Sauve or Michael Dabbs if you have any questions or wish to make a pledge.

CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

to vote our approval of the Capital Campaign Design Priorities

On Sunday, April 7, all "active" covenant members of the church are requested to attend a special congregational meeting to discuss and vote on Capital Campaign design priorities in the sanctuary after the 10 a.m. service. Please join us as we make this important decision for our church.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIKE DABBS

We have completed the first eight months of our Fiscal Year on February 28th. Pledge payments continue to remain on pace with the annual budget, which has been a big help for our cash flow. Thank you to all members for your contributions! We have also received payments from a number of members for the capital campaign, which are also reflected on the report. These funds are in the process of being transferred to our BOAA account for the Capital Campaign.

Expense categories are staying less than the budget. There are two exceptions. One is Christian Education's total expenses, which are slightly greater than the budget. They had Vacation Bible School and the start-up expenses of the fall program year, which appears to have been partially responsible for this overage. The second exception is Music, which is being reviewed.

The audit firm UHY, LLP has completed and issued their Reviewed Financial Statement for 2017–2018. This statement was presented to and reviewed by the Trustees at their February Meeting. For members who are interested in this report, a copy of it can be obtained by contacting Nancy Sauve or Michael Dabbs. Everything is in good order.

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

February 28, 2019

	ACTUAL 2/28/19	APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/18 - 6/30/19	NOTES
REVENUE			
Pledges	\$346,133	\$525,000	1
Capital Pledges	\$58,782		2
Gifts - Operations	\$37,171	\$48,000	
Other Income	\$12,257	\$33,250	
Total Earned Revenue	\$454,343	\$606,250	
EXPENSES			
Ministry	\$149,917	\$229,900	
Administrative/Office	\$209,075	\$323,160	
Christian Education	\$41,059	\$56,950	
Music	\$49,551	\$69,200	
Missions & Outreach	\$18,446	\$34,500	
Maintenance & Utilities	\$61,805	\$92,050	3
Total Expenses	\$529,853	\$805,760	
NET REVENUE	\$(75,510)	\$(199,510)	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			
Mortgage Principal & Annual Repairs	-\$32,685	-\$40,000	4
TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION	+\$150,000	+\$240,000	5
Gifts Transfer	-\$168,713		6
BALANCE	<u>\$(126,908)</u>	<u>\$490</u>	7

Notes

- 1 2018 - 19 Actual Pledges Total was \$523,246.
- 2 Capital Campaign Funds received being temporarily held in Operating Account pending establishment of BOAA Capital Campaign Account. New account has been opened and funds are expected to be transferred in 1st quarter of 2019.
- 3 Reduced Maintenance & Utilities line by \$12,691 for capital expense repairs. This was added below - see Note 5. Will reclassify these expenses from Maintenance & Utilities to Capital Expenditures.
- 4 YTD Mortgage Principal payments are \$19,994 (Annual will be \$30,231) added to \$12,691 (Note 3 above). Capital Campaign will contribute \$40,000 for capital repair expenses, and mortgage principal payments.
- 5 2018 - 19 Budget distribution is 5.5%, but a lower absolute amount than last year.
- 6 Capital Campaign & Operating Gifts transfer in-process from Donors
- 7 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.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

MARIJEAN QUIGLEY-YOUNG, MICHELLE JOHNS

Music is a major part of our worship, especially on Easter Eve and Easter Sunday, as you can see from the announcement of this year's special Easter music on the next page. In addition, our Hand Chime Choir, directed by Cindy Bylsma, will be performing on Palm Sunday, with another performance on Youth Sunday, May 19. *We invite everyone to these inspiring services, especially families and children, to join in all these celebrations.*

On May 12, we will be celebrating Rebecca "Janie" Jones, our highly talented and gifted pianist, as she retires from 27 years of dedicated service for our choir and our services. Janie will surely be missed, but we wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.



Plans are on-going for the renovation of the Douglas Chapel as part of our Capital Improvement Campaign.



2019 FCC Chancel Choir

Front row: Maya Ballester, Maitri White, Elsie Weil, Suzanne Edick, Susan Aramaki, Wanda Dawson, Diane O'Connell, Rebecca Jones

Middle row: Terry Foster, Suzanne Hopkins, Jo Warner, Betsy Hill, Dorian Morris, Tori Darnell, Robbie Sawitski, Shohei Kobayashi

Back row: Joel Beam, Paul Fossum, Yu Hin (Bryan) Chan, Larry Hill, Mark Hiselman, Jahbreil Campbell, Bernard Patterson, Dale Lancaster, Timothy Huth

Not pictured: Libby Greeley, Sally Bowers

AWESOME EASTER AMAZING MUSIC

Special Easter Weekend
Musical Programs



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

Easter Eve

Saturday, April 20th
Contemporary Service, 4:09pm

We're continuing the Easter Eve Service tradition begun last year. The energy of our contemporary band provides music for the service and will feature unique and soul-filled songs to convey, and celebrate the Easter Story. The band will feature musical selections from Jesus Christ Superstar and new music for the occasion.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 21st
Traditional Service, 10am

Mozart's "Coronation Mass" will be the feature of a very special Easter Service. First performed in 1779 at the Salzburg Cathedral, the mass later took on its nickname in the early 19th century at the Imperial Court in Vienna after becoming the preferred music for coronations. We're presenting select movements from this wonderful piece for choir with string orchestra, brass, oboes and timpani. It will be a joy to share this music with the congregation in celebration of Easter!

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH PAM DABBS

As we finally start to feel the warmth of Spring, it is once again time to think about helping those who are resettling in the United States from other countries. For the past several years, Missions and Outreach has worked with Jewish Family Services (JFS), which is certified by the government as a resettlement organization. During 2018 there were approximately 74 people being resettled in this area, and in 2019 it is projected to be 150.

Our goal is to help JFS with this effort in any way we can. FCC's third annual **Easter Egg Giving Tree for Refugee Resettlement** is an important way to do that. Over the past two years, we have donated over \$4000 worth of household items and gift cards. Jewish Family Services assisted 75 refugees last year, down significantly from previous years. However, this year they have been authorized to resettle 150 refugees from several different countries including Syria, Israel, Pakistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Myanmar (Burma), and Afghanistan. Beginning Sunday, March 31, the Giving Tree in the Mayflower Lobby will have Egg Tags with items listed that you can purchase and donate. You can pick an egg from the tree and bring the purchased item(s) (no gift wrap) back to the church by Easter Sunday, April 21. If you purchase a Gift Card, please consider buying from our FCC Scrip table. Someone will be at the tree each Sunday to assist you and answer any questions. Egg Tags should be returned to the white wicker Easter basket near the tree and not attached to the items, as we re-use the tags. Missions and Outreach thanks you for your support and generosity!

Donations to our **Pantry Box in Mayflower Lobby** are always welcome. Currently, JFS is particularly asking for the following: crunchy peanut butter, tomato paste, men's shaving supplies (razors and shaving foam), and salt and pepper. Thank you for thinking of the food pantry as you do your grocery shopping!

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES—2ND SUNDAY SERIES

SARA HOLMES

The Contemporary Issues Series presentation for April will be on the future of non-motorized transportation in Ann Arbor. The title of the presentation is Ann Arbor's bicycling/walking infrastructure: Now and in the future. The presenter will be Raymond Hess, City of Ann Arbor Transportation Manager. The presentation will be Sunday, April 14 at 11a.m. in the Mayflower Room.

Raymond Hess started as Ann Arbor's Transportation Manager in June 2018. He previously served as the Director of Planning Services for the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada and before that was a Transportation Planner in Bloomington, Indiana.

He'll be sharing the steps Ann Arbor is taking to meet our Vision Zero goal and become a better city for biking and walking. This will be the final 2nd

Sunday presentation for the programing year. Look for a new series beginning in September.



GREAT LAKES SCRIP PROGRAM

Spring is almost here and so is the Easter Tree to supply Jewish Family Services with housewarming items. Please stop by the Scrip table if you would like to contribute. We will order the gift cards needed and give them to the Missions and Outreach Committee for the campaign. While you are ordering Scrip cards for that worthy cause, please consider purchasing Scrip cards for your family's regular and special shopping.

Did you know that it truly is EASY to go to shopwithscrip.com and order cards, reload cards, pay for your cards and look over the retail list of cards that are available? You can call the office to order Scrip cards or stop in for cash and carry cards that we have on hand. Please call the church office first to see if we have your preferred card in stock.

If you would like to join our Sunday sales team, please contact Nancy Sauve (nancy@fccannarbor.org) or Jane Thomson (thomson@med.umich.edu).

Remember, profits from the Great Lakes Scrip program supply funds for the mission/work trips here at FCC. Restaurants and retail stores generally pay the highest percentage so before you shop and go out to eat, check out your options through the Scrip program. Questions? Please contact Nancy Sauve, nancy@fccannarbor.org. Many thanks!

ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

ROBBIE SAWITSKI



We know you have been waiting to hear the great news! We have succeeded in being awarded the contract from the State Street Association to manage the Art Fair Recycle and Trash program, as well as the Hospitality Station for our area again this year. It is because of all the early volunteer commitments that this has happened, and we want to thank everyone who has stepped up so far. We still need many more hands to make this the light work it can be. *We are especially looking for 7 more volunteers to assist in the Hospitality Station at the Michigan Theater.* To volunteer for the Hospitality Station, go to the Hospitality Sign-up Genius on our website. To volunteer for the Trash and Recycle program, e-mail our Trash and Recycle Czar, Dave Steiner at dranodavec47@gmail.com.

The Passover Seder meal will be held on Palm Sunday, April 14th, at 5:00 p.m., in Pilgrim Hall. This is a way to combine learning about history, enjoying a meal, and sharing with others in our church family. You will become aware of the connections between the Jewish Passover and the Lord's Supper. The main dish of chicken with ceremonial foods and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Persons with last names of A-L, please bring side dishes; those with last names M-Z, please bring a dessert. *Please remember*, no pork products, no leavening, and no nuts should be used in any of the dishes for this event. Families are encouraged to attend. *Childcare will be provided by RSVP ONLY.* Please contact Rachel for childcare at Rachel@fccannarbor.org.



The Easter Pancake Breakfast will be served in Pilgrim Hall following the 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service on April 21st. Jay Jahnke will once again be preparing his famous pancakes. Some of them will have chocolate chips...YUM!! This annual event is highly anticipated, has been well attended, and is always scrumptious!! Please bring your appetite and think spring!

The Annual Church Picnic will be held on the church grounds on May 19th, Youth Sunday, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Freshly grilled hot dogs AND 'not' dogs will be provided, as well as beverages. There will also be a crockpot of vegan sloppy joes. Please bring a dish to pass. Persons with last names of A-L, please bring desserts; those with last names M-Z, please bring side dishes. If you are gluten-free, please bring hot dog buns OR sloppy joe buns as your dish to pass. *Please remember* no nuts, nut oils, or nut flours should be used in any of the dishes for this event.



GROUPS

20–40 GROUP

Our 20/40 group will wrap up our meetings at the end of April as the programming year draws to a close. This year we engaged in a book study on the politics of the Ten Commandments, worked through the first part of Mark, participated in worship services, Capital Campaign discussions, Super Bowl Parties, and lots of potlucks and laughing. Our April will look as follows:

- April 3 Informational Meeting for Capital Campaign (repeat from 3/31 for those who could not attend) 6:30–8 p.m.
- April 10 Regular 20–40 Mark Bible Study.
- April 17 No meeting.
- April 18 Attend Maundy Thursday Service (7 p.m.) Childcare provided .
- April 24 Closing meeting and potluck party.

We often gather for informal BBQs or get-togethers throughout the summer. If you'd like to be included in this, please contact Darcy to make sure you are on our mailing list.

HEALING SPACE

Where music, meditation and prayer meet

Next Gathering: Sunday, May 19th, 7–8 p.m.

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." This meditation service is held on the third Sunday of each month, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Mayflower Room. All are welcome!



While there will be no session in April, we will be meeting on May 19th for the last time before the summer break. As always, there will be time for music, meditation, and prayer. Please come and experience this group practice of God's presence in our lives. If you need further information, please contact Gail Haynes (gehaynes@aol.com).

MIND AND SPIRIT BOOK GROUP

The Mind and Spirit Book Group is a community of women of all ages who 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. The book group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. in the Mayflower Room. Questions? Please contact Gail Haynes (gehaynes@aol.com).

TUESDAY NIGHT STUDY GROUP (TNS)

This group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Mayflower Room. In upcoming weeks, we will be viewing parts of the *Saving Jesus Redux* series, looking together at topics including Jesus through the Ages, Who Was Jesus?, The Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition, Jesus' Ministry of Compassion, The Atonement, and The Resurrection of Jesus. Bob Livingston is our facilitator. Please join us for this interesting and relevant series. All are welcome! Our last meeting until Fall will be on May 7.

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 typically discuss the scripture(s) 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 mornings! Please join us. Our last meeting of the programming year will be on May 22.

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. We meet at 11:30 a.m. at Knight's on Dexter Rd. 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! Our April luncheon will be the 24th. We will not meet during the months of May through August.



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

The Change of Pace and Chapel Communion
Services will recess for the summer after May 12.

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
Coffee Break Concert Series, 2018-2019 ⑤
Celebrating Its 8th Year

Meditation II
Music and Paintings

Co-sponsored by and held at
First Congregational Church
of Ann Arbor (corner of William and State Sts.)

Painting Exploration by
Grace Vandervliet
Education Outreach Program Coordinator at UMMA

Paintings by
Vermeer, Van Gogh,
El Greco, Potthast and Monet

Music by
Froberger, Debussy,
Eldin Burton and Guy Bovet

Performed by
Tim Huth, Hyewon Jung,
Neil Robertson, Joshua Marzan, Shin-Ae Chun

April 11, 2019
Thursday at 12:15 PM

 **FIRST BAPTIST**
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
517 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor
734-663-9376 / www.fbca2.org

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Our next new member orientation brunch and class is set to begin at 11:15 a.m. on April 28, in the Mayflower Room. The class is an excellent opportunity to get better acquainted with others at the church who also are inquiring about membership. You will also meet our church leaders and enjoy a delicious brunch. New members will be received into our church family on May 12 during the 10 a.m. church service. We will have childcare too! If you would like to find out more about The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor or Congregationalism in general, please let Sandra in the office know, and we'll reserve space for you! sandra@fccannarbor.org or 734-926-0550.



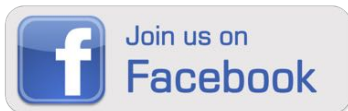
2019 EASTER WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES



April 14 Palm Sunday	9 a.m.	Change of Pace Service	Pilgrim Hall
	9:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion	Douglas Chapel
	10 a.m.	Traditional Service with Palm Parade	Sanctuary
	5 p.m.	Seder Meal	Pilgrim Hall
April 18 Maundy Thursday	7 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service	Sanctuary
April 19 Good Friday	12 noon	Good Friday Community Services	First United Methodist Church 120 S. State St.
	12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m.		
April 20 Saturday	4:09 p.m.	Easter Eve Service	Pilgrim Hall
April 21 Easter Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion	Douglas Chapel
	10 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Special Music	Sanctuary
	11 a.m.	Easter Pancake Breakfast	Pilgrim Hall



608 E. William Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



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

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*Embracing God's
word and
enriching lives*

APRIL–MAY, 2019 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 2	7:00 p.m.	TNS, Mayflower Room (every Tuesday evening)
April 3	8:30 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Classic Cup Café (every Wednesday morning)
	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit Group, Mayflower Room (1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays)
	6:30 p.m.	20–40 Group, Meeting Room (every Wednesday evening)
April 5	12 noon	AGO Lenten Recital Series, Sanctuary
April 6	2:00 p.m.	Senior High Retreat, Whitmore Lake
April 7	11:00 a.m.	Special Congregational Meeting for Capital Campaign Design Vote, Sanctuary
April 8	6:00 p.m.	Trustees, Meeting Room
April 11	11:30 a.m.	Music and Paintings, Sanctuary
April 12	12 noon	AGO Lenten Recital Series, Sanctuary
April 13	TBD	Junior High Fellowship Event
April 14		PALM SUNDAY
	9:00 a.m.	Circle of Friends, Mayflower Room
	10:00 a.m.	Kids' Palm Parade and Hand Chimes performance during the traditional service, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Confirmation Class Baptism Ceremony, Island Park
	11:00 a.m.	2 nd Sunday Presentation, "Ann Arbor's Bicycling/Walking Infrastructure," Mayflower Room
	5:00 p.m.	Seder Meal, Pilgrim Hall
April 15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council, Mayflower Room
April 18	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Worship Service, Sanctuary
April 19	12 noon	Good Friday Services, FUMC, 120 S. State St.
April 20	4:09 p.m.	Easter Eve Service, Pilgrim Hall
April 21		EASTER SUNDAY
		No Change of Pace Service
	9:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service with Special Music, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Easter Pancake Breakfast, Pilgrim Hall
April 22	11:30 a.m.	Knights Luncheon Group, Knights on Dexter Rd.
April 28	11:00 a.m.	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
	11:00 a.m.	New Member Orientation, Mayflower Room
May 2	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Dinner and Program, Mayflower Room, Chapel
May 5		CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
	11:00 a.m.	Music Committee, Meeting Room
May 12		NEW MEMBER SUNDAY and MOTHERS' DAY
		Last Change of Pace Service until September
May 13	6:00 p.m.	Trustees, Meeting Room
May 19		YOUTH SUNDAY
	11:00 a.m.	All-Church Picnic
	7:00 p.m.	Healing Space, Mayflower Room (Last meeting until September)
May 20	7:00 p.m.	Church Council, Mayflower Room
May 26		REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY