

Congregational Courier

THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

Greetings! We had a wonderful Kick-off Sunday on September 8! Thank you to all our leaders and staff who made such a positive launch possible. I believe there is a good energy here, and I hope you'll be a part of things this fall. Please take a look inside the *Courier* and jump in!

This month I am thinking about an article I read last fall in *The New York Times* titled, "It's Getting Harder to Talk About God," written by Jonathan Merritt. In the article, Merritt notes that "more than 70 percent of Americans identify as Christians" . . . yet "an overwhelming majority of people say they don't feel comfortable speaking about faith, most of the time." Why is that?

Both from what Merritt suggested in the article, and from my own reflection on the issue, it seems the main reason many of us feel uncomfortable talking about God is because of the offensive way religious conversation is often perceived: as condemning, political, manipulative, and sometimes even coercive.

Here is a case in point. Recently I was talking with a Christian friend. I asked him about this idea that most Christians are uncomfortable talking about their faith. I then asked him if he felt that way himself. He said yes. When I asked him to explain, he said, "So much of what we hear about Christianity is coming from the conservatives. Since I don't agree with much of their theology, I often don't want to say much about my faith because I don't want to be associated with their brand of Christianity."

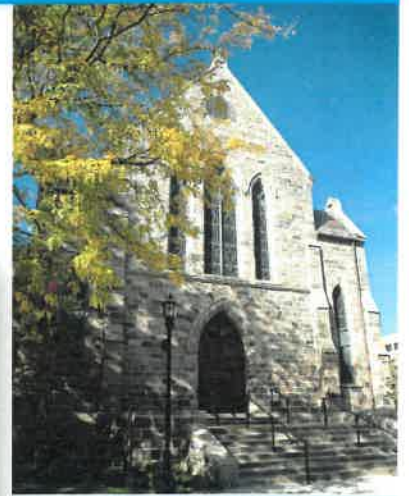
I suspect many of us may feel that way as well. However, the problem is, as Merritt states, "when people stop speaking [of] God because they don't like what these words have come to mean and the way they've been used, then those who are causing the problem get to hog the microphone."

So what do we do? Merritt suggests: "We must work together to revive sacred speech and rekindle confidence in the vocabulary of faith. If we cannot rise to this occasion, sacred speech will continue its rapid decline—and the worst among us will continue to define what the word 'Christian' means."

As another friend of mine used to say, "I just hope to be able to talk about my faith as easily as I talk about the weather or sports. No piety, just gentle honesty." I like that!

Blessings to you all,





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DARCY CRAIN MINISTER



First In, Last Out

On Kick-off Sunday, FCC threw a big party. There was a bounce house and food galore, familiar and new faces, vibrant music and inspired worship. We were back. Full swing, full program, and new lights and fans in the sanctuary. The kids were back in school (thank God), and the year felt fresh and full of possibility. As I reflected on the day, I realized there is a key ingredient that makes church celebrations like this possible. It is those that are the first in and the last out. I arrived around 8 am and FCC was already bustling busy. Robbie and George Sawitski were busy setting up chairs. Rachel and Mitchell Dudley were cooking breakfast and inflating the bounce house. Board of Christian Education leaders were setting up face paint and preparing their classrooms. As the festivities drew to a close, I looked around and saw these same faces as I did when I arrived. They looked tired but content. They were the volunteers and staff who were the first to arrive and the last to leave.

I know there is a time and place and chapter of your life where you can be the first in and the last out. As I reflect on the life of the church—how members step in and out of leadership, step towards and away from commitments as their lives ebb and flow—I am struck by how much our community has sustained its presence and vibrancy because of those who are first in and last out. At one point, or many points, in your relationship with FCC, you have stepped up to be that volunteer; you have offered your voice or your gifts, your hands or your baking, your time and your resources, as a way of saying yes to the mission of being a beacon of God's love and hope and freedom.

Please know that we see your sacrifices and commitment. Please know that FCC couldn't achieve the vision we desire and the programs that we offer without your efforts. Please know that we see you when you are the first in and the last out. We see you and we thank you.

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

RACHEL DUDLEY
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Have you heard the saying "It takes a village"? The saying is normally used to refer to raising a child, but it is true in many other situations, too. Lately, I've been extra grateful for our church and the village we have here. We have some really awesome village members!

Thank you to the village members who volunteer to oversee renovation projects and stop by to check on how the projects are going!

Thank you to the busy mama who asked for a wish list so that she can plan out her potluck donations in advance!

Thank you to the board member who became a face-painting artist extraordinaire and showed us her skills on Kick-off Sunday!



Thank you to the retired preschool teacher who sorted all of the classroom books!

Thank you to the janitor who figured out what to do when the toilet paper company made the rolls shorter and they were all falling out of the holders!

Thank you to the childcare workers who happily get spit up on every week!

Thank you to the great grandma who brings her great grandson!

Thank you to our ministers who look forward to making hospital and home visits to members!

Thank you to the student who gives golf lessons before church on the side lawn!

Thank you to the volunteers who make delicious food on Sunday mornings!

Thank you to the group chats with warm support and shared wisdom!

Thank you to the lady in the pews who introduced me to the church the first time I visited!

THANK YOU!

Rachel

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERS' RETREAT

Church Council will be spearheading an FCC leaders' retreat on the evening of Monday, October 21, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., in Pilgrim Hall. All members of boards and committees are invited to this retreat. The more the merrier! The retreat will provide us an opportunity to take a fresh look at our current mission, vision, and core value statements and make sure we are remaining relevant, aligned, and focused on our unique call to ministry at FCC. The retreat will be facilitated by Fritz Seyferth, a well-known organizational consultant and coach and an active FCC church member, who, some 10 years ago, led us through the original process of identifying our mission, vision, and core value statements. I guarantee it will be a fun and important evening together! We sincerely hope the retreat will serve to open up new channels of communication and give us a chance to renew our attention to who we are and where we are heading.

Childcare is available with advance notice, so that we have good coverage. Please contact Rachel (rachel@fccannarbor.org) to RSVP. A pizza and salad dinner will be served starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by the substance of the meeting from 6 to 9 p.m. If you have any questions or would like to be involved, please contact Lynda Norton, Church Council chair (llnorton@okno.com).

As you prepare to attend, please bring a story along to share of what it looks like when FCC is at its best, especially with all the changes now happening at FCC. What did you see, or what experience did you have, that makes you feel and think this way?

—Bob Livingston

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION BRUNCH

Our next New Member Orientation Brunch will be held on November 3, at 11:00 a.m. in the Mayflower Room. Please join Rev. Bob Livingston and other new and prospective members for food and conversation. At this gathering, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the church, membership, and one another. Childcare is available on request. Please RSVP to Sandra or Nancy or call the church office at 734-662-1679. New members will be received into the congregation on November 17, 2019.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DESIGN COMMITTEE

JANE THOMSON

Updates from the FCC Design Team

Church School Improvements Completed



- ☑ Emergency egress ladders in every classroom
- ☑ Tamper-resistant and grounded electrical outlets
- ☑ Intercom/two-way radio system
- ☑ New energy-efficient, easy to operate windows



Sanctuary Improvements Completed

- ☑ New ceiling fans
- ☑ Light fixtures converted to LED



What's Next

- ☐ Pilgrim Hall roof replacement (this fall)
- ☐ Solar (PV) panel installation (pending additional investors in the program—we've reached 70% of the goal)
- ☐ Sanctuary & narthex carpet replacement
- ☐ Sanctuary plaster repair (January)
- ☐ Continued planning for capital campaign projects, which will commence in 2020; many exciting renovations are around the corner!

Vision 175 Investing in Our Future

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIKE DABBS

August 31, 2019 Financial Statement

We have completed the first two months of the 2019–2020 Fiscal Year. Pledge revenue is slightly behind our budget projection. This may be due to many members being on vacation. We will monitor this line item over the next couple of months in hopes of seeing pledge revenue more closely match what was budgeted. Other revenue line items are less than the projected budget; however, this revenue is typically received during the September to June period. All expenses are within the projected budget numbers, which is a good start for the year.

Members Making Pledge Payments Using Investment Firms

We appreciate receiving your pledge payments from your investment advisors' firm and would like to urge you to instruct them to notify Nancy Sauve, FCC Bookkeeper, nancy@fccannarbor.org, that this payment is being sent from their firm on your behalf. If they are not able to do so; it would greatly assist Nancy if you would call or email her to let her know that such a distribution is being made and whether it is for your annual Stewardship Pledge or Capital Campaign Pledge. Needless to say, we want to properly record your payment, and your assistance by notifying Nancy will be very helpful.

Capital Campaign Fundraising

As we enter the fall, the Capital Campaign Fundraising Committee will make a final push to reach our goal of \$2,000,000. I am extremely pleased to report that during the summer, we received a gift that raises our current total to \$1,853,745! If you haven't yet made a gift to the campaign, or perhaps would like to make an additional gift, please feel free to contact Michael Dabbs, mfdabbs10@gmail.com. Capital Campaign pledges may be paid over the next four years in order to lessen the impact on your family budget. It is our intention to wrap up the fundraising component of the Capital Campaign before the holiday season, but we need the help of all members in order to achieve our goal. We really want to improve and make significant enhancements to our church as we prepare for 175th Anniversary—only three years away in 2022! These improvements will increase the safety, security, accessibility, and welcoming ambience of our church. Like the generations before us who have taken care of this magnificent church, it is now our turn to prepare it for the future.

**What will OUR legacy be, and
How will YOU play a role?**

2019-2020 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AUGUST 31, 2019

First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor

	ACTUAL 8/31/19	APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/19 - 6/30/20	NOTES
REVENUE			
Pledges	\$69,534	\$535,000	1
Capital Pledges	0	0	
Gifts - Operations	4,691	\$53,500	
Other Income	\$1,545	\$31,457	
Special Funds Transfer	0	\$24,701	2
Total Revenue	\$75,770	\$644,658	
EXPENSES			
Ministry	\$37,853	\$240,975	
Administrative/Office	\$44,146	\$325,738	
Christian Education	\$9,459	\$53,080	
Music	\$5,178	\$73,121	
Missions and Outreach	\$1,495	\$36,075	
Maintenance and Utilities	\$12,626	\$93,915	
Total Expenses	\$110,757	\$822,904	
NET REVENUE	\$(34,987)	\$(178,246)	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			
Mortgage Principal & Annual Repairs	\$2,511		3
TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION	+ \$40,000	+\$186,964	4
BALANCE	\$2,502	\$8,718	

Notes

- 1 2019-2020 Actual Pledges Total anticipates an \$18,000 increase over previous year.
- 2 Pastoral Fund distribution of \$12,500 and Memorial Fund distribution of \$12,201 will be made for designated programs and activities.
- 3 YTD Mortgage Principal payments are \$30,231. Capital Campaign will contribute \$40,000 for capital repair expenses and mortgage principal payments.
- 4 2019-2020 Budget projected distribution from trust and endowment funds is 6%.

BOARD of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ELLEN RAMBO

Our church school program has been blessed with wonderful volunteers who make the program possible! We are in search of additional volunteers who are willing to be on our substitute teacher list. A substitute teacher fills in for one of the two teachers in the class when one of the teachers needs to be out. There are always two adults in a class, which means a substitute teacher is never alone with a class. Our awesome substitute teachers are made aware of a need by receiving a group email. If available, they respond to the group to claim the open position. There are no minimum number of times you must volunteer or mandatory assignments. A quick online background check is required. Contact Rachel (rachel@fccannarbor.org) for additional information.



The Christmas Pageant is a fun and exciting time at FCC! Each year we welcome all kids to join in and take part in the pageant. To make the pageant a success we need many volunteers to assist in different roles. Please contact Rachel (rachel@fccannarbor.org) if you are interested in heading up a part of the Christmas Pageant. We are currently looking for people to be in charge of costumes, props, scripts, and to sit with and assist groups of kids at the pageant.

World Communion Sunday ~ October 6, 2019

This World Communion Sunday, kids will carry flags from different countries into the sanctuary as a visible reminder that people all over the world will also be taking communion on this same day.

Rev. Darcy will teach a lesson on communion and then provide the opportunity for kids in K through 5th grade to take communion in church school. Students in 6th–8th grade and in high school will be staying in the service and have the opportunity to take communion with their families. An informational letter about communion practices was given out to parents the week prior in church school.



Monthly Church School Potlucks ~ October 20 and November 17

Every third Sunday of the month, there will be a potluck for church school families after the 10 a.m. service. The potluck takes place downstairs in the church school area by the 1st and 2nd grade classroom. Please bring a nut-free dish to share. No RSVP needed.

Third Grade Bible Presentation ~ October 27

Please join us on Oct. 27 to share the joy in giving the 3rd grade students their Bibles. They have demonstrated great proficiency learning the structure of the Bible as well as how to locate readings within it. They love the Bible readings in church school and get a thrill out of teaching their younger counterparts how to find those readings. This year's 3rd Grade Bible Presentation will take place on Sunday, October 27 during the children's circle in the 10 a.m. service.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

BOARD of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CONTINUED

Coat Drive ~ November 10 and 17

As the seasons are changing, please pull out of your closets coats that you are willing to pass on to a new home. The 6th–8th grade class will be collecting coat donations during children's circle in the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, November 10, and Sunday, November 17. If you would like to donate sooner or at a different time, donations may be placed in the barrel for The House by the Side of the Road. Thank you for your annual generosity!

Building Updates

Thank you for your continued support in upgrading safety and security features in the lower level. A special thank you to Scott Allen and Neil Adams for their hard work in overseeing the installation of emergency exit ladders and new outlets in the church school area! Come check them out! The new grounded, child-proof outlets are wonderful! Converters are no longer needed to plug in three-pronged cords in the church school area, and the new outlets are child-proof without requiring exterior covers. Thank you!



Kick-off to a New Year!

Kick-off Sunday was a grand success, with full classrooms and a full bounce house! Kudos to Rachel Dudley and our church school teachers for creating a very welcoming environment for our new and returning youth and their families.

All educational programs are underway. Please consider trying one of our church's groups or events. Childcare is provided for the Wednesday Night Small Group (formerly called 20/40). Check the church calendar for dates and locations of all youth and adult educational programs.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

BETTY BISHOP

As the various small groups at FCC are starting regular meetings for the new church year, it is interesting to look at some of the small groups that existed at FCC in the past. Between 1946 and the early 1970s the Women's Fellowship continued to be active; it had started in 1917. In 1946, there were five women's circles as part of the Women's Fellowship, and each circle had its own cultural study program and service activities. Two years later, an evening circle was added for young married women, and a group of business women organized monthly evening meetings but were not really part of the Fellowship. The goals of the Women's Fellowship were supporting worship, education, giving, and service. Annual bazaars, games parties, rummage sales, and a Congregational cookbook all helped raise needed funds. By the 1960s the Women's Fellowship was contributing \$15,000 a year to building maintenance, as well as buying equipment and furniture for the Pilgrim Hall and Mayflower kitchens and the Sunday School rooms. They also covered the cost of redecorating the Meeting Room and the Choir Room. Service was provided to the community and beyond through various projects, including work with the House by the Side of the Road that continues to the present day. By the mid-1960s there was a gradual decline in the number of women involved in the circles. A survey of women in the church was conducted, and the major reasons were the increase in women working outside the home and more women becoming involved in volunteer programs in the community.

FCC GREEN TEAM

DAN JACOBS

The Green Team was conserving energy this summer by taking a break from meeting but that did not stop some individual efforts. We are close to securing enough investment funds to move forward with our proposed Solar PV System. Thanks to the members who have already agreed to help finance this initiative. Two of our members have been putting together ideas to be shared with church members on how FCC can reduce its waste. The Green Team will resume meeting in late September to discuss next steps for many of our proposed initiatives. Current ideas include further reduction in energy use and looking at purchase policies to buy sustainable products. Our goal is not only to be a beacon of hope but of how we all can make a difference in being good stewards of our planet. If you have suggestions, please send them to Dan Jacobs at djacobs@a3c.com.



MARKETING COMMITTEE

Melissa Joy Named Marketing Committee Chair

Melissa Joy is taking over the leadership reins of the FCC Marketing Committee from Brian Connelly, who served as chair since the committee was formed in 2015. A member of the church for more than ten years, Melissa has a ton of marketing experience and is the owner of Pearl Planning, a financial planning and investment advisor firm in Dexter. She and her husband Jeff have two children, Gus and Josie.

Other members of the Marketing Committee are Mike Dabbs, Theron Tingstad, Bob Livingston, Darcy Crain, and Brian Connelly. Also, part of the team are Sean Hickey, the CEO of PWB Marketing (our advertising agency), and our new FCC Communication Specialist, Crystal Harris.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH PAM DABBS

This year, the annual **CROP WALK** will take place on Sunday, October 6. Anyone wishing to participate needs to register, starting at 1 p.m., at St. Claire's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard, Ann Arbor MI. The actual walk will begin at 2 p.m. As we lead up to this important event, the purpose of which is to help alleviate hunger locally and throughout the world, we would like to ask for *DONATIONS* from you, our congregation. You can make a donation in Pilgrim Hall during friendship time after church services through October 6. Mary Mostaghim or another representative will be there to receive your checks or cash donations. If you would rather mail a check, please make the check payable to "CWS-CROP" and send it to the church or to Mary Mostaghim, 304 Pine Ridge Street, Ann Arbor MI 48103-3608. Walkers are encouraged to bring canned goods and other non-perishable items when they register. As an FYI, at least 25% of what is raised will be given out locally through "Aid In Milan." We hope many of you will participate!

Another outreach activity coming up soon is our **Christmas Wish Tree**. In mid-October, the children will be making their wishes, and the "Wish Tree" display will go up my mid- to late -November, in the Mayflower Lobby. Please consider taking a tag from the Wish Tree or having your own children help pick a tag and shop for the gift. Remember to keep the cost of gifts close to \$25, because the children open their gifts together at a holiday party, and everyone sees the difference if some gifts cost a lot more than others. If you want to help, make sure you check out a gift tag by signing the binder near the tree. Return your purchased and Christmas-wrapped gift to the tree display, and one of our M&O members will check it in. Thank you way in advance for always being so supportive of this project. You're the best!

ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

Let the Fall Festivities Begin



Kick-off Sunday was everything we could have hoped for in a picnic! LOTS of great food, friends, and families all over the church grounds, inside and out, making the church feel just like home. Our church family really does know how to enjoy ourselves. Many thanks to all the great cooks and the many helpers who joined in to make this a joyous and memorable event.



Please join us on Sunday, October 6, for an **All-Church Potluck Lunch**, in Pilgrim Hall, following the 10:00 a.m. service. AFC will provide Macaroni and cheese, a jumbo kale salad (vegan) and a dessert or two. Last names that begin with A – M, please bring a side dish, and last names beginning with N – Z, please bring a dessert.

SPECIAL NOTE: We ask that everyone who brings a dish to share also provide a list of the ingredients to display with the item. Many of our members have specific allergies or food sensitivities, and we want to make it as simple as possible for people to discern what foods they can safely eat. And as always, please remember, no nuts or nut products.

The Advent Women's Evening will be on Thursday, December 12. Pilgrim Hall will be sparkling with Christmas decorations, and we will enjoy a sumptuous dinner and be serenaded with musical entertainment. Sign-ups for this event will begin at the October 6 potluck. Seating is limited to 80



women, so be sure to sign up early. We will need ten hostesses for this special evening. Stay tuned for more details. Any questions, call or

email Robbie (517)888-3342 or robbiesawitski@gmail.com.

Activities and Fellowship Committee

Upcoming Events

October 6	All-Church Potluck
December 1	Church Decorating Party
December 12	Advent Women's Evening
January 5	Church Un-Decorating Party

MUSIC COMMITTEE

MARIJEAN QUIGLEY-YOUNG, MICHELLE JOHNS

"Music Sunday" is being planned for Sunday, October 13, 2019. This will be a new kind of worship service, centered around the powerful ministry of Music as it brings joy and inspiration to everyone.

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

Last Spring, our beloved Marilyn Mason passed away. A memorial tribute concert is being planned for her at FCC (see ad on this page and Tim's article below).

FROM YOUR ORGANIST

TIM HUTH

"Sing a psalm, play for God's name, for he inspires love" — Psalm 135

Dear good people of FCC,

I would like to invite you all, friends and family, to a celebration of the life and work of our late Organist Emerita, Dr. Marilyn Mason.

On Friday December 6, at 7 p.m., The First Congregational Church will hold a Memorial Service and Tribute to Marilyn, who died in April of this year. As many church members know, Marilyn was one of the world's greatest organists and a wonderful church musician who taught and fostered talented organists from around the globe. This service will feature performances by several of her former students from around the country who have been her students, as well as words from our own ministers, friends of Marilyn, and family members. A festive reception in Pilgrim Hall will follow the service.

As a good and faithful servant, Marilyn could have sung with Saint Augustine, "How I wept when I heard your hymns and canticles, being deeply moved by the sweet singing of your church."

**A memorial service for
Marilyn Mason,
whose teaching,
performances and
joie de vivre are cherished
world wide, will be held
December 6,
7:00 p.m.
at the
First Congregational Church,
Ann Arbor, MI.
The Rev. Bob Livingston will
preside and music will be
presented by some of
her former organ students.
The public is invited.
A reception will follow.**

"Eat, sleep and
practice.
Never give up."

Photo by Rafael Ferreyra

FCC CHANCEL CHOIR

SHOHEI KOBAYASHI

Hello All!

Shohei here, your chancel choir director. Hard to believe it's already been more than a year with you all! I'm finding some things are falling into place a little more naturally now, while at other times it's clear to me that I still have much to learn. For this, I'm grateful! It's been a treat to chat with a few of you here and there, and I hope I can meet and talk with more of you as the year continues.

Quick question for you: have you ever considered joining the choir? I want to encourage you to think about it, and I invite you sit in on a rehearsal if you're interested—especially if you're a tenor or bass! It's truly never too late to join. We rehearse on Sunday mornings starting at 8:30 a.m. in the Choir Room, then break at 9:45 a.m. to get ourselves ready to head upstairs!

It's really a special feeling to raise our voices together with simultaneous intentions of mind, body, and heart. I hope you'll consider joining us in this journey. Please reach out to me (shohei@fccannarbor.org) if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Shohei



CIRCLE of FRIENDS

MARY ANN MARQUARDT

The Circle of Friends will meet on Sunday, October 13, at 9 a.m., for our first meeting of the season. Our group recently lost a treasured member, Duncan McCallum, on Tuesday, September 3. We will catch up on news of our own members as well as our friends. Gail Haynes will present information about a new activity for a group of church members needing specific support.

Please consider joining our group, and if you know of any church member who may need support, please call Mary Ann Marquardt (313-303-1989). We reach out to members who may need support due to an illness, death in the family, or any other circumstance, or being unable to attend church.

Dear First Congregational Church Members,

*Thank you for your generous donations of
furniture and household goods.*

*We are settling in to our home on North Campus
thanks largely to your generosity.*

Thank you!

Tilahoon, Free, and Baby Benya



HEALING SPACE

Join us on Sunday, October 20, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Mayflower Room. "Greening our Spiritual Life" will be the focus of the reflection and guided meditation. There will also be a time for prayer.

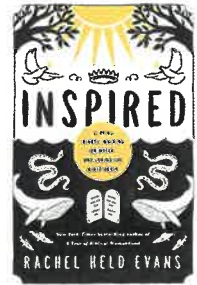
We are fortunate in Michigan to have an abundance of opportunities to enjoy God's creation. We enjoy autumn with times with family and friends to savor the harvest, exercise and socialize. Our spiritual lives can also grow when we take these opportunities to feed our spiritual life and our relationship with God. Come and join us as you strengthen your spiritual practice.

Healing Space meets on the third Sunday of each month and will meet again on November 17, when we will focus on Gratitude.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUP (WNSG)

Formerly known as 20/40, WNSG continues to meet weekly on Wednesday. This semester we are reading *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans. Evans tragically died at the age of 37, leaving the world the beginning of her legacy of theological depth and creativity through her writing. Email Darcy (darcy@fccannarbor.org) if you have further questions or interest.



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 lives. We are starting our reading this fall with *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Starting in November, we will be reading *Shores Beyond Shores*, by local author Irene Butter. This book group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. We welcome new members! Please contact Gail Haynes (gehaynes@aol.com) with any questions.



Mind and Spirit welcomes local author Irene Butter on Wednesday, November 6, at 10:15 a.m. in the Mayflower Room to talk about her book *Shores Beyond Shores: From Holocaust to Hope: My True Story*.

Irene Hasenberg Butter is a well-known peace activist, Holocaust survivor, and Professor Emerita of Public Health at the University of Michigan. Irene is co-founder of Zeitouna, an organization of Jewish and Arab women working for peace, and a founder of the Raoul Wallenberg Project at the University of Michigan, which honors the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Jewish people, with fellowships and an annual award for peace workers. Recipients of this award include the Dalai Lama, Elie Wiesel, and Desmond Tutu. Dr. Butter received a PhD in Economics from Duke University. She is a frequent and favored inspirational speaker, talking about her experience during World War II and stressing the importance of "never a bystander" and that "one person can make a difference."

Please contact Gail Haynes (gehaynes@aol.com) or the church office if you plan to attend, so we have sufficient chairs for the event.



World Communion Sunday October 6, 2019



On World Communion Sunday, we will have a special musical group, Sumkali, return as our guest for the 9 a.m. Change of Pace worship. Featured in Kerrytown this past April, Sumkali mixes the traditions of Northern and Southern Indian classical and folk music, infusing their compositions with jazz, flamenco, and funk influences. For over a decade the ten-member ensemble has collaborated and performed with musicians from India and the US to create music with a truly global appeal. Join us at 9 a.m. as we celebrate World Communion Sunday with Sumkali!

TUESDAY NIGHT STUDY ~ TNS

Please join us on Tuesday evening, October 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Mayflower Room. Each week TNS views and discusses a video of contemporary theological relevance. All are welcome!



Concert: Sunday, October 27

The Brighton Coffee House and Theater

The Terry Farmer Band features Mike Harrington on pedal steel and electric guitars, Neil Donato on piano and keyboards, Billy Harrington on drums, Samuel Collins on bass, and Terry on acoustic and electric guitars, and vocals. This concert is presented in part by Charlick, Springstead & Wilson Dental Associates, P.C. and McNamara Orthodontics.

Raised in a musical family in the Detroit area, Terry's career has taken him to all four corners of the country. This includes a 2-year stint as lead guitarist with surf legends, Jan & Dean, and 3 years of national touring and recording with his band, The Bead Band. In the late 90's, after several years living in Los Angeles, he spent 6 years studying classical guitar at the University of Denver and Cleveland Institute of Music. In 2000, Terry released *River Runs Free* a solo CD, and Terry Farmer in 2004, his second solo record featuring a fusion of styles and players. Terry was musical director for the live radio show, *Radio Free Bacon* 2007-2009, and co-founded the chamber folk group *Cairn to Cairn*, which released two albums in 2009 and 2012. His latest release in 2019, *Bag of Bones*, features live studio videos. You can find Terry's music in all online stores and streams. Terry is our FCC Change of Pace music director.

General admission seating - \$20
tickets at the door or online

<https://www.brightoncoffeehouse.com/tickets.html>

FCC'S 2ND SUNDAY SERIES BEGINS

The 2019–2020 Contemporary Issues series begins on Sunday, October 13, with Jennifer Hall, Executive Director of Ann Arbor Housing Commission, speaking on Affordable Housing: Understanding the Issues and Opportunities. Affordable housing is defined as housing that costs no more than 30% of one's income or as housing and commuting costs that, combined, comprise no more than 50% of one's income. In Ann Arbor, it has been reported that the housing stock has not kept up with the demand due to the growing number of people who work in the city and wish to live close to where they work. Join us at 11:10 on October 13 to learn more about what many consider to be a low-income housing crisis in Ann Arbor.

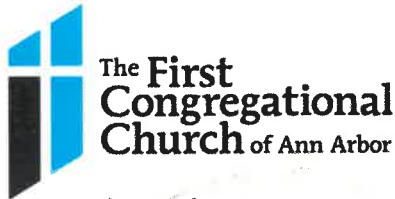
On November 10, the speaker will be Alina Makin, Director of the Intensive Russian-language Program at the Residential College, University of Michigan. For ten years, Ms. Makin, ran the Project RUSLAN, a service-learning initiative that took U-M students out into the local community to work with newly-arrived Russophones and also took U-M students on an Alternative Spring Break to a small town in northern Russia, where they worked on service assignments. She will discuss the issues of acculturation and adjustment faced by newly arrived refugees and immigrants. Ms. Makin is the wife of FCC member Michael Makin.



**CONTEMPORARY
ISSUES**
2nd SUNDAY
SERIES
2019-2020

Mayflower Room
11:10 a.m.

Sunday, October 13	Affordable Housing: Understanding the Issues and Opportunities. Jennifer Hall, Executive Director of Ann Arbor Housing Commission
Sunday, November 10	Issues of Acculturation and Adjustment for Refugees and New Immigrants Alina Makin, Director of the Intensive Russian-language Program, Residential College, University of Michigan
Sunday, December 8	The Innocents Movement Ashley Tingstad, Ann Arbor attorney, FCC member
Sunday, January 12	Sustainable Agriculture for the 21st Century Richard Andres, Tantre Farm owner
Sunday, February 9	Travels through Israel Rachel Dudley, FCC Director of Children's Ministry
Sunday, March 8	Museums and Forgiveness Bradley L. Taylor, Ph.D., Associate Director, Museum Studies Program, University of Michigan
Sunday, April 19	Sustainability in A2: Where we've been; where we are; and where we are headed, Missy Stults, PhD, Sustainability and Innovations Manager, City of Ann Arbor



The First
Congregational
Church of Ann Arbor

fccannarbor.org

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



Join us on
Facebook

FCC Staff

Robert Livingston
Senior Minister
734-926-0554
bob@fccannarbor.org

Darcy Crain
Minister
734-926-0552
darcy@fccannarbor.org

Rachel Dudley
Director of Children's
Ministry
734-926-0553
rachel@fccannarbor.org

Nancy Sauve
Bookkeeper
734-926-0560
nancy@fccannarbor.org

Sandra Beals
Administrative Asst.
734-926-0550
sandra@fccannarbor.org

Crystal Harris
Communication Specialist
crystal@fccannarbor.org

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER, 2019 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Oct 1 7: p.m. TNS, Mayflower Room (every Tuesday)
Oct 2 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast, Classic Cup Café (every Wednesday)
10:15 a.m. Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
6:30 p.m. WNSG, Meeting Room (every Wednesday)
Oct 4 7:00 p.m. Gospel Choral Concert, Sanctuary
Oct 6 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
11:00 a.m. All-Church Potluck, Pilgrim Hall
11:00 a.m. Senior High Service Activity, Mayflower Room
2:00 p.m. CROP Walk, St. Clare's Episcopal Church
Oct 13 11:10 p.m. Contemporary Issues, Mayflower Room
Oct 14 6:00 p.m. Trustees, Meeting Room
Oct 16 10:15 a.m. Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
Oct 20 11:00 a.m. OWL, Mayflower Room
11:00 a.m. Church School Potluck, Lower Level
7:00 p.m. Healing Space, Mayflower Room
Oct 21 5:30 p.m. Council Retreat, Pilgrim Hall
Oct 22 9:00 a.m. Marketing Committee, Mayflower Room
Oct 27 11:00 a.m. BOCE, Meeting Room
11:00 a.m. Music Committee, Mayflower room
Oct 28 11:30 a.m. Knight's Luncheon, Knight's on Dexter
Nov 3 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
11:00 a.m. New Member Orientation Brunch, Mayflower Room
Nov 5 5:00 p.m. M&O, Meeting Room
Nov 6 10:15 a.m. Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
Nov 10 10:10 a.m. Contemporary Issues, Mayflower Room
Nov 11 6:00 p.m. Trustees, Meeting Room
Nov 15 7:00 p.m. S.H. Game Night
Nov 17 Christmas Wish Tree Begins, Mayflower Lobby
7:00 p.m. Healing Space, Mayflower Room
Nov 18 6:00 p.m. AFC, Meeting Room
7:00 p.m. Council, Mayflower Room
Nov 20 10:15 a.m. Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
Nov 24 11:00 a.m. BOCE, Meeting Room
Nov 25 11:30 a.m. Knight's Luncheon, Knight's on Dexter
Nov 28 & 29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED for Thanksgiving
Dec 1 11:00 a.m. Church Christmas Decorating Party

Embracing God's word and enriching lives