

Congregational Courier

THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

Maxie Dunham, former editor of “The Upper Room” magazine and former President of Asbury Theological Seminary, told the following story in his book, *Perceptions*:

Two small boys went into the dentist’s office one day and waited for the dentist to get through with his appointment. When he came into the waiting room, the older of the two boys spoke up. “Doctor, I want a tooth taken out, and I don’t want you to use any gas, and I don’t want you to deaden the nerve because we are in a hurry.” The dentist smiled and said, “Well, you’re quite a brave young man. You want a tooth pulled out and you don’t want any gas, and you don’t want it deadened?” The boy replied, “Yes, that’s right, cause we’re in a hurry.” “Well, okay,” said the dentist, “but tell me, which tooth is it?” The boy turned to his younger friend and said, “Show him your tooth, Albert!”

Dunham proceeded to point out that often the world is full of people like the boy – people who want to see things happen but want someone else to do it!

As you all are aware, our FCC is moving forward with our capital renovations and the fund raising that supports it...and instead of people holding back and not jumping in to assist, in our case it has been just the opposite! You, our members and friends, have been very generous with your support of the Campaign (see Mike Dabbs’ article on the Capital Campaign results to date inside the Courier). My sincere thank you to you all!

On top of that, we have a crew of volunteer leaders who have dedicated

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literally hundreds of hours to help with the fund raising and design efforts. Though likely many others should be named, and lifted up, and given special recognition, I want to specially thank Mike Dabbs (chair), Dan Jacobs, Debbie Bourque, Ken Nisbet, Jean Wedemeyer, and Judy Hallberg of the Campaign Committee and Dan Jacobs (chair), Pete Sandretto, Neil Adams, Jane Thompson, and Scott Allen of the Design Committee. I can tell you, without their selfless volunteer service and leadership, we simply could not have moved forward in such a positive and vital way.

I am so very excited to see the results of all this hard work in September when the summer construction and building renovation is scheduled to be completed! Please stay tuned!



Blessings,
Bob Livingston



DARCY CRAIN MINISTER

Bowling Alone

Reviewing statistics on national church membership and attendance trends is not the most uplifting information to peruse. A Gallup poll published in April of 2019 reported a sharp decrease in church membership in the United States in the last 20 years. In 1999, 70% of Americans reported affiliation with a faith (church, mosque, or synagogue) community. In 2019, that number dropped to 50%. It is the greatest decrease they have seen since they began tracking it.

A flurry of theories exist as to the “why”, and another flurry of ideas related to the “how do we fix it.” One of the areas of my dissertation interest involves the responses to both of these questions in a way that integrates the social sciences. Robert Putnam, a professor in political



science who has taught both here at UM and at Harvard, is the author of *Bowling Alone: The Decline and Revival of American Community*. It is a fascinating investigation of the 25-year decline in levels of communal commitment and engagement in America. This decline is in no way limited to church membership and engagement levels; it is a phenomenon that spans the various social membership disciplines; from political affiliations to alumni groups, to simple bridge clubs. The church is not alone in our quandary of how to cope with the change and how to anticipate the future of community engagement. However, we are at a unique position here as Congregationalists who, were founded on a narrative of justice and equality, to engage in this dialogue in ways that are informed and innovative. I am truly excited and humbled to embark on this study in more depth and to bring the fruits of my learnings back to the congregation which inspired me to study them in the first place.

I believe we are not headed for a slow and painful death and disregard, but rather that we are on the brink of redefining who the church is and can be in 2020 and beyond. We are not in the same world as we were in the Gallup poll of 1999. Much has changed. Our desire to understand who Jesus was, to follow in His way, and to journey together, has not. The way that looks and the metrics we use to measure it, however, certainly can. In his book, *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World*, Rev. John Dorhauer writes: "The church is the church not when its bills are paid. The church is the church not when its pews are full. The church is the church when lives are changed. It is the church when it inspires people to use their time, talent, and resources to serve the common good."

I don't know about you, but I'm inspired to be the church that changes lives. That's a metric I'm interested in investing my life's work towards. Maybe it's not reinvigorating church bowling leagues that will save us. Maybe, in working to changes lives, we actually change the course of the church's future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darcy", with a stylized, cursive script.

FCC Mission Statement:

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

RACHEL DUDLEY
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



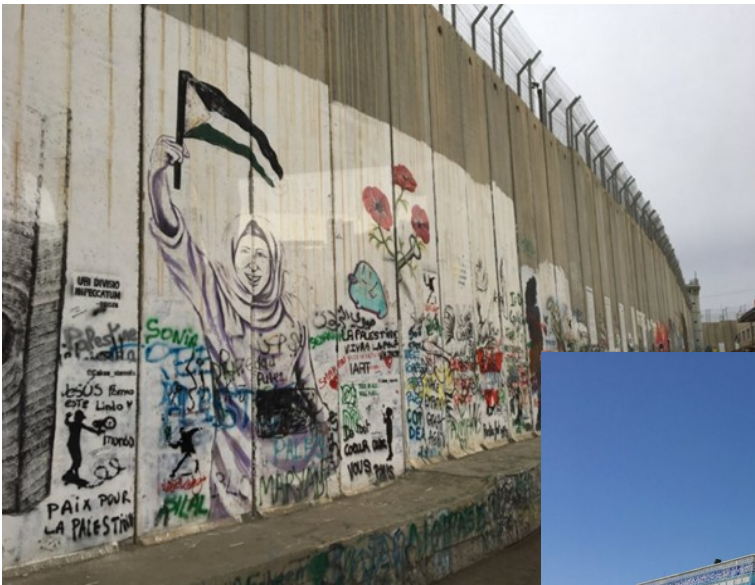
Rachel

Last year I had the life changing opportunity to travel with my family and a group from their church to Israel! I will be sharing pictures and stories from my journey during the Contemporary Issues Presentation at 11 a.m. on February 9th. All are invited to join us in the Mayflower Room. Childcare will be provided downstairs during the presentation.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

RACHEL DUDLEY
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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



Sunday, February 9
11:00 a.m.
Mayflower Room
Please Come!

LENTEN AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Feb 26	Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
March 1	1st Sunday in Lent
March 8	2nd Sunday in Lent
March 15	3rd Sunday in Lent
March 22	4th Sunday in Lent
March 29	5th Sunday in Lent
April 5	Palm Sunday
April 9	Maundy Thursday
April 10	Good Friday
April 12	Easter Sunday

For more information about times and particulars for these upcoming dates, please check the Friday Email, the Sunday bulletins and our church website at www.fccannarbor.org.

BOARD of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ELLEN RAMBO

Church School Potluck

Sunday, February 16 and March 15, at 11 a.m. Church school families are invited to a potluck in the church school area on Sunday, February 16 and March 15, after the 10 a.m. service. Please bring a nut-free dish to pass. All paper products and drinks will be provided. This is a wonderful time to hang out, eat lunch, and get to know others better!

Safety and Security in the Church School Area The Board of Christian Education continues to work on safety and security processes to be incorporated when the Capital Campaign improvements are installed and in working order. A special thank you to the BOCE Members, the Capital Campaign Committee members, and the Building and Design Committee members for their ongoing work!

Thank you to all who helped make the Christmas Pageant a success!
We had over 500 people attend the service!



BOARD of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ELLEN RAMBO



FCC Mission Statement:

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



Save the Date: All families are invited to our Family Easter Celebration (Previously Lenten Workshop) after the 10:00 a.m. service on April 5th in Pilgrim Hall.

Please join us for fun, food and friendship!

ALL-CHURCH VISIT TO CARES FAMILY MAPLES A MICHIGAN MAPLE SYRUP OPERATION

Have you ever wanted to visit a maple syrup making operation in action? Well here's your chance. Jean and John Cares are FCC members who, along with other family members, operate north of Dexter what most would consider to be a large-scale maple syrup making operation. They made 400 gallons of the golden nectar in 2019. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup! Their product, Cares Family Maples, is sold at Arbor Farms Market, and Argus Farms.

They have graciously agreed to allow the Activities & Fellowship Committee to organize a tour of their sugarbush facility while it is in operation this season.

John says their boiler/evaporator is as big as a minivan and it loves wood, requiring it be stoked every seven minutes! Maybe they'll let us throw some in? Wear your lumberjack clothing and, **more importantly**, because of farmland and potential muddy conditions, **bring your mud boots** to change into when we get there.

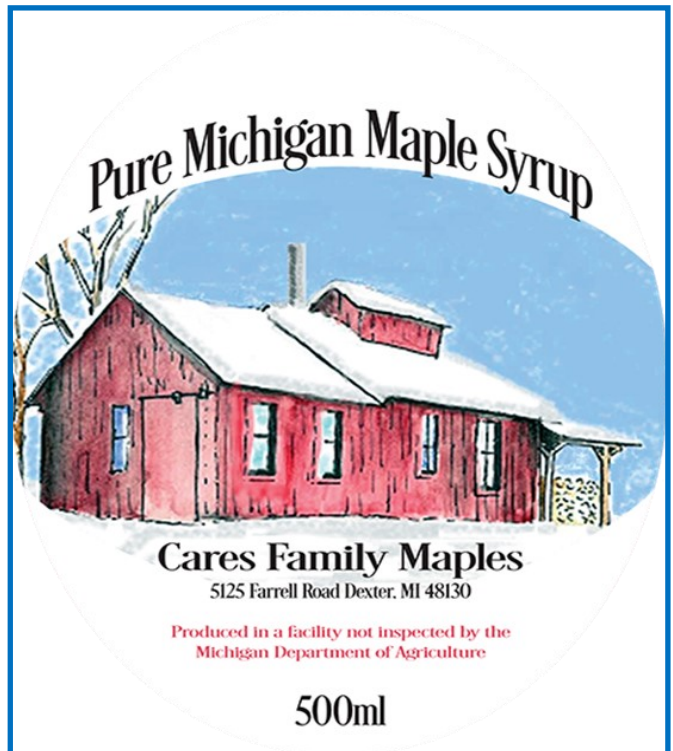
As operating the sugarbush is dependent on the sap running, and therefore the weather, we cannot tell you when they will start tapping trees, collecting sap, and boiling, but we have picked after church on Sunday, March 8th, as the day for the visit, as they will likely be in full production then, or at least will be able to show us most aspects of the operation. It might be best, depending on how many are interested, to carpool from the shopping center east of Dexter, across from Busch's. So, meet there at 1:30 p.m. and we'll head to the Cares' Farm as a group.

Please let us know if you will attend so the AFC and the Cares' can plan accordingly. Syrup will be for sale, cash or check, but the main purpose of this visit is to show people how a serious sugarbush operates. It will be a great AFC event!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Robbie Sawitski at robbiesawitski@gmail.com or 517.888.3342 or

Dave Steiner at dranodavec47@gmail.com or 734.645.1150.



WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY FOR GROUPS AND EVENTS

If you wonder whether an FCC event or small group meeting will be cancelled due to weather, please contact the group leader. The TNS group, Wednesday Text Breakfast, Wednesday Mind and Spirit, Thursday Night Study Group, and Knight's Luncheon Groups have agreed to follow the Ann Arbor Public Schools on cancellations, so, if AAPS are closed, these groups will not be meeting.

ADVENT WOMEN'S EVENING

The tables were all decorated and set with care, knowing the church women would soon be there. The magic of Christmas settled readily into this year's gathering of Advent women; the joy of friendship filled the air. Simply Scrumptious Catering prepared a luscious meal and the ladies enjoyed a leisurely evening together. Our very own organist extraordinaire,

Dr. Tim Huth, brought a festive spirit to the piano that seemed to encourage a particular exuberance in the caroling this year! We may have to encourage Tim to do this every year for us. What do you think?!



A very special thank-you to our hostesses. We could not do this without you!

1. Audrey Crain
2. Jennifer German
3. Libby Greeley
4. Gail Haynes
5. Jennifer Puente
6. Nancy Sauve
7. Robbie Sawitski
8. Marta Skiba
9. Pam Towery
10. Nancy Vermeulen

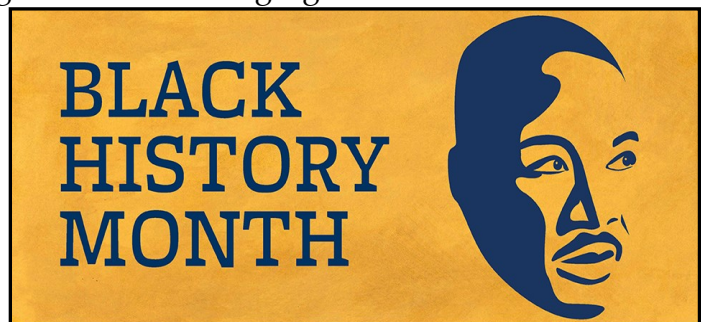


AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public. The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis.

2020 Theme - African Americans and the Vote

The year 2020 marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. The year 2020 also marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War. The theme speaks, therefore, to the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote. This theme has a rich and long history, which begins at the turn of the nineteenth century, i.e., in the era of the Early Republic, with the states' passage of laws that democratized the vote for white men while disfranchising free black men. Thus, even before the Civil War, black men petitioned their legislatures and the US Congress, seeking to be recognized as voters. Tensions between abolitionists and women's suffragists first surfaced in the aftermath of the Civil War, while black disfranchisement laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries undermined the guarantees in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments for the great majority of southern blacks until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The important contribution of black suffragists occurred not only within the larger women's movement, but within the larger black voting rights movement. Through voting-rights campaigns and legal suits from the turn of the twentieth century to the mid-1960s, African Americans made their voices heard as to the importance of the vote. Indeed the fight for black voting rights continues in the courts today. The theme of the vote should also include the rise of black elected and appointed officials at the local and national levels, campaigns for equal rights legislation, as well as the role of blacks in traditional and alternative political parties.



****PAGE SOURCE:** <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>

"To ignore people of other faiths and ideologies in an increasingly plural society is to be willfully blind to what the scriptures say about Christian witness. We are severely impoverished if we do not encounter people of other faiths with reverence and respect for their belief and integrity."

~ Desmond Tutu

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

BETTY BISHOP



As many of you may know, The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor was organized and established on March 23, 1847, so we are looking forward to celebrating our 175th anniversary in March 2022. At the first meeting of a small group to talk about leaving the First Presbyterian Church and establishing a Congregational church in Ann Arbor, which was held on February 9, 1847, a committee of three was appointed to select a site on which to build the new church. By March 2nd the committee recommended purchase of a lot at the corner of Washington St. and Fifth Ave. and had purchased the land. The price was

\$600 to be paid in three equal installments in June of 1847, 1848, and 1849. While the church was being constructed, the new Congregational Church obtained permission to hold Sunday services in the Court House. The March 23, 1847 meeting to organize the new church was held at the First Presbyterian Church, reflecting unusual Christian forbearance and tolerance.

For the first 18 months the church could not succeed in calling a minister since they could offer an annual salary of only \$400. Sunday services were conducted by visiting clergy from nearby communities. In November 1848, Rev. L.S. Hobart of Union City, Michigan accepted the call. The new church was growing with 48 members at the start, 60 by the end of 1847, and 113 by the end of 1850. The new church building was completed and dedicated on June 21, 1849. Sunday services were held at the church but weekly prayer meetings, and some business meetings, were held in members' homes at times. This was probably done to save on fuel and janitorial expenses.

173rd Anniversary All-Church Celebration

On Sunday, March 29 at 11 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall, we will celebrate the 173rd Anniversary of the founding of The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. We will have special desserts, a small display about church history, and certificates will be presented to members celebrating 5, 10, 15, or more years (increments of 5) of membership.

Please join us !

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHRIS VERMEULEN, SECRETARY

Elected Positions

Church Council Chair	Lynda Norton
Church Council Vice-Chair	Bruce Pringle
Secretary	Chris Vermeulen
Treasurer	Mike Dabbs
Clerk	Peg Jacobs
Historian	Betty Bishop

Remaining Positions, Filled According to Role

Board of Deacons Chair	Mitchell Dudley
Board of Trustees Chair	Betsy Petoskey
Board of Christian Education Chair	Ellen Rambo
Director of Children's Ministry	Rachel Dudley
Missions and Outreach Committee Chair	Pam Dabbs
Music Committee Co-chairs	Michele Johns, Mj Quigley-Young
Nominating Committee Co-Chairs	Kristy Stoneburner, Rick Muhs
Activities and Fellowship Chair	Robbie Sawitski
Contemporary Issues Committee Chair	Sara Holmes
Ministers	Bob Livingston, Darcy Crain

Current Activities

Review of Mission, Vision, and Core Values: Finishing the organization of ideas developed at the Leadership Retreat held on October 21, 2019.

Review of By-Laws: The updated By-Laws are still being reviewed by the Church Council. Currently planning to present the revised By-Laws, in June, at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Review of Staff Handbook: A group is reviewing the current staff handbook and will make updates to meet the current needs of the Church organization.

Documentation of Procedures:

A rough draft of the "Kitchen - Pilgrim Hall Operations and Safety Guide" was created. The document includes various procedures and policies, related to activities in the Pilgrim Hall kitchen. Final formatting still to be completed

Contact Information: Please 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 Meetings:

February 17

March 16

April 20

BOARD OF DEACONS
JANE DELANCEY, CO-CHAIR - MITCHELL DUDLEY, CO-CHAIR



Immediate need! The Board of Deacons is urgently seeking two new recruits (or two returning recruits) to join our ranks immediately. Serving on the Board of Deacons is largely what you see us doing each Sunday: welcoming congregants, ushering and providing refreshments during the friendship time. Please contact Jane DeLancey (jdelance@umich.edu) or Mitchell Dudley (mitchell.dudley@gmail.com) or ask someone on staff to point you in the right direction, if you're interested or have any questions.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the current members of the Board of Deacons for their continued service! You make every service run smoothly, so thank you!

ANNUAL AGO LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES
Every Friday, February 28 – April 3
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

This much anticipated annual event features the magnificent Wilhelm pipe organ in the sanctuary at The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, as well as local organists from the Ann Arbor area. The concerts are 30 minutes in length and begin at 12:15 p.m. They are free and open to the public. We hope you will join us!!

February 28: We welcome U of M organ department student Joe Mutone to the organ console. Joe is an undergraduate who is preparing for his senior recital. On this program he will play the Sixth Organ Symphony of Charles Marie Widor.

March 6: Naki Sung-Kripfans (Organist at the First United Methodist Church/Ann Arbor).

March 13: Shin-Ae Chun (Organist at the First Baptist Church/Ann Arbor).

March 20: Tim Huth (Organist of The First Congregational Church/Ann Arbor).

March 27: University of Michigan Organ Department Students.

April 3: Eastern Michigan University Organ Department Students.

TREASURER'S REPORT
MIKE DABBS

First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor

2019 - 2020 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2019

	ACTUAL 12/31/19	APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/19 - 6/30/20	NOTES
REVENUE			
Pledges	\$279,560	\$535,000	1
Capital Pledges			
Gifts - Operations	\$38,333	\$53,500	
Other Income	\$23,556	\$31,457	
Special Funds Transfer	0	\$24,701	2
Total Revenue	<u>\$341,448</u>	<u>\$644,658</u>	
EXPENSES			
Ministry	\$120,477	\$240,975	
Administrative/Office	\$157,346	\$325,738	
Christian Education	\$28,863	\$53,080	
Music		\$73,121	
Missions & Outreach	\$3,713	\$36,075	
Maintenance & Utilities	\$40,168	\$93,915	
Total Expenses	\$388,351	\$822,904	
NET REVENUE	\$(46,903)	\$(178,246)	
TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION	\$80,000	+\$186,964	3
	+ \$1,800		4
BALANCE	<u>\$33,097</u>	<u>\$8,718</u>	

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIKE DABBS

NOTES

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | 2019-20 Actual Pledges Total anticipates \$18,000 increase over previous year. Actual Pledge revenue reflects \$20,000 gift that will be redistributed by Trustees. |
| 2 | Pastoral Fund distribution of \$12,500 and Memorial Fund distribution of \$12,201 will be made for designated programs and activities. |
| 3 | 2019-2020 Budget projected distribution from trust and endowment funds is 6%. |
| 4 | Special one-time distribution from Sink Fund |
| Capital Campaign Note | 2019-2020 Mortgage Principal payments will be \$31,698. Capital Campaign will contribute \$30,000 for Principal payments and \$40,000 for capital repair expenses. Neither expenses are reflected in the Annual Budget. |

As of December 31, 2019, we have completed the first half of FCC's Fiscal Year, which will end as of June 30, 2020. Pledge revenue is slightly more than half of the annual budget, which is good news – and appreciated by the Trustees. Gifts and Other Income also are more than half their respective annual budget amounts. Nearly all expense categories are at half of their respective annual budget amounts, with the exception of Administrative/Office and Christian Education. It is anticipated that these areas will spend less during the second half of this year in order for them to remain within their budgets.

The Trustees expect to receive the 2018-19 Financial Review at their February meeting. Once the Trustees have received it, it will be available for members to review by contacting Nancy Sauve, FCC Bookkeeper.

VISION 175 - CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT OVER \$1.9 MILLION RAISED FOR FCC's CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Capital Campaign Fundraising Team announces that **\$1,904,275** has been contributed by 162 members during our one-and-a-half year Capital Campaign, VISION 175! This has been an incredibly successful campaign due to the tremendous generosity of our members. Because of the difference each of you have made with your pledges, we will be able to proudly celebrate The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor's 175th Anniversary with a wonderfully updated and vibrant church, a true legacy to our future generations of members! On behalf of the Capital Campaign Fundraising Team of Debbie Bourque, Judy Hallberg, Dan Jacobs, Bob Livingston, Ken Nisbet, Jean Wedemeyer, and Mike Dabbs, Campaign Manager, please accept our heart-felt thanks to all members!

FCC GREEN TEAM

SOLAR PV SYSTEM



Check it out...FCC IS Going Green

Once again, we would like to offer our sincere thanks to the five members who, with a positive future vision, set up Soulful Solar LLC to fund this project and show FCC's commitment to being good stewards of the environment. This serves as an inspiration for all of us to strive to live without leaving a negative carbon footprint on our beloved earth.

Here are the two most recent photos showing the crew hauling the 54 solar panels up to the roof...

- The solar system will provide 25% of FCC's current electrical needs on an annual basis.
- Homeland Solar installed the 54 solar panels. (see photo on page 17).
- The new system is expected to generate ~20,000 kWh annually.
- Stay tuned for more photos of the installation and details about FCC's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.



FCC GREEN TEAM SOLAR PV SYSTEM



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, Ph.D., Sustainability and Innovations Manager, City of Ann Arbor

MUSIC COMMITTEE

MARIJEAN QUIGLEY-YOUNG AND MICHELLE JOHNS

There are many ways for people of ALL ages to participate in the music programming of our church. If you play an instrument or sing, your contributions and input are welcome. If you have a desire to participate musically, please let Shohei know and he will find a way to include you in our worship service.

February, March, 2020: We especially hope that our gifted young people will share their musical gifts with the congregation more and more often. The months of February (District Solo and Ensemble Festival) and March (State Solo and Ensemble Festival) offer our gifted young people the opportunity, not only to serve God with their gifts, but also to experience a “practice” performance for the Solo and Ensemble Festivals. If you and your child would like this experience, please contact Shohei Kobayashi, Tim Huth or Mj Quigley-Young.

MUSIC PATRON PROGRAM EXCEEDS GOAL!



The Music Committee, with the support of the Church Council and the Trustees, recently established a Music Patron Program for the 2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year in an effort to help fund the continuance and quality of our Special Music programming during the seasons of Advent and Easter. This program provides additional monies to those from the Sink Fund in order to fund these special music presentations. We are pleased to report that during November 2019 - January 22, 2020, a total of \$6,699.00 of designated gifts were received! This exceeds the anticipated budget of \$4,367! The Music Committee, the Trustees, and the entire Church Council express their deep appreciation for the many members who responded to this special effort!



The Chancel Choir Needs You!

If you have ever thought about singing with the Chancel Choir, now is a perfect time to do so. We need interested people who would like to sing in this fun and welcoming group. All that is required is that you come to a rehearsal, downstairs in the Choir Room, on Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m., and give us a try! Childcare is available.

*“Your light is your talent...
...let it shine.”*

ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

Your AFC committee would like to thank all the amazing, dedicated and enthusiastic



volunteers that helped us decorate and undecorate the church for the holidays. It truly felt like family and home while we all took part in the festivities of Christmas. Our beautiful building inspired us to the heights of the season and the sharing of time, talents and a meal strengthened the bonds of church community that we all have come to know and love.

Please Save the Date and join us Sunday, March 29, when we celebrate the **173rd Anniversary** of our church after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Our friendship time will be enhanced by extra-special treats as we recognize our long-time members with membership certificates and share our time, memories, friendship, and future dreams for the life and growth of our beloved church.



Have you ever wanted to visit a maple syrup making operation in action? Well here's your chance! Please check out the article on page 8 for all the details. Syrup will be for sale, cash or check, but the main purpose of this visit is to show people how a serious sugarbush operates. It will be a great AFC event! If you have any questions, please contact:

Robbie Sawitski at robbiesawitski@gmail.com or 517.888.3342
or Dave Steiner at dranodavec47@gmail.com or 734.645.1150.

AFC UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8 All-Church Visit to CARES FAMILY MAPLES

March 29 FCC's 173rd Anniversary Celebration

**DON'T
FORGET
TO HAVE
A GOOD
TIME**

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

PAM DABBS

Our committee would like to thank everyone in our church and some beyond our doors for making the Christmas Wish tree for 2019 a wonderful success! One hundred and four tags were taken from the tree and all gifts returned right on time! It is truly heartwarming the way you all give so generously!

We have just finished giving out our yearly grants and the theme for this year is HOUSING needs. Soon, we will be letting you know which organizations were the recipients. Along with the grants, we sent \$1000.00 each to Puerto Rico Earthquake relief and to the Australian Red Cross/ WIKES animal rescue for those people and animals suffering from the bush fires. We feel that it is important to be good world neighbors along with our local grant awards and mission projects.

Beginning on Monday, February 3, our next big project is the Warming Shelter with doors open Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the month of February from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Sign-up Genius online link for supply/food donations and one for volunteers can be found in the Friday emails or by going to our web page (www.fccannarbor.org) or you can go there right now by clicking on the links below!

Supplies & Food FCC Warming Shelter:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F45AAAB2EA2FD0-supplies1>

Volunteers FCC Warming Shelter:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F45AAAB2EA2FD0-volunteersfcc1>

Anything you can do to help with this big undertaking is greatly appreciated!!

In addition, we will be having a **Sing & Serve on Sunday, February 16th at The Gilbert Residence** in Ypsilanti from 2-4 p.m. It is a special experience to play games, work with art supplies and interact with the residents on a cloudy winter day. Life lessons and treasured memories about "giving" and "caring" are **FREE** at the door... children/youth are so welcome to experience the joy of giving too...please bring them! The address is 203 S Huron Street, Ypsilanti, MI, and there is plenty of parking! Please meet there at 2 p.m.!

Winter's end will bring us into the **JFS Giving Tree Project**. On March 22nd an Easter Tree will be decorated and hanging on the wall of the Mayflower Lobby loaded with decorated egg tags...and on the tags will be items for you to purchase and donate. Donations will be taken to The Jewish Family Services for families resettling in America. In the past our church members have really made newcomers to the LAND OF THE FREE.....feel so welcome.! Let's continue to be their shining light! God Bless America! **Thank you all....SO much!**

MAYFLOWER GALLERY

NICKI GRIFFITH

We are grateful to Jocelyn Jacobs for sharing her amazing paper cutting artistry with us over the past several weeks. Her snowflake exhibit has enchanted all of us, and we hope she continues to produce a “blizzard” of work we can enjoy in the coming years! If you have not looked closely at her monumental paper cut of First Congregational Church, which she has graciously gifted to FCC and is hanging in the lobby, be sure to revisit it and note the incredible attention to detail.

Our new exhibit is photography by Betty Bishop. Betty is a world traveler and loves to capture scenes of flora, fauna and historic entities on her trips both far and near. With a lifetime interest in taking pictures, she brings an experienced eye to the essence of her subjects. Her show this year includes photos taken of the Matterhorn and Chateau de Chillon in Switzerland, beautiful birds in Florida, and waterfalls around Lake Superior. Please enjoy these evocative works!

HEALING SPACE

Where music, meditation and prayer meet.

Healing Space now is held at 11:15 a.m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We meet in the Douglas Chapel for a time of prayer and meditation. These are wonderful opportunities to deepen your spiritual and prayer life as well as explore Christian practices, such as Lectio Divina, that have been used for centuries. Please put these dates on your calendar and make plans to join us.:



February 16
March 15

Journey of Faith
Spiritual Growth

For questions or additional information, please contact Mary Ann Marquardt marquardtmaryann73@gmail.com or Gail Haynes gehaynes@aol.com.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

We will be meeting on Sunday, February 9 and Sunday, March 9, at 9:00 a.m., in the Mayflower Room. We will be checking in regarding our friends' status and planning small gifts for the Valentine's Day and Easter holidays. **We are in need of, at least, one new member, as we have received a new friend request from a member of our congregation who needs support.** Please contact me at 313-303-1989 or email maryannmarquardt73@gmail.com. Thank you for considering this important ministry!

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY

TUESDAY NIGHT STUDY ~ TNS

Please join us on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Mayflower Room for TNS. Each week TNS views a video of contemporary theological relevance. All are welcome! We will continue our focus on the theology of Marcus Borg and then move to a smorgasbord of other presenters.

TEXT BREAKFAST

This regular group gathers every Wednesday morning, with Rev. Bob Livingston, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at the Classic Cup Café at 4389 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor. Our lively discussions include sharing our understandings, insights, and questions about the scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon. Please join us on Wednesday mornings!

MIND AND SPIRIT BOOK GROUP

All women of the church are invited to join us for our interesting book discussions. We read books that deal with either spirituality or social justice issues. We are currently reading Rachel Held Evan's Inspired. Our next book will be Garbage Bag Suitcase by Shenandoah Chelalo. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., in the Mayflower Room. This is a wonderful way to get to know other women in the church as well as enjoy others insights from reading stimulating books. For more information contact Gail Haynes at gehaynes@aol.com.

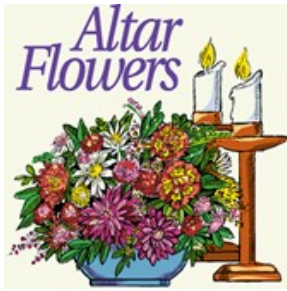
THURSDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUP

We are a group of people in our 20s through 40s, interested in trekking through the terrain of young adulthood, relationships, parenting, grad school, and more, in a faithful community setting. We are now meeting THURSDAY evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., at the church. Childcare is provided. Our next meeting will be on February 2. We are studying the book of James. Please contact Darcy at darcy@fccannarbor.org for information.

KNIGHT'S LUNCHEON

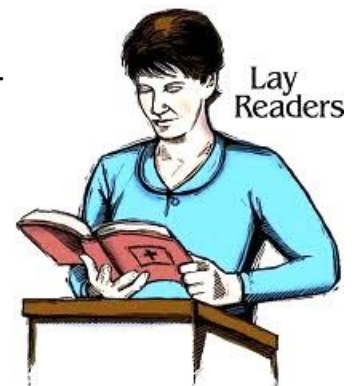
This group meets every fourth Monday of the month for very informal, welcoming, and wide-ranging conversations that hopefully result in the nourishment of both the mind and body. Hosted by Bob Livingston, these luncheons are held at Knight's Restaurant at 2324 Dexter Avenue in Ann Arbor. Our next two meetings will be February 24 and March 23.

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS AND LAY READERS



Each Sunday in the 10 a.m. worship service, the church is blessed with flowers on the communion table, donated by members and friends of the church. When you offer flowers, you may dedicate them to whom-ever you wish, and we will print your dedication in the bulletin. After the worship service, the Circle of Friends will deliver the flowers to those in our congregation who are home centered. Of course, you may also choose to take the flowers home with you after worship. You can sign up to offer flowers on the form outside of Pilgrim Hall, on the FCC website (www.fccannarbor.org) under Member Resources, or you may call the church office. Thank you for bringing joy and beauty to our worship services.

An important part of the 10 a.m. worship service is the recitation of the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Invocation, and the Lord's Prayer. Members and friends of the church are invited to sign up to assist in our worship by leading the congregation in these readings. You can sign up to offer flowers on the form outside of Pilgrim Hall, on the FCC website (fccannarbor.org) under Member Resources, or you may call the church office. You will receive a reminder and the text you will be reading and leading during the week before the service. Thank you for considering participating in worship in this way.



GREAT LAKES SCRIP

The Scrip table is up and running every Sunday morning after the 10 a.m. service in the Mayflower Lobby near the elevator. It's a terrific fundraising program where you purchase gift/cards for face value after the church purchases them at a discount. What we earn, the difference between the discounted amount and the face value, goes to support mission and work trips here at The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor.

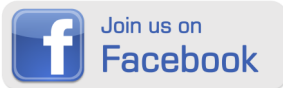
Scrip cards may be purchased "cash and carry" and may also be ordered at the Scrip table or online at shopwithscrip.com. Please take a moment to look at the ShopWithScrip website. I'm sure you'll find that it's the easiest fundraiser that appeals to all. When purchasing online, you are able to use a credit card. The profit we make is not affected by credit card fees.



**The First
Congregational
Church of Ann Arbor**

fccannarbor.org

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FEBRUARY 2020–MARCH 2020 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Feb 3	9:00 a.m.	Warming Shelter BEGINS
Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in February, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.		
Feb 4	11:45 a.m.	Men's Luncheon at Knight's
Feb 4,11,18,25	7:00 p.m.	TNS, Mayflower Room
Feb 5,12,19,26	8:30 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Classic Cup Café
Feb 5,19	10:15 a.m.	Mind & Spirit, Mayflower Room
Feb 5,19	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Feb 6,13,20,27	6:00 p.m.	Thursday Night Small Group
Feb 10	6:00 p.m.	Trustee's Meeting, Meeting Room
Feb 11	11:30 a.m.	Contemporary Issues Committee Mtg.
Feb 16	11:00 a.m.	Church School Potluck
	11:15 a.m.	Healing Space, Douglas Chapel
	2:00 p.m.	Sing ~and~ Serve , Gilbert Residence
Feb 17	12:00 p.m.	Marketing Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Feb 23	11:00 a.m.	BOCE Meeting, Meeting Room
Feb 24	11:30 a.m.	Knight's Luncheon Group
Feb 28	11:45 a.m.	AGO Lenten Organ Concert Series
Mar 3	11:45 a.m.	Men's Luncheon at Knight's
Mar 3,10,17,24,31	7:00 p.m.	TNS, Mayflower Room
Mar 4,11,18,25	8:30 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Classic Cup Café
Mar 4,18	10:15 a.m.	Mind & Spirit, Mayflower Room
Mar 5,12,19,26	6:00 p.m.	Thursday Night Small Group
Mar 6, 13, 20, 27	11:45 a.m.	AGO Lenten Organ Concert Series
Mar 15	11:00 a.m.	Church School Potluck
	11:15 a.m.	Healing Space, Douglas Chapel
Mar 16	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Mar 22	11:00 a.m.	New Member Orientation Brunch
	11:15 a.m.	Healing Space, Douglas Chapel
Mar 23	11:30 a.m.	Knight's Luncheon Group
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Mar 26	7:00 p.m.	Missions and Outreach Meeting
Mar 29	11:00 a.m.	FCC 173rd Anniversary Celebration

Embracing God's word and enriching lives