

# Congregational Courier

## THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON SENIOR MINISTER

### Dear Friends:

Greetings! I am sitting at my computer 75 days into the Governor's Stay at Home order. Who could have believed this 5 months ago? The world looks so different right now! So with summer on the horizon, let me offer you these thoughts and updates:



First, as a church, and because of your generosity and thoughtfulness, we are doing quite well right now. Yes, indeed, you have been there for us every step along the way...offering us encouragement, support, service to our members and community, and openness to doing church in a new and different way. Thank you! Thank you!

Second, in particular gratitude to our tech-savvy staff (I am not one of them!), our home-based Zoom gatherings and streamed worship videos have been a positive rallying point for our congregation during the week and at worship on Sunday mornings. It seems every week we are learning something new about how to do them better. By the way, I sincerely appreciate your being with us on Sunday mornings! In June, we hope to begin live-streaming our Sunday worship services, with a small production staff, from our church sanctuary. Also, check out our Website for daily devotionals and social videos!

Third, we have a new "Opening the Church Task Force" that will soon begin to meet to talk about when and how we can begin to welcome persons back into our sanctuary for worship. As your senior minister, I remain one who favors being cautious and conservative in moving forward with our opening and will want to closely follow the guidelines of our State and the CDC to make sure we are taking safe and responsible steps. We will keep you posted on our progress and timeline.

Fourth, the staff will continue to work primarily from our homes during the summer months. With the church construction and renovation work now in high gear, I think this only makes good sense. Please know

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*Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here*

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that if you need to reach the church office, Robbie Sawitski, our Interim Administrative Assistant, will continue to monitor and answer the office phone from her home.

Fifth, you should know there are many important efforts that have been moving forward during this Stay at Home timeframe. For example: our stewardship campaign is fully launched right now; we are actively searching for an Interim Chancel Choir Director to replace Shohei Kobayashi, who, as you know, is heading West following his having received his DMA from U of M this spring; and we are continuing to plan and prepare for a full programming schedule next fall. In other words, we are staying busy!

As I conclude, I want to say once again how very much I appreciate our staff, leaders, and congregation! If it is true that tough times don't make you, but reveal you....then you have shown yourselves to be resilient, hopeful, strong, faithful, selfless, and courageous! Indeed, I am so proud to be a part of FCC as we seek to be **"a joyous spiritual home, welcoming and valuing all people, engaging God's Word, and enriching lives."** Let's live with hope!

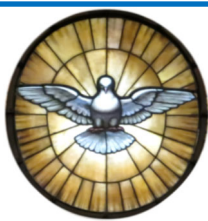
Affectionately,  
Bob Livingston



Senior Minister



CONFIRMATION  
REV. DARCY CRAIN



Many graduating classes of 2020 looked very different. Tributes were online, parades were had, but the classes went on. The Confirmation class of 2020 is not one of those classes. This group completed their class meetings and their mentor work. They have read their gospel assignments and experienced a different kind of worship tradition than our own. But they have not yet been confirmed. In our tradition that involves the laying on of hands that simply cannot be translated on a virtual platform. I feel strongly enough about this specific part of the ritual that we will wait until we can gather in person to officially confirm our class of 2020. They will make their confirmation sometime in the Fall when it is safe and appropriate to do so. Until then, I am incredibly proud of this group of young people, one of the last groups I met in person with before this quarantine took hold. They're courageous, venturing towards high school, a brave journey for any student, but this class is moving towards even more unknowns. They will navigate with integrity, I have no doubt. Confirmation class of 2020 your story is still being written and we look forward to celebrating with you later this year!

## DARCY CRAIN MINISTER

I sit before a blinking cursor wondering about what to write for a Courier of the weirdest summer yet. I want to be encouraging. I want to inspire us to be calm amidst cancelled vacations and camps. I want to tell you about the exciting mission trip our youth are taking and how we will return transformed from our experience. Instead, I sit watching a cursor blink thinking of what I can say that will be real and honest and not depressing. Not a great introduction, I know.



What I do know is this. I am committed to providing our youth with meaningful experiences of serving others because that is what God commanded us to do. Love your neighbor as yourself. One of the ways we love our neighbor is to volunteer our time and resources and gifts to better their lives somehow. Whether that means building or repairing their home, running a day camp to provide stable childcare and engaging activities for their children, or lining the trails of a state park so that we can engage in God's creation in healthy safe ways, we will find a way to love our neighbor. It's interesting, I often am quick to preach about how the Bible doesn't tell us how to fulfill the command to love others, it just speaks of its importance. When it comes to this summer of unknowns however, I'm struck by how desperate I am to know the how and the when and to push aside the what ifs. This summer we must stick to the imperative. I hope that our high schoolers will be able to have a mission trip like the kind we are used to. If we hold such a trip, we will go to Leelanau in Northern Michigan and stay at the home of the Duvernoy/Bogun family out of their generosity and hospitality. I can tell you now with certainty it is imperative that we love our neighbor and that we teach and model this early for our youth. I do not know the how quite yet. I guess this is where I must practice what I preach. It turns out it is way harder than I would like it to be!

Our other summer plans include a task force as we plan to safely reopen our church. When we do open, with the bulk of our construction occurring during this summer 2020 quarantine, we will be welcomed into a space that is ready to minister to future generations. That provides me a great sense of hope and optimism.

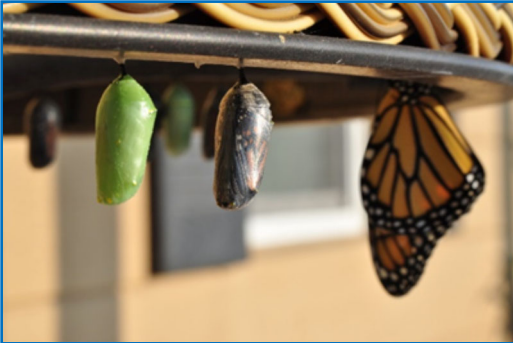
This summer, whether we meet in person or in our homes for computer church; may you find and lean into this mandated time of Sabbath. May you hold close to what is important and be able to let go the need to articulate the how. And may we, The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, be able to model resilience and hope to a world that craves it.

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



**RACHEL DUDLEY**  
**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

### **Metamorphosis of Our Church**



Do you remember learning about the life cycle of a butterfly in school? They start out as an egg and out hatches a caterpillar. The caterpillar eats, grows, molts its old skin, and continues to grow as it keeps repeating these steps. Eventually the caterpillar attaches itself to one place, sheds its skin for a



last time and reveals its chrysalis. From the outside there isn't anything going on but inside the chrysalis a transformation is taking place. The caterpillar goes through metamorphosis and transitions into a butterfly. When the process is complete the butterfly leaves behind the chrysalis, spreads its wings and flies. The transformation is beautiful!

When I think of the last few months, I feel like our church has been in a chrysalis. From the outside it has appeared like our building doors are shut and nothing is going on. But the truth is that a huge transformation has been occurring! Our worship services have been able to reach new people as we have stretched and learned how to make our services available online. Our physical building has been under construction as a remodel takes place to make the building more friendly and accommodating for those who visit it. Our community has reached out and found new ways to stay connected and care for each other. We've been transforming!

The last step, to complete the transformation, is to leave the chrysalis. The butterfly must reenter the world, once the transformation is fully complete, and learn how to fly. As our church keeps transforming and works toward emerging from our chrysalis into the world around it, I am thankful for a community that continues to stretch, transform, and grow. In God's time, we are going to be the most beautiful butterfly!

### **Kids' Cow Challenge**

Guess how many cow erasers are in the jar! You must be 19 years old or younger to participate. Submissions must be submitted to [rachel@fccannarbor.org](mailto:rachel@fccannarbor.org) by midnight on Sunday, July 5th. The person who has the closest guess, without going over, will win the jar of erasers.



## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### ELLEN RAMBO



### End of School Year

Congratulations to all of our students, parents, and teachers who have made it through an interesting school year! Hats off to you! Celebrate the unique challenges and victories that you and your families have overcome.

**We are proud of you!**

*~ Check out the list of graduates on page 23 ~*

### Teacher Appreciation

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful church school teachers! They have consistently been willing to try new teaching methods, new technology, and adapt to the kids' needs. Thank you! Your love for the students at our church is exceptional!



### Summer Church School Classes Kickoff!

June 14th will be the official start of our summer church school programming! Church school classes will continue weekly on Sunday mornings for preschool through 8th grade students. High school students will be meeting with their class once a month during the summer. Classes will be virtual until further notice. Look for updates in our weekly newsletters and on our social media platforms.



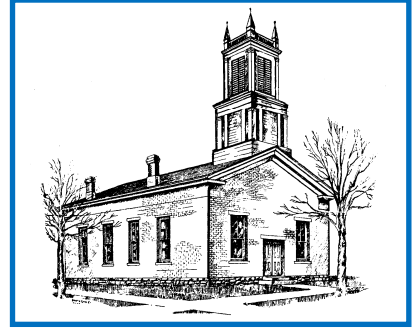
### Church School Lessons Available Weekly Online

Lesson information and updates are sent out weekly to church school participants. If you are not receiving this email but would like to, please email [rachel@fccannarbor.org](mailto:rachel@fccannarbor.org) to be added to the email list. A link to the lesson information is also posted on the church school Facebook page each week at <https://www.facebook.com/fccchurchschool/>. The stories that go along with the lessons are also posted on the church school Facebook page.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

### BETTY BISHOP

Just over a hundred years ago the world, and Ann Arbor, were dealing with the challenges of the pandemic of the 1918 flu, sometimes called the Spanish flu. It started in Europe which was still involved in World War I. The countries involved in the War agreed not to report on the flu in the media, but Spain was neutral and did report flu outbreaks and deaths. This led to the pandemic being called the Spanish flu although it did not originate in Spain.



In Michigan about 15,000 died from the flu between October 1918 and April 1919. It especially affected those ages 18-45 with the greatest number of fatalities occurring in those ages 25-34. In Ann Arbor there was a major outbreak among the Student Army Training Corps on the University of Michigan campus. Worldwide about 50 million died, many more than the number who died in World War I. Deaths in the US were about 650,000.



Dean Victor Vaughn of the University of Michigan Medical School said "I daresay the world has never known a pestilence more widespread, more invasive and appalling in its process, or more destructive to life, than this epidemic".

In the fall of 1918 there were widespread closures of schools, theaters, churches, restaurants, skating rinks (roller skating), and dance halls. These closures usually lasted several weeks and varied from city to city and state to state. Parades to celebrate the end of World War I in November 1918 contributed to the spread of the illness in some cities while cities which banned parades had significantly fewer cases. The wearing of masks and social distancing were major practices encouraged to slow the spread of the illness. Eventually enough of the population acquired immunity through having the flu that the incidence greatly decreased and the pandemic was considered to have ended.

*\*\* Two soldiers on campus on Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, HS706, Caroline Maier photograph collection, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.*





## TIMOTHY HUTH AMUSD, ORGANIST

Dear good people of FCCAA,

Reflecting upon these times and indeed my place in them as a musician, I can feel the vibe of the world and feel I've again been tossed into the cosmos with unsure moorings. I'm seeking meaning in the discipline of music making, and indeed this provides solace and comfort. Practicing for recitals (who knows when!) and preparing organ 'sound files' for our Sunday worship is keeping me upright, and I've gained a renewed appreciation of the ministry of music with my congregation every Sunday. I miss you all sincerely and my heart glows.

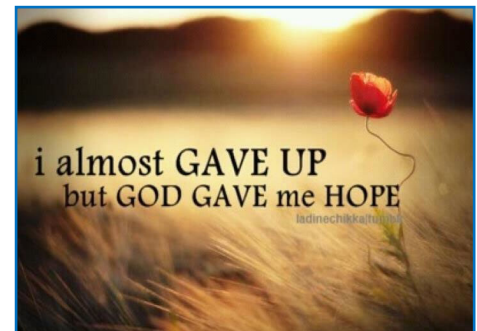


St Augustine sings out: "We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song!" This Hebrew word means "praise Yahweh", and in the psalter there is a whole series of Hallel psalms reserved for the most festive gatherings; Jesus and his disciples sang this together, as does indeed our own congregation to this day.

We are called to "Sing a new song", and how relevant to our times as we are learning new ways of living. Augustine says: "We are to sing a new song as a people who have learned a new song...a thing of joy and more profoundly a thing of love. Sing with your voices, hearts, lips, and lives. What praises to sing? Sing God's praise in the assembly of the saints; the song is in the singers themselves."

This is the day the Lord has made. God makes a new heaven and a new earth. As Gregory of Nyssa states, "What is a new heaven? You may ask. It is the firmament of our faith in Christ. A new earth? A good heart, a heart like the earth, which drinks up the rain that falls on it and yields a rich harvest."

*Blessed Summer to each and all. ~ Tim*



## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS ~ Mary Ann Marquardt

This is a difficult time for our friends in senior facilities. They are kept isolated from each



other including meal times. We are sending cards and making phone calls to keep in touch. If a friend is capable of understanding how to access Zoom and can access staff assistance, it can create both relief and the happiness of seeing each other.

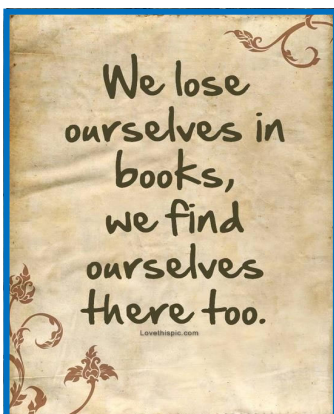
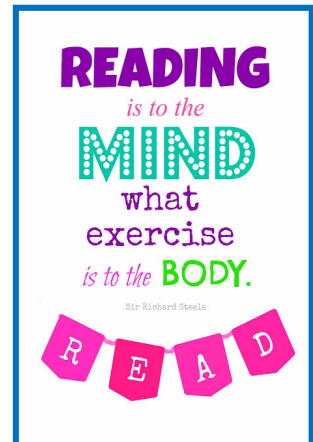
It is a time when we are trying to be creative to add some joy to our friends' lives. If anyone has an idea please let me know! My phone number is 313-303-1989.



## THE FCC READING LIST

For many of us, the luxury of unfettered time and space is the perfect opportunity to disappear into a good book. Whether it causes us to really take pause and think, or allows us to drift in and out of the sometimes surreal and oft times comforting worlds of fiction, a good book can help us to forget what is going on around us and may even inspire us in ways we never imagined possible. With our current state of social distancing keeping most of us at home, we are providing you with some of our favorites. We aren't saying who we are.

- BECOMING by Michelle Obama
- THE BOOK OF FORGIVING by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu
- THE BOOK OF JOY by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu
- BREATH OF THE SOUL by Joan Chittister
- CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR (6 book series) by Jean Auel
- THE FOUR AGREEMENTS by Don Miguel Ruiz
- HOLY ENVY by Barbara Brown Taylor
- INFINITE JEST by David Foster Wallace
- INSPIRED by Rachel Held Evans
- OUTRAGEOUS OPENNESS by Tosha Silver
- PRAYERS TO THE GREAT CREATOR by Julia Cameron
- PROFILES IN COURAGE by John F. Kennedy
- THE SCIENCE OF SUCCESS by Paula J. Caproni, PhD
- THE SECOND MOUNTAIN by David Brooks
- SHOWINGS by Julien of Norwich
- UNTAMED by Glennon Doyle Melton
- THE WHEEL OF LIFE by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross



We wish you all a safe and happy summer! We hope that you will find quiet times to relax, reflect and, maybe even read a good book. Let us know if you find a new favorite among these suggestions. We look forward to any comments. If you would like to see The Reading List in future Couriers, please let Robbie know at [office@fccannarbor.org](mailto:office@fccannarbor.org).





## HEALING SPACE

### WHERE MUSIC, MEDITATION AND PRAYER COME TOGETHER

Healing Space was not able to meet this Spring, but perhaps some have been able to take more moments of prayer and meditation with our slower pace. **Meditation** is a helpful process to deepen our spiritual life as well as to bring a sense of peace and serenity to this time of anxiety and uncertainty. It brings us to the NOW where we can listen for God and for direction in our life.

If you would like to foster this practice this summer, please consider these suggestions:

**Sit comfortably** with a straight spine to allow yourself to breathe fully, arms relaxed with hands open, feet grounded on the floor. Close your eyes and remind yourself that God is with you. "Be still and know that I am God "...Psalm 46:10.



**Breathe naturally**, concentrating on just your breath and finding its slow natural rhythm. Let go of your thoughts and just pay attention to your breath for several minutes. Let any tension or upset be released with each exhale. Let go of your wandering mind and just stay in the now.

For some variety, you can try this option: Consider spending time going through **each of your senses** to heighten your awareness and your connection to what's around you.



Perhaps select a **short phrase from Scripture** and focus on its message.



Or **take time to ask God** for whatever you are in need of whether it is patience, compassion, understanding, courage, strength...As you continue breathing slowly and calmly, let that flow within yourself. As you find yourself filled, send it to others who are also in need.

**Start with 5 or 10 minutes** and increase in small increments. Have a loving attitude towards your practice, let go of self-criticism of how you are doing. Consider doing this exercise as a walking meditation as well.

**Smile** when you are finished and enjoy the feelings of peace and calm spending time in God's presence.

**We will look forward to when we can gather again as a community.**



## GREAT LAKES SCRIP PROGRAM

### NANCY SAUVE, FCC BOOKKEEPER

# 5 Common Online Ordering Questions and Answers



## 1. How do I sign up for online payments?

You have the option to link a bank account or pay with a credit card.

**Link your bank account:** On ShopWithScrip.com, log in and select Dashboard > Family Functions > Payment Types and follow the instructions. OR, on MyScripWallet.com, log in and select Menu > Payment Types and follow the instructions.

**Pay with your credit card:** At checkout on ShopWithScrip.com or MyScripWallet.com on your phone, add your credit card information or select your saved card. Discover, Mastercard, and Visa are accepted.

## 2. How do I reset my PIN to pay with my bank account?

You can only reset your PIN on ShopWithScrip.com, not on MyScripWallet.com. From your cart, if you select bank account as the payment type, you will see a link for "Forgot PIN?" under the space to enter your 4-digit PIN. When you select that link, you'll be asked your security questions and can proceed to reset your PIN.

## 3. I've never ordered eGift cards before. How do they work?

eGift cards are delivered directly to your account instead of being mailed to your coordinator like physical gift cards. Available for more than 400 brands, eGift cards are perfect for last-minute or unplanned purchases, like dining out, a quick shopping trip, or to email someone a last-minute gift.

To shop eGift cards, go to ShopWithScrip.com or MyScripWallet.com on your phone and select Shop > Card Type > eGift Cards.

## 4. How do I find and use eGift cards that I ordered?

When you purchase an eGift card it'll be in your Wallet when it's ready to use. You'll also get an email with instructions on how to use it.

From your Wallet, choose the eGift card to view brand terms of use for instructions on how to use it, and to learn if you should print it or if you can show a digital copy on your phone when shopping at a store. When shopping online, copy and paste the code at checkout to apply it to your purchase.

If the terms of use say you need to provide a printed copy or if you prefer to use a printed version, click on the eGift card from your Wallet and print that page.

## 5. How do I register and add money to a reloadable gift card?

Sign into your account and select the brand you want to register. Choose the Reloadable Card option for that brand, fill in the information, and select Register Card. Now you can add money.

You'll need the card's serial number, then you can name the card so you can differentiate multiple cards from the same brand (like Dad's Starbucks card, Mom's Starbucks card). Reminder that to reload a card, it has to be a gift card that was purchased from ShopWithScrip within the last 12 months, and not have a \$0 balance for more than 60 days.

Shop at ShopWithScrip.com or at MyScripWallet.com on your phone

**Your Enrollment Code:**

484L973E22819



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## PRAYER OF ST. BRENDAN



*"Help me to journey beyond the familiar  
and into the unknown.*

*Give me the faith to leave old ways  
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You  
to be stronger than each storm within me.*

*I will trust in the darkness and know  
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.*

*Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,  
and somehow, make my obedience count for You."*

AMEN.

This prayer is attributed to St. Brendan, the Irish patron saint of sailors. This summer and beyond will be a journey into the unknown. We will experience church and school and culture in ways we have never done so. While we may not be sailing in uncharted waters, literally, I sure feel it spiritually. So may this prayer resonate with you too, as together we pray that God tunes our spirits to the music of heaven as we journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.



## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS AND LAY READERS

The need for communion table flowers and lay readers has been put on hold until the quarantine for the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted and we are able once again to resume public worship services. Though we have no idea when we will actually return to the sanctuary, *hope springs eternal*. You will be the first to know when we are, once again, in need of lay readers and flowers. Please look to the Friday emails and the church website for updates. Your willingness to participate in the worship service in these ways is greatly appreciated.



## CHURCH COUNCIL

### CHRIS VERMEULEN, CHURCH COUNCIL 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 Co-Chairs	Jane DeLancey, 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	Rick Muhs, Kristy Stoneburner
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:**

- The final version of the Mission, Vision, and Core Values have been accepted by Church Council and will be published. Please see page 21 for the FCC Core Identity.

##### **Annual Meeting:**

- Planning for an online Annual Meeting, June 14, to approve the 2020-2021 Budget and list of nominees.

##### **Review of By-Laws:**

- The updated Bylaws are available on the website for review by the Congregation. Currently, the plan is to present the revised Bylaws for approval at a special meeting once the building is reopened. The Bylaws Committee, appointed by the Church Council, met several times and had discussions with ministers, officers, and the Church Council. Most of the changes are clarifications so the Bylaws are aligned with the operation of the Church. Following is a summary of the changes recommended:
  - ◇ Clarification of membership status (see Section 3.1)
  - ◇ Combining employment matters into one section (see Section 5.1.c)
  - ◇ Clarification of responsibilities of Church Council (see Section 5.2.a)
  - ◇ All the Treasurer and Board of Trustees to conduct an audit, BUT does not require an audit (see Section 6.4.b)

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

### CHRIS VERMEULEN, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

(continued from page 12)

- ◇ Clarification of the budget process (see Section 6.4.c)

If you have questions, please contact Chris Vermeulen, Church Council Secretary.

#### **Task Force for Opening the Church:**

- A group was formed to look into planning how and when the Church will be opened after the Stay-At-Home order has ended.

#### **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:**

June 14 - Annual Meeting

June 15 - Council Meeting

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### LYNDA NORTON, CHAIR

While these protective measures are difficult for everyone, it is difficult for everyone in their own unique ways. I hope that the buddy system that Darcy has been setting up will be a source of comfort and connection to many members, especially those who may be more isolated. In addition, as we're not able to gather in person for services or meetings, Bob and Darcy and the rest of the FCC staff have been wonderful in providing other opportunities for fellowship, with streaming church services (with beautiful music!) and video chat small groups. If you've not yet had the opportunity to watch a service or to participate in an on line group, please do. They are a welcome respite to our long days. The FCC website has information and links to all of this, including the buddy system.



As we all hunker down for a while, I hope that you take the time to connect or reconnect with family and friends near and far, to go for long walks, to play games with your family, to cook delicious meals, or read a good book. Flowers and trees will be blooming very soon, and we will be able to connect in person soon as well.

*Please stay home and stay safe.  
Peace!*



## TREASURER'S REPORT

### MIKE DABBS

### First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor 2019 – 2020 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT - *Preliminary* April 30, 2020

	ACTUAL 4/30/20	APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/19 – 6/30/20	NOTES
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Pledges	\$420,054	\$535,000	1
Gifts – Operations	\$50,466	\$53,500	
Other Income	\$41,257	\$31,457	
Special Funds Transfer	<u>\$12,500</u>	<u>\$24,701</u>	2
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$524,277</b>	<b>\$644,658</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Ministry	\$193,171	\$240,975	
Administrative/Office	\$216,929	\$325,738	
Christian Education	\$42,867	\$53,080	
Music	\$52,923	\$73,121	
Missions & Outreach	\$31,339	\$36,075	
Maintenance & Utilities	<u>\$63,681</u>	<u>\$93,915</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$600,910</b>	<b>\$822,904</b>	
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>(\$76,633)</b>	<b>(\$178,246)</b>	
<b>TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION</b>	+\$170,000	+\$186,964	3
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$93,367</b>	<b>\$8,718</b>	

#### Notes

1. 2019-2020 Approved Budget Pledges anticipates \$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. 2019-2020 Budget projected distribution from trust and endowment funds is 6%.



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **MIKE DABBS**

#### **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 the Principal payment, nor the capital repair expenses are reflected in the Annual Budget.

#### **REVENUE**

1. April pledge payments were \$69,414 compared to \$30,302 last year. This fantastic level of pledge payments allows us to close the gap between actual to budget. The Trustees and I are very appreciative of all members' efforts to make their pledge payments; realizing the extra effort required due to the pandemic. Please continue making an effort to pay your pledges over the next two months of the fiscal year; as we are still short of our year-to-date budget by nearly \$24,000.
2. I have revised the potential total revenue shortfall for the fiscal year to \$50,000. Fortunately, our Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan (this is the one of the federal stimulus loan programs that FCC obtained through its bank, The Bank of Ann Arbor) is expected to mitigate this potential shortfall. For clarity purposes, the PPP loan is not reflected in the financial statement since it is a loan and not revenue. This loan may be forgiven in total, or partially based on documentation that we will need to provide.

#### **EXPENSES**

Actual expenses are within the year-to-date budget and actually, some areas are less than budget. Some of these savings have been realized due to us not having church services. Savings include: reduced utilities, some reduction of payroll with not having a choir and childcare; as well as not filling the Administrative Assistant position until January 2021.

#### **TRUSTEES RECEIVE FINANCIAL REVIEW**

At May's Trustees' Meeting, the Trustees accepted the Financial Review (similar to an audit) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019 from UHY. This is the second year, UHY has done the review, which allowed them to show a comparison of 2019 to 2018. If members would like to see a copy of the Review, please contact Nancy Sauve at [nancy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:nancy@fccannarbor.org) or Michael Dabbs at [mfdabbs10@gmail.com](mailto:mfdabbs10@gmail.com).



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**  
**MIKE DABBS, CHAIR**



**NEW**  
**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TOTAL**  
**ANNOUNCED**

The Capital Campaign Fundraising Team is ecstatic to announce that \$1,949,142 has been contributed by 171 members during our one-and-a-half year Capital Campaign, VISION 175! In addition, our general contractor for the renovation project, Phoenix Construction has made a \$5,000 reduction in their fees in support of the campaign! 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 175<sup>th</sup> 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.

*"Please accept our heart-felt thanks to all members!"*

*thank you!*

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

Thank you to the Deacons who are an active welcoming presence in our online worship service each Sunday morning. You model the Church's mission each Sunday.

While the services are live streaming and therefore our roles are reduced on Sunday mornings, Deacons would like to continue serving our community as best we can. Please



reach out if you have thoughts or ideas on how we can serve you better.

Finally, to those Deacons who are rotating off at the end of June: Thank you for your service. And, to those who are new in July: Welcome! We are excited to start working with you as we serve the Church.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DESIGN COMMITTEE

### DAN JACOBS, CHAIR

One positive that has come from the Covid-19 Pandemic is that it will allow the Capital Campaign project to finish a month earlier than expected. Our initial plan was to be ready by mid-September but due to the stay at home order that date moved out to mid-October. Once the decision to do services remotely was made we were able to negotiate with the contractor to move up the completion date to early September, actually earlier than originally planned.

I hope everyone has been catching Bob get a start on his second career as an HGTV host of 'This Old Church'. The Design Team has been meeting weekly together to discuss issues that come up and weekly with the contractor to resolve project situations. As any of you who have been involved with a renovation project of an old building knows, there are always bumps along the way that need to be smoothed out to keep the process moving. FCC is no different.

We are pleased with the progress that is being made and hope you will be as excited as we are about the final product. New stud walls are helping to frame out the reality of the new spaces and giving us a glimpse of the future. We are grateful for the Focus Groups for the design decisions that they have made and their priorities have helped direct decisions that come up along the way.

One other nice thing that has happened is that many bits and pieces of our church have become parts of other people's homes. We have tried to recycle elements where possible and avoid sending them to landfills. Our solar panels are producing plenty of electricity and we can't wait to share all the changes with you when we return in the fall.



*"I shall pass through this world but once.  
Any good, therefore, that I can do  
or any kindness I can show to any human being,  
let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it,  
for I shall not pass this way again."*

*~ Stephen Grellet*



## MUSIC COMMITTEE

### MICHELLE JOHNS AND MARIJEAN QUIGLEY-YOUNG



#### Mission Statement

*We enthusiastically support the creation and enhancement of music within the worship service.*

#### Vision Statement

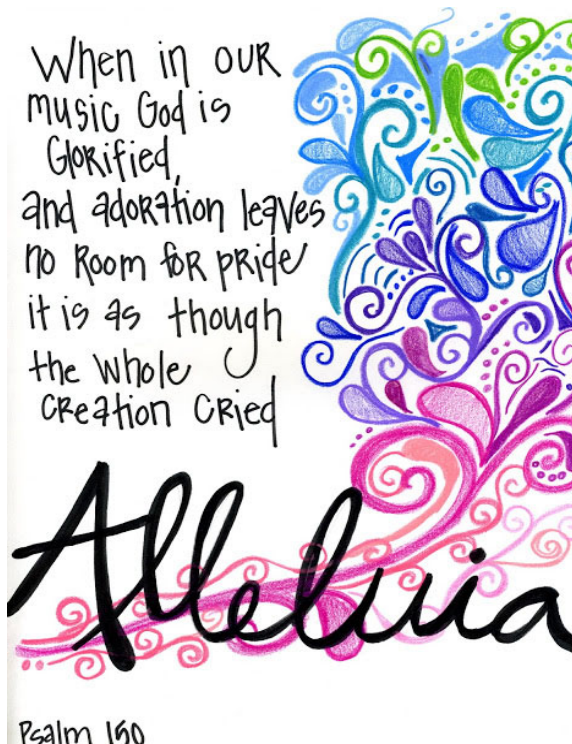
*We embrace music as an integral part of our spiritual experience.*

Music has continued to be a major part of our worship services, although being online since March, 2020. Throughout this time of shut down due to Covid-19 pandemic, our music staff has made outstanding contributions for our blended worship services. Thanks to Shohei Kobayshi, Terry Farmer, Tim Huth, and Joshua Marzan, our musical offerings and inspiration have continued at the highest level of expertise. *A sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you for adapting so quickly and so artistically to the new medium of our church services.*

- The search for a new Chancel Choir Director continues, as we reluctantly bid Shohei a fond farewell, as he relocates to Oregon to become an Assistant Professor of Music at Reed University. As a Music Committee, we unanimously decided to hire an Interim Choir Director, due to the Coronavirus shut down. In like mind, our committee also supported a group of three, consisting of Bob Livingston, Willis Patterson, and Mj Quigley-Young, to conduct the search for an Interim Chancel Choir Director. As of this writing, we have interviewed 3 candidates who are interested in the position specifically as an Interim Director. We hope to have someone in place by August 2020. *Please include our search in your prayers, as you pray for our whole church community.*

- Choir Robe Cleaning: During the summer months, our robes will be professionally cleaned by a local dry cleaners, to be ready in the Fall of 2020. Special thanks to Paul Fossum for volunteering to head the implementation of this project. Thanks to Cindy Bylsma for securing estimates from various cleaners in the area.

- Our Wilhelm Organ cleaning and re-tuning has been postponed due to the current pandemic.



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### BRIAN CONNELLY, CHAIR



### Stewardship Campaign in Final Stages

#### GET YOUR PLEDGE IN NOW!

Hopefully, you have already made your pledge for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. If not, now is the time as we hope to have all pledges in by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Trustees are working on the final stages of the new budget and need to know if we will reach our pledge goal of \$500,000. This goal was reduced because the coronavirus pandemic has hit some of our members hard forcing them to reduce their financial pledges. Our new budget will be voted on by the congregation at the June 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and takes effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you have not made your pledge yet, please consider at least matching last years pledge or if possible, increasing it. If on the other hand, the pandemic has affected your ability to pledge, please know that we understand and support your decision.

And if you have already pledged, a very sincere thank you.

## ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

### ROBBIE SAWITSKI, CHAIR

We are sorry to report that our last scheduled event was cancelled due to the pandemic. We had contracted with the State Street Association to once again oversee the Rubbish and Recycling (R&R Event) for the Ann Arbor Art Fair in July. The biggest loss was the fundraising potential for the intergenerational and youth mission trips, as well as to boost the AFC. We have a plan...when it is time to put our church back in order after the construction is done, and we can all safely come together, we will have a different R&R Event. There are many 'treasures' that were unearthed during the 'pack it all up and put it away stage' of the pre-construction work. When we are able, we will have a Rummage and Re-Use Sale to support the cost of a youth mission trip. Stay tuned for more details in the September Courier!

We all fiercely miss our ability to congregate and have our good times with all of you. It's what we do, and we WILL DO IT AGAIN! Keep the faith, have hope, stay safe, be kind and, above all else, love.

*Happy Summer to all our friends!*



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

### PAM DABBS

We have been very busy over the last couple of months...mostly staying home, but also reaching out to the community in all sorts of ways! The M&O Committee may come up with the ideas, but you, the members of FCC always rise to our call and give and give beyond all expectations! You are a faith community who we as members of the Missions & Outreach Committee, are so proud to represent! Below, please find how you have helped the community during this season of quarantine!

The Covid-19 stay home orders included the closing of our schools and with this came many children who would no longer be getting food at breakfast and lunch through the school system...at least at the very beginning, but then the schools rallied! As a committee, we decided to donate \$500 to Community Action Network (CAN) to help support the needs to feed the children and their families during the initial phase of the quarantine. We have a long term relationship with CAN, which goes back years and years and this just seemed like the right thing to do!

In addition, other groups supporting those in need through food distributions have been heavily drained because of so many more people seeking assistance. Again, we decided to use our "Life Happens" fund to give money to bolster the growing food requests: Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels, Ypsilanti Meals On Wheels, Jewish Family Services Food Pantry and Cass Community Social Services. Each organization was given \$575.

With the support of FCC Missions & Outreach, two couples in our church: Bob and Sara Holmes and Greg and Mary Jackson (M&O members) replaced our food pantry box in the Mayflower Lobby with their home porches becoming the drop-off spots. Each week these couples have collected food/supply items which you have purchased and delivered to them....then, they load it all into their cars and the Holmes' deliver it to Cass in Detroit and the Jackson's deliver it to Jewish Family Services in Ann Arbor. We must say, we have been amazed at the amount of items collected and delivered! We are sure the receiving organizations have gratefully felt your support in a big way!



The Jewish Family Services Easter/Resettlement Tree was a big success considering we were trying this mission effort for the first time online. Instead of buying specific items, scrip cards were sold to help those becoming newly situated in our country. Our members bought \$850 in scrip cards and as M&O promised, we supplemented with an additional \$650 in card purchases for a grand total of \$1500. WOW! Thank you all!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

### PAM DABBS

Lastly, M&O worked with the church office (Robbie) to organize the effort to find sewers to make masks, then collected the masks and finally are in the process of delivering them to any of you who might need one. The outpouring of help on this has been heartwarming to see. The sewers include: Sally Bowers, Gae Miller and Jan Fyall. They have generously donated supplies, their skills in making the masks and a lot of time! In addition, Jane DeLancey donated material and Betty Bishop elastic, which has become hard to find! Another thank you goes to Gail Haynes for her help with deliveries. So....with all this loving effort being put into helping YOU, OUR MEMBERS, find masks, **PLEASE, call the office at 734-662-1679 and LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED ONE!!**

Thank you again for all you have done to help in so many ways! Your generosity has been one of the BRIGHT spots in all these weeks of staying at home....can't wait to actually see you in person someday soon...



## FCC CORE IDENTITY

### Mission:

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

### Vision:

**We are a joyous spiritual home, welcoming and valuing all people, engaging God's Word, and enriching lives.**

### Core Values:

**Compassion** – We are a deeply caring faith community, demonstrating God's universal love and mutual respect.

**Joy and Positivity** – We are a faith community that faces life with open-mindedness, positivity, and a generous spirit.

**Integrity** – We are a faith community that builds trust through a commitment to authenticity and guided by the humility of Christ.

**Courage** – We are a faith community committed to persevere and grow in the midst of challenges and opportunities.

**Inclusive** – Whatever your story, we accept you as you are and believe God's doors are open to all.

## SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

*Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all gatherings at the church have been cancelled. Many meetings are being held electronically. Your group leader will contact you or please watch your Friday emails for more information regarding all church meetings and gatherings.*

### TEXT BREAKFAST

Please join us Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. with Rev. Bob Livingston on Zoom! Our lively discussions include sharing our understandings, insights, and questions about the scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon. Please email Bob at [bob@fccannarbor.org](mailto:bob@fccannarbor.org) if you would like to join us.

### MIND AND SPIRIT BOOK GROUP

Mind and Spirit book group has been meeting on Zoom this Spring. It's been a very special experience for us to support each other during this challenging time while also sharing books that inspire us to grow. We welcome any women of the church who would like to join us. We will continue to meet on Zoom this summer. If you do not have the Zoom app, it is possible to phone in to the meeting. We also maintain an active prayer chain.

We will start the summer by reading Pema Chodron's When Things Fall Apart, Heart Advice for Difficult Times. We are meeting Wednesday's from 10-11:30. If you would like more information or would like to be added to our email list, please contact Gail Haynes at [gehaynes@aol.com](mailto:gehaynes@aol.com).

### 20 / 40 SMALL GROUP

We have gone through our changes of names, but we are generally a group of young/mid-life adults who journey through the terrain of life together. Some are parents, some not, some are married, some not. All of us are committed to learning how to better live out our faith amidst a group of loving friends, so that is what we seek to do.

This summer we are still gathering by Zoom on Wednesday nights at 6 pm. We will continue to do so until we learn more about how we may be able to gather safely in person. If you'd like to join in, or you want to be on the email list please contact Darcy at [darcy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:darcy@fccannarbor.org). Our group traditionally meets Wednesday night, and when gatherings are in person, childcare is provided.

Jesus was in a small group.



life change happens in small groups

# *Congratulations!*

## FCC COLLEGE / GRADUATE SCHOOL GRADUATES

**Marina Baker** (UM) Mathematics Degree, Minor in Physics.

**Colin Bott** (UM) Mechanical Engineering Degree.

**Joey Costello** (UM) Electrical Engineering Degree; going into a PhD at UM.

**Katey Jahnke** (University of Iowa) PhD, Doctor of Musical Arts

**Micaela Keller** (Princeton University) Majoring in Politics with a Minor in AA studies.

**Jack Kelley** (MSU) BS in Economics with an International Relations from James Madison School.

**Margaret Koester** (UM) BS in Bimolecular Science and will attend medical school at University of Miami in FL in July.

**Zeke Majeske** (UM) Industrial and Operations Engineering Degree.

**Maris Reid** (MSU) Masters in Speech Pathology.

**Robert Schirmer** (Loyola University) Engineering Degree, Minor in Chinese.

**Lillian Skiba-Thayer** (Central Michigan University) Double-Major in Psychology and Neuroscience; will continue to Graduate School after a gap year.

**Brendan Spencer** (Butler University) Majored in Health Sciences.

**Marie White** (UM) Majoring in Sociology; will be entering the School of Social Work.

## FCC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

**Ashley Harlock** Livonia Churchill High School.

**Robbie Haviland** Pioneer High School.

**Natalie Johnson** Dexter High School.

**Owen Kelley** Huron High School.

**Michael Overdier** Pioneer High School.

**Peri Patterson** Skyline High School.



*"Hooray...we made it."*



The First  
Congregational  
Church of Ann Arbor

[fccannarbor.org](http://fccannarbor.org)

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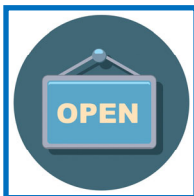
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Join us on  
Facebook

## REACHING OUT TO YOU AND STAYING IN TOUCH

- We will be having ONE worship service available online on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. (Please remember the building will be closed on Sunday morning). The service will be a blended service, utilizing our wonderful traditional and contemporary musicians. I think you will like the variety! Please watch your Friday email and our Website for updates on how you can connect on Sunday morning. After the service has ended it will be linked to the homepage of our website so you can access it throughout the week.
- Our Communications Specialist, Crystal, will be monitoring the live-stream and will be able to help with most technical difficulties. She is diligently following your comments and feedback at this time so we can refine and perfect this process.
- The FCC Buddy Program is still active. If this is something you would like to participate in, and you haven't already done so, please sign up or learn more at [www.fccannarbor.org/buddy-system](http://www.fccannarbor.org/buddy-system) or call the office at 734-662-1679.
- For your spiritual nurture, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we are posting videos, and on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, we are posting devotionals. These videos and devotionals are being prepared by various staff and other guests. Please check these out daily, as a way to "Look Up During Uncertain Times", by going to the link <https://www.fccannarbor.org/news-blog/>.



- Although the church building is closed, the church office is **VIRTUALLY OPEN**. During the Summer months, Robbie is available Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. She has full access to the office files and calendar. The office phone number, 734-662-1679, rings through to her cell phone during these hours. After hours messages come to her email, so you are always in touch with us.

*Please call anytime!*

*Engaging God's word and enriching lives.*