

Congregational Courier

THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

As I reflect on the future and the transitions ahead of us as a church, there are two quotes I like that I think are relevant for us. The first quote is a well-known quote from the ancient philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, who once said, "There is nothing permanent except change." The second quote is another favorite of mine, this time quoted by our 35th President, John F. Kennedy, who once said, "Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future."



I think both of these quotes aptly address our current circumstances. Yes, change is inevitable, and Yes, we must look to our future and not dwell on the past. This is certainly my desire for FCC. As I must now begin to say goodbye and Godspeed to you as your senior minister, and as I prepare to retire the end of June, we also find ourselves saying hello and "go-get-'em" to Darcy as she becomes the new senior minister of our church.

Candidly, I think this is a good time, and the right time, for us to do both. Immersed in the celebration of our 175th Anniversary and the Lenten and Easter season, we are thinking a lot about legacy, inspiration, dedication, reflection, renewal, and hope. All of these important elements are part of the transitional experience. As we look back to see where we have come from, we also look forward to imagine what God has in store for our future...trusting that God, who provides loving and eternal presence, and resurrection hope and power, is profoundly with us and guiding us now. This is something important to hang on to!

So as we live these next months together, I encourage us to live with eyes looking forward in faith and anticipation, knowing God is within

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Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here



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HELLO SPRING!



us and with us and that God embraces our yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Blessings,



Bob Livingston

**SUNDAY IN-PERSON AND LIVESREAM WORSHIP
AND CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

8:50—11:15 a.m.	Childcare available for Nursery and Preschool
8:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Starting April 10)
9:00 a.m.	COP (Change of Pace), Pilgrim Hall
9:30 a.m.	Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship, Sanctuary, and FCC Kidz Programming
11:00 a.m.	Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall

The 9:00 a.m. Change of Pace service and the 10 a.m. Traditional worship service will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Masks are optional and will be available at all doors, as well as touch-free hand sanitizers.



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 in 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!

DARCY CRAIN

MINISTER



Next Steps, Broader Vision

The excitement of the Feb. 6 vote to confirm that FCC has called me as FCC's next Senior Minister was incredible. As that reality sets in, it leaves room for the next logical question: what next? Are we finding someone to replace me as Associate Minister? Who? And what does that search process look like?

In the vision I have for staffing and structuring, especially in our programming and ministerial staff, I envision something different than the traditional Senior Minister, Associate Minister, and an almost full-time Director of Children's Ministry. This has been our framework for decades, I know. This model has supported churches I was raised in, and my parents were raised in. And the truth is, our churches are changing. Our needs are changing. Our world has changed faster than we could keep up. Perhaps how we structure our ministerial staff to meet the needs and to provide growth opportunities must change as well.

Yes, I envision a second minister on staff. No, I don't think that minister will fulfill the traditional associate minister role, nor would that title be accurate. This title would more accurately be known as a Minister of Faith Formation. What would they do? Lead spiritual and faith formation and development, for youth, for adults, and for families. How? By providing the linking of our theology with our action; providing meaningful opportunities to love our neighbor through serving and learning. Would they be seminary-trained and ordained? Yes. What would I do? Lead our staff, preach, lead small groups and Bible studies, provide pastoral care, and partner with this Minister to provide the kind of support and growth our church needs in this post-pandemic era.

Wait, so you're taking 2.75 full-time positions and putting them into two? Not exactly. There has been a move in recent years in church structure to move away from full-time generalists, and towards part-time specialists. What if the organizational needs of the youngest in our FCC Kidz program could be met by someone working 8-10 hours a week? What if the minister who no longer wanted to be in full-time ministry but still desires to serve in some limited capacity wanted to help with intermittent preaching, or pastoral care, or small group leadership? These are the questions that invite the possibilities of restructure in a way that makes the most sense for the needs we have now and the growth we envision. Yes, it will be different. Yes, your needs as a member of our beloved faith family will still be met. Yes, I believe changing the structure will foster the kind of growth and stability we all desire. So, are we hiring a replacement for me? Not exactly. We are building a team that will lead FCC towards vitality and growth. And I am excited and confident of the future.



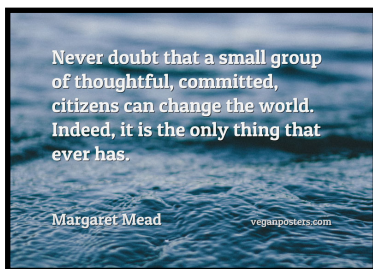
A PRAYER OF BLESSING IN GRATITUDE OF MOTHERS

Lord, today, we pray for mothers everywhere. **Bless mothers** who are expecting a baby. Calm their fears and keep their new little life safe. **Bless mothers** who have babies and toddlers and are in a busy season of bottles, sippy cups, and endless laundry. Give strength to moms of little ones. They need it, Lord. **Bless mothers** who have busy school-aged children. Gift them with an extra measure of wisdom to answer questions, model maturity, and mold young hearts. **Bless mothers** who parent teens. Allow them the grace to let go when needed and the courage to provide firm boundaries when required. **Bless mothers** of adult children that they would savor the joy of friendship with their child. **Bless single mothers** with the strength to fulfill many roles. Provide them with supportive people in their lives. **Bless grandmothers** who have the double blessing of being both mother and grandmother. May they spoil their grandkids with abandon. We pray for peace for mothers who have lost a child and for women who are grieving because of infertility. Give us eyes to see women around us who struggle to mother well. Help us be the hands and feet of Jesus to them. Thank you for our mothers. They gave us life and for that gift we are forever grateful. We pray for mothers everywhere. In Jesus' name, Amen. - www.theholymess.com



FCC CORE VALUE STORY ON INTEGRITY AND POSITIVITY ROBBIE SAWITSKI

I recently had the honor of assisting with the memorial service for our dear friend and FCC member, Sally Bowers. One of my duties was to arrange for ushers to be present prior to and during the service. I knew this would be a well-attended service, and a complete group of ushers would make a big difference in my ability to be present for anything the family needed, as well as to be able to walk around and make sure things were going smoothly. I needed 12 ushers, mainly in case of no-shows due to unforeseen reasons. My first email was to the Time and Talent volunteers. The replies brought three volunteers. My second email went to 'my peeps'; those people who I know I can count on to step up at all times if they are available. In less than 24 hours, I had more willing ushers than I needed to take care of this very special offering of love. It was like loaves and fishes! Was I surprised? Not at all! Was I grateful? More than you will ever know! I realized what a difference all the volunteers made by all the comments from the family about how helpful we were as a church, and how special we made them feel. The family knew how much Sally was loved and would be missed, and that was the most important thing!



REVEREND DARCY CRAIN, VOTED SENIOR MINISTER OF FCC! DICK MITCHELL AND JANE PETTIT

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) is excited to announce the calling of Reverend Darcy Crain to be the next Senior Minister for FCC!

The PSC spent ten months working together and meeting both remotely and in person. We collected input from our community members to write a job description that reflected the shared vision for FCC's next senior minister. We partnered with The Shepherd's Staff (TSS, an experienced staffing firm specializing in ministerial vetting and searches) who conducted multiple interviews to learn about the unique qualities of our church. We read the extensive report of the TSS findings. Lastly, we conducted one final survey, seeking input from all church members on our progress.

Considering this extensive collection of information and input, the committee continued to meet, discuss, pray and compassionately consider our decision.

In mid-December, the committee voted unanimously to recommend Rev. Crain as the next FCC Senior Minister. The committee's recommendation was taken to the church members for a vote on Sunday, February 6, 2022. Reverend Darcy Crain was voted to be our next senior minister!

Immediately after the membership vote, we messaged Rev. Crain inviting her to return to the sanctuary. When she arrived, applause erupted!



Thank you to the committee members for your service and commitment to FCC:

Co-chairs: Dick Mitchell and Jane Pettit

Committee members:
Janet Allen, Colleen Creal,
Beth Cron, Wanda Dawson,
Paul Eggleston, Paul Fossum,
Mark Foster, Sara Holmes,
David Steiner

CHURCH COUNCIL

CHRIS VERMEULEN, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Elected Positions

Church Council Chair: Bruce Pringle
Church Council Vice-Chair: Ellen Rambo
Secretary: Chris Vermeulen
Treasurer: Mike Dabbs
Clerk: Gae Miller
Historian: Betty Bishop

Remaining Positions Filled by Board and Committee Positions

Board of Deacons Co-Chairs: Michael Makin
Board of Trustees Chair: Rick Reid
Board of Christian Education Chair: Val Towery
Missions and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs: Greg Eggleston
Director of Children's Ministry: open
Music Committee Chair: Paul Fossum
Nominating Committee Co-Chairs: Rick Muhs and Kristy Stoneburner
Activities and Fellowship Chair: Robbie Sawitski
Contemporary Issues Committee Chair: Sara Holmes
Ministers: Bob Livingston and Darcy Crain

Current Activities

Task Force for Opening the Church:

- The Opening the Church Task Force continues to review the health guidelines from the state. At this time the building remains open with mask optional. The status is subject to change as needed (updates are published in the Monday/Friday emails).

Director of Children's Ministry:

- An offer will be made to a candidate for Director of Children's Ministry position.

Senior Minister Transition:

- Looking into changing the ministerial staff structure away from a Minister/Associate Minister structure to one that provides more direct focus on rebuilding the family and individual connections post Covid, and provide support for the Senior Minister. This new structure will provide flexibility for our changing needs.

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.

CHRIS VERMEULEN
ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Spring Program Continues.

We have classes for all ages through 8th grade.



As winter's snowmen shrink and go into hibernation until next winter, we continue to travel with Jesus through the stories in the book of Luke. We will look at the stories of his arrival in Jerusalem and the activities of the week leading up to his resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter Sunday.



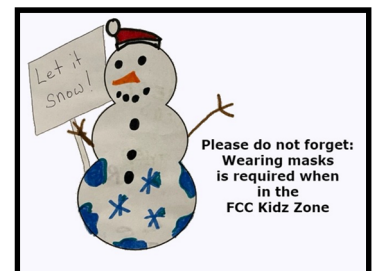
Like the travelers on the Emmaus Road, we will discover that Jesus continues to be with us as we travel through the world.

The final portion of the Spring Program will remind us that God provides for our needs. Like spring in the sanctuary, there is enough for all. Our stories will come from Exodus, 1 Kings, Proverbs, John, and Mark. The Bible is a wonderful source of inspiration as we move forward in a world of change, and that love will be our source of strength.

As always, we are very grateful for the several members of the Congregation that help by volunteering for FCC Kidz. We could not provide this learning environment for our youth without their help. If you would like to be a volunteer (and we are in need of volunteers), please contact Chris at FCCKidz@fccannarbor.org.



We continue to require masks on the lower level of the Church, where FCC Kidz Zone is located. There are signs in various entry points to remind all (adults too) to wear a mask.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

GREG EGGLESTON

JFS GIVING TREE: Household Items for Refugees

It is Easter season, time for our caring FCC family to again help refugees, addressing a request of Jesus to His disciples. Our neighbors at Jewish Family Services-Ann Arbor coordinate refugee resettlement in partnership with the U.S. State Department. Your FCC Mission and Outreach Committee asks for your participation in contributing household items requested by JFS through this year's *JFS GIVING TREE* outreach. To help, come to the Smith Welcome Center to choose from the *JFS Giving Tree* bulletin board an Easter egg tag labeled with a needed item. Alternatively, you may donate to FCC toward gift cards to be used for refugee household purchases (see below for how to donate).



Household Items Needed

Bring items to FCC on Sundays:

April 3, 10, and 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M.

Please attach the Easter egg tag to your donation so tags can be re-used.

NEW or USED in good condition

Bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths	Silverware in sets of 4 or more
Twin sheet sets, twin comforters, bed pillows	Drinking glasses in sets of 4 or more
Large kitchen trash cans with lids	Frying pans and larger stock pots
Bathroom trash cans and bath rugs	Pressure cookers (stove top type)
Spatulas, wooden spoons, serving spoons	

NEW **NEW or USED in good condition**

Bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths	Silverware in sets of 4 or more
Twin sheet sets, twin comforters, bed pillows	Drinking glasses in sets of 4 or more
Large kitchen trash cans with lids	Frying pans and larger stock pots
Bathroom trash cans and bath rugs	Pressure cookers (stove top type)

Obtain an item tag at the Giving Tree bulletin board at the Smith Welcome Center.

***Donations for GIFT CARDS:** If you prefer to donate money for the purchase of a **\$25 Gift Card**, here are ways to do so:

- You may put checks or cash in the offering plate during Sunday morning services. **Make checks payable to FCC-Ann Arbor. On the description line write “JFS Giving Tree”. If cash, write on the donation envelope “JFS Giving Tree”.**
- You may send a check made payable to FCC-Ann Arbor, PO Box 7970, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-7970. Note: for “JFS Giving Tree”.
- Online, go to www.fccannarbor.org. Choose the **Donate** tab. Indicate the amount you wish to contribute. In the comment, write **“for JFS Giving Tree”**.
- Text **OPENTOALL to 73256**. This will take you to the same sequence as online giving, noted above.

All monetary donations will be used to purchase Meijer, Walmart, or Target gift cards from the FCC Scrip Program (a double good...profits from the Scrip Program are used for future FCC mission/work projects). **Please complete your donation by Tuesday, April 19.**

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MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

GREG EGGLESTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

This year's *JFS Giving Tree* donations are especially critical. In response to the U.S. mission to resettle refugees from Afghanistan, JFS has since September welcomed 291 Afghan refugees, including 84 families. Their efforts are on-going. JFS reports that between December 2021 and March 4, 2022 they have moved 1 to 6 families per week into housing. We appreciate how generous our congregation has been to our FCC outreach efforts for JFS clients. We ask your continued support through participation in this Easter's *JFS Giving Tree*.

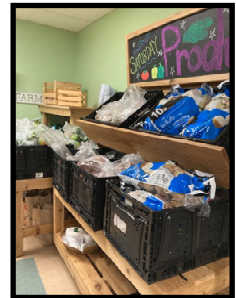
For questions, contact Missions and Outreach committee member Suzanne Price. Text or call 734-957-6320 or email her at sunshinespecialstudio@gmail.com.



FOOD DONATIONS FOR HOPE CLINIC

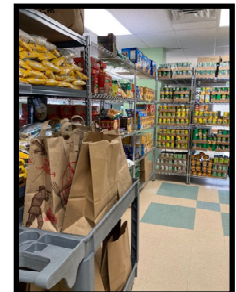
GAIL HAYNES

When one thinks about the services that **Hope Clinic** provides to our community, one usually thinks about the **medical, dental and vision services**; of this free clinic. But they also are the largest free **food program** in our county! These services include a pantry of choice where shoppers pick the food they want including dairy, meat and fresh produce, a delivery service for those who do not have transportation, a farm stand that provides fresh produce, a hot meal program 6 days a week, emergency food bags, and baby care items.



Our church is a partner church with Hope Clinic with regular monetary contributions. In addition, our food donations are currently going to them. **Please consider these suggestions for your donations:** Low sodium canned goods, whole grained pastas, salad dressings, spaghetti sauce, jelly, your favorite cereal, diapers (size 5 and 6), sanitary pads, shampoo, and, laundry detergent.

Hope Clinic believes in providing care for the whole person and treating each person with dignity. They are ranked 4 stars by Charity Navigators. All donations are appreciated and put to use to alleviate the many needs in our community. **Donations can be put in the food collection shelves in the Smith Welcome Center.**



LENTEN MEDITATION CONCERT TIMOTHY HUTH



These photos are from the Lenten meditation concert which took place at our church on Sunday, March 13th.

The University of Michigan baroque ensemble under Joseph Gascho sang the Lenten Buxtehude Cantata 'Membra Jesu Nostri' (The limbs of our Jesus) along with works on the big organ and harpsichord.



AN EASTER TIDE CELEBRATION CONCERT SPONSORED BY ACCM IN COLLABORATION WITH FCC

Aaron Tan Organist

Pipe Organ Concert: First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor/American Center of Church Music. Organist and U-M grad Aaron Tan in concert on the church's 41-stop Karl Wilhelm Organ. Tan won first prize in the 2021 Canadian International Organ competition. The program includes David Hurd's *Partita on Detroit*, as well as works by Bach, Bruhns, Alain, and Muffat. By donation.

Saturday, April 30, 2022 - 7 p.m.
The First Congregational Church
608 E. William Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



MUSIC COMMITTEE
PAUL FOSSUM, CHAIR ~AND~ CINDY BYLSMA, MEMBER

Can you believe this is the first week of Spring? Out of an abundance of caution, we began our season in September 2021 with a pause on Chancel Choir. With such beautiful music planned for Easter and Mother's Day, we are pleased to announce the return of the Chancel Choir! We are singing again, and we are proceeding safely. Our first Sunday to sing will be Palm Sunday, with rehearsal at 8:30 a.m.

We will punctuate Easter celebrations with an offering of the hymn "The Royal Banners Forward Fly" and a reprisal of "Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning". We will conclude the season with Allen Pote's adaptation of Psalm 92 - a joyous, uplifting celebration of the Psalmist's command to give thanks for God's goodness and to sing, rejoice and be glad.

Please contact Darnell directly at darnell.ishmel@gmail.com if you wish to join us in singing with Chancel Choir.

Terry Farmer and the Change of Pace is planning for the Spring:

March 27 - Full band for our anniversary Sunday

April 3 - Mike Harrington on Pedal Steel Guitar

April 16 Easter Eve Service at 4:09 p.m. - Full band with various repertoire aligned with the Easter Story.

May 8 - Full Band for Mother's Day

May 15 - Final Change of Pace service for season

Tim Huth brings delight to our hearts during Holy Week. Please join us:

Maundy Thursday at FCC and listen to 'The Celestial Banquet' by Olivier Messiaen and the beautiful Brahms Chorale Preludes 'O Welt, ich muss dich lassen!' (O World, I now must leave you) and the 'Passion Chorale' (O Sacred Head now wounded).



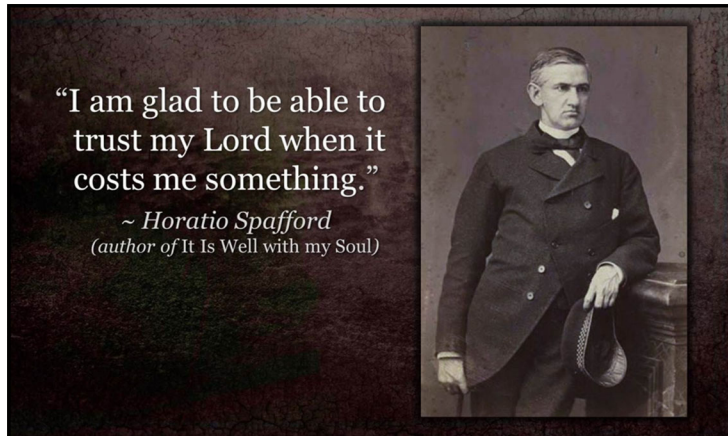
Good Friday Services at First Methodist (corner State/Huron). Our church will conduct the 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. portion of the Good Friday Service.

Easter at FCC is an organ toccata-fest with Bach's great Toccata in F (BWV 540) and the Toccata from Charles-Marie Widor's Symphony V.

Invite your friends and family to celebrate this Holy Season at First Congregational Church!

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE HYMN “WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER (IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL)”

One of the hymns included in FCC services is “When Peace, Like a River (It is Well with My Soul)” written by Horatio G. Spafford. FCC member, Lou Saalbach, was intrigued by the historical end note that appears with each hymn. In 1873 Spafford wrote it out of grief over the loss of his four daughters in the sinking of the *SS Ville du Havre*.

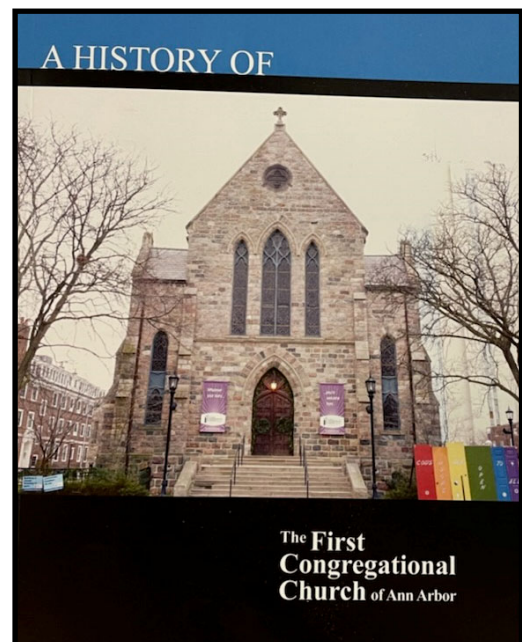


Saalbach wanted to know the whole story and decided to take a “deep dive” into the history of events that surrounded the tragedy. He reveals information about the ship itself, the sinking and Spafford’s life after the tragedy.

It is a compelling “read” of love, grief and devotion. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact Sheila Wonders at sheila@fccannarbor.org or call the office (734) 662-1679.

175TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK BETTY BISHOP

The new church history book is completed and ready for distribution as part of the celebration of our 175th Anniversary. There is one free book for each family. You may pick up your book in the lobby by the elevator (first floor) following the 9 a.m. Change of Pace and 10 a.m. Traditional services on March 27 or April 3. Copies will also be available there following the anniversary program on March 27th. If you wish to pick up your copy from the church office during normal weekday office hours that is also an option. For those who prefer only an electronic copy, a link to the electronic version of the book will be on the member only part of the church website as of March 28th.



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

BETTY BISHOP

Since we will have just celebrated the 175th Anniversary of The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, when you are reading this in early April, I wanted to comment on some past anniversaries and re-dedications in the life of FCC. Sadly, we have no real records of the first services held in the Courthouse when FCC was started in 1847. In fact, there are few records of the services held in the First Church building where the church grew and worshipped between 1849 and 1876. We do have some records of the dedication of the present church building, often called the Stone Church, on May 10, 1876. Clergy attended from various churches in Ann Arbor and surrounding cities and towns. The sermon was given by Rev. Zachary Eddy of Detroit and based on Ephesians 2:19-22. I discussed the 50th anniversary celebrations, which took place in 1897, in this column in October/November 2021.

There was a 100th anniversary celebration in March 1947 which included a centennial dinner on the Saturday evening, and church services and a community service in the afternoon on the Sunday. Representatives attended from other Congregational churches in the area. Rev. Parr wrote most of the hymns for the day; they were set to well-known tunes. His sermon was titled "Tears for the Old, Joy for the New", and was based on Ezra 3:12-13. The major address was given by Dr. Harold Skidmore who was Superintendent of the Michigan Congregational Conference. A historical speech was given by James Rowland Angell, Ph.D., son of former University of Michigan President James Burrill Angell. The Angell family had been active in FCC during their years in Ann Arbor, and James Rowland Angell grew up in the FCC family after moving to Ann Arbor in 1871 with his parents. President Angell was the longest serving President of the University, serving from 1871 to 1909.

As part of his speech James Rowland Angell noted: "As this church approaches its centennial it is surely a happy augury that in these beautiful windows [installed in the Sanctuary in 1942] through which will pour the lights of God's great outdoors, of sun and moon and stars, are commemorated the names of so many men and women who have fought the good fight and passed to their reward...There is a peculiar benediction which flows down from the memories of these devoted souls that must always be felt by those who come to this place for prayer or meditation."



ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022

This is an official call to The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor's Annual Meeting which will be held on June 12. We are assuming this will be a hybrid meeting (both in-person and online). At this meeting, annual reports shall be presented, officers elected, and other appropriate business transacted.

Please plan on attending!

ANNUAL MEETING

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES



Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10	9:00 a.m.	Change of Pace Worship Service, Pilgrim Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 14	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship Service, Sanctuary
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Good Friday

Friday, April 15	12:00 p.m.	Three 30-minute Worship Services hosted and led by FUMC, First Baptist, and FCC. FCC to have 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. window
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Easter Eve

Saturday, April 16	4:09 p.m.	Contemporary Change of Pace Easter Eve Service, Pilgrim Hall
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Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 17	9:30 a.m.	Easter Morning Communion Service, Douglas Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Traditional Easter Morning Worship, Celebration of the Resurrection, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Easter Breakfast, Pilgrim Hall

2022 GodShare Campaign

Even though we missed our financial goal last year by a small margin, the Stewardship Campaign was a big success in so many ways – increased pledges, increased participation and increased energy – and all of it happening right smack dab in the middle of the nasty Covid pandemic. Yet even though we did so well, there was one thing we heard many times from younger members, “What do you mean by stewardship?”

Biblical stewardship means utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation. Here at First Congregational our spring Stewardship Campaign is when we ask everyone to make a yearly financial commitment to fund our church’s operations. To make it easier to understand, we are changing the name to GodShare Campaign.

Why GodShare?

Because GodShare more closely defines our recognition that life is a gift from God and that God is a generous giver. When we have this understanding, we know that everything we have – our lives, intelligence, creativity, sensibilities, and abilities – are gifts from God. And so is everything we own – our home, our cars, our possessions – and our money. The GodShare Campaign gives us the opportunity to share our time, talent and treasure with our God.

Stay tuned for more details of our 2022 GodShare Campaign coming in April entitled:

Rejoice! Renew! Recommit!

Blessings,

GodShare Committee

Debbie Bourque, Norlene Connelly, Terry Foster, Marilyn McCallum, Mark Schirmer, Ken Nisbet, Mike Dabbs, Bob Livingston and Brian Connelly, Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIKE DABBS

First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor 2021—2022 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT February 28, 2022

	ACTUAL 2/28/22	APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/21—6/30/22	NOTES
REVENUE			
Pledges	\$290,191	\$550,000	
Gifts - Operations	\$43,227	\$55,000	
Other Income	\$47,570	\$21,500	
Special Funds Transfer	\$0	\$20,257	1
Total Revenue	\$330,988	\$646,757	
EXPENSES			
Ministry	\$154,821	\$241,489	
Deacons, Council, Contemp. Issues, AFC	\$1,313	\$13,150	
Administrative/Office	\$222,240	\$311,897	
Christian Education	\$13,664	\$58,731	
Music	\$47,353	\$75,668	
Missions & Outreach	\$17,584	\$34,000	
Maintenance & Utilities	\$90,120	\$89,168	
Total Expenses	\$547,095	\$824,103	
NET REVENUE	(\$166,107)	(\$177,346)	
TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION	+\$186,000	+\$183,201	2
BALANCE	\$19,893	\$5,855	

Notes

- 1 Pastoral Fund distribution of \$7,739 for staff education, M&O, and pastoral assistance. Memorial Fund distribution of \$12,518 will be made for the 175th Anniversary project.
- 2 2021-2022 Budget projected distribution from trust and endowment funds is 6%.

Misc. Note 2021-2022 Mortgage Principal payments will be \$34,849. The principal payment is not reflected in the Annual Budget.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

TREASURER'S REPORT

MIKE DABBS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

TREASURER'S NOTES, Michael F Dabbs, Treasurer

- The Financial Statement Summary reflects FCC's finances as of February 28, which covers the seven months of our fiscal year. Actual pledge revenue remains greater than a year ago; however, it trails our budgeted amount for year.
- Total actual revenue for the eight months of the fiscal year is 59% of total Budget Revenue, while Total Actual Expenses are 66% of YTD Expense Budget. This indicates that we are out of balance compared to our budget. There are a couple of items including the maintenance item mentioned below that appear to be causing this out of balance situation. The Trustees will monitor this and as necessary make corrections to our spending in order to maintain a balanced budget.
- All Expense categories except for Maintenance and Utilities remain less than budget due to the continuing impact of the pandemic on programs and activities. Most of maintenance expense is due to repairs to the church's State St. side stonework.
- UHY has finished their Annual Financial Review of this past Fiscal Year (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). Members who wish to see a copy of it should contact either Nancy Sauve, or me.

For members who pay their pledges, or other payments to the church by credit card, we would ask that you to consider adding three percent to the amount of your payment to help us cover the cost of the bank fees that the church is charged.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

WAYS TO GIVE

In addition to automatic payments and checks by mail, there are 3 other ways to give:

Online: <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=97116&f=2>

Text: OpenToAll To: 73256

Thank you for your Generosity!



BOB'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

JUNE 2, 2022

Save
the
Date!

June 2, 2022



HAPPY
Retirement!

At the end of June, our esteemed Rev. Dr. Robert Livingston is retiring after 25 years of ministry with FCC. Before Bob & Laura set off for new adventures & new beginnings, our church family will honor them with a richly-deserved celebration of gratitude .

Being mindful of COVID concerns, we searched for the perfect dinner party venue to celebrate with Bob & Laura. Our prayers were answered when we found the *Summerhouse* outdoor pavilion at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center . This spacious open-air event space offers scenic views & plated dinner service with parking & restrooms immediately adjacent.

Please mark **Thursday evening, June 2, 2022** on your calendar. Details regarding time, meal selection, dinner ticket purchase, etc. will be available in April.

Let's give Bob & Laura a joyful send-off they will always treasure & remember!



BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUBCOMMITTEE

JANET ALLEN, MEMBER

April 1 marks the one year anniversary of substantial completion of the Capital Campaign renovations. Several members of the design committee participated in a walk through with the contractor to identify any warranty items that still need addressing for a final punch list.

An all church work day has been planned for **Saturday, April 9** to do yard clean up prior to Easter and to continue to address painting and improvements in areas not included in the Capital Campaign.

Our list includes: painting the hallway to the Sanctuary, painting the office entrance stairwell, additional handrail in the lower level at the steps to the east hallway, adding additional fencing near the memorial garden to discourage cutting through the hedge



and yard, cleaning out unused desks and file cabinets to reorganize storage in the lower level. Outside will be general cleanup and new plantings if weather permits.

We hope many members will participate!

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022



American Red Cross

Once again, FCC is opening our building to the American Red Cross, and hosting a blood drive on Friday, May 13, 2022. We are hoping that some of our members will want

to sign up as donors. Appointments are required. Masks are required. Use RapidPass to save 15 minutes. Your time and willingness to give are greatly appreciated.

For an appointment at the FCC sponsored blood drive, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Appointment times are every 15 minutes from 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 a.m. Please contact Sheila Wonders at sheila@fccannarbor.org if you have any questions.

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to **Jennifer German** for organizing these life-saving events! Also, thank you to our **FCC volunteers** who make this event a success!



ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP

ROBBIE SAWITSKI, CHAIR

It certainly feels good to be able to come out and be together again. Your AFC has been anxious to offer events where we



can gather and have some much welcome fun and comradery. On Sunday, March 8, approximately 20 of us visited John and Jean Cares' maple syrup farm in Dexter, Michigan. It was a beautiful day, sunny and cold.



With our spirits warm and ready to be there, we began by taking a hike back to the woods to check out the sap collecting process. It was especially nice to be with each other, strolling around through the woods, laughing, and chatting. The blue skies and sunshine were our blessings from God that day!



At the sap collecting station, we could see thousands of feet of blue tubing, winding its way around the woods like a giant spider web. This tubing is hooked up to tree spigots and used to run the sap to the collection point,

where it is then pumped up to the boiler where the syrup is made.



The shed you see houses the large holding tank where all the running sap collects. From here, the pump sends the sap up to the holding tanks outside the barn where the syrup production takes place. You can see the large blue pipe going into the holding tank by the barn in the next picture on your left.



ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP

ROBBIE SAWITSKI, CHAIR



We saw where the sap came up to the barn, from the woods, via those blue tubes, and then into the barn to see how the sap runs through the boiler. We gathered around the boiler in the syrup processing area, while being showed all the parts, and how they worked together to make the syrup. Jean and John graciously gave each of us a pint of their fresh syrup. I plan to give mine to my brother! Their generosity and kindness means so much to everyone who attended, as well as by the Activities and Fellowship Committee. Please be sure to look for their product, Cares Family Maples syrup, at

Arbor Farms Market and Argus Farms Market, both in Ann Arbor.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE and SIGN-UP NOW

July 20-July 24, 2022 FCC Ann Arbor Art Fair Fundraising Event

This incredible FCC annual fundraiser is ON, and we need you!

The sign-up sheets are available. If you have any questions, or would like more information about signing-up to be a volunteer, please email Chris Vermeulen at cnverm@aol.com. If you are ready to sign yourself up, please use the links below. *Thank you for your support!*



Hospitality 2022 Art Fair SignUp Genius Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044AAEA62AA2F94-fccart2>

R & R 2022 Art Fair SignUp Genius Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044AAEA62AA2F94-fccart3>

Please join us on April 17 for our Annual Easter Sunday Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. I cannot promise pancakes at this time, though they are not out of the question. We will definitely have the usual coffee and tea, as well as orange juice. Whatever we decide to serve, we will make sure it is festive and amenable to all. Please watch your Monday and Friday emails for more details.

We are also looking forward to our Annual All-Church Picnic, which will be on Sunday, May 22, following the worship service. We need everyone to come together in prayer for a beautiful, sunny, and warm-enough-to-be-outside day. We will plan on a potluck, and will offer more details in the Monday and Friday emails as we get closer.

AFC UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTER BREAKFAST

April 17

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

May 22

HEALING SPACE

WHERE MUSIC, MEDITATION AND PRAYER COME TOGETHER



Healing Space will **NOT** be taking place in April but please join us for the last session before the summer break on **Sunday, May 15 at 11:15 in the Douglas Chapel**. We will focus on "Lean on Me/God".

Healing Space is a gathering of persons interested in personal spiritual practice as a path toward healing, peace, wholeness and transformational growth. It is a safe place to gather in community for spiritual direction - a space to slow down and listen to the still speaking voice of the Sacred and Divine in our lives.

SMALL GROUPS

TEXT BREAKFAST

Text breakfast is currently meeting on Wednesday mornings by Zoom from 9 to 10 a.m., instead of in-person at the Alpha Diner on Jackson Road, though we are hopeful about changing to an in-person or hybrid format soon. Our lively discussions include sharing our understandings, insights, and questions about the scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon. Please watch the Monday Email for the scripture passage that will be discussed. Please email Bob at bob@fccannarbor.org if you would like to join us. All are welcome!

MIND AND SPIRIT BOOK GROUP



Mind and Spirit continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:15 through the spring. We are back to meeting in the Mayflower Room. We will be reading Being Heumann, An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, and Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants. We

welcome all women in the church to join us for interesting discussions and deepening relationships. Please contact Gail Haynes gehaynes66@gmail.com for more information.

We just recently collected approximately 40 stuffed animals for the newly arriving Afghani children in families being placed by Jewish Family Services. With all the sadness in the world right now, bringing a smile to a child is even more important than ever!



TUESDAY NIGHT SERIES

Come Join Us for TNS (Tuesday Night Series)

That's right, we are now meeting for the Tuesday Night Series group, for a pre-Easter study and discussion on the biblical/theological topic of the death and resurrection of Jesus. As in the past, we utilize videos on the topic that lead us into the kind of robust conversation we so much enjoy. Our TNS meetings take place on Tuesday nights, from 7 p.m. to about 8 or 8:15 p.m., in the Mayflower Room. Bob Livingston will provide the videos and will facilitate our discussion. Please join us and watch your weekly emails for updates!

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS—AN OUTREACH MINISTRY OF FCC MARY ANN MARQUARDT



Liina Paasuke & Misha

Circle of Friends did not meet in February but members picked up Valentine's treats and cards for their friends at church. Circle of Friends met on Sunday, March 13th in the Mayflower Room catching up with each other and planning Easter gifts for our friends. With COVID numbers decreasing, we are looking forward to safely reconnecting with one another.

Please contact Mary Ann Marquardt at (313) 303-1989 if you know a church member who could use a friend or other assistance. We would welcome more members if you would like to join us!

20/40 SMALL GROUP

We are a group of people in our 20s through 40s who are interested in trekking through the terrain of young adulthood, relationships, parenting, grad school, and more in a faithful community setting. We are single, married, and parents, and a very laid back group. We gather at church every other Wednesday from 6:30—8:00 p.m. Childcare is provided.



Questions? Please contact Darcy at darcy@fccannarbor.org.



**The First
Congregational
Church of Ann Arbor**

fccannarbor.org

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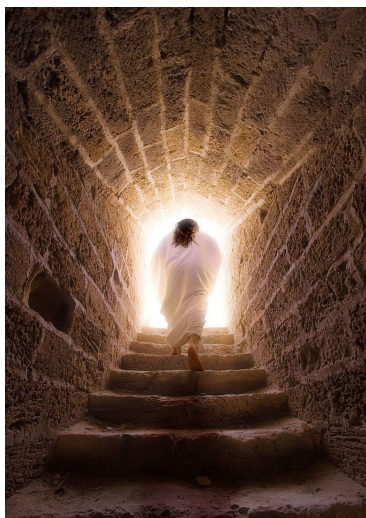
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APRIL 2022 AND MAY 2022 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

APR. 3		FCC History Book Distribution
APR. 5, 12	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday Night Series, Mayflower Room
APR. 6	12:00 p.m.	Glacier Hills Easter Luncheon
APR. 6, 13, 20, 27	9:00 a.m.	Text Breakfast via Zoom
APR. 6	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit, Pilgrim Hall
APR. 7	7:00 p.m.	Missions and Outreach Committee Meeting
APR. 9	9:00 a.m.	All Church Work Day (inside and out)
APR. 10		Palm Sunday
	1:00 p.m.	Senior High serves at Cass
APR. 11	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
APR. 14	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service with Communion
APR. 15	12:00 p.m.	Good Friday Services hosted at FUMC
APR. 16	4:09 p.m.	Easter Eve Service, Pilgrim Hall
APR. 17	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Service, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Easter Breakfast, Pilgrim Hall
APR. 18	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
APR. 20	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Baptism, Island Park
APR. 24		GodShare Sunday—Dedication of Pledges
	11:30 a.m.	Board of Christian Education Meeting
APR. 28	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Dinner & Faith Statements
APR. 29		Family Weekend
APR. 30	7:00 p.m.	Easter Organ Concert, Aaron Tan ACCM/FCC
MAY 1	10:00 a.m.	Confirmation Sunday
MAY 4, 11, 18, 25	9:00 a.m.	Text Breakfast
MAY 4, 18	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit, Mayflower Room
MAY 4	12:00 p.m.	Marketing Subcommittee Meeting
MAY 5		Cinco de Mayo
	7:00 p.m.	Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting
MAY 8		Happy Mother's Day
MAY 9	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
MAY 13	9:00 a.m.	Red Cross Blood Drive, Pilgrim Hall
MAY 15	10:00 a.m.	Youth Sunday
	11:00 a.m.	Music Committee Meeting
	11:15 a.m.	Healing Space, Douglas Chapel
	2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service, Anna Lorraine Fitzsimmons
MAY 16	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
MAY 22	11:00 a.m.	AFC All Church Picnic
	11:30 a.m.	Board of Christian Education Meeting
MAY 26	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Committee Meeting
MAY 30		Memorial Day—Office Closed

Easter brings us the possibility of light beyond darkness and hope beyond fear.