

# Congregational Courier

## THOUGHTS FROM DARCY CRAIN SENIOR MINISTER



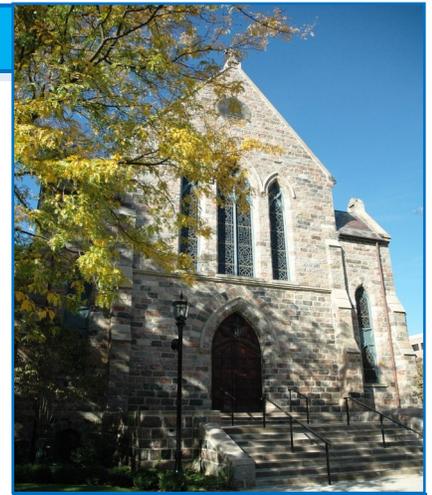
### Dear Friends:

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” The psalmist and his friends had just made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. They are tired and hungry but relieved and excited that they have arrived. They travelled with friends and family new and old. The anticipation is high. They look at the gathered group and with a smile and a twinkle in the eye, say, “Alright then, let’s go!”

This transition into senior ministry has felt a bit like a pilgrimage, and now together we stand, perhaps a bit tired but excited, too. We look at one another and with a smile and a twinkle in the eye, we say, “Let’s go!” And right on cue, kick-off Sunday is booked, the bounce house ordered, the hymns picked, and the choir anthem prepared.

Choir? Yes, the Chancel Choir is back with a brand-new leader! Ben Gaughran is our chancel choir director and is excited to offer some wonderful music ministry, and I am more than ready to go into the house of the Lord to experience it.

Our Church Council met for a retreat in August where we learned about our communication styles, and the gifts each type brings into the church. We dreamed, we planned, and we focused on the question of why. Why do we want to grow? Why do we gather around tables for monthly meetings? Why do we approve the minutes and plan the programs and gather for worship? Because we love God. God has changed our lives and we want to share that love and that hope with others. That is the why. How we fulfill the why is the work of the next year. And from what I can tell, we are more than ready to begin.



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*Whatever Your Story, You’re Welcome Here*



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I invite you to share with us in the excitement of a full programming year. Whether you're a church goer that doesn't take the summer off or whether you're reading this and trying to calculate exactly how long it's been since you've been to church, join the excitement. If it's been 10 years or 10 minutes, you're welcome here. Either way we'll look at each other, smile, and join the excitement of the psalmist and say, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord!' Or in shortened FCC style – "It's September. Let's go!"



Darcy Crain  
Senior Minister



## 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 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!

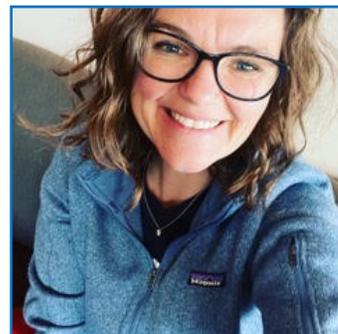


*"That old September feeling, left over from school days, of summer passing, vacation nearly done, obligations gathering, books and football in the air... Another fall, another turned page: there was something of jubilee in that annual autumnal beginning, as if last year's mistakes had been wiped clean by summer."*

~ Wallace Stegner

**LILY TINKER FORTEL**  
**MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION**

On August 15, members of your FCC Church Council engaged in a planning retreat for the 2022-2023 program year. Among our discussions that evening was an exploration of our core goals for the months ahead. Namely, we engaged one of the primary goals of FCC's strategic vision, "To grow FCC." We asked ourselves, "Why do we want to grow FCC?" The discussion was beautiful and profound. Two central themes emerged:



- *We want to grow FCC to welcome others into the joy we experience as part of this community.*
- *We want to grow FCC to share God's Love with our world.*

It's a lovely thing when an organization's present actions are already aligning with the organization's vision for the future. In the four months since joining your staff, I have seen the joy of the FCC community first hand. We've joyfully worshiped together; we've joyfully learned about our faith together; we've joyfully fellowshiped together. I have also seen you share God's Love with one another and our world. You lovingly care for one another in the midst of deep grief; you lovingly volunteer in service to the community; you lovingly support the work of area service organizations. The list goes on and on. I am amazed by the joyful and loving community that is The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. I am grateful to work with you and your phenomenal staff as we continue spreading Joy and Love in our world.

For my part, this summer has involved facilitating intergenerational fellowship opportunities, working to enrich the faith formation experiences of our youngest members, and working with Darcy to serve the broader pastoral needs of the community. I've enjoyed worshiping with you on Sunday mornings and I have been honored to walk with you in the fullness of life's joys and sorrows. You'll see some highlights from my work this summer below. You'll also find some information about what to expect in the months ahead.



I'm grateful to the Church Council for giving staff guideposts for our work this coming year: To welcome all to the joy of this community and to share God's Love with our world. While we are already doing so much, I sense that there is great potential for more. I look forward to continuing to meet you and learn about your hopes for FCC and our world. I am excited about working with each of you

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LILY TINKER FORTEL  
MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION

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- from FCC's youngest babies to our eldest elders - as we seek to widen FCC's joyful welcome and live into our call to carry God's unconditional, irrevocable, ever-expansive Love into our world.

It is a joy to walk among you!

Lily Tinker Fortel  
Minister of Faith Formation



**Summer Highlights**

*From playground playdates to kayaking;  
From museum explorations to painting a  
home;*



*From a  
Civic  
Band  
concert*



*to a campfire;*

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LILY TINKER FORTEL  
MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION

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*From a mission trip  
to Vacation Bible School;*



*From Children's Circles  
to Summerfest,  
We've had a festive and  
fellowship-full summer!*



**FCC Kidz**

Your Board of Christian Education is working diligently to develop meaningful faith formation opportunities for FCC's youngest members. This summer, we resumed some activities that have been paused during the COVID-19 Pandemic and we've worked to enrich other ongoing activities. I worked to reintroduce crafts and activities into FCC Kidz Sunday school. We resumed Children's Circles during 10am worship. We invited students to worship with the broader congregation during Change of Pace services. Outside of Sunday mornings, we enjoyed playdates at area playgrounds and fellowship opportunities like painting (June 11) and a campfire cookout (August 24). In August, BOCE offered a five-week virtual Vacation Bible School for our students and families to enjoy at home. "Compassion Camp VBS" by Illustrated Ministry Deals has been a great way to transition back to VBS this year. I'm hopeful for an in-person VBS in 2023.

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# LILY TINKER FORTEL MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION

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## Middle School Youth

We kayaked, visited the art museum, and supported younger students in FCC Kidz! We've enjoyed getting to know each other this summer!

## High School Youth



From June 19-25, Darcy and I traveled with eight FCC high school students to Milwaukee for our 2022 Service trip. We met up with friends from Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church for service at a variety of Milwaukee churches and service organizations. The broader FCC community was blessed with a report from attendees of the trip during our July 31 worship service. It was also fun volunteering with high school and other youth during Art Fair!

## Looking Forward

Please register your students for the 2022-2023 program year.

Registration URL: [bit.ly/FCCKidzReg](https://bit.ly/FCCKidzReg)

LAUNCH FCC'S 2022-2023 PROGRAM YEAR

# KICKOFF SUNDAY!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**  
The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor

**POTLUCK LUNCH. SLOPPY JOES & CHIPS PROVIDED!**  
LAST NAMES A-M: DESSERT; LAST NAMES N-Z: SIDE DISH OR SALAD  
(DUE TO ALLERGIES, FCC POTLUCKS ARE NUT FREE)

**FUN & FELLOWSHIP**      **CROQUET CONTEST**      **BOUNCE HOUSE**      **MINISTRY FESTIVAL**  
SPONSORED BY JR. HIGH YOUTH      OBSTACLE COURSE      AND MORE!

- Sunday, September 11 - Kickoff Sunday
  - ◊ Register for 2022-2023 FCC Kidz [bit.ly/FCCKidzReg](https://bit.ly/FCCKidzReg)
- Thursday, September 15 - Gallup Park Playdate at 10am
- Sunday, October 2 - World Communion Sunday - Children and students of all ages encouraged to attend worship
- Sunday, October 2 - Brunch Bunch following worship.
  - ◊ For Junior High and High School Youth and Parents
- Sunday, October 9 - CROP Walk 1pm  
Zion Lutheran Church

*\*You can see all FCC Events at [fccannarbor.org/calendar](https://fccannarbor.org/calendar)*

## FCC Kidz

We're eager to continue re-engaging families. We'd love to hear from you about how we can serve your family this school year. In September and early October, we'll explore CROP

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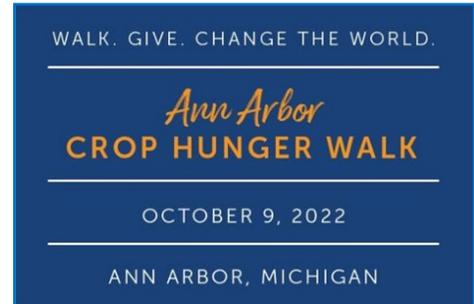
**LILY TINKER FORTEL**  
**MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION**

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Walk during FCC Kidz and we hope many from the congregation will walk with FCC's CROP Walk team on Sunday, October 9 (more information below). I'm looking forward to more playdates this fall. Dates will be sent via email! We're seeking additional volunteers to add to our amazing FCC Kidz team see below for more information!

**Junior High Youth**

In addition to Sunday morning programming during FCC Kidz, we'll engage FCC's Junior High students in monthly social gatherings. Join youth leaders and other youth for "Brunch Bunch" following church on Sunday, October 2. CROP Walk 2022 is Sunday, October 9. Everyone is invited to join FCC's CROP Walk Team!



**High School Youth**

Darcy and I are introducing "Brunch Bunch," a monthly brunch for middle school and high school students and parents. Following worship on first Sundays of the month, students will head to brunch with youth volunteers; parents will head to brunch with Darcy. Our first brunch outing will be Sunday, October 2.

We'll resume some Sunday morning programming, and have additional events throughout the school year. Keep an eye out for upcoming events.

**Intergenerational Fellowship**

I'm excited to continue exploring opportunities for intergenerational fellowship and worship after several successful events this summer!

A blue graphic with white and light blue text. At the top, it says "FCC's Board of Christian Education" in white. Below that, "call for volunteers" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Underneath, "Become an FCC Kidz Teaching Assistant" is written in a smaller white font. The main body of text reads: "Experience the joy of volunteering with FCC's youngest members as a teaching assistant! You'll volunteer one Sunday monthly with an experienced teacher! Help BOCE reach our goal of having two classrooms for more age-specific faith formation on Sunday mornings. Everyone welcome! No teaching experience required." At the bottom, it says "Interested in learning more? Email Lily (lily@fccann Arbor.org)." Below the text is an illustration of five diverse people (three women and two men) of various ethnicities, all wearing light blue t-shirts with a white heart on the chest. They are holding various items like a box of books, a basket of produce, a red heart, a teddy bear, and a basket of toys.

**Middle School and High School Youth Volunteers**

Join the amazing team of folks who support these groups. We're always eager to welcome new additions to our team! Please let Lily know if you're interested in getting involved.

**College Student Encouragement**

We'd love to send your college or graduate student encouraging notes this school year. Please share addresses of college students here:

[bit.ly/CollegeFCC](https://bit.ly/CollegeFCC)

**DR. TIMOTHY HUTH**  
**FCC ORGANIST**

*The Church - Ever Old, Ever New: Some prayerful thoughts from St. Anastasius of Sinai, St. Stephen of Hungary, St. John Vianney, Psalm 108, and I Corinthians.*

Greetings good people of FCCAA. Blessings abound upon the sound of God's people singing. As an organist, I dig that. FCCAA has an organ all of massive oak and pine framing and cabinet with tin/zinc pipework, thousands of pipes, a 19th century sanctuary of great timbers, vaulting, and a wooden floor. Our whole building resonates with the saints and angels, the song of the cosmos, the song of Jesus' gospel of justice, peace, compassion and love.

Stephen of Hungary (the king) admonished his son as Christianity began to bud in Hungary, telling him, "While ancient, dearest child, even now the church is proclaimed as young and newly planted." In these contemporary times, indeed the established church is still being re-born, proclaiming compassion and truth, ever renewing. Anastasius of Sinai in his sermon on Jesus' Transfiguration on the mount, speaks of this renewing: "...and indeed it is good to be here, where all things shine with divine radiance, where there is joy, gladness and exultation, where there is nothing in our hearts but peace, serenity and stillness, where God is seen. For where charity and love prevail, there is God." John Vianney, another saint, "...this is our glorious duty, to pray and to love. If you pray and love, that is where humanity's happiness lies."

Therefore, dear church may we join in the song of the psalmist in Psalm 108 (Jerusalem Bible), who invites us into faith in action, saying:

My heart is ready, O God,  
I mean to sing and play.  
Awake, my muse, awake lyre and harp,  
I mean to wake the Dawn.



Pax et summum bonum - Peace and all good things.



**Did you know?** The American Center for Church Music is located at FCC, and our very own Tim Huth is the director. The American Center of Church Music has been formed as a non-denominational, non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Michigan for the purpose of providing enrichment to church musicians and encouraging others in their study and appreciation of the appropriate skills and literature.

In addition, the ACCM seeks to increase the base community knowledge and appreciation for the musical heritage of the church as well as its musical future. We believe that music is a vital contributor to the faith life of the church. Music of the past, present, and that which is yet to be created will be insured a strong place if measures are taken to distribute information and perform the music.

NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7:00 P.M.

THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
- FOUNDED IN 1969 -



ANN ARBOR CHAPTER  
[ANNARBORAGO.ORG](http://ANNARBORAGO.ORG)

## New Music Festival

Featuring the winning entries from the ACCM Composition Competition and works by other Ann Arbor composers.

*Co-sponsored by the American Center of Church Music  
and the Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists*

Friday, September 16, 2022

7:00 PM

First Congregational Church, Ann Arbor, MI  
*Reception following*

Works by Debra Dyko, Graeme Shields, Pamela Ruitter -Feenstra,  
Connor Chee, B.E. Boykin, Laurel Sanders, William James Ross,  
Aaron Flood and Timothy Tikker  
performed by Graeme Shields, Pamela Ruitter-Feenstra,  
Timothy Huth and Timothy Tikker.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

BETTY BISHOP



**Scrooby Manor**

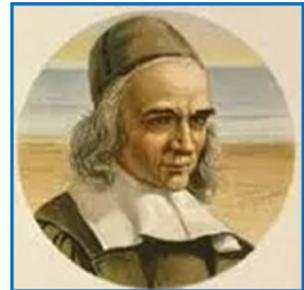
Robinson and Richard Clyfton were both local rectors who left the Church of England while the others were yeoman farmers and country artisans.

To escape further persecution many of this early group of Separatists left England and went to Holland in 1608. There they were able to



**The Mayflower Window  
FCC Pilgrim Hall**

This time I am going way back in our church history to a little village of Scrooby in Nottinghamshire, England in the early 1600s. Congregationalism had its origins in the Scrooby Separatist Church which met secretly at the Scrooby Manor around 1606. These first members were John Robinson, Richard Clyfton, William Brewster, and William Bradford. They rejected the established Church of England and were soon in legal trouble for being “disobedient in matters of religion”. This resulted in fines and even being in jail. John



**William Brewster**

practice their own religion without fear of problems with the English government or the established Church of England. After some years in Holland they became concerned with how their young people were becoming too involved with Dutch youth and not staying involved with the Separatist or Puritan church. In 1620 many of the followers of John Robinson left Holland, returned briefly to England, and then sailed to the New World on the “Mayflower”. These Pilgrims settled in what became Plymouth, Massachusetts years later, and were the beginnings of the spread of Congregationalism in the colonies which eventually became New England.

Congregationalists believe in the right and responsibility of each properly organized congregation to determine its own affairs without having to submit to any higher religious or governmental authority. Each individual church is regarded as independent and autonomous. As I have often told others, Congregational churches own their own property and hire and fire their own ministers. Many churches favor and support social justice and liberal movements.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

# NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

\* SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 \* 11AM-12:30PM \* MAYFLOWER ROOM \*  
BRUNCH AND CHILDCARE PROVIDED

WHATEVER YOUR STORY, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!



Please join Darcy Crain and other prospective members for food and conversation. At this gathering, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the church, membership, and one another. Please RSVP to our office at 734-662-1679 or by email at [office@fccannarbor.org](mailto:office@fccannarbor.org).

New members will be received into membership on Sunday, September 25, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.



## *The Change of Pace Worship Service returns! Kick-Off Sunday, September 11, 9:00 a.m., Pilgrim Hall*



The change of pace service offers a cross section of music in the contemporary genres, drawing from global musical traditions and both secular and Christian artists, imparting the spiritual rather than the religious. Coffee, tea and cookies are available at 8:45 a.m.

*Please check us out in-person or  
on YouTube*

*(COP is not available on Facebook)*

Terry Farmer, COP Music Director  
~and~ The Change of Pace Band

*July, 31, 2022*

*COP Worship Service*

*Summertime - Pilgrim Hall*



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ELEMENTARY READING TUTORS NEEDED

Children have been impacted in many ways by the pandemic including an increasing number that have fallen significantly behind in reading. Locally, Family Learning Institute (FLI) was able to address this for some students by moving its tutoring online during the summer of 2020. FLI provides free one on one reading tutoring to second through fifth grade students in Washtenaw County.



Several church members have been involved with FLI's program in the Ypsilanti Public Schools. Tutors have witnessed how 1:1 tutoring can help bring these students up to grade level but can also increase their interest in reading in general. This program was featured in a May 25 article in the Ann Arbor Observer. <https://annarborobserver.com/leveling-the-reading-field/>

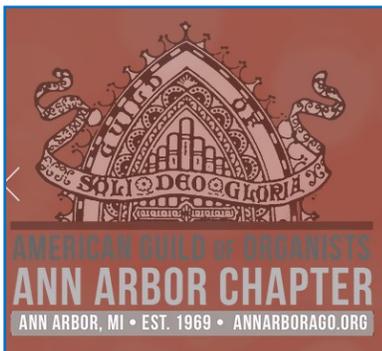
Caroline Nathans, coordinator, is looking for additional tutors this school year. Tutors will be able to volunteer after school in person or with Zoom based tutoring once a week with one or two students. For more information, please contact Caroline Nathans at [cfnathans@ameritech.net](mailto:cfnathans@ameritech.net) or Gail Haynes at [gehaynes66@gmail.com](mailto:gehaynes66@gmail.com).

### Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.



## AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS 2022 - 2023 EVENTS



- **Organist's Christmas** Friday, December 9, 7:30 PM, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Ann Arbor
- **Music in the Black Church: A Kaleidoscope of Color** Workshop and Concert Saturday-Sunday, February 11-12, 2023, First Congregational Church, Ann Arbor
- **Spring Recital Series** Fridays at Noon, Feb. 24-Mar. 31, 2023, First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor

**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: Jennifer Hall  
Board of Trustees Chair: Rick Reid  
Board of Christian Education Chair: Val Towery  
Missions and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs: Greg Eggleston  
Music Committee Chair: Paul Fossum  
Nominating Committee Co-Chairs: Rick Muhs and Kristy Stoneburner  
Activities and Fellowship Committee Chair: Robbie Sawitski  
Contemporary Issues Committee Chair: Sara Holmes  
Senior Minister: Darcy Crain  
Minister of Faith Formation: Lily Tinker Fortel

**Current Activities**

**Covid 19 Health Safety Committee:**

The "Opening the Church Task Force" has been renamed and is now a committee under Church Council. The new committee is "COVID-19 Health Safety Committee." They continue to review the health guidelines from the state. At this time the building remains open with mask recommended in most areas of the building. The status is subject to change as needed (updates are published in the Friday/Monday Emails).

**Senior Minister Transition:**

Looking into changing the ministerial staff structure away from a Minister/Assoc. 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.

**Next Scheduled Meetings:**

September 19

October 17

*All meetings are held at 7pm*

*In the Mayflower Room*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**MIKE DABBS**

**First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor**  
**2021 – 2022 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT - REV. 1**  
**June 30, 2022**

	ACTUAL 4/30/22	APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/21 – 6/30/22	NOTES
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Pledges	\$421,074	\$550,000	
Gifts - Operations	60,788	55,000	
Other Income	80,361	21,500	
Special Funds Transfer	<u>20,257</u>	<u>20,257</u>	1
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$582,480</b>	<b>\$646,757</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Ministry	\$241,949	\$241,489	
Deacons, Council, Contemp. Issues, AFC	4,706	13,150	
Administrative/Office	331,947	311,897	
Christian Education	22,755	58,731	
Music	76,485	75,668	
Missions & Outreach	52,020	34,000	
Maintenance & Utilities	<u>108,396</u>	<u>89,168</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$838,258</b>	<b>\$824,103</b>	
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>(\$255,778)</b>	<b>(\$177,346)</b>	
<b>TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION</b>	<u>+\$225,743</u>	<u>+\$183,201</u>	2
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>(\$30,035)</b>	<b>\$5,855</b>	

**Notes**

1. Pastoral Fund distribution of \$7,739 for staff education, M&O, and pastoral assistance. Memorial Fund distribution of \$12,518 made for 175<sup>th</sup> 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.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### MIKE DABBS

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#### TREASURER'S NOTES:

- The Financial Statement Summary reflects FCC's finances as of June 30th, prior to the annual Financial Review. As has been the case throughout this past fiscal year, our actual pledge revenue was less than our budgeted amount for the year. The impact of this caused us to use a greater amount of our general investment funds than we had budgeted to use.
- With the exception of the pledge revenue as noted above, all other revenue sources exceeded the budget.
- Expenses for the year were generally within budget. Administrative/Office expenses exceeded the budget due to costs associated with the 175th anniversary, accounting costs, and interest expense related to our line of credit. Missions and Outreach overage was due to the number of major weather-related events that members contributed to that we subsequently sent funds to. The revenue offset for these unanticipated events is reflected in Other Income. Maintenance and Utilities expenses were due to a number of repairs that needed to be done that came to light during the renovation of the building.
- UHY has begun their Annual Financial Review of this past Fiscal Year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). We anticipate that they will provide their report to the Trustees in November and shortly thereafter, the report will be available to members.
- 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**

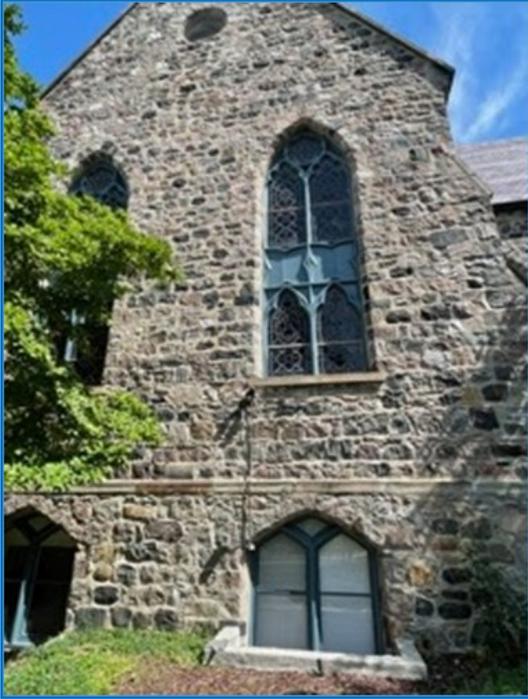


***Thank you for your Generosity!***

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUBCOMMITTEE

JANET ALLEN, MEMBER

The Building and Grounds Committee continues to react to needed repairs as they become necessary (ongoing water intrusion issues/boiler repairs) but also have completed refreshing and repairing some areas of the church not included in the recent renovations.



### Sanctuary Windows

All of our beautiful stained glass windows in the Sanctuary as well as the basement level windows in that part of the building have been repainted and reglazed. This will ensure they remain in good repair for years to come.

### Additional Fencing

It is always tempting to “cut the corner” when walking around town and that was occurring regularly just beyond the west Chapel door causing the hedge in that area to break down. Additional fencing was added to keep walkers on the sidewalk as they go around the corner from William to Maynard.

### Tree Branch Supports

Our sprawling crab tree just west of the memorial garden now has supports for the branches at risk for breaking. While these supports are preventative for breaking branches, “do not climb on the tree” is still in effect!

### Ongoing Yard Maintenance

Dave Steiner organized a yard workday for trimming and weeding all around the building to make sure everything looked nice for Art Fair. He has recruited a number of people to “adopt an area” for ongoing upkeep throughout the year. We also thank Jared Peterson for his constant effort at picking up litter around the building—especially before church on Sundays.



## FCC CORE VALUE STORY on JOY and POSITIVITY

DAVE STEINER

We have a remarkable crew of Gardening, Painting and Maintenance Angels. The Building and Grounds Committee put out a call for a general workday on April 9th, and we had a great crew show up to work on many projects inside and outside FCC. A great deal got done. What an awesome crew!



In June a call was put out for Gardening Angels to take on specific gardens in need of periodic and regular weeding. That was followed up by a call for half a dozen folks for a July 9th hedge trimming morning to make sure the grounds looked their best for Art Fair.

Happy to say, ALL these calls for volunteers were answered by FCC members willing to give of their time and talents, with positivity and generous spirit.



*If you have a story that you would like to share that reflects an aspect of our FCC Core Identity, please submit it to [robbiesawitski@gmail.com](mailto:robbiesawitski@gmail.com). This is who we are...let's share our stories together!*

## RAISE RIGHT (FORMERLY SHOP WITH SCRIP)

NANCY SAUVE



We purchase the cash/gift cards at a discount through this program and earn the difference, between 2 – 10%. All proceeds are used for youth and intergenerational mission/work trips.

Did you know that this program has supplied well over \$10,000 for mission/work trips?

You'll find the Scrip Team after the 10 a.m. service in the Smith Welcome Center with the cash and carry cards for sale. Contact [nancy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:nancy@fccannarbor.org) for ordering information and/or using a credit card to pay for the cards. Great news!! There's also an easy to use app which makes purchasing and using cards immediate. Look for "Raise Right" in your Apple Store or Google Play Store to download. Be a part of our mission/work trips by participating in this easy fundraiser!

## STATE STREET CLOSED at E.WILLIAM ST.

Please be aware of the construction on State Street which affects those coming to church from the North and South East sides of town. State street is currently closed at E. William and at N. University.

Please plan your route accordingly, and leave a little extra time for getting around the construction.



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

### CONNIE NAGLE, MEMBER



#### Theory of Change

CAN uses a holistic approach to achieve equity & justice, working to close socio-economic gaps by providing educational and enrichment programs for children and teens, supportive services for families, and challenging systems rooted in racism and inequality.

Our church members have lovingly donated to this drive for over twenty years. When we began participating in the backpack drive, we collaborated with First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor. We were so surprised the first year because empty backpacks had been requested, but they all showed up full of special back-to-school items. That just goes to show you how our generous church works together! In those years of partnership, FCC collected 100 backpacks per year, but no extra money. This year, FCC did the backpack drive on our own. Once again, FCC came through for Ann Arbor kids. Our Missions & Outreach team was able to provide 38 backpacks and \$2000.00 in Amazon gift cards for the Community Action Network Annual backpack drive.



*Greg Eggleston, Chair  
Connie Nagel, member*

When all the backpacks were ready, I delivered them to the Hikone CAN center. Colette DeRaud is managing backpack collection for the first time. She was so thankful for our help. The children receive their backpacks at the back-to-school BBQ, which is a highlight of the year for them. We want to thank everyone who contributed this year. Your kindness makes an incredible difference in the lives of these precious children of God.

#### *A thank-you note from Colette...*



*Colette DeRaud and Connie*

Hi Connie!

Thank you again so much for your amazing donation from FCC and for delivering to us! We are so, so grateful and can't wait for the students to get their backpacks and supplies tonight! I've attached our picture from the other day!

Colette DeRaud  
Director of Community Wellness and Engagement  
Community Action Network

## MUSIC COMMITTEE PAUL FOSSUM, CHAIR

### 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.*

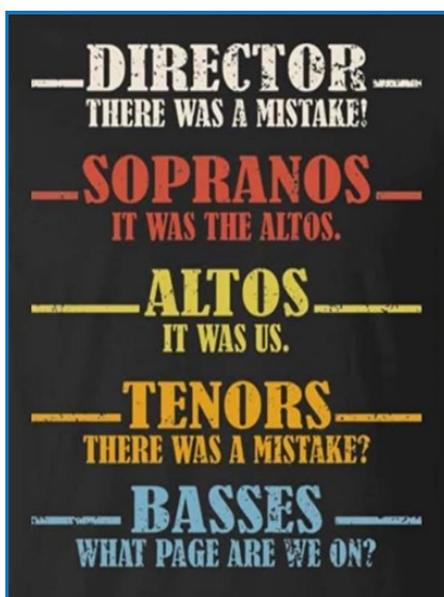
We in the Music Committee join the FCC congregation in welcoming Mr. Benjamin Gaughran as our new Interim Chancel Choir Director. As was noted in other recent church announcements, Benjamin hails from England and is currently a doctoral student in the UM's Choral Conducting program. Ben brings with him an incredible wealth of experience, an energetic interpersonal style, and a fetching English accent to boot! Benjamin seeks as a choir director to ensure that those in the performing ensembles he leads, as well as the members of his groups' audiences, feel inspired and engaged. Ben looks forward to building on the church's tradition of high musical standards and artistic excellence. Through his methods, he inspires those he works with to realize and achieve their potential.



Benjamin Gaughran  
Interim  
FCC Chancel Choir Director

Outside of his love of music, Benjamin loves to spend time with his wife, Kerry, and their five children. They love to travel, eat good food, play games and generally enjoy life!

Please take a moment to warmly welcome him when you are in church.



If you have ever thought about joining the choir, this is a perfect time to come and check us out! It is an exciting time to have the choir return in September, so we can contribute to the spirit of worship and ministry of the church! We will be singing a variety of styles and genres throughout the year. It will be fun and spirit filled. You are invited to join your voice with ours and sing with us as we praise God. We all appreciate our different musical gifts, and together we help each other learn new music, encourage each other to keep trying, and have a lot of fun. We gather because we love to sing and we enjoy each others company. Please, come to rehearsal on any Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m., or contact Ben Gaughran at [ben@fccannarbor.org](mailto:ben@fccannarbor.org) and let him know you are interested.

**ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**SUMMERTIME OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP IN PICTURES**

**JULY - Star-Spangled Spectacular**



**AUGUST - Bonfire and Sing-a-Long**



## ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

### ROBBIE SAWITSKI, CHAIR

GOOD TIMES!! We did it, AGAIN!! What an experience the Art Fair is when you're part of the Volunteer services provided by the State Street Association to their vendors, as well as the visitors to this fair. Your R&R Leaders are so very proud of, and grateful for the group of volunteers who show up each year, and for some reason keep coming back once they've tried it. You see, in all honesty, yes, it is challenging. It's hot and sticky, exhausting, and, for Heaven's sake, we're schlepping around trash and recyclables! But, it's for an amazing cause (our mission trips), and also is a remarkably fun time, full of laughter, camaraderie, sharing our stories, and growing new friendships, as well as deepening others. If you want to experience what unconditional love is all about, I highly recommend you join us next year. The 2023 Art Fair will be from Thursday, July 20 through Saturday, July 22. Our Sign-up Genius is already up and running.



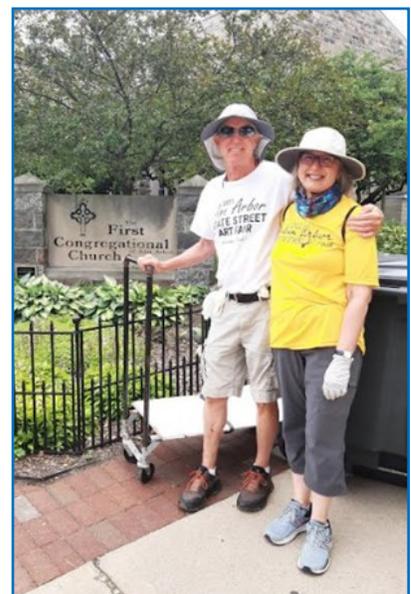
If you want to sign up for the **Hospitality Crew**, use this link.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044AAEA62AA2F94-fccart4>

If you want to sign up for the **R&R Team**, please use this link.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044AAEA62AA2F94-fccart5>



### THIS IS WHAT FCC DID!!!

Commodity	2018	2019	2021	2022	Totals
<b>Plastic</b>	356	644	287	515	1,803
<b>Aluminum</b>	236	430	192	344	1,201
<b>Cardboard</b>	417	575	537	400	1,929
<b>Paper</b>	73				73
<b>Total Recycled</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>5,006</b>



## SMALL GROUPS

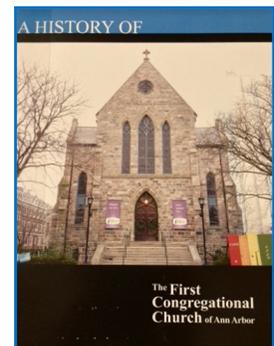
*Due to the uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the Delta variant, expected in-person group meetings can change at any moment. Either your group leader will contact you, or please watch your Monday and Friday emails for more updated information.*

### TEXT BREAKFAST

Our text breakfast group will launch the programming year on September 7 at the Alpha Diner, 4389 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Our start time this year will be 9:00 a.m. and Darcy (or Lily, depending on who is preaching that Sunday) will lead the discussion that day. We will have the capability to zoom in those who are unable to be present in person. Looking forward to diving into scripture over some eggs and coffee! Please watch the Monday email for the scripture passage that will be discussed. Please email Darcy at [darcy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:darcy@fccannarbor.org) if you would like to join us. All are welcome!

### MIND AND SPIRIT BOOK GROUP

Mind and Spirit resumes on Wednesday, September 7. This small group welcomes women of the church who are interested in reading and discussing books dealing with spirituality or contemporary issues. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 10:15-11:45 a.m., in the Mayflower Room. Join us on Sept 7 as we select our fall books. On Wednesday, September 21 Betty Bishop will talk about the book *A History of The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor*. All are welcome to join us with your comments and questions in the Mayflower Room at 10:15 am.



### 20/40 SMALL GROUP

The 20/40 group will begin meeting on Wednesday, September 14, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. This group is full of people in their 20s through 40s who are both single and married, parents or not. We explore the terrains of life together as we seek to live faithfully and fully. Whether you grew up in the church, or you know nothing about the Bible, you are welcome. We will likely be doing a Bible study to begin September but no need to read ahead. We will read the passages together in person. Childcare will be provided. Please make sure to let us know you're coming so we have enough folks on hand!

### PARENTING WITH TEENS



Ever feel like a taxi driver and an ATM machine? You ask how their day was and all you get is a "fine." Except it's actually an emoji and sent in a text message. Parenting teenagers is not for the faint-hearted. But it's easier to do if we're in this together. On the first Sundays of every month Lily will gather the teens for their own brunch, leaving us to have our own as well. I'm hoping we can have a 'Brunch Bunch' of our own, and connect as parents who are walking these teen parenting years together. The group is targeted at parents of middle schoolers - high schoolers. Whatever mind boggling experience you're currently having as a parent, chances are, you're not having it alone. Let's connect. October 2, 11:15 am. Location TBD, but mark your calendars for this new start up group! Please email Darcy at [darcy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:darcy@fccannarbor.org) with questions.

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

Circle of Friends is a visitation and assistance ministry that links home-centered members, including those in long term care facilities, and Circle Friends (active members of The First Congregational Church) in a one-to-one relationship. Circle of Friends provides a caring connection to the church through regular visits, spiritual support, and other kinds of assistance as appropriate for both parties.



Here to help

Circle of Friends offers support to not only seniors, but also to those church members who are experiencing isolation at home due to health issues, loss of a loved one, or other family stressors. I am able and willing to set up a Meal Train if someone needs help due to a health issue or sudden loss of a love one.

If you would like to join our group to participate in our ministry of caring and support, my number is 313-303-1989. Also, please let me know if you know someone who could benefit from having a friend. Thank you so much!

**DUNCAN 'DUNC' MCCALLUM GOLF SCRAMBLE**  
AFC EVENT - SEPTEMBER 25, 3:00 P.M.

**Where:** Hudson Mills Metro Park Golf Course just west of Dexter  
**Format:** 9 hole scramble (best ball)

Join us no matter your golfing ability (or lack thereof) for a fun 9 hole scramble to commemorate long-time FCC member and avid golfer Duncan McCallum. "Dunc" played his last round of golf at age 89, just a few weeks before he died in 2019. He went out swinging! He was instrumental in starting the men's warming shelter at FCC that has been put on pause due to COVID, but it may be brought back this year. So we're holding this event in Dunc's honor. He was a great guy. *We hope to make it an annual AFC event.*



Put together your own four person team, or we'll pair you with others. This event is totally about FUN and playing a game that Dunc loved. Hudson Mills is a player-friendly course with no water or swamps to hit over off tee boxes or approaching greens. So if you can swing a golf club, you can play it. And only the best positioned ball of the four hit on each shot will be played. The other three are picked up (if not lost). For those who wish, we'll gather at Dunc's favorite place to eat in Dexter, Dairy Queen, for a quick bite to eat after.

To sign up or any questions, contact Dave Steiner [dranodavec47@gmail.com](mailto:dranodavec47@gmail.com) or 734-645-1150.



**The First  
Congregational  
Church** of Ann Arbor

fccannarbor.org

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**Juliet Djietror**

Administrative Assistant  
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*“Sing and shout for joy,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel”*

Isaiah 12:2

**COP Worship Service**

**Returns**

**Kick-Off Sunday**

**in**

**Pilgrim Hall**

*(please see page 11 for details)*

*(COP is not available on  
Facebook)*

**SUNDAY IN-PERSON AND LIVESREAM WORSHIP**

**AND CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
  - 8:50—11:15 a.m. Childcare available for Nursery and Preschool
  - 9:00 a.m. COP (Change of Pace), Pilgrim Hall (see
  - 9:30 a.m. Communion, Douglas Chapel
  - 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary, and FCC Kidz Programming
- The 9 a.m. Change of Pace service will continue to be livestreamed on YouTube ONLY.  
The 10 a.m. worship service will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.*
- Masks will be available at all doors, as well as touch-free hand sanitizers.*
- 11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall

**SEPTEMBER 2022 CALENDAR**

Sep 1	7:00 p.m.	Missions & Outreach Meeting via Zoom
Sep 7,14,21,28	9:00 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Alpha Diner
Sep 7,21	10:15 a.m.	Mind & Spirit, Mayflower Room
Sep 7	12:00 p.m.	Marketing Meeting
Sep 7	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
Sep 11		<b>~ Kick-Off Sunday ~</b>
Sep 12	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Sep 14,21,28	6:30 p.m.	20/40 Small Group
Sep 15	10:00 a.m.	FCC Littles Play Date
Sep 16	7:00 p.m.	AGO New Music Festival, Sanctuary
Sep 18	11:00 a.m.	New Member Orientation
Sep 18	11:15 a.m.	Activities and Fellowship Meeting, Meeting Room
Sep 19	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sep 22	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Meeting
Sep 25		<b>~ New Member Sunday ~</b>
Sep 25	11:30 a.m.	BOCE Meeting



**Who:** All are welcome to join the game  
**What:** First Croquet Convention (a casual game of croquet sponsored by FCC Kidz Jr. High Group)  
**When:** Kick-Off Sunday, September 11

**FCC STAFF EMAILS**

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Chancel Choir Director	Ben Gaughran	ben@fccannarbor.org
Organist	Timothy L. Huth	timothyhuth@gmail.com
Pianist	Joshua Marzan	pianist@fccannarbor.org
Hand Chimes	Cindy Bylsma	cjbylsma@gmail.com
Wedding Coordinator	Betty Jahnke	weddings@fccannarbor.org
Technology	Jared Peterson	
Minister Emerita	Dorothy Lenz	
Director of Music Emeritus	Willis Patterson	
Minister Emeritus	Robert Livingston	

*Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here*