THOUGHTS FROM DARCY CRAIN
SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

There is a countdown going in our house that usually starts around Mother’s Day. It probably is happening in countless other homes that include anyone under the age of 18; the countdown for summer vacation. In 2023, that includes asking Alexa how many school days until June 9, day after day, and increasingly getting excited as that number dwindles to something they can count on their hands. The anticipation of sleeping in, of schedule-free days, of biking around the neighborhood playing with friends and hoping the ice cream truck shows up is worth the hype.

This summer, I am blessed to join that kind of carefree unplugging through the gift of sabbatical. FCC has a long tradition of honoring the need for clergy sabbatical. It decreases burnout, increases spiritual health, and reinvigorates leadership and creativity. Thank you for valuing and honoring this need. After a year of a lot of exciting transitions, an incredibly successful stewardship campaign, and a great deal of visioning and implementing goals, I join my children in anticipation of a schedule-free summer.

I look forward to camping in the UP with my kids (tent camping, and I can barely start my own fire so that’ll go well), playing a soccer tournament in North Carolina, spending time with Angie and the kids, and reading the long list of books I have compiled throughout the year but haven’t carved out time for.

I know you all will be in good hands with Lily and Eric, and I look forward to the opportunity for them to get to know FCC more each week. As we have done in years past, we will feature the Change of Pace service and format on three Sundays throughout the summer, June 25,
July 30, and August 20. On those Sundays we will gather in Pilgrim Hall, rather than the sanctuary. Our chapel communion services will continue weekly at 9:30 a.m.

I will look forward to coming back to the church mid-August as we prepare for an exciting programming year of ministry at FCC, starting with a Board and Committee kick-off gathering on August 21.

No matter how you spend your summers, may they bring some sense of unplugging and Sabbath. May the longer days and hotter sun provide a chance to reconnect with creation and our creator. Happy summer FCC family and thank you for this gift of renewal!

Darcy Crain
Senior Minister

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RAISE RIGHT - SCRIP CORNER IS CHANGING
CHRIS VERMEULEN

In case you didn’t see it in the Weekly Email or Bulletin: We stopped keeping an inventory of Scrip cards for sales on Sundays. We will continue with online orders, so you can still order cards. This requires having an account with RaiseRight (and we will help you do this).

How much did we raise since we started: We raised $14,000 since 2010. This money was donated to work trips by the Senior High Group, and the Intergenerational Group.

Is it easy to do: Most of the time, it is easy to use the Scrip card, but sometimes there are challenges. For example, I wanted to order online from Staples but there was not a place to put in the eGift number. When I followed up with Staples, I found that the department I was placing the order with (Banners) did not have a place on their payment page. So, according to Staples, I could order online with the exception of banners. Fortunately, I had a Scrip Visa card that I could use.

Is it worth doing: I say “yes”. Even with some of the cards at low percentages (like the Visa card), we spend enough to make it worthwhile, especially if I can get several others to join.

Most cards can be reloaded: Many of the Scrip cards can be reloaded and do not require the shipping of physical cards, but not all. For example, the Visa cards cannot be reloaded. However, the Visa cards cover places that don’t have their own Scrip card (like Costco). For these we will bundle orders and bring them in when it makes sense.

Other kinds of “cards”: There are also eGift cards available through Scrip. These you can print and use at physical stores.

How can you help: Buy Scrip cards for your use (and to give as gifts) by opening an account and placing your order. Just so you know, there is a $.29 charge when you place an order regardless of the dollar amount total of the cards.

Feedback: We want your feedback about ways we could help you access online Scrip orders and improve your willingness to buy and use Scrip cards.
It’s been a joyful spring here at FCC! We journeyed together through Lent with a sermon series on “Modern Day Idols” and devotionals called “Running from Empty.” Though those may not seem like the most uplifting topics, we found ourselves in deep and fulfilling reflection as we prepared for Easter. Together we explored how we might make room to connect more deeply with God, Spirit, and community. Sunday mornings have been full of Spirit and energy! Easter Eve COP, Easter Sunday worship, and Holy Week were impactful! We felt renewal and resurrection! Sunday, May 21, was Installation Sunday (see page 16). It was a day of joyful worship in the Sanctuary and wonder-ful fellowship at an all-church picnic. As ever, I am struck with what a joy it is to journey alongside you in ministry here at FCC.

FCC Kidz and youth have been bountiful as well: from Confirmation (see page 14) to Family Camp, to community service and lots of Sunday morning fun! We had 50+ children and youth attend FCC Kidz activities on Easter Morning (see page 7). Thirty-five (35) FCC members traveled to Tower Hill for FCC Church Family Camp in April. We welcomed new members into the community on April 30. And, we welcomed three incredible young people into full membership on Confirmation Sunday, May 7 (see page 14). Saturday Yoga @ FCC, taught by Jill Diwan and supported by AFC and Robbie, has been a success and will continue going forward (see page 8).

As we wrap up this programming and fiscal year, we celebrate a year of rebuilding and renewal! Our average attendance in FCC Kidz increased to 15.6 in 2022-2023 (up from 10.6 in the 2021-2022). We are all grateful to Marina (our Children’s Ministry Coordinator) and all who volunteer with FCC Kidz and Youth throughout the year.
We also look forward to exciting opportunities in the year ahead. This summer, we’ll have fellowship opportunities for people of all ages. If you have ideas for summer fellowship events, let us know! As we anticipate fall, we’re eager to continue what’s working well, and we’ll explore some new approaches. If you want to experience the joy of FCC Kidz and youth, we’d love to have your help!

I’m wishing each of you a wonderful and rejuvenating summer!

Lily Tinker Fortel
Associate Minister

Spring Highlight Photos:

Family Camp Campfire
Family Camp Rocks
Family Camp Breakfast
Family Camp Archery
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

LILY TINKER FORTEL
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Alpha House Volunteer Day

Confirmation Sunday

Easter Bunny with Betty and Diane

Easter Breakfast Team

Easter Children’s Circle

Looking ahead...
A Fish Story

Sometimes you learn things without knowing you did. It was certainly that way for me, when summer came and it was a good day for fishing. If it were up to me and my 9-year-old self, going fishing would be as easy as going to a toy store...drive there, put a line in the water, and bring home something special. But, fishing isn’t like that, not for my dad and me. Because in order to catch the real fish, we had to catch the minnows. Before we caught minnows, we had to go get the kind of bread they liked to eat. And, before we went to the store to get the right kind of bread, we would check the paper for the weather and the tides, because there’s no use in even getting the bread if it is going to be low tide and no fish around at the docks.

At each step of the process there was something special to do, and fishing was one of the few things we did just the two of us. And, so we’d maybe pick up something to snack on while we would catch the minnows. We knew the best places to go and it was worth driving to a different beach to catch the bait. Sometimes we’d feed the ducks or skip rocks to pass time. We tried to time it just right so we had enough minnows and got to the docks just about an hour before high tide. We’d find a good spot and put the lines in. Then wait. Hopefully, not too long. And then... the line would go slack or taut, and we’d try to time it just right to set the hook. I found this part the hardest, because there wasn’t an easy rule to follow. It wasn’t just “wait three seconds and then yank!” But, between the two of us it would be a good haul and more than enough for dinner. It was not uncommon for other people to come over to look at our buckets and wonder how we were catching so many fish, and we’d enjoy it while it lasted.

When we arrived home, we would clean the fish and mom would dig holes in her garden for us to bury the fish parts we weren’t using, as extra fertilizer for the vegetables. The cats would get a treat or two as well. We’d scrub our hands with salt and water to get the smell off. Then we’d fry up the fish in butter with some corn and chard on the side. Not a bad way to spend a summer day at all.

Of course, we could have just gone to the grocery store and gotten a fish. That is true and it would have been easier. But, I wouldn’t have learned as much, that’s for sure. When I look back, here’s what I learned... it wasn’t about the fish at all! It was learning how to spend quality time with my dad. That’s a lesson I’ll never forget.

Summer is as good a time as any to tend to some of the important things, like the people we care about. What are the ways you connect with the significant people and relationships in your life?

Rev. Eric
MARINA BAKER
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

We’ve had a wonderful spring at FCC Kidz. Easter Sunday was full of fun! We had over 50 students attend and participate in our Easter Sunday Activities. Middle and High school students hid eggs outside on FCC grounds for our elementary students to find.

Our littlest members had their own egg hunt in the preschool classroom. We elected to avoid candy this year, opting for non-edible toys like keychains, bracelets, erasers, and other fun toys. Special thanks to Helena and 20/40 for helping prepare the Easter eggs.

Following the service students and their families enjoyed our Easter brunch in Pilgrim Hall that featured a surprise visit from the Easter bunny!
CALLING ALL MEMBERS
Sunday, June 11, 2023

Please mark your calendars...

June 4:  Budget Meeting, 11:00 a.m., sanctuary and zoom
June 11: Annual Meeting, 11:00 a.m., sanctuary and zoom

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held on June 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., in the sanctuary. The meeting will be held in hybrid format, inviting participation online and in-person concurrently. Please plan on attending. Zoom link will be available in the Friday email.

A special meeting reviewing the budget will take place on June 4, at 11 a.m., in the sanctuary, again a hybrid format. This meeting allows time and space for specific questions regarding the budget and has allowed for a smoother (and shorter!) Annual Meeting. The appropriate financial material will be available to members 2 weeks prior to the June 4 meeting and the Annual Report is now available. Printed copies are available at FCC, and the digital copy is now uploaded onto the member resources section of the website.

YOGA at FCC
Starting June 3
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Donation based!
Upstairs in (air-conditioned) Pilgrim Hall

Our Summer Session will take place every Saturday in June. We will break for July and August, and will resume classes on Saturdays, beginning September 9, 2023. All levels welcome! Please come practice with us. Drop-ins are welcome. Childcare provided.

Please contact Robbie at robbiesawitski@gmail.com, if you have any questions, or to join our growing email list.

AFC All-Church Father's Day Potluck and Mini Ice Cream Social
June 18 - Outside, weather permitting.
Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service
Last names:  A - M - Side Dish or Salad
            N - Z - Fruit Salad or Dessert

PLEASE, If you bring a dish to share:
• Provide a list of ingredients to display with the item.
• Please remember, no nuts or nut products.

Any food containing nuts will be taken to the Mayflower Kitchenette to be picked up after
Ann Arbor Civic Band
Presents “FOR THE KIDS”
Wednesday, June 28, Burns Park

All ages welcome! Bring your own dinner and drinks bring blankets and/or chairs. We will bring some games.

We always have a ‘Good Time’ when we gather with friends for a get-together at the park. Add a meal, some playtime for the Kidz, and a lovely evening of music outdoors, and that is what a summer event is all about. We hope to see you there. Any questions, please contact Lily at lily@fccannarbor.org.

Annual All-Church Fundraising Event
Hospitality Station and R&R Need YOU
Thursday, July 20 - Saturday, July 22

AFC, together with the BOCE, and on behalf of our church, have once again contracted with the Ann Arbor State Street Association to be responsible for the Hospitality Station at the Michigan Theater, as well as the Rubbish and Recycling removal (R&R) from the State Street District area of the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Please see the AFC report on page 22 for more details.

WE NEED YOU!
Please join us for R&R this year, as we raise money for our Senior High Work-Trips. We will collect recycles and rubbish during the 2023 Art Fair. Sign up soon with the QR code here.

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS - SUMMER BREAK

All Small Group meetings will be going on hiatus for the Summer and will plan on resuming sometime in September. It was certainly wonderful to be able to meet in person again! Offering hybrid options to include those who could not attend in person enhanced our gatherings by allowing us to ‘all’ stay in touch.

A very special thank you to those leaders who keep inspiring us!

Please watch your Tuesday Emails in August for the Fall start dates of these special groups. If you have any questions, please contact Carolina at the church office.
SAVE THE DATE
ALL-CHURCH EVENTS

Intergenerational Mission Trips are Back!
April 15 - April 20, 2024

Intergenerational Mission Trips began as an outreach initiative in response to natural disasters. The initial trip followed the aftermath of hurricanes Rita/Katrina, and became one of our most popular annual outreach initiatives. Initially coinciding with Ann Arbor Schools Spring Break to allow our school age youth to participate with their families, these trips continued annually even after Ann Arbor temporarily suspended Spring Break; however, COVID shut us down.

Our Senior Minister is now working with prior trip coordinators and other interested members to revive this initiative. The goal will be to schedule them to once again coincide with Spring Break; however, this coming year will be an exception since Spring Break coincides with Holy Week. The plan for 2024 is to schedule the trip for April 15-20. Current planning is to go to one of the Kentucky venues that has been devastated by tornados; location will be dependent on availability of local partnering organizations who can provide assistance with lodging, dining facilities, and coordination/prioritization of work projects.

More information will be forthcoming as it develops, but this announcement is in hopes that those interested will

“Save the Date!”

The 2nd Annual Duncan ‘Dunc’ McCallum Memorial Golf Scramble
September 17, 2:00 p.m.

A good time was had by all on Sunday, October 2, 2022, at Hudson Mills Metro Park Golf Course. 16 golf aficionados spent a sunny and memorable day golfing with friends, and honoring the memory of our buddy, Dunc. Looks like this will now be a regular AFC annual event, to be enjoyed for many years.

If you have any questions, please email Dave Steiner at dranodavec47@gmail.com.
### Notable June Dates
5 National Cancer Survivors Day  
6 World War II D-Day Anniversary  
19 Juneteenth, Father’s Day  
21 Summer Solstice/Summer Begins* (varies)  
25 Great American Backyard Campout*

**June is:**  
Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month  
African-American Music Appreciation Month  
Pride Month  
Great Outdoors Month  
Family Month  
PTSD Awareness Month

### Notable July Dates
1 National Postal Worker Day  
4 Independence Day  
10 Don’t Step On a Bee Day  
15 National Give Something Away Day  
18 Nelson Mandela International Day

**July is:**  
Bereaved Parents Awareness Month  
National Fireworks Safety Month  
National Make a Difference for Children Month  
National Picnic Month

### Notable August Dates
2 Dinosaurs Day  
4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day  
9 Book Lovers Day  
19 World Humanitarian Day  
21 Poet’s Day  
30 National Grief Awareness Day

**August is:**  
Family Fun Month  
Get Ready for Kindergarten Month  
National Back to School Month  
National Eye Exam Month  
National Immunization Awareness Month
FCC FOOD PANTRY “Please help fill our empty food donation shelves!”

Did you know that Hope Clinic is the largest free food program in our county? This service includes a pantry of choice, where shoppers pick the food they want including dairy, meat, and fresh produce. We regularly deliver your donations to the food pantry at Hope Clinic. Our local pantries continue to have huge needs with rising food prices, and now many children who will not be in school for some of their meals. Please consider picking up some of these items when you shop: meals in a can: ravioli, hearty soups, beef stew; cereal, canned meats, pastas, peanut butter and jelly, ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, salad dressings, dish soap, shampoo, and toothpaste, large size.

Please place your donations on the food collection shelves in the Smith Welcome Center. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Book Drive for Cass Community Services

The members of the FCC Mind & Spirit Book Group want to thank all who contributed to our very successful book drive!

Sara and Bob Holmes recently took a carload of books to Cass Community Services in Detroit for their new family shelter.

The group previously donated funds for book shelves. A wonderful selection of books for children and adults is a great addition to this facility.
Dear First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor Congregants,

On behalf of the Jewish Family Services Resettlement Program, thank you so much for all of your incredible donations from your Easter Giving Tree drive! Your amazing collection included new pillows, bath towels, sheets, comforters, shower curtains, bath rugs, paper towels and toilet paper, toiletries, light bulbs, frying pans and serving supplies, baking dishes, knives, microwaves, wonderful stuffed animals, and children’s activity kits! We were also overwhelmed by your Target and Visa gift card donations totaling $1825, which will allow us to purchase additional household supplies!

Your collection and your ongoing support mean more than I can express for the Resettlement Program as we strive to set up households of warmth, comfort and dignity for incoming families. Some of the items have already been provided to four families who we moved in over the past couple of weeks! All of your lovely donations will be very well used and so much appreciated.

The JFS Resettlement program continues to welcome families from many countries, including Afghanistan, Burma, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Moldova, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen. We truly could not do it without the support of community members like yourselves.

I would also like to thank Greg and Mary Jackson and Nicki Griffith for coordinating the collection, and delivering everything to our storage area!

Thank you again so much. Please pass on our gratitude to all involved. I send best wishes to all in the coming year!

Very gratefully,
Patricia Benson
Volunteer coordinator of in-kind donations for Resettlement
Confirmation Sunday, May 7

Congratulations to our confirmands, Gus, Charlie, and Connor on their Confirmation at FCC Sunday, May 7. Huge thanks to confirmation mentors, Rick Reid and Trevor Towery for accompanying our confirmands through the journey!

Galatians 5:22-25

“By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”

DR. TIMOTHY HUTH
FCC ORGANIST

I’m glad to share with you that I’ll be embarking for Paris on an organ performance and study tour June 29-July 12. This is part of a gathering called the "French Organ Music Seminar," http://www.bfoms.com. Participants will spend hours in the choir lofts of basilicas, cathedrals, and chapels where some of the greatest organs of the world reside. I will be attending masterclasses, playing in recitals, meeting noted organists from around the world, and having a lot of bench time with my colleagues. In addition, Paris is one of the coolest cities in the universe to just wander around in and hang out.

Working for you makes me proud and happy to be an organist. As I reflect, my entire professional and academic career has been devoted to the ministry of music through the art and craft of church music, service and liturgy planning, choir formation and directing, and liturgical studies. I didn’t necessarily plan that; I felt I never knew what I really wanted to do...but all my life, I kept ending back on the organ bench!

Psalm 57: “...Awake my Soul! Awake Lyre and Harp! I will awake the Dawn!”
Mother’s Day, May 14, Flower Dedications

* Anonymous  In memory of Marilyn Mason
* A daughter  In memory of a mother who left this world too soon
* A loving parent  In honor of my daughter Sarah, who inspires me every day with her Commitment to her family & work, her joy in loving nature & her generous spirit.
* Nadine Alpern  In honor of my mom, Sylvia Podgorski
* Margaret & Rick Anderson  In memory of our dear mothers, Ruth Nelson & Mary Anderson
* Debbie and Tom Bourque  In honor of our mothers, Betty Fowler & Marilyn Bourque, two of the best!
* Betty Bishop  In memory of my mother, Mary Bishop
* Bill Bowers  In memory of Sally Bowers
* Darcy Crain  In memory of Anne Pritchard, the mother of our family whose love, wisdom, patience, & humor we miss deeply. Love you grams.
* Pam & Mike Dabbs  In memory of our mothers, Fern Meyers & Mary Dabbs
* Della & Trey DiPietro  In honor of Beverly DiPietro, our 96-year-old mom
* Suzanne & Bob Edick  In memory of our mothers, Mary Tooze & Beatrice Kuhl
* Larry Eiler  For four loving women of my life Helen Tracy Eiler, Sandy Eiler, Tracy Eiler & Anne Maier
* Lily Tinker Fortel  In memory of Lily’s grandmas, Lorena Jeanne Tinker & Harriet Fortel & Steve Wiggins, and In honor of Hope Tinker & Debbie Wiggins
* Mary Howley-Visel  In memory of Beverly Howley
* Judy Hallberg  In memory of June Whitney Hallberg, my mother
  In honor of my sisters, Christine & Valerie
  In honor of my sisters-in-law, Sharon & Jeannette
* Dennis Jackson  In loving memory of Evelyn
* Sheryl Kurze  For Edee Kurze, who brightened the lives of friends & family with flowers galore
* John MacKenzie  In memory of my mom, Carolyn MacKenzie
* Lucy McFinton  For my Mom, Jennifer McFinton. I love you with all my heart!
* The Nicholson Family  In honor of Sallie Sue "Gigi" Shipley for all her loving care as a mother and grandmother
  In honor of Margaret "Mimi" Nicholson, a loving and supportive mother and grandmother
* Jane Pettit  In honor of my aunt, Barbara Knapp & in memory of my late mother, Marjorie Woodworth, with love
* Lou Saalbach  In memory of Arlene Virginia Saalbach, beloved wife of Lou & mother of Stephen & Alison
* Dave Steiner  In memory of Phyllis Steiner
* Jim & Jean Wedemeyer  In loving memory of our mothers, Phyllis Ufer & Ann Wedemeyer
Installation Sunday, May 21

Thank you for joining us in our beautiful sanctuary and online! We had a wonderful Installation Celebration and Picnic to follow.

Thank you to all who celebrated with us.

Celebrating FCC's 2023 Graduates!

My Heart Leaps Up
William Wordsworth - 1770-1850

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old,
Or let me die!
The Child is father of the Man;
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety.
CHURCH COUNCIL
CHRIS VERMEULEN, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Elected Positions
Church Council Chair: Ellen Rambo
Church Council Vice-Chair: Val Towery
Secretary: Chris Vermeulen
Treasurer: Mike Dabbs
Clerk: Gae Miller
Historian: Betty Bishop

Remaining Positions Filled by Board and Committee Positions
Board of Deacons Chair: Jennifer Santi
Board of Trustees Chair: Lou Candiotti
Board of Christian Education Chair: Eric Nicholson
Missions and Outreach Committee Chair: Suzanne Price
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
Minister: Darcy Crain, Lily Tinker Fortel, Eric Hausman
PRC (Pastoral Relations Committee): Debbie Bourque, Colleen Creal, Ray Decker, and Rick Reid

Current Activities

Darcy on Sabbatical:
Darcy will be on sabbatical this summer starting in mid-June. Lily and Eric are ready to provide support while Darcy is away.

Bookkeeper:
A big thank-you to Nancy for her dedication to FCC. She will continue as the congregation liaison and will be in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. We look forward to introducing our new bookkeeper this summer.

Covid 19 Health Safety Committee (a sub-committee under the Church Council):
At this time, the building remains open with masks recommended in most all areas except the FCC Kidz nursery room (where masks are still required). The status is subject to change as needed and updates are published in the Friday/Monday Emails.

Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) (a sub-committee under the Church Council):
The PRC is independent from the ministers and is charged with looking into any issues brought up by members of the Congregation. Feel free to contact any of the members (Debbie...
On December 25, 1844, just over two years before our First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor was established, the First Congregational Church of Detroit was founded. The two early churches were located along the Detroit River. The early church members were active in the Underground Railroad and helped many enslaved people escaping from the South to cross the Detroit River to freedom in Canada. A number of us learned much more about this whole experience when we visited the current First Congregational Church of Detroit in March and explored the Underground Railroad Living Museum. This is a storytelling simulation of the original Underground Railroad. Perhaps FCC will arrange another visit there in a year or two.

The present building for the First Congregational Church of Detroit was built in 1891 and is past its 125th anniversary. The building was designed by John Faxon of Boston; this architect modeled the church after ones he had seen in Venice and Ravenna while traveling in Europe. Unlike the plain wooden New England Congregational churches this was a combination of the Romanesque and Byzantine styles of architecture with many Victorian elements in the interior. The carved wood, ceiling portraits, stained glass rose windows, and rich colors are much more typical of European churches than of the early New England years. There is a Chapel which is in the style of great halls in English manor homes and castles. There is a lot of richly carved wood, especially on the ceiling and around the windows.

There is a bell tower, 120 feet in height, topped by a statue of the Archangel Uriel, who is associated with light. The great door, modeled after the door of the Cathedral in Pisa, Italy. A later addition in 1925 was the Community House, designed by the well-known Detroit architect, Albert Kahn.

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 11, 2023 (Annual Meeting)
August 21, 2023
September 18, 2023
TREASURER’S REPORT
MIKE DABBS

The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor
2022 – 2023 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
April 30, 2023

REVENUE

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<th>ACTUAL 10/31/22</th>
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<td>Gifts – Operations</td>
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EXPENSES

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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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NET REVENUE

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<th>ACTUAL 10/31/22</th>
<th>APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/22 - 6/30/23</th>
<th>ACTUAL PERCENT</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>($130,294)</strong></td>
<td><strong>($177,727)</strong></td>
<td><strong>73%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACTUAL 10/31/22</th>
<th>APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/22 - 6/30/23</th>
<th>ACTUAL PERCENT</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION</strong></td>
<td>+$ 192,000</td>
<td>+$ 183,196</td>
<td>105%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACTUAL 10/31/22</th>
<th>APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/22 - 6/30/23</th>
<th>ACTUAL PERCENT</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 61,706</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 5,469</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES

Approved Budget reflects October 10th adjustments made by Trustees

1. Pastoral Fund distribution of $3,500 for M&O, and pastoral assistance.

2. 2021-2022 Budget projected distribution from trust and endowment funds is 5% ($141,896). Included is additional one-time distribution of $41,300 to cover Livingston sabbatical and vacation costs.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Misc. Note: 2022-2023 Mortgage Principal payments will be $35,862. The principal payment is not reflected in the Annual Budget.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Michael F. Dabbs, Treasurer

The Financial Statement Summary reflects FCC’s finances as of April 30, which covers the first ten months of our current fiscal year. Actual pledge revenue remains greater than a year ago. Most expense areas are within their respective budget amounts for this date. The couple that exceed their budgets, are expected to finish the year within budget. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all members who have been making payments of their pledge. The timely receipt of your pledge payments greatly assists the church in managing its cash flow.

We have selected UHY to do this year’s Financial Review.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, we will be selecting a new Bookkeeper to take over from Nancy Sauve, who will retire after over 25 years of service to FCC. We also expect to switch our accounting software. We are doing all we can to make sure this transition is smooth.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

WAYS TO GIVE

In addition to automatic payments and checks by mail, you can scan or text to be directed to online giving.

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

Text: OpenToAll To: 73256 Thank you for your Generosity!

Do you need a notary?

Our FCC Bookkeeper, Nancy Sauve is happy to help! Contact her at nancy@fccannarbor.org and bring your documents to church on Sunday morning.
Your Music committee has enjoyed serving FCC during this "regular season." We are proud to continue FCC’s well-established church music heritage, drawing our congregation into closer community with each other and nearer into communion with the divine. With Mother’s Day now behind us, and with summer revving up, we’d like to note that, as has been standard in recent years, certain Chancel Choir members will provide offerings during worship and will lead our hymns during summer services. We acknowledge with sincere thanks soprano section leader Maitri White’s planned departure after this summer, and we thank her for her immense leadership and her musical contributions these past few years. Godspeed in your pursuits, Maitri!

Looking ahead to the Fall season, Ben Gaughran, FCC Director of Music, invites interested members of the congregation to consider joining the choir. The commitment is relatively modest, especially in light of the satisfaction and sheer fun entailed in choir membership. As Ben noted in a recruitment pitch he filmed upon his arrival, "If you sing in the shower, or if you sing in the car...you qualify." Traditionally, the group gathers in the downstairs choir room at 8:15 a.m. and typically adjourns following the 10:00 a.m. service. The choir also meets one evening in advance prior to Kick-off Sunday, the Sunday after Labor Day. Please watch for announcements in early September. In addition, the choir prepares two larger works as special music offerings during the Advent and the Lenten seasons, each of which calls for a Saturday morning "dress" rehearsal. Worth noting is Ben is planning something new for next year: a Sunday afternoon concert in November. Consider lifting your voice as a choir member in 2023-2024!

We are pleased to acknowledge the rejuvenation of the American Center for Church Music (ACCM), founded in 1988 at FCC by Dr. Michele Johns and the late Dr. Marilyn Mason. The ACCM and the FCC hosted half-a-dozen Sunday afternoon offerings this past year. In further collaboration with The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale of Ypsilanti, we helped support an enormously successful Music in the Black Church symposium this past February. We anticipate more collaborations for the coming year. Please look for forthcoming announcements of special musical offerings as dates are firmed up and approaching.

We thank Kathy Beam for her several years of service, and appreciate Helen Zylman’s willingness to step into Kathy’s spot on the committee. Terry Foster and Barbara Sturgis-Everett continue in renewed terms. Donna Livant, David Smith, and Paul Fossum round out the elected membership, joined by staff members Rev. Dr. Darcy Crain, Dr. Timothy Huth, Terry Farmer, and Ben Gaughran. We’re at your service! Please let us know your thoughts.

Have a very happy summer, and, as our fabulous organist, Tim Huth, likes to say, "We’ll see you in church!"
With summer upon us, activities slow down and take on a more relaxed and easy tone. We are looking forward to Yoga through June. We will break for July and August, and resume on Saturday, September 9, at 10:00 a.m. (see page 8). The All-Church Potluck and Mini-Ice Cream Social on Father’s Day, June 18, is always a lot of fun! (see page 8) We are hoping to have a couple more potluck-picnics at FCC in July and August. Please watch the bulletins and the Tuesday and Friday mails for events as they come up.

In addition to our usual programming, the AFC, together with the BOCE, on behalf of our church, regularly contract with the Ann Arbor State Street Association to be responsible for the Hospitality Station at the Michigan Theater, as well as the Rubbish and Recycling removal (R&R) from the State Street District of the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Once again, we have contracted for the 2023 Ann Arbor Art Fair. We have also taken on another part of the fair for extra monies. We have garnered quite a name for ourselves in the trash-collecting world, and have been approached several times for extra activities.

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

Our Motto is, “Many hands make light work.”
We encourage all members to bring any ideas for events to our attention, or to join in planning any event. We always need help with set-up, clean-up, and having fun. We have a growing list of Adjunct Committee Members, who are interested in activities and willing to help whenever they can, but are not able to fully commit to the committee work.

If you want to be kept in this loop of ‘Good Times’, please let Robbie know at robbiesawitski@gmail.com.
Spring is a busy season for the Building and Grounds Committee. While unexpected repairs are a constant, this time of year brings up additional work of getting bids for the year’s special projects.

**May 6 Work Day** Thirty wonderful, hardworking church members turned out for our annual spring workday on May 6. Together, we pruned, raked, edged, weeded and mulched ‘the entire yard’. We gave special attention to the Memorial Garden, which sustained some damage in the winter ice and snowstorms. The grounds all around the church look great after this effort! We also worked on sorting and cleaning out years of amassed craft supplies for the church school and made a huge dent in that needed task. Thank you so much to all who participated!

**Elevator Load Test** Our elevator is now inspected on a regular basis. In addition, we recently went through a load test, to ensure we are running safely up to 2000 pounds.

**Special Projects for 2023** Each year, the committee identifies several projects that need improvement, while staying within our budget. This year, the projects are:

- Roof maintenance inspection and repair - completed
- Repair and modify Irrigation System - scheduled
- Repair and refinish exterior wood sanctuary doors - scheduled
- Paint exterior Welcome Center, Mayflower Room and Staff Windows - scheduled
- Repair and paint black metal perimeter fence - scheduled
- Replace broken sidewalk slabs - contracted with the City of Ann Arbor
- Clean and repaint lettering on William/Maynard corner sign - in process
- Relamp Exterior Lighting - under investigation

We think these exterior improvements will greatly enhance our renovated interior of the church.
SUNDAY IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM WORSHIP
AND CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m.  Childcare available for Nursery and Preschool
9:30 a.m.  Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary, and FCC Kidz Programming

COP (Change of Pace), Pilgrim Hall (See calendar below for these dates)
All worship services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

11:00 a.m.  Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall

JUNE - JULY - AUGUST 2023 CALENDAR

Jun 7  11:30 a.m.  Last Mind & Spirit before summer break
Sunday, Jun 11  11:00 a.m.  FCC Annual Meeting - Sanctuary
Jun 14  11:30 a.m.  Marketing Meeting
Jun 15  6:00 p.m.  20/40
Jun 16  11:00 a.m.  FCC Kidz Playdate
          2:00 p.m.  Reinmuth Memorial - Chapel
Jun 17  2:00 p.m.  Proehl Memorial - Sanctuary
Sunday, Jun 18  11:00 a.m.  Father’s Day All-Church Picnic, Potluck and Mini Ice Cream Social (see page 8)
                        Senior High Volunteer Trip (away Jun 18 - 24)
Jun 22  4:00 p.m.  Building and Grounds Meeting
Sunday, Jun 25  10:00 a.m.  COP - Change of Pace Service - Pilgrim Hall
                        11:30 a.m.  BOCE Meeting
Jun 28  7:00 p.m.  Gather for A2 Civic Band Concert
Jul 12  6:00 p.m.  20/40 and Playdate
Sunday, Jul 16  11:15 a.m.  AFC Meeting - Mayflower Room
Sunday, Jul 30  10:00 a.m.  COP - Change of Pace Service - Pilgrim Hall
Aug 5  11:00 a.m.  FCC Kidz Playdate
Sunday, Aug 13  11:00 a.m.  VBS Lunch and Lesson
Aug 14  7:00 p.m.  Trustees Meeting
Aug 15  6:00 p.m.  20/40 Dinner
Sunday, Aug 20  10:00 a.m.  COP - Change of Pace Service - Pilgrim Hall
                        11:15 a.m.  AFC Meeting - Mayflower Room
Aug 21  TBD  All-Church Leadership Retreat
Aug 24  4:00 p.m.  Building and Grounds Meeting
Sunday, Aug 27  11:30 a.m.  BOCE Meeting

Sleeping in the Forest
Mary Oliver, 1978

"I thought the earth remembered me,
she took me back so tenderly,
arranging her dark skirts, her pockets
full of lichens and seeds.
I slept as never before, a stone on the river bed,
nothing between me and the white fire of the stars
but my thoughts and they floated light as moths
among the branches of the perfect trees.
All night I heard the small kingdoms
breathing around me, the insects,
and the birds who do their work in the darkness.
All night I rose and fell, as if in water,
grappling with a luminous doom. By morning
I had vanished at least a dozen times’
into something better.”

Whatever Your Story, You’re Welcome Here