

The Lakeshore Congregationalist

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1860

July 2019

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Office Information

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 10am-2pm
Email: Office@1stCongregational.Net
Website: 1stCongregational.Net

Our Covenant

We covenant with the Lord and with one another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of God, to walk together in all his ways, according as he is pleased to reveal himself unto us in his blessed word of truth.

Our Goal

The church exists to change lives. That's what we're about. It's simple to say, harder to live. Every single week, we find a way to love God through worship, through one another, through fellowship, and through simple acts of service in the Saugatuck/Douglas area. We don't always get it right, but we have fun trying.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF SAUGATUCK

296 Hoffman St. PO Box 633
Saugatuck, MI 49453



*I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.*

*Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.*

Joel 2: 28-29

Imagine arriving to worship, as we do each Sunday, to find bulletins neatly folded, a sanctuary full of warm smiles and hugs and greetings. Imagine Krystin playing the piano beautifully as we gather to praise God. Can you see us standing together speaking in one unified voice to God in prayer? Well... then imagine that all of a sudden, a violent rush of wind busts into the sanctuary- the doors fly off their hinges the widows shatter under the pressure - and a lick of fire appears floating above each of our heads! Curious.

As we instinctively flinch or try and swat out the flames... we turn to each other and ask, "What was that? What's going on?" Only to find that we are speaking unfamiliar, lyrical languages. One in German, another French. I'm speaking Swahili. Another Farsi. Perhaps you are speaking Mandarin or Algonquian. The sounds are intriguing and new, but we understand each other perfectly!

That would certainly spice thing up!

On the first day on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came whooshing into our world, the disciples didn't reach for cell phones while trying to decide if they wanted to film the event or call for help, they praised God in their many tongues. They spoke of God's love and brilliance with all the textures their voices could offer!

Would we respond in the same way?

Beverly Gaventa once wrote that, "We want the Spirit to be like airplane coffee, weak but reliable, and administered in small quantities." I find that many people have a fairly tentative attitude toward the Holy Spirit

Pentecost is one of the greatest stories of our Christian faith. It is a moment that speaks to us about beginnings, possibility and the potential of God's church. For it is the Spirit that sets our hearts and minds on fire - blessing us with giftedness and ideas, passion and convictions! The Spirit is a force of change and movement.



Sometimes I fear the church (our church, any church) wants God to be an old bearded man in the sky, in need of a good long rest and a rocking chair. Storied and wise, yet checked out and fragile.

But the Holy Spirit is definitely not that.

The Holy Spirit is alive, awake and on the move in our world today! Turning it towards love and a more just reality, inspiring grace in perilous places, urging those who are frozen in the pews to dance and think and try new things.

The Prophet Joel said that when the Spirit came that we would all be filled with dreams and visions. The young and the old, the slave and the free- flooded with inspiration and truth.

So I wonder what dreams you have for this world? For our church?

Just a few weeks ago on Pentecost Sunday I asked that question from the pulpit. While many of my questions are rhetorical or just something to take with you for pondering... but this time I wanted to know, so I handed out index cards to collect your ideas and dreams. Here are your responses:

- I pray for God's guidance on when to be silent, and when to speak out - loud and clear.
- The Spirit is leading us towards more opportunities to be with friends and family.
- The Spirit is leading us to advocate for affordable housing in Saugatuck/Douglas and towards protecting our earth: saving trees, planting new trees, preserving the milkweed around the church for monarch butterflies.
- God has granted my family with good health so that we can pursue all that life has to offer. No limitations- such a blessing!
- God has given me and my husband endless opportunities. We have been and continue to be excited about each day and what is to come. Such a blessing!
- The Spirit is leading us to pray for others, bring meals to our homebound and helping at the church and around the community.
- What is God up to? I pray for discernment. I want the courage to speak up.
- The Spirit is asking me: Why so you fear/worry?
- The Spirit is telling us to work for affordable housing.
- The Spirit is telling us to find a unity of purpose and a common vision.
- I hear the Spirit telling us to be bold and have faith. We live in a time where anxiety runs the show, but God is with us! We can be brave in service, loud for justice, and have great faith that God's love is received in it all.

Thank you all for your dreams and visions! Keep it up!

All together in Christ,
Pastor Sarah



July 14th – **Still Life** will be leading the music.
Set-up & take-down volunteers needed!
Bring a chair and get ready to worship God
in His Creation Cathedral!



**Grace of Douglas
Worship Service**
with Pastor Sarah
Next Worship: **July 14th**
@ 2pm (Subject to change
this month only). Everyone is welcome.



*In the
Beginning...*

Mission updates from Phyllis Yff

Our spring mission has raised over \$1200 for Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity. We have teamed up with other local churches in the Hamilton area for a Unity Build project in Hamilton that will provide a home for the Cadman family. Lakeshore Habitat expects to make a bid on a piece of property in the next couple weeks, the first property they attempted to buy did not pass a well water inspection. There are many volunteer opportunities available to support all of what Habitat for Humanity does - helping at a build site, providing a meal for the build crew, working in the office or at the ReStore, or donating building materials. They are celebrating the completion of the 150th home and have offered to set up a tour for us to see an example of what can be done when we all work together. Please contact me for tour date information.



Our **Summer mission** is a Gleaning Garden. You can help in our garden or by bringing fresh produce to Church on Sundays during **July and August**, which will be delivered to Christian Neighbors every Monday. Items can also be brought directly to Christian Neighbors in Douglas on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays 9:30 to noon. We will be planting a community garden in July along Hoffman Street - donate a tomato plant or other easy-care vegetable plant and watch our garden grow!



Under This Roof

We Love, We Serve, We Build

West Michigan Roofing has now been paid in full and our summer fundraising is in full swing. July will be extra busy and the need for volunteers extra important!

We have 3 active fundraisers:

1. Wednesday Bake Sale during Music in the Park
2. Parking Lot Proceeds during 4th of July and every weekend
3. Building a Lego Church (back of sanctuary).

Our goal is to raise half of the roof cost (\$48,740). As of June 30th, we are just shy of \$27,000. See below for ways you can help. Sign-up sheets can be found on the Welcome Table in the back of the sanctuary!



“Buy a Brick” project continues this month! At the back of the sanctuary you will find the beginnings of “Lego Church”. Congregation and community members are invited to sponsor bricks for \$2 apiece.

Part of “Under This Roof” capital campaign



Church Bake Sale @ “Music in the Park”

Our bake sales continue each **Wednesday at 6:00**

Volunteers needed to:



- **Sit at the sale table!** On the sanctuary welcome table, you will find a sign-up sheet to help. We need at least 2 people each week.

- **Bake sale snacks!**

You are welcome to drop off your goodies here at the church by 2:00 pm on that day or take them directly to our sale table at Wicks Park after 6:00 pm.

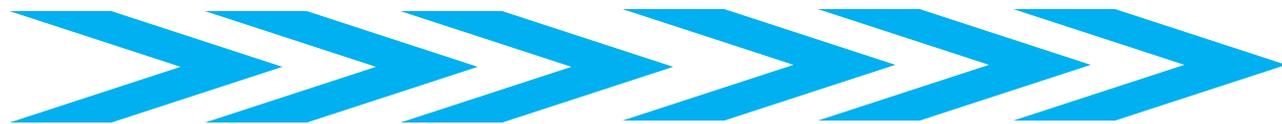
All baked items must be individually packaged, ready for sale- Thanks!!!

PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS!



- **FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND**
 - JULY 4TH THRU JULY 7TH
- **SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS FOLLOWING WORSHIP**
- **VENETIAN WEEKEND, JULY 26TH THRU JULY 28TH.**

Volunteers collect \$5 per car and from 10:00 – 1:00 or until the lot is filled; 2 attendants for each day/time period.



GROOVE! Dance Class

Fridays @ 10am; Cost: \$7/session
Instructor: Heather Winia

EveryBODY welcome!



All the ladies of the church are invited to get together for Bible study and conversation

First Tuesday of the Month
Next gathering: **August 6th @ 10am**



- A big thank you to Ralph Birkholz for supplying a brand new easy-open, pop up tent for our Music in the Park bake sales and for taking over the parking lot cash box.
- Thank you to Myrna Dornan who has been tending the garden beds around the church.
- Way to go Mike and Pat Gentry, and Linda Kinnamon for helping round up tables and groceries for our annual All-Church Picnic on June 30th.
- A big thanks to Dale and Kathy Plapp for hosting our All-Church Picnic!
- To Cathy Brockington for so ably representing our congregation at the Annual Meeting and Conference of the NACCC.
- For all of our bake sale bakers: Peggy Boyce, Phyllis Yff, Cindy Raue, Linda Kinnaman, Justin Kolev, Tina Sturuss, Tom and Joann Schippa, Cathy Brockington, Betty White, Linda Escott and Pat Gentry. (I'm sorry if I missed anyone!)
- Thanks to Phyllis Yff, Linda Escott, Cathy Brockington, Linda Kinnaman, and Cindy Raue for setting up and "manning" the bake sale tables.
- Another BIG thank you to Pastor Sarah for hours of baking and tending the bake sale table, picking up groceries, making posters, tending the parking lot, taking the kids to camp this month...and probably a multitude of other tasks that we don't even know about!

Pastoral Care



Pastor Sarah makes pastoral calls at home and hospitals by need and request. Feel free to contact her if you or someone you know would appreciate a visit:

rev.sarahgladstone@gmail.com or 989-640-1487.

Please be aware that hospitals and care facilities will not contact clergy if someone is being admitted. Our Shepherds are also happy to help coordinate meal deliveries.

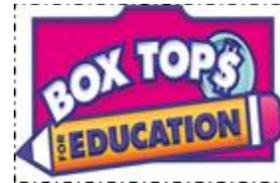


Check out the church's new
YouTube Channel

Visit YouTube.com and search:

First Congregational Church of Saugatuck

There you will find videos of our Sunday sermons!



There is now a collection box for **Box Tops For Education** clippings in our donation area by the handicap entrance.

Church in a Box



Are you traveling this summer? Concerned about how to stay connected? No worries—we've got your back! You can pick up your "Church in a Box"! What's that you ask?

It's a box full of ideas and activities to help you and your family stay connected to God during the lazy, crazy days of summer. **Get yours while supplies last!**




*Birthdays
of the
Month*

Andrew Rudich 07/04

Myrna Dornan 07/15

Sydney Baker 07/15

Pat Gentry 07/22

Alex Brockington 07/23

Peggy Boyce 07/23

Avery Brockington 07/24

Beth (DeBoer) Bjorklund 07/26

Thom Houseman 07/29

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Ministry Meeting,
Monday, 07/08 @ 6:30pm

Fellowship Hosts

- 07/07 – Rusecki Family
- 07/14 – Plapp Family
- 07/21 – Birkholtz Family
- 07/28 – Kristyn Boyce, Linda Kinnaman

Scripture Readers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 07/07 – Pat Gentry
- 07/14 –
- 07/21 –
- 07/28 –

Welcome Team

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 07/07 – Pat & Michael Gentry
- 07/14 – David Edwards
- 07/21 – Linda Kinnaman
- 07/28 – David Edwards

Children’s Story-Time Leader

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 07/07 –
- 07/14 –
- 07/21 –
- 07/28 –

Open Board Position

We are still without a Congregational Care Captain. Anyone interested in checking out what this would involve, please contact Phyllis Yff or Pastor Sarah!

STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR BOARD OF MINISTRY

Moderator	Phyllis Yff	616-218-6446	pnee.kline@yahoo.com
Clerk	Janna Rudich	269-857-5763	jrudich@fbzcpa.com
Treasurer	Brad Rudich	616-644-3015	bradleyrudich@gmail.com
Congregational Way Captain	Cathy Brockington	269-857-2146	cabrocking68@gmail.com
Building/Grounds Captain	Cindy Raue	616-218-0779	kcraue@gmail.com
Christian Education Captain	Linda Escott	269-857-3126	lescott0607@comcast.net
Community Life Captain	Linda Kinnaman	(616) 566-7316	lindabkinnaman@gmail.com
Congregational Care Captain	OPEN		
Stewardship/ Missions Captain	David Edwards	616-546-0432	amazinglyclean505@gmail.com
Worship Arts Captain	Kristin Boyce	616-218-7276	kristynboyce22@yahoo.com

Pastor Sarah
will be assisting at the camp this year!
Oh, what excellent fun!

She will be away from July 14th
(following worship) through the 19th

July 14-19



Mischief Managed
A Christian Camp for
Modern Muggles

July 14-19th, 2019
3rd -8th grade students
Applications now available at:
MichiganCongregationalSummerCamp.Org



Camp will be hosted at
YMCA Camp Ohiyesa
(7300 Hickory Ridge Rd. Holly, MI 48442)

Register early and save!
Early registration ends May 15th,
with a cost of \$315 per camper!

NACC Annual Meeting Update from Cathy Brockington:

**Five Congregational churches
were received into
membership of the National
Association including:**

- **Bethany Congregational Church of Quincy, MA**
- **Congregational Christian Church of Ravena, NY**
- **Crystal Congregational Church of Crystal, MI**
- **Little White Church of Malta, MT**
- **Righteous Chapel Church of Lake Worth, FL**



Grace
of DOUGLAS
SERVING YOU FROM OUR HEART

OUR TEAM WANTS TO PARTNER WITH YOU FOR A
CARNIVAL COOKOUT
July 19th from 12-3 p.m.

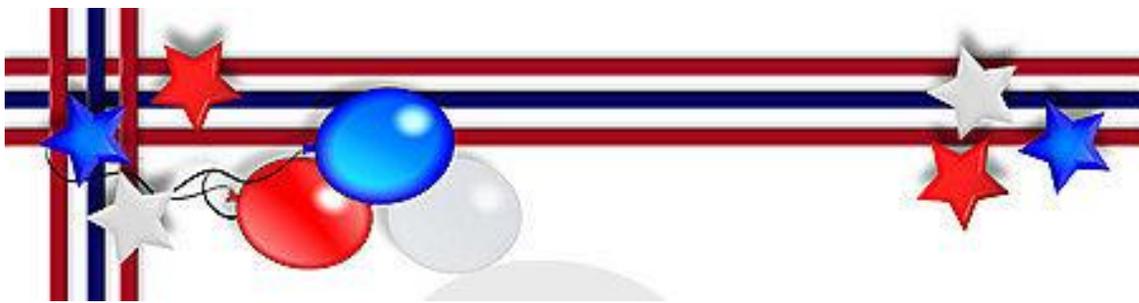
PETTING ZOO ★ BOUNCE HOUSE ★ FACE PAINTING ★ DUNK TANK
& GRILLING ON THE BBQ, TOO



CAN YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSOR A GIFT BASKET
OR GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR THIS COMMUNITY GATHERING?
(Be sure to join us for the event, too!)

CONTACT JOHN FOOTE TO BECOME AN EVENT SPONSOR AT 616.264.8825
COMMITMENTS ARE NEEDED BY JUNE 30TH & GIFTS CAN BE BROUGHT PRIOR TO OR DAY-OF EVENT

243 Wiley Road | Douglas, MI 49406 | Thank you so much for your support!



JULY 2019

First Congregational Church Activity Calendar

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00am (Nursery Provided)

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Sunday School – Restarts in September

Fellowship after Worship – 11:00am

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs – 10:00-2:00

Sunday	Monday 1	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6
		WFC 10am	Bake Sale @ Music in the Park 6 pm	OFFICE CLOSED ***	Groove 10	
7 Communion	8 Board Meeting 6:30 District 3AA 7pm	9	10 Bake Sale @ 6 pm	11	12 Groove 10	13
14 Outdoor Worship Grace of Douglas 2pm?	15 Pastor at Camp ***	16 *** Cub Scouts 6:30	17 *** Bake Sale @ 6 pm	18 ***	19 Groove 10 ***	20
21	22	23 Crop Walk Planning Meeting 6pm	24 Bake Sale @ 6 pm	25	26 Groove 10 Venetian Weekend!	27 Venetian Weekend!
28 Venetian Weekend!	29	30	31 Bake Sale @ 6 pm	1 August	2 Groove 10	3

*** Pastor Sarah out of the office July 14 (after worship) through July 19

Office will be closed July 4th.