

The Lakeshore Congregationalist

August 2018

First Congregational Church – Serving the community since 1860



FCC's Contact Information:

296 Hoffman St., PO Box 633
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269-857-2929

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 10-2

Pastor also in on Friday

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Saugatuck

Our Covenant

We covenant with the Lord and one with 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.

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.
Psalm 141:2



I've never been a very good sleeper. As a child I would roam the house at night looking for things to do, people to bug, games to play, snacks to eat... And so, as an adult – having made my peace with the restlessness – I find myself looking forward to the quiet night hours in the evening where I can catch up on cleaning, crafting, and paying the bills. I have a busy mind at night and have found that the rituals of house and home settle me into a place of rest.

It is in this place/ in this time that my prayer life gains its vibrancy. While making lunches to stow away in the fridge for days to come or as I sit at the sewing machine... that is where I can finally name the things that stir in my heart. My hopes become clearer, my anxieties and fears take shape, my plans (sometimes laughable) begin to form, and the people I love and am called to serve come into focus.

My restless evenings in a quiet house – that is where I can finally lay down all the baggage and all the bundles that I had been stewing over.

A while back on Facebook a meme popped up of an old quote (perhaps you have seen it before) saying: "Once a man was asked, 'what did you ever gain by regularly praying to God?' And the man replied, 'Nothing, not a thing... but let me tell you what I lost: anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death.'" Sometimes the answer to our prayers is not in the gaining but in the losing, which ultimately is *the* gain."

We are asked, again and again, throughout Scripture to bring all things to the ear of our God. "Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise." (James 5:13). To bring to God our words of grief, our thoughts of hope, our concerns, our dreams... all of them are music to our God's ear - sweet and sour note alike. And in the sharing we are transformed. Old wounds find healing. New dreams find traction.

re "MARK" able

Upcoming Meetings

August 7 – Women's Fellowship, 10am

August 13– Trustees, 10:00 am

August 15 – Prudential, 6:00 pm

August 19 – Diaconate, 11:20 am

Fellowship Hosts – Contact:

Janna R. 269-857-5763

August 5 – Rusiecki Family

August 12 – Bev Nieusma/
Tina & Gerrit Sturuss

August 19 – Kathy & Dale Plapp

August 26 – Frank & Joan Lamb

Scripture Readers – Contact:

Kristyn B. 616-218-7276

August 5 – Cindy Raue

August 12 – Peggy Boyce

August 19 – Myrna Dornan

August 26 – Linda Escott

Welcome Team – Contact:

Pat G. 616-355-8720

August 5 – Van Raalte Family

August 12 – **NEEDED**

August 19 – Cindy Raue

August 26 – Sylvia Rudich &
Graham Duryee

Nursery Workers – Contact:

Connie R. 616-990-0997

August 5 – Makenna Van Raalte

August 12 – **NEEDED**

August 19 – Pat Gentry

August 26 – **NEEDED**

I wonder, children of God, when do you have time (or make time) for transformation? Is it in the car on the way to work? Is it in the morning over your first cup of coffee?

We need rituals of prayer and transformation. And, as a collective, we tend to be pretty bad at it. We uplift the myth of business being next to godliness, we worship the "go go go." And yet, the Scriptures and the history of the Christian movement have modeled for us the need for something more.

If you need help with finding opportunities to pray, here are some ideas:

- ❖ Take a walk through town. Ask yourself along your walk: What happens here? Or how could God use this space. Pray for all the children who come to the park, pray for all the boaters on the water, pray over the restaurants that meaningful conversation and moments would happen at the tables.
- ❖ Touch the doorways. As you pass through a doorway remember to say a prayer for God to open your mind and heart. A quick prayer habit can remind yourself and God that you are listening.
- ❖ Open your address book. This is a time consuming one: sit down every once in a while with you address book and pray your way through the names of loved ones and people long forgotten. Perhaps you could extend this exercise to sending a "thinking of you" card through the mail.
- ❖ Pray before meals or as you wash your hands.
- ❖ Make a journal where you can record you blessings and concerns.

All in all, this month I encourage you to find moments/ to find rhythms of stillness and transformation, times when you can allow God's presence to take root in your heart.

All together in Christ,

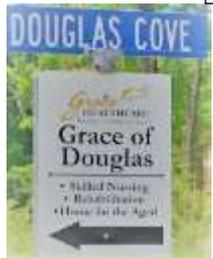
Pastor Sarah





Outdoor Worship Services August 12th

The second Sunday of the month is set aside for an outdoor service. If rain (like in June...) the service will be held indoors. Music provided by Kristyn Boyce. Bring a blanket or camp chair, and don't forget to invite a friend! *Volunteers are needed to set up & take down seating.* Contact Pat (616-355-8720) or Kristyn (616-218-7276) to offer your services



GRACE OF DOUGLAS SERVICE, SUNDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 2:00 PM

Please join Pastor Sarah and our "home"-bound friends at Grace of Douglas for a 2:00 service!

re **MARK** able



Summer Mission Project

Forgotten Man Ministries:

Mission statement:

To follow in Christ's footsteps by bringing the healing powers of the Great Physician to those incarcerated in Michigan's county jails"

A special fundraising dinner will be August 23rd.

Planning meeting will be August 12th @ 11:30, after Sunday Service. This will be the official start of our commercial kitchen!

The chaplain of the Allegan County Jail, Rev. Sarah Farkas, has helped us put together a list of "in-kind" donations that are most requested at the FMM office. We will continue collecting eye glasses, paperback books, adult coloring books and coloring materials. The "donation center" is located by the handicap door. Thank you to those who have already brought in their gifts!

Rev. Farkas will be our guest speaker at the benefit dinner!



You are invited to join us on **Tuesday, August 7th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will be another special meeting for ***food service training.*** Contact Cindy Raue for additional information and training dates if you are unable to make this meeting: kcRaue@gmail.com or 616-218-0779



GROOVE! EXERCISE CLASS

Fridays at 10am at the church.
Instructor: Heather Winia Cost: \$7/session



Sunday School break from collecting.

Thank you for all the things you have been saving for us. If you have something at home you need to bring it in that is fine, but in general we are taking a break from collecting.

The children and I want to thank you for all of the items brought in and the time you gave in collecting them. Thank you!

Sunday School Overview for August



Little things make a big difference

In our Summer Sunday School we are learning that *little things make a big difference*. Love them or hate them, bugs are a part of God's creation. As small as they are, these little things can give us some direction on how to live a life that glorifies God. Our children will make small steps to grow in their faith throughout the summer.

Our Summer Memory Verse

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1 NIV

August 5:

Mosquito

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2

Synopsis: Mosquitoes are bloodsuckers, but they are minor irritants compared to the little sins that hold us back from serving God. We need to let go of sinful habits so we can focus on Jesus.

Objective: Kids will choose one sinful habit they want to get rid of.

August 12:

Cricket

Scripture: Psalm 100, Giving Grateful Praise

Synopsis: You can't ignore the crickets; they are loud and they demand to be heard. God wants us to raise our voices and praise the Lord at all times.

Objective: Kids will share one thing they want to praise God for.

August 19:

Roach

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-8, A New Heaven and a New Earth

Synopsis: There's a popular story that says if the world ever ends, the one creature that will survive is the cockroach. Roaches themselves may not be immortal, but God is preparing a place where we can live forever with him!

Objective: Kids will state how they can live forever with Jesus.



August 26:

Butterfly

Scripture: Acts 2:14-41, Peter's First Sermon

Synopsis: Remember the caterpillar we talked about in week one? One day, we will be butterflies, and God will make us soar. Peter's life shows us how God can transform us into courageous witnesses for Jesus.

Objective: Kids will identify one person they can tell about Jesus this week.



Kitchen Update From Cindy Raue

Our next session will cover the last 6 items and is scheduled for after Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 5. If anyone missed the first 6 and would still like some training, please join us and we can work out another time to review the first 6 items. Copies of the manual are available in the kitchen. So far, 17 people have participated!

Again - a BIG THANK YOU to those who joined in on the fun.

For interest in joining, please contact Cindy Raue at 616-218-0779 or kcraue@gmail.com.



Homecoming Sunday is right around the corner!

In early August, the *Shepherds* will be gathering for a "*Postcard Writing Party*" to invite friends we haven't see for a while back to church.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact the worship team (Kristyn Boyce or Pat Gentry)



On July 19th the initial planning meeting for the 36th Annual CROP Hunger Walk was held here at FCC. We had representatives from the Community Church of Douglas, All Saints Episcopal Church, Ganges UMC, UMC Saugatuck, and the First Congregational Church of Saugatuck present at the meeting.

The theme of this year's walk is: Veggies, eggs and a side of hope.

The dates are:

- Vespers Cruise with the Star of Saugatuck - September 16th at 5-6:30pm, tickets are \$15
- The Annual CROP Hunger Walk - October 7th at 2pm, 1:30pm registry

Last year the community raised \$9,983! This year, we hope to sail past \$10,000!



The 2018 All Church Garage Sale

Friday and Saturday, July 27 and 28
Gleason's Barn on Holland St.

The Women's Fellowship took in approximately \$1,300! Thank you to all who contributed and worked to clean the barn, set up, monitor the sale, make purchases, and helped to clean up. Unsold items were donated to Gateway Ministries. Thanks again to Henry Gleason for the use of his barn.



"SOLE HOPE" UPDATE:

The NACCC Conference delegates together with the NAPF (high school students) and the HOPE (college students) cut out parts for 314 pairs of shoes for the Soul Hope mission project. Thanks to all for the denim donations – ***our church alone mailed over 69#***. Google: "Sole Hope mission" to learn more about this interesting and beneficial project.

Cathy Brockington, Delegate

Thank you, Cathy, for donating over half the cost of shipping these to San Diego, CA



Tina Sturuss	08/01
Cathy Gillette	08/03
Terry Van Dis	08/04
Pastor Sarah Terlouw	08/05
Jim Scott	08/13
Sheryll Van Portfleet	08/13
Graham Duryee	08/16
Barry Johnson	08/18
Jeremy Shields	08/21
Kristyn Boyce	08/23
Dorothy Houser	08/26
Renna Birkholz	08/27
Laurie Birkholz	08/28



Kirke & Betty White	08/14
Bryan & Marie Shields	08/16
Greg & Sheryll VanPortfleet	08/15
Ric & Cathy Gillette	08/23

Office Request

We are looking for a small dehumidifier for the office. If you come across a used, working unit (yard sale?) would you be willing to donate it?
Our copy paper is curling ☺

Member Spotlight

Interviewed by Pastor Sarah

Meet Jimmy Scott!

Our friend Jim Scott has a big birthday coming up on August 13th! In celebration of his big day, let's get to know him a little better:



1. *Tell me about your hobbies and interests:*

I suppose my hobbies would be art, gardening and animals.

2. *Who are your greatest spiritual influences?*

Barbara Streisand! Also my friends. I've greatly appreciated the pastors that I have known from the church, Pastor Bruce and Pastor Sarah.

3. *If you could choose a superpower, what would it be and why?*

Super-faith. I would like to be one with God.

4. *What does it mean to be the church?*

To me the church is a community of kindness and a place to socialize.

5. *Is there anything you would like to tell the congregation?*

I would like to tell everyone that I miss them and can't wait to be back in Saugatuck.



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



Greetings, Congregation!

Let me introduce you to this new addition to our monthly newsletter, **Member Spotlight**, highlighting a different church member each month. Let me give you some examples...

- ❖ A grandchild interviewing a grandparent
- ❖ Parent interviewing someone else's child
- ❖ Interview with the person sitting next to you every Sunday.

Interviewer: 1-2 sentences about why you chose this person to interview. Be sure to take or have someone else take a picture of the two of you. Possible questions to ask:

- ❖ Where were you born?
- ❖ What is your favorite movie or TV show?
- ❖ What are your favorite hobbies and why?
- ❖ Who was your greatest spiritual influence?
- ❖ If you chose a super-power, what would it be?
- ❖ Tell me one of the funniest stories from your childhood.
- ❖ Who do you like to spend time with?

Do you get the idea? Do you have some of your own? Let's see if we can get 5 interviews this month!

Doris, from the office.



New Bible Study Class Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM

We return this month to ***Seasons of the Spirit***. Hope you will join us for this mid-week opportunity for fellowship.



Current opportunities to serve include:

- **Sunday Nursery** – Contact Connie Rusiecki: Connie.rusiecki@gmail.com
- **Welcome Team/Greeter & Scripture Reader** – Contact Pat Gentry or Kristyn Boyce (pat.gentry22@gmail.com or kristynboyce@yahoo.com)
- **Trustee Board** – Contact Cathy Brockington or Phyllis Yff (caBrocking68@gmail.com or pnee.kline@yahoo.com)
- **Acolytes/Bell Ringers** – Contact Pastor Sarah: rev.sarahgladstone@gmail.com



Christian Neighbors Summer Cereal Collection

Throughout the summer, we welcome boxes of cereal to help the food pantry stock up – the #1 requested food item for kids during the summer break. Summer is the most difficult time for kids without enough to eat. Share your love through a simple act of a box of cereal.

August 2018

First Congregational Church Activity Calendar

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

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Sunday School – 10:15am

Social Hour after Worship – 11:00am

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

DEACON OF THE MONTH: CONNIE RUSIECKI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3 Groove 10	Saturday 4
5 Communion	6	7 WFC 10am Food Service Training Book Study 7 pm	8	9	10 Groove 10	11
12 Outdoor Service Grace of Douglas 2pm F M Dinner Planning 11:20	13 Trustees 10 am District 3AA 7 pm	14 Book Study 7 pm	15 Prudential 6 pm	16	17 Groove 10	18
19 Diaconate 11:20	20	21 Book Study 7 pm	22	23 Forgotten Man Dinner 6:00 pm	24 Groove 10 Wedding Rehearsal	25 Wedding
26 Backpack Blessing for Kids Talk	27	28 Book Study 7 pm	29	30	31 Groove 10	
<p>Bible Study: Theme will return to Seasons of the Spirit Outdoor Service: music provided by Kristyn Boyce</p>						