

The Lakeshore Congregationalist

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1860

July 2019

What's new In this Issue...



Update on Bake Sale, Lego Church, Parking Lot and more. Watch the thermometer "rise" in the sanctuary as we reach our goal!



Calendar



1st Congregational Church of Saugatuck

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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, one another, fellowship, and through simple acts of service in the Saugatuck/Douglas area. We don't always get it right, but we have fun trying.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!
Ephesians 3: 20-21

I've often heard that fear is the opposite of love.

F - False
E - Evidence
A - Appearing
R - Real

While I'm not sure that is true, as a life full of love is a life filled with a great many emotions and seasons. What I am sure of is that fear keeps us from seeing the abundance before us. Fear keeps us trapped. Fear cuts off our dreams before they can take flight. Fear is consuming. And, often, fear is false.

Did you know that one of the most common phrases uttered by God in the Bible is, "Do not fear"? God speaks them exactly 365 times, one for every day of the year. Consider for a moment: what fears have reared their head in your life lately? Health and wellness, perhaps? Financial stability? Lack of purpose and focus? Fears over some new dream you have that is hanging before you, undefined and vulnerable? The pursuit of wellness and stability, new purpose and visions is all right and good! These are very real things that deserve our prayer and effort. But fear is something that tends to sneak in, unwelcome, to ruin what is sacred there.

Fear and the modern protestant church have a particularly toxic relationship. Fear, long ago snuck in and has been turning good, holy efforts and presence into something it was never meant to be.

Fear has made it so that the local neighborhood churches have a hard time partnering with one another for the sake of competition.

Fear has made it so that we often thrust upon our neighbors whole heaps of shame for not being more present- devaluing who actually is present and hungry for faithful nourishment.

Fear has made it so that "parking lot meeting" pop up to air a frenzy of advertising ideas and frantic pleas for gimmicks and schemes.

Fear has made it so that we can rip open wounds caused by challenging church experiencing in the past. Fear derails us from earnest discipleship.

A friend recently told me this great acronym for FEAR: False, Evidence, Appearing, Real.

In all truth, we worship a God of abundance! A God that has never left people to dwell in a place of scarcity alone. In truth our God brought about water from a rock to satisfy a thirsty people. In truth God brought about new ways in the wilderness and drew close to those who were sick. In truth we worship a God that described himself as a mother hen drawing near her chicks.

What would happen if we let go of the easy illusions of fear and embraced our faith? What if we stopped believing that resources were finite? And that all risks need a reward? What if we embraced a way of patience and prayer? What if we relished the abundance that God has promised us and let go of the toxicity of fear?

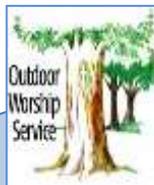
Eugene Peterson in *The Message* wrote: "Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:18-19). When we experience the breadth, test the length, plumb the depths, and rise to the heights of Christ's love, we realize there's an abundance of resources available to every single one of God's children. We free ourselves—and each other—to live the fullest of lives, as God intended for us all along.

Another acronym that I have for FEAR is: Face Everything And Rise. Don't let falsehood distract you. Challenges are meant to be faced. Together we Christ we can rise!

All together in Christ,
Pastor Sarah



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



Final Outdoor Service is August 11th. Special music will be provided by the Van Houten's



Grace of Douglas Worship Service with Pastor Sarah
Next Worship: **August 11th @ 2pm**
Everyone is welcome.



GROOVE! Dance Class
Fridays @ 10am; Cost: \$7/
session
Instructor: Heather Winia



Betty White will have bridge lessons at 200 Lucy St.
Aug. 10th and 24th at 2:00 pm.
Anyone who wants to learn may attend.



Collected as of 7/31 was just over \$31,434

Check out the July 25th Commercial Record for the article on our Lego Church: <http://www.thecommercialrecord.com/>



**Church Bake Sale @
"Music in the Park"**

Our bake sales continue through August 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!!!

July 31st broke a record by bringing in over \$335!!!



"Buy a Brick" project continues this month! At the back of the sanctuary you will find a little church to put in your change. If you use an envelope, please write "Lego Church" on the outside.

As of July 31st, we have collected \$235.00 in "Brick" money



Venetian Weekend was incredible! Our Parking Attendants out-did themselves... at \$875, we surpassed 4th of July weekend by \$40! Total parking lot collections, including the Lock Box was \$1212 for a mere 3 days.

We have now reached our budgeted parking lot collections of \$3500. All proceeds from here on will go directly to the roof campaign.



Reactions to the Commercial Record article...

Great article and I love the new ad! Cathy B

Great article in the paper, this will get the community involved. Myrna D



Summer Sunday School

By Linda Escott
Christian Education Captain

I hope this finds all enjoying their summer adventures!

Our summer Sunday School program is a community mission based theme this year. It is a time for our children to utilize their time and talents to share God's love within our own community through a variety of activities! One activity includes the painting of blessing rocks. These rocks will be left in various areas in town to brighten the day of those that find them and to share God's love. Another may be to put snack bags together for the "Kid's Food Basket". Or, to make a snack to sell at our church's bake sale at Music in the Park. There will be a variety of activities for our children to participate in this summer!

Ms. Karen, our Christian Education Director, was hired for the academic school year. We are looking for adults to volunteer, one Sunday this summer, to guide our children in one of the community mission based activities. The lesson and materials will be provided. Please support our children, and our summer program, by signing up on the "Storytime Sign Up" sheet on the "Welcome Table". Our summer program goes through Sunday, September 1st.

Thank you for your support! Miss Karen and our regular Sunday School program will return this fall, beginning Sunday, September 8th!



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.



Subscribe to the church's brand new YouTube Channel.

Just search "First Congregational Church of Saugatuck" . Watch Sunday's message again and share it with a friend!"



From Cathy Brockington, your 2019 NACCC Delegate

Cleveland was the site of the 2019 National Association of Congregational Christian Churches Annual Meeting on June 22-25. Our hosts were the Ohio Association of CCC and the theme was "Jesus: The Heart of it All" based on Matthew 6:2 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- There were 430 registrations
- 302 churches represented
- 83 delegates in attendance

A wide variety of workshops were presented on topics such as Leading through Adversity, Reading Scripture Deeply or Lectio Divinia (a retreat study strategy), What's working in my Church-panel discussion of sharing, How Giving Affects a Giver, Social Media Uses, Crisis Communication , Ministering with Disabilities, "What Attracts Younger Christians to Your church?", "Why the Congregational Story Matters" (Why our history is distinctive? Its cultural, intellectual and social aspects that matter today) and Caring for Church Records (For example: what to keep and who works with the records; where to store (out of the damp basement; inventory what we have and how long to keep it.)

Three big topics that I focused on during the meeting were:

- The Congregational Lecture
- All Conference Workshop-The Promising Future of Small Churches by Rev. Charles Warnock.
- Plymouth 400: This fall a 2-year celebration begins in the Congregational Church to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims

Congregational Lecture and Future of Small Churches is included here.

Congregational Lecture delivered by Rev. John Tamillio III, whose theological background was recently in the United Church of Christ. This lecture can now be viewed at the www.nacc.org website!

The three essential elements of Congregationalism are: Covenant, Faith and Service.

*By Covenant, we exist in covenant with one another—we have a relationship of reciprocal love. We support each other and care for each other.

*By Faith—we live in a contractual world, but through Covenant we always include God in our relationship.

*By Service—We live together and serve each other. We are made in the image of God so people are loved for who they are. God works through us—our outreach is commissioned by God. As Pilgrims, we should step out in faith

Future of Small Churches

In U.S. 93% of churches have under 400 members. 90% of those churches have under 200 members (avg. attendance 50 members). Only 2% of all churches are mega-churches.

* Characteristics of Small Churches:

- ⇒ 150 members or less
- ⇒ Solo minister
- ⇒ Family system—church family relationship
- ⇒ Creativity (group over 150—lose nimbleness--creativity fails)
- ⇒ Neighborhood—travel under 30 min to attend—over 30 min for mega
- ⇒ Small churches are resilient groups.



* Trends in population (since 2011 when 1st Boomers turned 65)

- ⇒ more diversity & inclusion
- ⇒ delayed marriage
- ⇒ low birthrate
- ⇒ home ownership is harder
- ⇒ funeral is becoming a relic

* In order to become more present in the community we need to discover what is our “Why”?

* Survival isn't Mission.

- ⇒ We should engage with our community so they notice us. People are looking for intimacy of experience—not production values or entertainment



Perseids

2019 they'll be washed out by a close-to-full moon during their peak.

Spectators can expect to see just 10-15 Perseids per hour or maybe slightly more on the peak, which is **the night of Aug. 12-13**



Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Ministry Meeting,
Monday, 08/12 @ 6:30pm

Fellowship Hosts

- 08/04 - Justin Kolev, Linda Kinnaman
- 08/11 - Frank & Joan Lamb
- 08/18 - Camarota & Van Raalte Families
- 08/25 - Linda Escott, Joanne Schippa

Scripture Readers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 08/04 - Cathy Brockington
- 08/11 -
- 08/18 -
- 08/25 - Linda Escott

Welcome Team

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 08/04 - Cathy Brockington
- 08/11 - Linda Escott
- 08/18 - Linda Kinnaman
- 08/25 -

Children's Story-Time Leader

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 08/04 -
- 08/11 - Cathy Brockington
- 08/18 -
- 08/25 - Kristyn Boyce



Tina Sturuss	08/01
Cathy Gillette	08/03
Terry Van Dis	08/04
Sarah Terlouw	08/05
Jimmy Scott	08/12
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



Bryan & Marie Shields	08/16
Greg & Sheryll Van Portfleet	08/19
Ric & Cathy Gillette	08/23





August 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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday 1	Friday 2	Saturday 3
			Bake Sale @ Music in the Park 6 pm		Groove 10	
4 Communion	5	6 WFC 10am	7 Bake Sale @ 6 pm	8	9 Groove 10	10
11 Outdoor Worship Grace of Douglas 2pm?	12 Board Meeting 6:30 District 3AA 7pm	13 Cub Scouts 6:30	14 Bake Sale @ 6 pm	15 <i>Crop Walk Planning Meeting: 6:00</i>	16 Groove 10	17
18	19	20	21 Bake Sale @ 6 pm	22	23 Groove 10	24
25	26	27	28 Bake Sale @ 6 pm	29 Pastor Sarah Out --	30 Groove 10 From 8/29-09/01	31 <i>Fellowship Hall Reserved 6 pm</i>

Crop Walk Planning Meeting
 Pastor Sarah Out From 8/29-09/01