

The Lakeshore Congregationalist

SEPTEMBER 2018

First Congregational Church – Serving the community since 1860



FCC's Contact Information:

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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.

***"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and
streams in the wasteland" - Isaiah 43:18-19***



"Ohhhhh...
Back To School
Back To School
To Prove To Dad That I'm Not A Fool
I've Got My Lunch Packed Up,
My Boots Tied Tight,
I Hope I Don't Get In A Fight"

As soon as I start seeing pencils, folders, backpacks and crayons popping up in the aisles of the grocery store, the "Back to School Song" from Billy Madison comes flooding back. This movie was released well over twenty years ago! Its silly songs certainly make for resilient ear worms...

Far more than January, September has always felt like the true beginning of the year to me. Our social and civic life is so closely intertwined with the school year, we don't have to be a student or have one living down the hall from us to feel its influence. September, it seems, is meant for sticky-notes and planning, new commitments and adventures.

So, I wonder, what newness is heading your way this fall? A new project, perhaps? A new workout routine, class, devotional practice? A new stage a life? What are you preparing yourself for?

There is a steady theme of "newness" throughout Scripture that I find wonderfully assuring in seasons such as this.

- "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another..." John 13:34a
- "I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them and I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 11:19



Upcoming Meetings

- Sept. 4** – Women's Fellowship, Tues 10am
- Sept. 11** – Trustees, Tuesday: 10:00 am
- Sept. 19** – Prudential, Wed: 6:00 pm
- Sept. 16** – Diaconate, Sunday: 11:20 am

Fellowship Hosts

Janna R. 269-857-5763

- Sept. 2 – Groove Class
- Sept. 9 – Homecoming potluck!**
- Sept. 16 – Vander Molen Family
- Sept. 23 – Hank & Bonnie Stegenga
- Sept. 30 – Brad & Janna Rudich

Scripture Readers

Kristyn B. 616-218-7276

- Sept. 2 – Vic Mayer
- Sept. 9 – Betty White
- Sept. 16 – Cindy Raue
- Sept. 23 – Thom Houseman
- Sept. 30 – Linda Escott

Welcome Team

Pat G. 616-355-8720

- Sept. 2 – Thom & Char Houseman
- Sept. 9 – available**
- Sept. 16 – Cathy Brockington
- Sept. 23 – Kirke & Betty White
- Sept. 30 – Kristyn Boyce

Nursery Workers

Connie R. 616-990-0997

- Sept. 2 – available**
- Sept. 9 – Homecoming/no nursery
- Sept. 16 – Michael Gentry
- Sept. 23 – available**
- Sept. 30 – available**

- "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise from the end of the earth!" Isaiah 42:10a
- "He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5a

As the old saying goes, "The only thing that is certain in life is change". Maybe this is why God is constantly talking about drawing towards a new beginning. We are told that Christ is seeking (and will always seek) to renew us in covenant. That the Spirit desires (and will always desire) to place a clean heart in us. And if we offer it, God will take our frustrations and replace them with joy and zeal.

Sometimes when we are standing at the starting line, it can be hard to see the promises. But we can be assured that our Lord knows the way ahead. "I am making a way in the wilderness..." Isaiah 43: 19a.

This September I pray that we are all filled with a sense of divine optimism, knowing that God's got us and has a clear view of the way forward. I also pray that we trust these promises are meant for us all - that God is seeking to do a new thing in the community around us as well. May that optimism color how we interact with one another. We are merely fellow travelers, each prone to mistakes but brimming with potential.

All together in Christ,
Pastor Sarah





HOMECOMING IS SEPTEMBER 9TH!

Join us for a special worship service as we bless the upcoming season ahead. We will celebrate with song and praise followed by a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This is an excellent opportunity to invite family and friends (back) to the church!

There is a food signup sheet on the welcome table



GRACE OF DOUGLAS

SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2:00 PM

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



Forgotten Man Ministries:

Summer Mission Project

Fundraising dinner on August 23rd

We raised \$474.00 toward this ministry.

Challenge: Is there anyone willing to donate the final \$26 this Sunday to push this donation to \$500?

We also collected these gifts!

- Books – 277
- Coloring/Puzzle Books – 40
- Pencil sets – 27
- Reading Glasses – 153

Fall Mission Project begins in October



Sylvia's Place is Allegan County's only domestic violence safe house.

Mission: to create and to sustain a safe environment that empowers women and children through preventative education and advocacy, which promotes stronger individuals, families, and communities.

Sylvia's Place has assisted survivors of domestic abuse since 1996, following the violent death of Sylvia Allen. Sylvia lost her battle with domestic violence and fell victim to the hands of her perpetrator.

We will be collecting cleaning supplies.

Spaghetti Dinner "Thank You" from Pastor Sarah

Thank you all so much for supporting the kitchen licensing project over the past couple of years! As you know, we have made some massive improvements to the kitchen such as, installing a new water heater, turning the door into a Dutch door, adding shelving, swapping out the ceiling tiles for an "easy clean" version, and upgrading our plumbing. After the physical improvements we also developed our very own Standard Operating Procedures for the kitchen and trained 20 food prep/service volunteers from the congregation!

All this effort has been with the hope of getting our little kitchen approved for true community service. Our efforts have finally paid off! On August 23rd we hosted our first very successful community spaghetti dinner fund raiser! This dinner was a dual purpose event in that we raised some money for our summer mission project, Forgotten Man Ministries, and had our big inspection from the Allegan County Health Department. I am delighted to report that we received a **glowing** review from the inspector.

This project has taken a great deal of time, effort, and resources. I want to thank you all SO MUCH for being a part of this project.

Now, we are free to dream and plan upcoming events! We can continue to host community meals, we can partner with food ministry programs, and we can host cottage industry entrepreneurs that need to operate out of a licensed kitchen! There is so much opportunity to be had!

I want to thank Cindy Raue, our Kitchen Manager, for her tireless energy, especially as she led the charge on the recent spaghetti dinner.



You are invited to join us on **Tuesday, Sept. 4th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



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! Diana



Diana Theilgaard entered Butterworth Hospital at the end of August. We will give you an update in the next mid-week news, but feel free to call or email the office. This summer has been especially difficult for her health wise and your continued prayers and demonstrations of support are appreciated.



Kitchen Update

The kitchen "staff" rocked!! We passed inspection with flying colors. A special thanks to the following for sticking with the training and creating a special community space:

- Cindy Raue – Coordinator
- Pastor Sarah Terlouw
- Linda Escott
- Phyllis Yff
- Dotty Houser
- Barb Baker
- Myrna Dornan
- Pat Gentry
- Mike Gentry
- Tim Terlouw
- Joanne Schippa
- Kathy Plapp
- Cathy Brockington
- Bev Nieuwsma
- Betty White

If anyone missed the first or second training and would like to complete it, or is interest in joining this fund cast of characters, please contact Cindy Raue at 616-218-0779 or kraue@gmail.com.

Copies of the manual are available in the kitchen.

Sunday School Overview for August



Little things make a big difference

In our Summer Sunday School we learned that ***little things make a big difference.***

Our Summer Memory Verse

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



This ends our summer Sunday School curriculum

The Christian Education committee has decided that we will continue with the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum for the 2018-2019 school year.

September 2: Earth

As we focus on aspects of God's nurturing presence, we acknowledge Earth as our teacher, our source, and our guide.

Genesis 1:1–25

September 9: Humanity

Made in the image of God, we take our place within Creation, rather than over and above it.

Genesis 1:26–28

September 16: Sky

An image of a world in which we are alone, where beauty is destroyed, and God's good Creation undone, startles us from complacency, and calls us to take seriously the reality and danger of climate change.

Jeremiah 4:23–28 Psalm 19:1–6

September 23: Mountain

The Season of Creation comes to a close with a vision of God's holy mountain; a vision that offers us a path of hope for the future, and a more convincing invitation to live with respect in creation.

Isaiah 65:17–25

September 30: Getting Out of the Way

When the disciples are concerned about who is doing ministry, Jesus challenges exclusionary attitudes and encourages us to see the way God is at work in the community.

Mark 9:38–50



October 7th is World Communion Sunday, a celebration observed by Christian denominations on the first Sunday of every October, promoting Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. It focuses on an observance of the Eucharist.

The tradition was begun in 1933 by Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church. World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another." It was adopted throughout the US

Presbyterian Church in 1936, and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide.

Please plan on joining us for this very special worship service.



CROP Hunger Walks supports the international relief and development work of Church World Service. Additionally, the Saugatuck/Douglas CROP Hunger Walk will support the efforts of our own local Christian Neighbors Food Pantry to eradicate hunger in our own community! 25% of all funds raised stay right here in our town!

Join us on **October 7th at 2pm** for the 3.5 mile walk along the lakeshore to bring awareness to global food insecurities and to celebrate our community's commitment to end the injustice of hunger. We will gather at the Community Church of Douglas (6874 Wiley Rd.), registration begins at 1:30pm.



Another way to help raise money for the CROP Hunger Walk, is attending the **32nd Annual Vesper's Cruise on September 16th** aboard the Star of Saugatuck. The scenic cruise sets off at 5pm (check-in is 4:45). The speaker this year will be Rev. Salvator Sapienza from the Douglas United Church of Christ. Music will be led by Peter Black and Jeff Spangler. Tickets for the Vesper's Cruise are \$15.

CROP Hunger Walks are making a big difference worldwide, including ensuring that more children reach their 5th birthday, teaching sustainable ways to grow food and providing additional sources of food and income to families facing extreme challenges. We hope that you will join us in helping to end hunger!

For more information on how to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk or to purchase tickets for the Vesper's Cruise please contact Rev. Sarah Terlouw (First Congregational Church of Saugatuck) at 269-857-2929 or Joy Muehlenbeck at 269-857-2996.

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



Patricia Kerr	09/03
Karen Wolffis	09/04
Adriane Sagal	09/04
Analiese Schmitt	09/12
Eric Birkholz	09/16
Grace Shields	09/21
Jack Nyland	09/22
Kathleen Slawson	09/23
Michael Schmitt	09/24
Dick Haferman	09/25
Cathy Brockington	09/27



Jeff & Paige Vander Molen	09/04
Dan & Connie Rusiecki	09/09
Graham Duryee & Sylvia Rudich	09/09
Michael & Laura Camarota	09/21
Eric & Laurie Birkholz	09/21
Jeff & Karen Baker	09/21
Michael & Pat Gentry	09/24



Bible Study Class
Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM

Seasons of the Spirit.

Hope you will join us for this mid-week opportunity for Spirit work and fellowship.

We do not have an interview for this month. I would like to use this space to bring a few things to your attention:

Elevator repair was completed at the end of August. For those traumatized by getting caught inside the last Sunday in August, we hope you will feel confident in using it again. ☺



Upcoming Events

Community Shred Day:

Honor Credit Union in Allegan will hold one on Sept. 21st, from 11am-1pm. Feel free to bring personal, confidential, or old papers/documents for shredding on the spot – limit is 10 boxes/bags. Between now and then, Doris will be sifting through the old office boxes.



World Communion Sunday
 is October 7th.

Also in October,
Confirmation Class
 is being planned.



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.

September 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: KATHY PLAPP

Sunday 2 Communion	Monday 3	Tuesday 4 WFC 10am Book Study 7 pm	Wednesday 5	Thursday 6	Friday 7 Groove 10	Saturday 8
9  Potluck after Grace of Douglas 2pm	10 District 3AA 7 pm	11 Trustees 10 am Book Study 7 pm	12	13	14 Groove 10	15
16 Diaconate 11:20	17	18 Book Study 7 pm	19 Prudential 6 pm	20	21 Groove 10 Wedding Rehearsal <i>shred day in Allegan 11-1</i>	22 Wedding
23	24	25 Book Study 7 pm	26	27	28 Groove 10	29
30						
Bible Study: Theme: Seasons of the Spirit						