



# The Lakeshore Congregationalist

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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...

*Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!  
Psalm 46: 10*

This fall our Board of Ministry is partnering with the Center for Parish Development to explore some central questions for the life and ministry of our congregation:

- What is the situation in our church, the place of God's mission today?
- Where will we focus our attention and energies?

This partnership is a unique and brand new opportunity brought to us by the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, we will be the "Guinea Pig" church (along with 8 others) as we all walk together through a season of discernment, visioning, searching, and praying together for the health and vitality of our local ministries. In our little regional cohort of churches, we will be most directly walking beside the First Congregational Church of Portland and the Mayflower Congregational Church in Lansing.

Our Board of Ministry members have each just completed a rather in-depth survey exploring what we feel is going well in our church, the resources that we have and the closeness that we feel with the Spirit's guiding and leading. This survey is meant to be a tool for greater conversations to take place within the congregation. In a few weeks our leadership will gather to talk through the survey results and begin to name and claim the Spirit's movements within the congregation.

It is hard to say where this process and these conversations will take us in the coming months and year as we assess our place and our ministry in the here and now, and that is ok! By engaging in this time of intentionality and prayer together we are leaving room for humility and God's vision.

My hope in the coming days is that we will be extending these conversations and this time of wondering to the congregation, especially as we approach our Fall planning meeting which we generally set for the close of October.

I have been carrying a verse with me lately that states: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." - Romans 15:13. This verse speaks to me and assurance in tomorrow, it rings with purpose and reminds me to leave room for hope in my heart. I have been carrying a verse with me lately that states: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." - Romans 15:13. This verse speaks to me and assurance in tomorrow, it rings with purpose and reminds me to leave room for hope in my heart.

Children of God, please be in prayer for our own church leadership and the churches in our regional cohort as we walk this season together. We are all seeing and feeling the need for a renewal in our communities, and by the Spirit we will find it. Praise God!

All together in Christ,  
Pastor Sarah



### Communion Sunday

Pastor Sarah will be out of town for the September 1 Communion. Rev. Bruce Vander Kolk will be stepping in to lead the service.

This will be the final Sunday for our children's mission projects. If the weather is nice, the kids will head out to chalk some loving messages on the sidewalks around the block.

Please note: First Sundays of the month is communion and kids are encouraged to remain in the sanctuary for an all-church family worship time together!



**Grace of Douglas Worship Service** with Pastor Sarah  
Next Worship:  
**September 8<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm**  
Everyone is welcome.

### Homecoming Sunday is September 8th!

This is the day when we relaunch several programs:

- ◆ Chancel Choir is back
- ◆ New Bible study opportunities will be presented
- ◆ Our children's Sunday School will be back in session,

All in all, we will return to our usual fall rhythm. What a great opportunity to invite an old friend to worship or to intentionally connect with someone at church you haven't spoken with in a while. Give a call, send a note! Let's call our family back home for worship!

Remember to stick around for a potluck lunch to celebrate after our worship service.





## Sanctuary Piano Refurbished

Thanks to generous Memorial Gifts in honor of Kirke White, Premier Piano Service is cleaning, refurbishing, and fine-tuning the **Sanctuary Piano**, just in time for HOMECOMING on September 8th.

## Mission Update



The Habitat for Humanity housing project continues to be on hold due to the failed well water test back in June. The Stewardship & Missions Captain, Dave Edwards, will be contacting Habitat to enquire about other project we could help with.



Women of the church are invited to gather for **Bible Study** and planning for the **Christmas Bazaar** in November

Next gathering:  
**Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10am**



**GROOVE! Dance Class**  
Fridays @ 10am; Cost: \$7  
Instructor: Heather Winia  
**EveryBODY is welcome**



**Lectio Divina**  
Join Pastor Sarah Tuesday Mornings for Scripture and Conversation. First gathering will be September 17th at 10:00 am.



**Soup & Bread Fellowship**

Come together Wednesday evenings, beginning **Sept. 18th at 6 pm** for an hour of food and fellowship.



**Summer Mission** Gleaning Garden died from a cold, wet spring/summer. However, many church members donated surplus vegetables that were delivered to Christian Neighbors each week.



**Fall Mission** Crop Walk is October 6th. Good time to start walking to get in shape! Registration takes place here at FCC. The walk will take us through Saugatuck, across the bridge, around Berry Field, and back to the church.

Registration is at 2 pm





### 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](mailto: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.



**Karen Holstine returns Sept. 8th to launch fall Sunday School!**



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



**Chancellor Choir** restarts for the fall season! First practice session will be September 8th. Please contact Cathy Brockington.



### NEW PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL ROLL OUT

- ◆ 15 New yard signs were created by Sisters in Ink to advertise the church around town. These are free to grab—consider putting one in your yard today!
- ◆ Summer rack cards were distributed to shops and handed out at our bake sales.
- ◆ Post cards mailed to announce our Homecoming and sent to absentee Members.
- ◆ Glossy tri-fold brochures will arrive this month!
- ◆ Don't forget to check out our new ad in the Commercial Record



### Subscribe to the church's YouTube Channel.

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

### Keep your Family Fare Receipts!!!

On the bottom of your receipts from **Family Fare** there are points listed that can be redeemed by food pantries and non-profits. These are points outside of your regular valued customer points for personal savings that Christian Neighbors can use to purchase food for the pantry!

There is a basket for these in the donation area by the handicap entrance.



Collected as of 8/31 was just over \$35,800

Bake Sale: \$2845    Lego Church: \$438    Parking: \$5.240



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

***Last bake sale Sept. 4th!***

***We Need 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!!!***

**LEGO CHURCH**



**"Buy a Brick" project (\$2 each) continues this month! At the back of the sanctuary you will find a LARGE glass jar to put in your donation.**

**If you use an envelope, please write "Lego Church" on the outside.**



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



**TEXT-TO-GIVE: Under This Roof campaign**

Use your cell phone to donate in two ways:

- ◆ Text 269-215-6713 through October
- ◆ Or for regular giving options, download the app from the Apple Store



**We're  
Searching for  
Volunteers**



**Upcoming Meetings:**

Board of Ministry Meeting,  
**Monday, 09/09 @ 6:30pm**

**Fellowship Hosts**

- 09/01 - Choir
- 09/08 - **HOMECOMING POTLUCK**
- 09/15 - Graham Duryee & Sylvia Rudich
- 09/22 - Myrna Dornan
- 09/29 - Brad & Janna Rudich

**Scripture Readers  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- 09/01 - David Edwards
- 09/08 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 09/15 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 09/22 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 09/29 - Linda Escott

**Welcome Team  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- 09/01 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 09/08 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 09/15 - Linda Kinnaman
- 09/22 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 09/29 - \_\_\_\_\_

**Children's Story-Time Leader  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- 09/01 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 09/08 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 09/15 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 09/22 - Kristyn Boyce
- 09/29 - \_\_\_\_\_




**Birthdays  
of the  
Month**

Eric Birkholz	09/16
Grace Shields	09/21
Jack Nyland	09/22
Kathleen Slawson	09/23
Dick Haferman	09/25
Cathy Brockington	09/27



Jeff & Paige Vander Molen	09/04
Dan & Connie Rusiecki	09/09
Graham & Sylvia Duryee	09/09
Richard & Linda Crawford	09/10
Michael & Laura Camarota	09/21
Eric & Laurie Birkholz	09/21
Jeff & Karen Baker	09/21
Michael & Patricia Gentry	09/24



A  
Homecoming  
Celebration

**SEPTEMBER 2019**


**First Congregational Church Activity Calendar**

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

Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

**Sunday School – Restarts in September 8th**

**Fellowship after Worship – 11:00am**

Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wednesday 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
<b>COMMUNION</b> Guest Speaker: Bruce VanderKolk			Bake Sale @ Music in the Park 6 pm		Groove 10  Wedding Rehearsal	Wedding
8 **  Potluck Following worship Grace of Douglas 2pm	9 Board Meeting 6:30 District 3AA 7pm	10 WFC 10am	11	12	13 Groove 10	14
15	16	17 <i>Lectio Divina</i> ** 10am  Cub Scouts 6:30	18 Soup & Bread Fellowship Hour 6:00 pm	19	20 Groove 10	21 *** WMCCC annual meeting 9-2:15
22	23	24 <i>Lectio Divina</i> ** 10am	25 Soup & Bread Fellowship Hour 6:00 pm	26	27 Groove 10	28
29	30	October 1 <i>Lectio Divina</i> ** 10am	October 2 Soup & Bread Fellowship Hour 6:00 pm	October 3	October 4 Groove 10	October 5

\*\* *Lectio Divina*: Scripture and Conversation

\*\*\* Pastor will be attending the WMCCC Annual Meeting

\*\* Choir Practice begins Sept. 8th.