

The Lakeshore Congregationalist

October 2018

First Congregational Church – Serving the community since 1860



FCC's Contact Information:

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Pastor also in on Friday

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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.



I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and establish in love, may have power together with all the Lord's people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3: 16-19

It was Pat Smith, a former secretary of the church that said "Involvement cements your faith." And she was right. Getting our hands to work for the sake of the kingdom... putting our minds to work for God's church... daring to open our hearts to people and projects is a big deal. It is where the effort of community and the ideas of theology come together to form our faith: a living, breathing, never stagnant, hearty faith.

In a recent Christianity Today article, they observed that small churches naturally had a high percentage of members involved in enacting the mission and goals of the church. Thus, small churches were poised for being deeply relational, socially agile, and great incubators for discipleship.

So, I ask, how are you involved? How are you at work drawing close to our God through involvement?

Consider that for a moment.

Here at the church, our leadership tries their hardest to create space for involvement. We collect cereal for Christian Neighbors and household cleaning products for Sylvia's Place, we raise money for causes like Grant Me Hope, we hear from speakers that teach us about what God is up to in the world, and on occasion we brave being the church in the world and we GO and serve as the family of God. Not to mention our worship and our opportunities to study God's Word!

These are all well and good! And we hope that you enjoy these opportunities as much as we do.



Upcoming Meetings

- Oct. 2** – Women’s Fellowship, Tues 10am
Oct. 2 – Trustees, Tuesday, 12:00 pm
Oct. 17 – Prudential, Wednesday, 7:00 pm
Oct. 21 – Diaconate, Sunday, 11:20 am

Fellowship Hosts

Janna R. 269-857-5763

- Oct. 7** – Dotty Houser & Sue Bohlander
Oct. 14 – Frank & Joan Lamb
Oct. 21 – Pat & Michael Gentry
Oct. 28 – Laird & Gini Stuart

Scripture Readers

Kristyn B. 616-218-7276

- Oct. 7** – Connie Rusiecki
Oct. 14 – Gini Stuart
Oct. 21 – Myrna Dornan
Oct. 28 – *available*

Welcome Team

Pat G. 616-355-8720

- Oct. 7** – *available*
Oct. 14 – Cathy Brockington
Oct. 21 – Myrna Dornan
Oct. 28 – Kristyn Boyce

Children’s Story-Time Leader

Connie R. 616-990-0997

- Oct. 7** – *available*
Oct. 14 – Laurie Birkholz
Oct. 21 – *available*
Oct. 28 – *available*



The Prudential Board has been exploring how we nurture faith development on systematic levels. We have three Boards at FCC Saugatuck: the Prudential Board, the Trustees Board and the Deacon Board. Together they oversee the vision, resources, and ministry of the church (respectively). We have 24 positions across these boards, but it is our reality (in the church and in the world) that we are gravitating away from the classic “board” structure. While people talents, passions and abilities remain great (!), we are growing ever more uncertain in how to utilize the energy of the community. More and more, we have people willing to help, eager to serve – but unwilling to commit to long seasons of formal elected leadership within the church government. This is a common conundrum in the small to medium sized church world.

In an effort to match the momentum and giftedness of our congregation, and to create space for changing dynamics of involvement, the Prudential Board has an idea to bring to the congregation for your consideration over the next several months. We would like to suggest a Constitutional Change on how we “do” church leadership - we suggest a model for a Single Board Governance to oversee the working and vision of the church.

We are hoping to develop a more intimate, nimble, authentic, and effective leadership to lead our community. We would have a single, constant board to attend to the major work of the church and a series of short, project driven, “task teams” to host events, to partner with missions, to attend to worship space, etc.... This way we have the consistent oversight that the church needs, while being able to invite more people into faith-developing “involvement” at the church. Members and friends will be able to lend their abilities, skills, and talents for shorter seasons of service.

On the next page you will find a graphic of the new single board model. We ask that you think about this possibility. The Prudential Board knows that you will have a lot of questions and concerns about this idea, and we are happy to address those with you. We will continue to “tweak” this graphic, the proposal to the congregation, and the job descriptions of each board member through October. The Prudential Board is planning on having a formal time of presentation with a full Q&A **at the Fall Annual Planning Meeting on November 7th.**

Please be in prayer about our church governance over the coming weeks!

Pastor Sarah



SAVE THE DATE – NOVEMBER 7, 2018 7PM

Please join us for our **Fall Planning Meeting** next month. This is a great opportunity for strategic conversation, shared vision, and discovering pathways to guide our church into the New Year.

We will cover topics related to the 2019 theme, mission projects, worship, branding, outreach, fellowship events, work dates, Christian Education, along with your thoughts and suggestions.

This will be your first opportunity to join the discussion about restructuring the way we govern. The chart below demonstrates one possible way to simplify and consolidate leadership going forward.

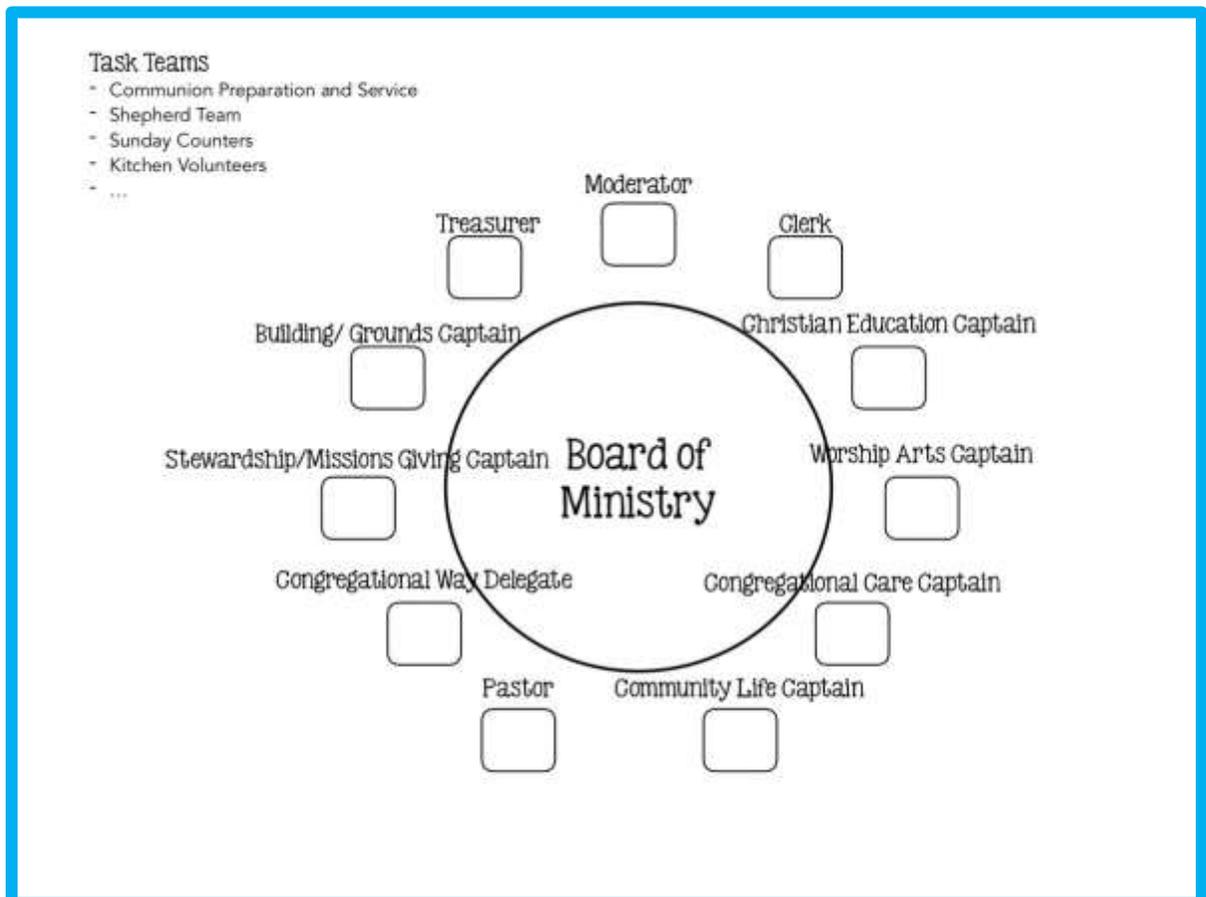
If you have any questions or would like to add a topic for discussion, please see Pastor Sarah or me. Watch your bulletins and weekly news for additional details.

Peace and grace be with you.

Phyllis Yff

Moderator

Single-Board Governance Model





WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCT. 7TH!

Join us for a special worship service. The all-church communion will include the children before they are dismissed for Story Time.



Chamber Choir will be performing for this special day



**GRACE OF DOUGLAS
SERVICE
OCTOBER 14TH, 2:00**

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



Stewardship Sundays: October 14, 21, 28 Giving and Living

"In the Holy Land are two ancient bodies of water. Both are fed by the Jordan River. In one, fish play and roots find sustenance. In the other, there is no splash of fish, no sound of bird, no leaf around. The difference is not in the Jordan, for it empties into both, but in the Sea of Galilee: for every drop taken in one goes out. It gives and lives. The other gives nothing. And it is called the Dead Sea."

- William Sloane Coffin, former pastor at Riverside Church, New York City

The congregation is invited to experience "Giving and Living," a worship series focused on good stewardship generosity, October 14th, 21st, and 28th. As Christians we are invited to be like the Sea of Galilee, thriving. To answer that invitation means to make intentional decisions about how we invest our time, our energy, our resources, our optimism, our skills and our love. It is easy (and sometimes tempting) to be the Dead Sea, where we hold on to every drop we have for ourselves: deep but lifeless. Come and explore the topics of stewardship and generosity together! We can talk about being a careful vessel for God's blessing in this world.

Questions ahead of us for worship:

- 1) What does it mean to tithe?
- 2) Time is my most precious resource, how to I balance everything that demands my time?
- 3) I'm not a musician... I'm not a painter... I'm not a dancer... So what talents do I have to offer the congregation as we worship?
- 4) Outside of the church (in my home, in my community...) what does it mean to be generous?
- 5) What does my household budget say about what I believe in and value?
- 6) What bold future is God calling the church towards? Where is God calling me?

Trustees have created a list of "Time, Talent, Treasure Contributions" for the Stewardship Campaign



Treasurer's Report

Budgeted Expenses: year to date through
August 31, 2018

\$79,775 (67% of annual budget)

- Collections: year to date through August 31, 2018
\$53,068 (64% of annual budget)
- Heritage Fund transfers (year to date): \$22,000
- Heritage Fund balance (August 31, 2018): \$438,852



Fall Mission Project

October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month

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.

We will be collecting cleaning supplies and paper products. Collection location is by the handicapped entrance.

Special fundraising event for Sylvia's Place:



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.

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



You are invited to join us on **Tuesday, Oct. 2nd** at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



GROOVE! EXERCISE CLASS

Fridays at 10am at the church.

Instructor: Heather Winia Cost: \$7/session



Coffee Hour is a time to connect with your church family, and to snack on something while we do that is just an added benefit. One plate of cookies that is enough for everyone is just as welcome as a variety of items to choose from. No one should feel as though they can't host Coffee Hour because they might not have the time or resources to create a buffet. Please bring whatever you're able for all of us to enjoy as we fellowship together!

Also, if you find you are unable to serve coffee hour, please try switching with someone else and please notify the office so that the coffee hour schedule can be changed. If you cannot find someone else to switch with, contact **Janna Rudich at jrudich@fbzcpa.com or (269) 857-5763.**

Sunday School Overview for Fall



Special thank you to the following people who stepped up to cover for Diana:

- Kathy Plapp
- Linda Kinnaman
- Joan Lamb

October 7: Tough Questions

We approach a difficult Reading about marriage & divorce with caution & enquiry, and discover that at its heart is the compassion of God for all.

Mark 10:2-16

October 14: Finding Our Way

An exaggerated metaphor of a camel & the eye of a needle provide opportunity to reflect on how wealth & possessions get in the way of faithful living

Mark 10:17-31

October 21: A New Way

What passes for greatness, & what is truly great, are questions Jesus addresses in response to James' & John's request for favor & status

Mark 10:35-45

October 28: The Way of Exclusion

In a story about restored sight, Jesus transforms exclusive behavior & helps Bartimaeus & the community to see.

Mark 10:46-52



Joan Lamb spoke with Diana on the phone at the end September. She is going to be released from Rest Haven September 29th.

She will continue to have her therapies and support (showers) at home. We will be planning to schedule people to provide meals. There will be NO diet restrictions. ***A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table at the back of the sanctuary.*** Thanks for helping!!!

A note from Joan Lamb:

Frank and I had a **short visit with Diana** in the hospital. She is happy to have company, but she tires easily. We tried to do most of the talking as speaking is difficult for her. She will continue to have 3 sessions of in-home therapy (PT, OT, and speech therapy) daily. If folks want to visit that would be great, but they should keep the visit short.

We are taking her to GR to meet with her doc on Friday. We will pick her up on Saturday and take her home.

Hugs and blessings to you, Joan



Bible Study Class Suspended until Advent

Beginning in December, Pastor Sarah will begin a new book study is: **To Live Again: An Advent Journey using the Christmas Classic, It's a Wonderful Life**, by Sheila Jacobs. We anticipate the books arriving in November and will be available for \$11.



Connie Rusiecki	10/03
Linda Crawford	10/04
Phyllis Yff	10/05
Todd Van Grouw	10/06
Simon Brockington	10/08
Marceline Brockington	10/08
Gerry Bekken	10/08
Kathy Johnson	10/08
Dale Plapp	10/10
Mark Kinnaman	10/15
Linda Kinnaman	10/18
Marie Shields	10/18
Joseph Schafer	10/19
Isabella Camarota	10/21
Delaney Bjorklund	10/22
Amber Wingard	10/23
Anna Birkholz	10/25
Hayden Birkholz	10/26
Dan Rusiecki	10/26
Liberty Kolev	10/30
Hank Stegenga	10/31



Ralph & Renna Birkholz	10/08
Kathy & Dale Plapp	10/11
Phyllis & Wayne Yff	10/29

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

Upcoming Events

Annual Planning Meeting: November 7th at 7:00pm

Heritage Sunday will be November 18th. The theme this year will be **Faith Fellowship**.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

- Oct. 7 – Practice @ 9am; performance for World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 14 – Practice @ 9am
- Oct. 21 – Practice @ 9am
- Oct. 28 – No Practice
- Nov. 4 – Practice @ 9am
- Nov. 11 – Practice @ 9am
- Nov. 18 – Practice @ 9am; performance for Heritage Sunday
- Nov. 25 – No Practice
- Dec. 4 – Practice @ 9am
- Dec. 9 – Practice @ 9am
- Dec. 16 – Practice @ 9am
- Dec. 23 – Practice @ 9am; performance for Advent Sunday
- Dec. 30 – No Practice



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.

October 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: PAT GENTRY

Sunday	Monday 1	Tuesday 2 WFC 10am Trustees 10 am	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5 Groove 10	Saturday 6
7 World Communion Sunday Choir Performance	8 District 3AA 7 pm	9	10 Prudential 7 pm	11	12 Groove 10	13 Fall Clean- up 10:00
14 ** Grace of Douglas 2:00	15	16 Cub Scouts 6:30	17	18	19 Groove 10	20
21 ** Diaconate 11:20	22	23	24	25	26 Groove 10	27 Fall Clean- up 10:00
28 **	29	30	31			

Bible Study: will be suspended until Advent.****Stewardship Sundays**