

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.



So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians 5: 17-19

Wrapping our head around a season of RENEWAL!

Consider the news we come across everyday, on our Facebook feed, in the papers, on TV, radio chatter and even in our own fellowship conversations shared around the table. It doesn't take long to realize how much our world is in need of a new creation! A creation spoken of again and again throughout Scripture. Imagine a life lived reconciled with God and body, a life lived with deep intention and purpose, a life lived in joyful caring partnership with our earth and our brothers and sisters. We need renewal. We need God's mission of hope, healing and reconciliation for the world. And thankfully, God's mission has a church - a body of people who hear that resounding call towards a common, singular purpose to proclaim and embody God's New Creation in the middle of the old.

We all want better things for our church's future. Well, perhaps "better" is not the word... perhaps: energized, inspired, revitalized... reNEWed. If you didn't want that, I'm certain you wouldn't be reading this. And while we are tempted to think that a season of renewal means thinking about a bigger parking lot, pinching our pennies to save up for new carpeting.... Perhaps we think renewal mean more programming, more vibrant worship, more focused outreach schemes, more satisfied members... deep down, these "needs" are missing something. The starting point is God. The church after all is God's idea, not ours. The church truly has no mission, no purpose, and no use in this world apart from God's

Instead of starting with our "wish list" (our needs), let's start with God. GOD IS POWERFULLY PRESENT IN THE WORLD TODAY! God is actively loving the world and calling a people to share in re-creation and holy work. We, the church, are God's "Plan A", there is no "Plan B."

Now some instructions:

The mission of the church is to discern, celebrate, and participate in what God is doing in the world. The greatest challenges facing churches today is to live missionary - to develop missionary sensitivities, visions, and

practices for engaging in God's mission. The many efforts churches are making to "keep-up" or "survive" are futile if this foundational challenge is not addressed. To learn to live missionally is to consider Congregational life and ministry - inside and out - in light of God's mission:

So let's ask ourselves:

- What would living missionally mean for our congregation in our situation (our place, our time, with our people), especially as it looks to the future?
- Why are we here as the church in this place anyway?
- How would we define "success"?

A season of renewal invites each one of us to become open to the Holy Spirit together, to hear the Gospel as though for the first time, and it will allow us to examine and develop our Gospel-like habits and fresh attitudes. Renewal involves engaging hearts and minds with the gift and call of the Gospel for God's mission in these times. It is NOT as much about developing new programs and activities at our church as it IS about re-discovering the cultivating our church's discipleship practices.

This seasons of renewal before us will be an opportunity to talk, discover, pour energy into being God's "sent" community in very concrete ways in your world.

Children of God, this journey of renewal is just beginning this month. I encourage you to keep your eye and ears out for opportunities to speak, pray, and pour into this precious time of consideration. Please know that God's Spirit is forming, reforming and renewing the church as you read this. We are "becoming" as the church is brought about afresh in each and every generation. Praise God!

All together in Christ,
Pastor Sarah

Worship Opportunities This Month

NOVEMBER 3RD



NOVEMBER 24TH



Grace of Douglas Worship Service

With Pastor Sarah:

November 10th @ 2pm

Everyone is welcome.

Come support our Friends!

News from the Board Of Ministry

Mark your calendars - November 6, 2019 5:30pm

Please join us for our Fall Planning Meeting & Soup Dinner on November 6th. This is a great opportunity for strategic conversation, shared vision, and discovering renewal in our learning journey to live missionally and engage God's mission anew. We will discuss our 2020 theme, mission projects, worship, outreach, fellowship events, work dates, Christian Education, and more along with your thoughts and suggestions. 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

****On the agenda, quotes received for Capital Improvements 2020**

- ⇒ Replacement of lighting: outdoor, Sanctuary, fluorescents that are being phased out by the State
- ⇒ Sanctuary carpeting
- ⇒ Furnace maintenance & replacement of air conditioners
- ⇒ Elevator refurbishment
- ⇒ Landscaping
- ⇒ Entry doors and stairways

Fall Missions



Crop Walk Update Submitted by Linda Escott

This year's Crop Walk had a couple new features: First Congregational Church of Saugatuck hosted the event with Douglas UCC as our midway point (providing water and Joy's popcorn to walkers). In addition, the route changed so it was more visible (in spreading the message), which extended the walk from 3K to 3.2K.

First Congregational had a positive showing for the event. Cathy Brockington, Jim Scott (with Chloe), Pastor Sarah Terlouw (with Brewster), Tim Terlouw, Phyllis Yff, and I were the walkers representing our church. Though the total number of walkers was smaller this year, the mood jovial—a gathering of friends! God also gave us a stunningly beautiful October day: pleasant temperatures and plenty of sunshine to brighten our walk!

Thank you to the Women's Fellowship for the refreshments awaiting walkers upon their return: bottled water, fruit & homemade granola bars. A special thank you to Dotty Houser, Tina Sturrus and Betty White for setting up and manning the refreshment table as well as our own Office Manager, Doris Hicks, for the donation of the granola bars!

Thank you, too, to all who donated to the walkers; who prayed for the Crop Walk; and for your positive thoughts! Between cash/check and online donations, our church raised \$1100, community total was \$8770.



Christian Neighbors Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Christian Neighbors continues to need our help. In 2018 this project provided approximately 439 families with Thanksgiving meals. This year they have asked us to provide **JELLO**. You may drop off your donation on the shelves located by the Handicapped entrance. All donations must be received by Sunday, November 24th. If you would like to donate your time with packing baskets or distribution, contact Beth Huffman or Donna Carrillo at 857-1050.



The Saugatuck High School Interact Club is the recipient of our **Thanksgiving Special Offering**. Since 2014, Saugatuck High School's Interact Club has been dedicated to serving the local community. From planting trees on Mt. Baldhead to making fleece blankets for the elderly, these students have made significant strides to improve their city. However, the scope of the club's work reaches far outside the bounds of Saugatuck/Douglas.

Each year, Interact Club members make a trip to the Dominican Republic to assist in service projects, such as building latrines and providing water filters for residents of the sugar plantation communities, or bateys, surrounding the city of La Romana. Recently the club has focused its efforts on helping the people of Batey 106, taking a special interest in children living there.

"When we first arrived and stepped off the bus, kids ran up to us, hugged us and grabbed our hands," says a member of Interact. "It showed me how joyful and grateful the children are regardless of their situation, which in turn made me realize how blessed I am, and how much I take for granted."

In Batey 106, the vast majority of the population works in the sugar fields, earning about \$8 per day. Education is one of the only ways individuals can create new opportunities for themselves, including additional job prospects outside the batey that may offer higher salaries or provide better working conditions. However, receiving a more advanced education is not always an option in the area.

Fundraising for a new school room began in 2019. "The new school holds more children and allows them to attend school for a full day as opposed to half a day," says Riley. "By educating children, we can help them have other options in life besides working in the sugarcane fields." With the generous support of the student body, the community, and the Saugatuck-Douglas Rotary Club, the funds were raised by the middle of June. The school was constructed by the end of August, and class is now in session—teaching twice as many kids as before. The Maranatha Mission partnered with the Dominican Ministry of Education who hired a teacher for the school. "Our first goal was to build the additional schoolroom," says Joseph. "In the future, we hope to add on more rooms, as well as build a garden where the community can grow food." Submitted by Phyllis Yff



It's time again for the
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 16th, from 9 am to 4 pm. Along with our vendors, delicious lunch and raffles, we have **Cookie & Bake Sale tables**.

Women's Fellowship holds the bazaar (and bi-annual garage sale) as fundraisers. ***What do we do with the money?*** We use it for projects in the church like cleaning the carpet, helping pay for the hot water tank so we could upgrade our kitchen. I've even seen money given to an individual in our local community who was financially short and couldn't afford their monthly medication so we helped them that month. We've donated money to Pastor Sarah's mom to buy water for her students in Flint.

How can you help? I know meetings are hard to attend as many are working, however, one way is donating to our fundraisers such as **cookies and baked goods this month**. Another way is to bring your friends, family & children to shop our vendors (or just see what they're selling), maybe have lunch and or participate in our raffles. Prayers for our work are also welcome. That's how you can support our mission.

Cookies and baked goods can be brought to the church and be left in the kitchen Tuesday thru Thursday (Nov. 12 -14) between 10 a.m.-2 p.m., or Friday, Nov. 15th, from 4-7p.m. (Yes, we will accept donations on Saturday the 16th as well!)

Thank you & see you at the HOLIDAY BAZAAR!
Linda Escott





Lego Church - October matching Challenge

We had an offer to match your Lego Church donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$300 through October 31. We have met the challenge!

Next Fundraising Event

will be early 2020

Let's raise this roof—\$8800 to go!

Every now and again on a neighborhood walk I'll pass a home with a yard sign featuring an event or information on a local church. These yard signs usually pop up around Christmas time enticing the passerby to consider attending their candlelight Christmas Eve Worship or annual children's production. Whatever their message they make me smile. I'm happy to not see these signs at practical street corners or intersections, but in the yard of a family home. It seems personal, decisive, even a little vulnerable. I find joy in seeing neighbors name and claim their faith home!

I've seen a few yard signs over the years that simply say, "I Love My Church!" No church name or information on it... just an invitation to be curious about what that family loves so much about their church. It leads me to think that wherever they are worship, they are doing something right to foster such joy, enthusiasm and curiosity. Seeing these signs tucked in with the landscaping or boldly poised next to the drive way reminds me that God is at work in the homes/families around me in a multitude of ways. Praise be to the ever-creative Holy Spirit!



Here a picture of the church sign at the Terlouw house! Please forgive the messy fall landscaping... that's next weekend's project. But I'm happy to be another family in the neighborhood that proudly and joyfully displays a yard sign about my church home! I hope it makes people curious, I hope it makes people smile :)

If you would like a sign for your home, we have a few left at the church. Grab one! They are free for the taking, free for the sharing.

Pastor Sarah



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.



Women of the church are invited to gather on November 16 for the **Christmas Bazaar** planning & assembling the **Fall Care Packages** for our college students:

November 5th @ 10am



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



**ANNUAL MEETING
PLANNING SESSION**
Soup & Bread
Fellowship

Wednesday, November 6th, at
5:30 pm .



Upcoming Meetings:

Annual Planning: Nov. 6 @ 5:30 pm

Board of Ministry Meeting,

Monday, 11/11 @ 6:30pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fellowship Hosts

11/03 - Paige & Jeff Vander Molen

11/10 - Pastor Sarah & Tim

11/17 - Women's Fellowship

11/24 - **Heritage Sunday Potluck**

Scripture Readers

11/03 - Myrna Dornan

11/10 -

11/17 -

11/24 -

Welcome Team

11/03 - Myrna Dornan

11/10 -

11/17 -

11/24 -



Greg Nieuwma	11/01
David Edwards	11/03
Ruth Ippen	11/06
Marty Reyes	11/09
Gloria Gupta	11/09
Laura Camarota	11/11
Betty White	11/15
Rachael Shields	11/17
Bonnie Stegenga	11/18
Char Houseman	11/21
Bonnie Raue	11/24



Tom & Joanne Schippa	11/03
Bruce & Lynn VanDer Kolk	11/05
Hank & Bonnie Stegenga	11/15

Chancel Choir



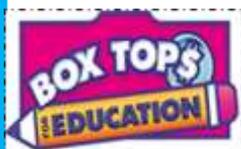
11/03—Practice 9 am

11/10—Practice 9 am

11/17—Practice 9 am

11/24—Practice 9 am SING

*Performance will be
Heritage Sunday, Nov. 24th.*



There is a collection box for **Box Tops For Education** clip-pings in our

Donation area by the handicap entrance.

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!

Donation area by the handicapped entrance.



Looking for an easy way to give?
TITHE.LY
Safe. Simple. Customizable.



- Step 1 Go to <https://get.tithe.ly/>, Sign Up Free, Give To Church
- Step 2 Choose to give on line or download the app on the Apple Store
- Step 3 Create an account
- Step 4 Find a church: 1st Congregational Church of Saugatuck
- Step 5 Enter your bank account or credit card information
- Step 6 Choose a one time donation or monthly/weekly recurring and designate where your money is to be applied (General Fund, Building, or Missions)

**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!



The Farmhouse Deli in Douglas will be conducting a cooking demonstration here in the church kitchen on Thursday, Nov. 14th, 6:00 pm. Check the mid-week news for additional information!



You cannot be the hands and feet of Jesus if you're sitting on your butt

Who: MI PF Fall retreat for grades 6– 12.

Where: Arbor Grove Congregational Church
2621 McCain Rd, Jackson, MI

Cost: \$ 55 per person (\$40 early registration)

Early Registration Payment Deadline – Postmarked by: October 28th

When: Friday, November 8 – Sunday, November 10, 2019

If you miss the Early Registration Deadline –

Please email Garth in advance so that it is easier to plan
Registration is from 7:00 – 8:30 pm Friday



NOVEMBER 2019

First Congregational Church Activity Calendar

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

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Sunday School – Restarts in September 8th

Fellowship after Worship – 11:00am

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday 1	Saturday 2
National Hospice Month					Groove 10	LCC rehearsal 1-5 pm
3 **ALL SAINTS DAY COMMUNION Daylight Savings Begins	4	5 WFC 10am	6 ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING 5:30PM SOUP & BREAD FELLOWSHIP	7	8 Groove 10	9
10 ** Grace of Douglas 2pm	11 Board Meeting 6:30 District 3AA 7pm	12 Cub Scouts 6:30	13	14 Farmhouse Deli Cooking Demo 6:00 pm	15 Groove 10 WFC BAZAAR Setup: 4-7	16 WFC BAZAAR 9am-4pm
17 **	18	19	20	21	22 Groove 10	23
24 HERITAGE SUNDAY Choir Sings	25 Christian Neighbors Food Drop-off 9:30-10:30 am	26	27 THANKSGIVING	28	29 Groove 10 Wedding Rehearsal 5:30pm	30 Wedding 3pm

** Choir Practice: 11/3, 10/10, 11/17—PERFORMS on 11/24