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

The Lakeshore Congregationalist

August 2012

A Publication of First Congregational Church of Saugatuck
Serving since 1860, Issue 8

“We take God seriously, not ourselves.”

Q & A with Pastor Rob

Q: Are we almost done with all these sermons on King David?

A: Almost! We'll end the series just in time for Sunday School Kickoff.

Q: Why all this focus on David?

A: Because he's amazing and flawed. He seeks God with his whole heart, wanders away, and comes back home. Best of all, he never gives up. He's us written in bold letters.

Q: But aren't we a New Testament church?

A: Nope. We're a Bible-loving church – as in the whole Bible – not just the pretty parts and not just the Jesus parts. The Old Testament gives you the vocabulary to understand the New.

Q: Huh?

A: When Jesus calls himself the Lamb of God, what does that mean? He's fluffy and not too bright? No. He's adapting the stories of the Old Testament, especially Passover. Jesus loved those old scriptures. He quoted them, studied them, and borrowed their language.

Q: So understanding David helps us understand Jesus?

A: Yes. And understanding David helps us understand ourselves. His courage inspires us, and his failures remind us that gritting your teeth and trying harder doesn't work. We need forgiveness, and we need each other.



Photo used with permission by lifegatechurch.com

August Birthdays!



- Aug 1 – Tina Sturuss
- Aug 2 – Natalie Goulooze
- Aug 3 – Cathy Gillette
- Aug 4 – Terry Van Dis
- Aug 6 – Jodie Howitt
- Aug 8 – Florence Doerner
- Aug 8 – Janet Hanscom
- Aug 13 – Sheryll Van Portfleet
- Aug 16 – Graham Duryee
- Aug 16 – Lois Shields
- Aug 18 – Barry Johnson
- Aug 21 – Jeremy Shields
- Aug 24 – Kristi Van Howe
- Aug 26 – Dorothy Houser
- Aug 27 – Renna Birkholz
- Aug 28 – Jessica Brink

Congratulations to our August Anniversary Couples!



- Aug 14 – Kirke & Betty White
- Aug 16 – Bryan & Marie Shields
- Aug 17 – Joe & Cathy Brockington
- Aug 19 – Greg & Sheryll Van Portfleet
- Aug 20 – Eric & Natalie Bohner
- Aug 23 – Ric & Cathy Gillette

If you notice that your birthday or anniversary was omitted just call the church office (269-857-2929) and update our records. Thank you!

Contact Information:

Church Address: 296 Hoffman St,
 PO Box 633, Saugatuck, MI 49453
 Pastor: Reverend Rob Brink
 Email: rob@revsmilez.com
 Office Mgr: Mrs. Kathleen Slawson
 Office Phone: 269-857-2929
 Office Hours: Mon-Tues-Weds 10am-2pm
 Email: office@1stcongregational.net
 Website: www.1stcongregational.net
 Facebook: 1st Congregational Saugatuck

August Activities

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00am

Nursery Provided

Communion will be served 1st Sunday of the month

Sunday School – 10:15am

Social Hour after Worship – 11:00am

Blood Pressure Clinic after Worship, every 1st

Sunday of the month, with Parish Nurse, Renna Birkholz or Terri Borgman.

Chancel Choir Practice with Rachel Searls & Cathy Brockington – **Sunday @ 9:30am, Aug 19th**, singing during worship on Sunday, Aug 19th.

New Praise Practice: Sun 11:30am & Thurs 6:30pm with Jack Nyland.

Holland Rescue Mission Sock Drive Sun, Aug 5 – Mon Aug 27 – Collection box in Church Narthex

WFC's Church Rummage & Bake Sale, Fri, Aug 10 & Sat Aug 11, 9am-4pm in church basement, Fellowship Hall. Set-up on Thurs, Aug 9th.

"Make Monday Matters" coordinated by Jess Brink. (More info Pg 5)

- **Sunday, Aug 12th, after Worship in Church Kitchen**, packing & distributing cookies to community workers.
- **Thursday, Aug 16th, 2-4pm @ Veteran's Park downtown Saugatuck**, Lemonade Giveaway.

Sunday, Aug 19th, 4pm Photo Scavenger Hunt, 5pm Family Friendly Pot Luck in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday, Aug 21st @ FCC:

- **7:00pm, Diaconate Board meeting.** Chair: Betty White
- **7:00pm Trustee Board meeting.** Chair: Frank Lamb
- **8:00pm, Prudential Board meeting.** Moderator: Kirke White.

Weds, Aug 22nd, September Newsletter submission deadline to church office.



Welcome Team Schedule

Aug 5 – Brad Rudich,
Dan Rusiecki, & Janna
Rudich

Aug 12 – Brad Rudich,
Dan Rusiecki, Gerrit &
Tina Sturrus

Aug 19 – Brad Rudich, Dan
Rusiecki, Joe & Cathy Brockington

Aug 26 – Brad Rudich, Dan
Rusiecki, Kirke & Betty White



If you would like to partner with Brad Rudich, our Welcome Team Coordinator, in this Worship Team Ministry, sign-up on the clipboard at the Welcome Desk, or call the church office at 269-857-2929.



Fellowship Host Schedule

August

- 5 Trustee Board
- 12 Mike & Katie Doucette
- 19 Kirke & Betty White
- 26 Bev Nieusma, Gerrit & Tina Sturrus

September

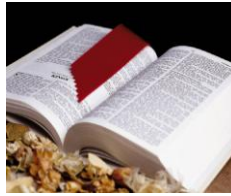
- 2 Hank & Bonnie Stegenga
- 9 Phil & Sue Bohlander
- 16 Andra Stormer & Terry Van Dis
- 23 Sylvia Rudich & Graham Duryee
- 30 Bryan & Marie Shields

October

- 7 Prudential Board
- 14 Wayne & Phyllis Yff
- 21 Linda Dine & Janet Hanscom
- 28 Barb Baker, Jeff & Karen Baker

If you have a conflict with the date assigned you please feel free to swap with someone else, however contact the church office with any changes, 269-857-2929.

Scripture Reader Schedule



Aug 5 – Makenna Van Raalte

Aug 12 – Dave Edwards

Aug 19 – Joe Brockington

Aug 26 – Betty White

Would you like to become a part of our worship service? We are looking for Scripture Readers for one Sunday or multiple Sundays during the year, you choose. Anyone is welcome to participate. Please sign-up on the clipboard at the Welcome Desk or call our Worship Team Diaconate, Barb Baker, 269-857-2284.

Nursery Workers Schedule

- Aug 5** – Janet Hanscom
- 12 – Betty White
- 19 – Joan Lamb
- 26 – Paige Vander Molen



- Sept 2** – Renna Birkholz
- 9 – Cathy Brockington
- 16 – Tina Sturrus
- 23 – Renna Birkholz
- 30 – Dotty Houser

If your assigned date does not work with your schedule, please find a substitute and contact the church office with any changes, thank you.

WFC's Church



& Bake Sale

Friday, Aug 10 & Saturday, Aug 11
In the Church Basement/Fellowship Hall

9:00am – 4:00pm

296 Hoffman St.

Saugatuck, MI 49453

(Bring pre-priced, donated sale items, and or baked goods, to the church by Thursday, Aug 9th. We will be setting up for the sale Thursday morning.)



August Sunday School

SS Superintendent: Jessica Brink
SS Chapel Leader: Linda Kinnaman
SS Bible Teacher: Kathy Plapp

Sunday School Volunteer Schedule:

August 5: Sam Van Raalte & Peggy Boyce
August 12: (Open....outdoor games)
August 19: Jess Brink
August 26: (Science experiment)

Theme: The Sunday School Children will learn how to Praise God for His Love. For a copy of this Lesson Plan see the bulletin table in the church narthex.

SS Offering: Our focus for the month of August will be the Heifer Project.

Volunteer Project: Collecting new socks for the Holland Rescue Mission.

Family Friendly Event: Sunday, Aug 19, 4pm Photo Scavenger Hunt & Pot Luck Dinner.

Church Directory Updates

New address:

Gloria Gilmer
Appledorn Assisted
Living Center
727 Apple Avenue, Room B-8
Holland, MI 49423



Myrna Dornan
1266 Bent Grass Court
Zeeland, MI 49464
Her phone is the same: 269-857-7611

Have a new address, phone number or email address? Contact the church office by phone or email and we will update our directory.



Sunday Aug 5 – Sunday Aug 26

We received an email about an exciting new Sock Drive campaign which is being promoted by the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (of which Holland Rescue Mission is a member), Walt Disney Pictures, and the Hanes Corporation. The Holland Rescue Mission is participating and every pair of new socks counts for their clients. We would like to support the Holland Rescue Mission as an Every Monday Matters project for the month of August. It is an ideal service project in which to involve our Sunday School students (and members). Bring in new socks, all sizes, for men, women or children and place them in the designated box in the church narthex. We will then deliver the socks to the mission on Monday, Aug 27th.

The Sock Drive campaign, inspired by Disney's new family movie, *The Odd Life of Timothy Green*, being released in theaters on August 15, provided the sock-collection box, on behalf of the Holland Rescue Mission. In addition, the Hanes Corporation has pledged to contribute a generous amount of socks in support of the initiative.



Come join us on Sunday August 19th at 4pm, at FCC, for the First Annual Photo Scavenger Hunt. Put your detective skills to good use to decipher hidden messages and discover unusual trivia about the church and downtown Saugatuck. The Scavenger hunt will start at 4pm. We will break into teams, and meet back at the church by 5pm with our photos. **There will be a potluck dinner to follow.** Please bring a digital camera or cell phone, as well as a dish to pass. Not up for trekking around town? Join us for dinner at 5pm. We are also looking for people interested in setting up for the dinner. Contact Jess Brink 616-929-4255 if you are interested in helping. Sign up at the welcome desk or by calling the church office.



How can we show God's amazing love in simple ways?

How can we convince our community of God's freely given love? Every Monday, we rise to the challenge to Make Monday Matter.

Last month, God's love was overflowing in our community. We held two lemonade give aways, on hot summer days, in Veteran's Park, and played Bingo with the residents at Grace of Douglas.

Want to get involved? Check out our upcoming projects. Please note new dates and times.

- **Monday August 6th** - How can you make Monday Matter? Open a door for someone, pick up some trash in a parking lot, or offer to watch someone's child for the afternoon. What unassuming act of kindness can you think of to show God's love?
- **Sunday August 12th** We will be packing cookies after worship to give to community workers as a simple way to say thank you for all they do. Please bring a dozen cookies to church on Sunday and stay to help pack them up after worship. Feel free to take a package or three with you to drop off later in the week at a local fire station, police station, post office or other community organization.
- **Thursday August 16th @ 2-4pm** Children's Playground at Veteran's Park in downtown Saugatuck Lemonade Give Away. Let's bless all the bargain hungry shoppers during the Sidewalk sales with a refreshing glass of lemonade.

- **Monday August 27th** - This date concludes our month long Sock Drive, that we are partnering with Holland Rescue Mission, to complete. Please bring new socks to church anytime during the month and place them in the designated box in the narthex.

We are making a difference in our community and need your help! A big thank you goes out to Jeff and Sydney Baker, Joe Brockington, and Kirke White for helping to make a difference in our community this past month. Have connections in the community, know of a project that needs to get done, think of a way to show God's amazing love? Contact Jess Brink, 616-929-4255 with your ideas. She is looking for projects for September and October!

Remember. "Unassuming acts of kindness convince people of the love of God more persuasively than words."

Hospital Stay in Your Future? Pastor Rob Wants to Be There!

As many of you know, privacy laws of the last few years are making it more difficult for us to know if you're in the hospital. The area hospitals interpret these laws very strictly. So how can you make sure you receive care from your pastor while you are in the hospital? Tell the medical staff you belong to First Congregational Church of Saugatuck. Ask someone to call us. Call any time. Here's our policy on hospital visiting: If you are in the hospital and we know about it, we will visit you as far as we are physically able, or we will find someone who can. Thanks for your help so we can help you!

Contact phone numbers:

Church Office – M, T, W 10am-2pm, 269-857-2929,
after hours it will go to our answering machine.

Call Pastor Rob any time at:

Cell: 616-283-5990 or

Home: 616-929-4255

Women's Fellowship Mission – Seafarer's Ditty Bags.



The women of the church will be making & filling "Ditty Bags" for sailors on ships, at sea for long periods of time. They need help with donations of material to make the bags, items to put in the bags and, or monetary donations to purchase these items. Here are some suggested donation items:

Materials to Make Bag:

Fabric – two pieces of washable, sturdy, colorful cloth which measure 12x18" or one piece 12x36"
 Drawstrings – a pair of 30" shoelaces, any color or two 30" lengths of suitable material which slides smoothly, will not unravel, and has no knots (twine, thin cord or crocheted rug or plastic canvas yarn.)

Items to Fill Bag:

Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Dental Floss, Cologne, Shaving Cream, Shaving Lotion, Razors, Hair Brushes, Deodorant, Combs, Nail Files, Nail Clippers, Gloves, Knit hats, Scarves, Long Underwear, Socks, Shoelaces, Shoe Polish, Mending Kit, Playing Cards, Memo Pads, Pens, Pencils, Calendars, Kleenex, Band aids, First Aid Kit.

For more information, contact Janet Hanscom (269-227-3900) or Linda Dine (269-857-2578).

Monthly Treasurer Report to the Congregation

July Update – July is another month with five Sundays, so I have adjusted the budgeted amount to reflect the additional week. Collections are under budget by 6% which is typical for this time of year. The lower contributions are partially offset with donations from the lock box for the parking lot. Thank you Kirke White for all you do, checking the box and getting the funds deposited. Please feel free to contact me through the church office at 269-857-2929 or email to pnee.kline@yahoo.com.
 Sincerely, Phyllis Yff - Treasurer

July 2012	General Fund Contributions	Budgeted Contributions	Transfers from Endowment Fund
Month End Totals	\$8,157	\$9,245	\$0
Year to Date Totals	\$53,884	\$57,319	\$10,000

Mid Year Recap

Our Heritage fund at 6/30/12 is \$381,721 which is an increase of over \$8,700 since the beginning of the year. We have seen some months with increases and some with losses reflecting current gains, losses, dividends, and transfers. The fund consists of stocks and a money market account. Many of the stocks pay dividends which we then have available if there is a shortfall in cash flow needs. It is the trustee's hopes that collections cover the budget needs and the dividends can be reinvested into the Heritage fund for our future.

Collections for the first half of 2012 averaged \$1,759 (only \$80 short of our budget) – we are very close!! The trustees continue to strive to be great stewards of the church resources and the gifts you give to continue God's work through our church and community.

Church expenses continue to be very close to the budget. Great planning Trustees!!

News from the Pews



- Murlyn Vollink is finally back in her own home, though she could still benefit from your prayers on behalf of her health. Her home address is: 2710 62nd St, Fennville, MI 49408; phone: 269-561-5727.
- Gloria Gilmer has been discharged from the hospital and is back at 1096-1 Fountain View Circle, Holland, MI 49423.
- Shirley Porter is residing now at Rachel's House of Resthaven, 280 W. 40th St., Room 310, Holland, MI 49423. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Keep a friend of the church, Erv Kasten in your prayers, as he was recently diagnosed with cancer.
- Keep Lynn Betts, Nancy Nyland, Gwen Crawford & Judy Brake in your prayers, for their health issues.
- Pray for our Shut-Ins: Jean Bekken, Cheryl Brown, Anna Diepenhorst, Bonnie Raue and Marc Waugh.
- Also, pray for our military families: Rob Boyce, Joseph Callejas, Jason Mayer, Christopher Raue, Christopher Schmitt & Amber Taylor.
- A great big THANK YOU goes out to all of those on the church's Prayer Chain, your faithfulness and belief in God's promises is greatly appreciated. We have been receiving good reports of answered prayer, so keep up the good work!



August Mission Emphasis

RE-MEMBER is a non-profit organization which works with the Oglala Lakota Nation on Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota.

Purpose

Guided by the aspirations of the Oglala Lakota Indian communities we serve, RE-MEMBER seeks to improve the quality of reservation life through relationships, shared resources and volunteer services. Through site visits and cultural immersion, we continue to develop a growing circle of advocates standing in solidarity with the Indian people of Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Re-Member is a personal part of our Church

Rev. Virginia Titus was an Interim Pastor here for 2 years when Rev. Donald Mullen was our minister. Ric Gillette was a member of Re-Member's Board and for several years Ruth Ippen, Jane Mayer, Janet Hanscom and Cathy Gillette have done volunteer work in South Dakota. So Re-Member has been a very personal part of our Church's history.

How you can help.

Specially designated giving envelopes have been placed in the pew racks, which you may use for your donations. Make your checks out to *First Congregational Church* and at the end of August, all money gathered will be totaled and one check will be mailed to them. We currently have collected \$300.

Noisy Offering Our Own Love Fund



On Sunday August 12th we will be taking up a "Noisy Offering", to replenish our own Love Fund. This is a benevolent assistance fund used for those in our own church fellowship or in the community, which might have a onetime, financial need. So be prepared to give when those noisy offering cans are passed around or designate "Love Fund" on your giving envelope.