



~Contents~

From the Pastor's Desk	Page 1
Learning to Read the Bible	Page 2
September Activities	Page 2
Welcome to New Members	Page 2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Page 3
WFC's Meeting & Bible Study	Page 3
Volunteers' Schedules	Page 3
Pilgrim Fellowship	Page 4
News from the Pews	Page 4
CROP Vesper Cruise & Walk	Page 4
Summer Sunday School	Page 5
Contact Information	Page 5
Parish Nurse Health Updates ...	Page 6
Flu Shot Walk-in Clinic	Page 6
MICCCC Annual Meeting	Page 6

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 September 2015

A Publication of First Congregational Church of Saugatuck
Serving our community since 1860

“We take God seriously, not ourselves.”

Hearing God's Voice Through His Word



I know a lot of people who have never read the Bible, nor indeed do so. I once was a part of that group. Now, I read the Bible for a living, what happened? What changed? I discovered God's love for me and wanted to get to know Him. Most mornings, for over 30 years, I am still discovering things about God and His character.

This month I am inviting you to learn a new way to study the Bible. I believe with all my heart, mind and soul reading the Bible gives us a unique advantage in living our lives. It encourages us by giving us hope. It strengthens us by giving us the power of love. In John 10:10 Jesus says it all by saying “I have come to give you life and give it abundantly.”

One day a Rabbi of the synagogue found Jesus and asked him a question. That story is found in Luke 10.

Luke 10

25 “On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” 27 He answered, ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” 28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

The purpose of Bible study is to learn to love God, love ourselves, and grow to love others. That is true life. These three elements of life are the essentials of life. Without them life is filled with fear. Continued →

Reading the Bible is not like reading a math book. There are three things a Bible story always teaches us. First it gives us insight into God and speaking of his character. Secondly, there usually is a second party dealing with a crisis or moral problem. Third, it speaks to the reader and invites them to see who they are in the story.

This month I am offering a Bible study that will help you listen for God's voice in your life. The reasons people do not read the Bible are many, and time being one of them. This study could take as little as 15 minutes. We are only going to meet 4 times in eight weeks. See below for times and location.

Living a Life of Destiny

Pastor Bruce

"Learning to Read the Bible"

The first lesson –
Weds, Sept 2nd, 6pm
in the Pastor's office.



**ENJOY THE LAST FEW DAYS OF
SUMMER...BUILD YOUR LAST
SAND CASTLE!**



**LABOR DAY
MONDAY, SEPT 7TH**

The church office will be closed to celebrate the holiday. Tuesday & Wednesday we will be open.

September 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.

Tues, Sept 1st, 6:30pm Diaconate Board meeting.

Weds, Sept 2nd, 6:00pm "Learning to Read the Bible",
meet in Pastor Bruce's church study.

**Mon, Sept 7th, the church office will be closed for
Labor Day.**

**Tues, Sept 8th, Woman's Fellowship Circle Bible
Study & meeting, 10am in the Fellowship Hall.**

Chancel Choir Practice: Sunday, Sept 13th at 9:00am,
in the Fellowship Hall, with Cathy Brockington.

**Sun, Sept 13th, 11am (after service) Trustee Board
meeting.**

**Sun, Sept 13th, 5:00pm, Star of Saugatuck's Vespers
Cruise for CROP**

Mon, Sept 14th, 7pm, Prudential Board meeting.

**Sunday, Sept 20th, 11:15am-1:00pm Flu & Pneumonia
Shot Walk-in Clinic and Picnic.**

**Mon, Sept 21st, October Newsletter submission
deadline.**

**Sun, Sept 27th, 2:00pm CROP Walk begins & ends at
Community Church of Douglas**



*New
Members*

Kristyn Boyce & Jim Scott made their Confessions of Faith, to the congregation, on Sunday, Aug 16th, becoming members of the church. We are blessed to have them as a part of our family.

Happy Birthday September People!



Sept 2 – Amy Faber
 Sept 3 – Patricia Kerr
 Sept 4 – Karen Wolffis
 Sept 4 – Adriane Sagal
 Sept 8 – Lily Howitt
 Sept 12 – Analiese Schmitt
 Sept 14 – Kevin Boyd
 Sept 16 – Eric Birkholz
 Sept 19 – Dylan Sagal
 Sept 21 – Grace Shields
 Sept 22 – Jack Nyland
 Sept 23 – Kathleen Slawson
 Sept 24 – Michael Schmitt
 Sept 25 – Dick Haferman
 Sept 27 – Cathy Brockington

Congratulations to our September Anniversary Couples!



Sept 1 – Fred & Laurie Schmitt
 Sept 4 – Jeff & Paige VanderMolen
 Sept 6 – Blake & Karen Wolffis
 Sept 9 – Dan & Connie Rusiecki
 Sept 9 – Graham Duryee & Sylvia Rudich
 Sept 10 – Richard & Linda Crawford
 Sept 21 – Michael & Laura Camarota
 Sept 21 – Jeff & Karen Baker
 Sept 21 – Eric & Laurie Birkholz
 Sept 23 – Richard & Marty Reyes
 Sept 24 – Michael & Patricia Gentry

Women's Fellowship Circle



Tues, Sept 8th @ 10am,
 all ladies are invited to meet in The Fellowship Hall, for a time of planning, prayer, and a Bible study taught by Jennifer Wingard. Read Luke 18:1-8 in preparation.

Volunteer Opportunities Join the Fun!

Sign-up Clipboards at the Welcome Desk

What a privilege it is to serve the Lord, in so many diverse ways. Greet, take up an offering, read the Scriptures, take care of a baby or host a coffee hour. Be a blessing to the congregation by signing up at the Welcome Desk, on the clip boards provided, on the Sunday of your choice, in the month of your choice, and in the avenue of your choice. Thank you.

Scripture Reader Schedule

(Sign-up now for Oct - Dec)



Sept 6 – Cathy Brockington
 Sept 13 – Connie Rusiecki
 Sept 20 – Vic Mayer
 Sept 27 – Linda Escott

To volunteer for future Sunday Readings, sign-up on the clipboard at the Welcome Desk or speak with Jennifer Wingard or Pat Gentry.

Welcome Team Schedule

(Sign-up now for Sept - Dec)



Volunteers are needed for all upcoming Sundays.

The Welcome Team is coordinated by Dan Rusiecki & Dave Edwards.



Fellowship Host Schedule

Sept 6	Dale & Kathy Plapp
13	Cathy Brockington
20	Flu Shot Clinic Picnic
27	Diana Hoppe

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.



Volunteer's Schedule

NURSERY

Sept	6	Janna Rudich
	13	Renna Birkholz
	20	Myrna Dornan
	27	Terri Borgman

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

Jr./Sr. High Pilgrim Fellowship



The Pilgrim Fellowship group, led by Kristyn Boyce, will meet during the month of September at a date & time yet to be determined. Call Kristyn for more info (269)857-4113.

News from the Pews



- Murlyn Vollink passed away on July 11, 2015, with her Memorial Service held here on Saturday, Aug 29th. We will miss our dear, sweet, dancing lady. We pray her family & friends will be comforted.
- Joseph Brockington passed away suddenly on August 10, 2015. His Memorial Service was held here on Aug 17th. He will be sorely missed by family & friends, so please pray for them as well.
- Speaking of prayer...We are in need of new Prayer Chain Volunteers. If you are interested contact Jennifer Wingard or Pat Gentry.

September Mission Emphasis & Making Our Month Matter ... CROP

There are various ways you can participate and or show your support.



The Star of Saugatuck Vespers Cruise for CROP Sunday, Sept 13th

Departing from the downtown dock
at 5:00 p.m.
(So be there at 4:45pm)

A short devotional will be shared by Rev. "Sal" Satienna, during the cruise, with light refreshments being served. The cruise is limited to 150 people, so get those tickets now, while seats are available. Tickets cost \$15 per person, with all proceeds donated to (CROP) Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. For tickets: see Peggy Boyce, Cindy Raue or call 269-857-2996.

Saugatuck/Douglas/Ganges CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, Sept 27, 2:00 pm



Walk begins and ends at Community Church of Douglas, 6780 Wiley Road, Douglas, MI with **registration beginning at 1:30 pm**. If you would like to participate as a walker, please contact Peggy Boyce or Cindy Raue for a Donation Envelope. Christian Neighbors will receive 25% of the total Hunger Walk income. Sponsor a walker financially and help end hunger one step at a time!

Here at FCC the Sept mission emphasis donations will go towards CROP. When giving, mark "CROP" on your envelope or on your check's memo line.





Oh, how I love September! It always meant the beginning of a new school year. For us it means the beginning of a new year of Sunday School! If you have not joined us yet, or took some time off during the summer because of your busy summer, guess what? *It is time to start the new year learning about God's Word.*

Here are the themes for September:

"Who is that Disciple?"

Just imagine yourself on the beautiful Sea of Galilee. You are casting out your nets into the water because your job is that of a fisherman. As you are doing this job like you do every day, Jesus comes by and says to you, "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Who were those two disciples? Do you know? They were brothers and the first two Jesus called to follow him. Come to Sunday School and find out.....plus find out who the other 10 were and some fun facts about them.

"Basic Bible Skills"

Do you remember what it was like to be new at reading the Bible? For me, that's more than a few years in the past. Here are some questions I have heard over the years about learning how to read the bible:

- "What are the big and little numbers for?"
- "What do you mean when you say Old Testament and New Testament?"
- "How can I find what you're asking me to find? I don't understand this book!"

Learning to use the Bible is as important a skill as learning verses and stories from the Bible. As children learn how to use their Bibles, they will be more likely to read and study at home. They will be more likely to volunteer to read in class. They will be more willing to read in worship. We give children a lifelong skill when we teach them how to use their Bibles. We start them on a personal journey of study and reading, learning God's message to Bible people and to us today. Some of our little ones don't even read yet and that is fine. They can still learn Bible skills like the names of the books....

What we will do in Sunday School

During our themes we will use our bibles, sing songs, learn funny rhymes, get up and move around. As well as make crafts and do a play or two which will all help us to learn the themes and grow in our knowledge of God.

Each Month we will have memory work, which will be a bible verse that goes with our theme. Please help your child learn this nugget of the word; it will then be with them for life.

This month our verse is: Mark 1:17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Each week we take an offering in Sunday School which goes out to help others. The Donut Club helps Sunday School by deciding where we should send our offerings during the year. For the month of September we are going to collect our offerings for the "Homeless in Our County." Our offerings for the rest of the year will go to a program we are very fond of the "Heifer Project"

FCC's Contact Information:

Church Address: 296 Hoffman St,
PO Box 633, Saugatuck, MI 49453

Interim Pastor Bruce VanDer Kolk

Office Hours: M-T-W 9am-1pm

Cell: 312-504-2468

Office Mgr: Mrs. Kathleen Slawson

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

Email: office@1stcongregational.net

Website: www.1stcongregational.net

Facebook: 1st Congregational Saugatuck

Health Updates with our Parish Nurse, Renna Birkholz

September is Alzheimer's disease month. There are many lengthy reports that explain in detail the symptoms and progression of the disease, but I thought this summary covers the basics. If you would like more of an explanation, please call me at (616) 836-5130, and I can help you find the information you need.

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common form of dementia among older people. Dementia is a brain disorder that seriously affects a person's ability to carry out daily activities.

AD begins slowly. It first involves the parts of the brain that control thought, memory and language. People with AD may have trouble remembering things that happened recently or names of people they know. A related problem, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), causes more memory problems than normal for people of the same age. Many, but not all, people with MCI will develop AD.

In AD, over time, symptoms get worse. People may not recognize family members or have trouble speaking, reading or writing. They may forget how to brush their teeth or comb their hair. Later on, they may become anxious or aggressive, or wander away from home. Eventually, they need total care. This can cause great stress for family members who must care for them.

AD usually begins after age 60. The risk goes up as you get older. Your risk is also higher if a family member has had the disease.

No treatment can stop the disease. However, some drugs may help keep symptoms from getting worse for a limited time.

As a service to area churches and to the community, Resthaven (9 East 8th St, Holland, MI 49423) will offer three opportunities for care coordinators and the general public to learn more about dementia. They are free of charge, and you need not register to attend. To learn more about the sessions that will be held on Sept 15th, Sept 22nd, & Sept 29th, at the Cook Chapel, located at 280 West 40th St, Holland, call (616) 796-3677, or see the poster on our downstairs bulletin board that shares more information.

Flu Shot Clinic & Picnic

It's Time to

Here @

First Congregational Church of Saugatuck

**Sunday, Sept 20th
Walk-in Clinic begins
at 11:15am thru
1:00pm**



Flu Shot \$30 Pneumonia Shot \$80
(The flu shot is covered by most insurances)

But Wait!!! You are also invited to join us for a **FREE Picnic Lunch** in the Church's Fellowship Hall! We will be serving hot dogs, potato salad, chips & a beverage.



So beat the Flu & have a nice meal too!

Second Call:

**MICCCC Annual Meeting 2015,
Fri, Oct 16 & Sat, Oct 17,**

held at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing, MI. Registration forms are in the church office.