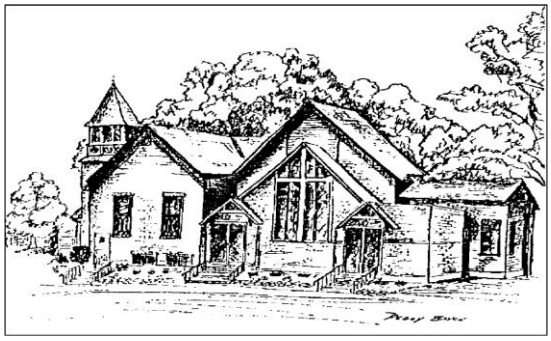

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Our Covenant

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 2017

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

Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
Ecclesiastes 4:12

I can only write what is in my heart and on my mind.

As I've been engaged for only about seventy-two hours just about the only thing that is on my mind is love and wedding plans! I'm afraid there is little room for quiet theological insight when there is a dance party happening in my brain - disco ball and all!

For years now I've been counseling couples leading up to the wedding to not spiral so far into the fascinating world of Pinterest that they forget that there are some rather big conversations that need to happen during this time of engagement, that this is a season of great purpose and preparation for the lifetime before you. Now, I'm thinking that I need to refine my pastoral approach…

The Scripture passage that I seem to keep returning to these past few days has been Ecclesiastes 4:12. This wisdom reading is a call to honor the fact that in life we are at our best when we are together. As Christians we are most healthy when we learn and serve God together within a church community. As a family we are at our strongest when we work to uphold the importance of intentional connection. As individuals we are at our best (most faithful, healthy, strong, confident, fruitful…) when we lean in to the deep connections we have with our friends and loved ones.

Continued →

From the Pastor's Desk continued

And as marriage partners we are at our best when we are bound by and in Christ. All cords are best as three strands.

Another thought I keep returning to is this: "We are all a little weird and life's a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it love." I quite agree! And so it is a very good thing indeed that our Lord meets us where we are - in the midst of our differences, uniqueness's, and weirdness's. It's a good thing that Christ is able to be the glue in all our relationships and unions. For it is by God's grace that we are able to simply rejoice and trust that all that we will ever need with be provide

Congregation, please forgive my vague floating ruminating as I have not come down from cloud nine yet.

All together in Christ,
Pastor Sarah
1-989- 640-1487
rev.sarahgladstone@gmail.com

Pastor Sarah's Office Hours:
Tues, Weds, Thurs 12pm-5pm &
Fri 9am-12pm.
Office Mgr. Kathleen Slawson
will be in the office
Tues, Weds, Thurs 9am-11am

Women's Fellowship Circle

On **Tues, Aug 1st @ 10am,** the ladies will meet in The Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship, time in the Word and a time in prayer. All women are invited.

Sunday, Aug 13th will be our last outdoor service for the season. The previous two have been an awesome blessing and very well received, so make sure you join us, as we Worship the Son, in the sun!

Hello Choristers! Chancel Choir sings the praises of the Lord during the worship service, once a month.

The Summer Rehearsal schedule is as follows: Sunday, August 20th, at 9am in the Fellow-ship Hall. The choir will then sing during worship, on those same Sunday mornings. For more info contact Cathy Brockington, 269-857-2146.

Fellowship Host Schedule

August

6 Pastor Sarah & Linda Escott
13 Bev Nieusma, Tina & Gerrit Sturrus
20 The Rusiecki Family
27 Cindy Raue & Phyllis Yff

Scripture Reader's Schedule

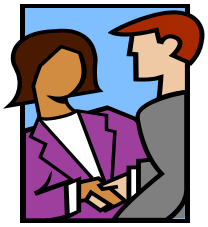
Aug 6 - OPEN
Aug 13 - OPEN
Aug 20 - Linda Escott
Aug 27 - OPEN

Workers' Schedule

August

6 Dotty Houser & granddaughter Dana
13 McKenzie Boyce
20 Robert Boyce
27 Connie Rusiecki

Sunday Morning Greeters



Volunteers are needed for every Sunday in August. To fill open Sundays please sign up on the clip-boards, located at the Welcome Desk, or contact Linda Escott.

We extend a gracious thank you to everyone who signs up and serves in these varied avenues of ministry; you are greatly appreciated for your acts of love towards others, and on behalf of the church. Thank you!

Summer Bible Study Can I Ask That? Tuesdays @ 7pm, Aug 1 - Aug 22nd

Join us for our Summer Bible Study series, *Can I Ask That?* Every Tuesday evening at 7pm. We will be taking a page from our youth's book and asking some of the fascinating question that they have been studying all year long in Donut Club.

- Can I trust the Bible?
- Can I be a Christian and believe in evolution?
- Does God discriminate against women?
- Is Jesus really the only way to God?
- Does God endorse violence?
- Is Hell real? How could God send someone there?

Come and explore these challenging and enlightening questions!

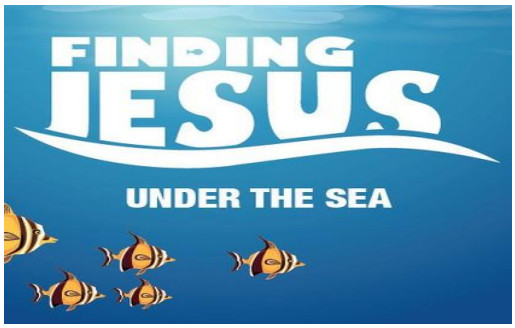
August 2017

First Congregational Church Activity Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10am WFC's meeting & Bible Study 7pm Weekly Summer Bible Study	**2**	**3**	**4** 10am GROOVE Exercise Class	**5**
6 Communion Sunday	**7**	**8** 7pm Weekly Summer Bible Study	**9**	**10**	**11** 10am GROOVE Exercise Class	**12**
13 10:00am Outdoor Worship Service 11:15am Trustee Board meeting 2pm Worship Service at Grace of Douglas	**14** 7pm Prudential Board meeting 7pm District AA meeting	**15** 7pm Weekly Summer Bible Study	**16**	**17**	**18** 10am GROOVE Exercise Class	**19**
20 9am Choir practice, sing during worship	**21** September Newsletter submissions' deadline	**22** 7pm Weekly Summer Bible Study	**23**	**24**	**25** 10am GROOVE Exercise Class	**26**
27 Bob Ruddy plays organ during worship Back to Sunday School Brunch – following worship 11:20am Diaconate Board meeting	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**		

Summer Sunday School



KEY PASSAGE FOR AUGUST

Sea Turtles:
Mark 4:35-41: Jesus Calms the Storm
When female sea turtles lay their eggs on the beach, they protect them by covering the little ones in sand and grass. Kids will learn that God takes care of us and protects us.

Coral Reef
Luke 5:1-11: Calling of the First Disciples
Coral reefs are large underwater ecosystems built by sea creatures to provide a home and safety. It's a great big sea kingdom! Kids will learn that Jesus is calling us to become a part of the kingdom that he is creating.

Fish
Daniel 6:6-27: Daniel and the Den of Lions
To keep away from danger, certain species of fish swim in schools – there is safety in numbers. Kids will learn that with God on their side, One is the only number they need to be safe.

Sea Shells
John 20:1-18: The Empty Tomb
Seashells wash up on the beach and are a beautiful reminder of the animal life that once lived inside of it. Kids will learn the empty grave reminds us that Jesus came back to life, conquering death.
Come and join us study about the Bible and about various sea creatures. Each week we have a bible story, fun and craft.
Parents each week a special flyer is sent home to help you and your child go over the lessons. It is helpful and gives fun ideas. It is called "Make it Stick".

Memory work for the summer:
"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Romans 8:39 (NIV)

Please save the following for Upcoming Sunday School Projects:
Bottle caps…plastic & metal all colors…this means water, pop, juice, anything…T.P. tubes, Paper towel tubes, Clean, foam meat trays, and Plastic sherbet or ice cream containers are needed for upcoming Sunday School art projects! Please bring in these items so that our children can "up-cycle" them into something great. There is box for your donations in the narthex.

RE-OPENING
SEPT 3rd,
2017

Christian Neighbors Cereal Collection

So far we have collected over 60 boxes of kid friendly cereal for the food pantry at Christian Neighbors!

When school is out for the summer the pantry receives a huge increase in requests for cereal from the families they serve. Next time you are at the grocery store, think about picking up an extra box. There is a donation basket near the handicap entrance for contributions.

Summer Mission Update

This summer the congregation has been donating towards the Smile Train, an international ministry that provides lip and cleft palate surgeries to children in developing nations. Each surgery costs about $250. The congregation had set a goal of sponsoring six surgeries, and so far to date, we have collected just over $1,200. There is still time to give and meet that goal!

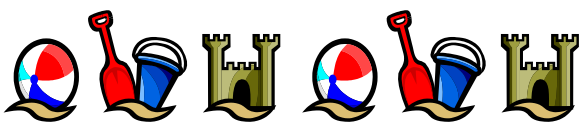
On Sunday, Aug 13th we will turn our mission focus towards CROP, Ending Hunger One Step at a Time, with information being presented during worship, in preparation for the Sept walk. Popcorn will be provided.

August Celebrations

Aug 1 – Tina Sturrus
Aug 2 – Natalie Goulooze
Aug 3 – Cathy Gillette
Aug 4 – Terry Van Dis
Aug 5 – Pastor Sarah Gladstone
Aug 6 – Jodie Howitt
Aug 8 – Janet Hanscom
Aug 13 – Sheryll Van Portfleet
Aug 16 – Hank Overway III
Aug 16 – Graham Duryee
Aug 18 – Barry Johnson
Aug 21 – Jeremy Shields
Aug 23 – Kristyn Boyce
Aug 24 – Kristi Van Howe
Aug 26 – Dotty Houser
Aug 27 – Renna Birkholz
Aug 28 – Laurie Birkholz

August 14 – Kirke & Betty White
August 16 – Bryan & Marie Shields
August 19 – Greg & Sheryll Van Portfleet
August 20 – Eric & Natalie Bohner
August 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!



FCC's Contact Information:

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

Church Phone: 269-857-2929, after hours it will go to our answering machine.

Email: office@1stcongregational.net
Website: www.1stcongregational.net
Facebook: 1st Congregational Saugatuck

Pastoral Visits

Due to strict privacy laws, hospitals are not allowed to inform the Church Office if you are admitted for treatment. Sometimes the Spiritual Care Office will inform the church if specifically requested, but we shouldn't count on this happening. Please call us if you are ill so that we can be in touch and offer our good wishes and prayers.

Pastor Sarah makes pastoral calls at homes and hospitals by need and request, so please contact her or the Church Office and she would be happy to visit with you.

Also, if you have an upcoming procedure or know you will be off your feet for a while, our Shepherds are happy to help coordinate meal delivery. Just stay in touch with Pastor Sarah!

News from the Pews

"Jesus comforts those who mourn & binds up their broken hearts."

- **Pray for –** The Baker family members. Barb Baker's daughter, Deborah, passed away very recently, and the whole family is grieving her loss. If you would like to drop a note of condolence to either Barb, or Deborah's brother Jeff Baker, and his family, call the church office for addresses.

  "I am the God that healeth thee."

- **Pray for** Diana Theilgaard-Hoppe as she continues to recovers from radiation, surgery & treatment of a cancerous tumor, found attached to her eye.

  "Just keep moving, just keep moving!"

- **GROOVE Exercise Class** continues here at the church 10am, every Friday. Cost is $7 per session.

  "There's a season for everything
  and a time for every matter under the heavens:"

- **Farewell & Thank You All** – A note from Kathleen Slawson, Office Mgr: "It is my season to move on, as the Good Lord has orchestrated a very quick sale of my home in Fennville, and an even quicker purchase of a new home in Battle Creek. My husband Gary & I will be moving the end of August, with my last day working here being Aug 18th. We will both be a fully retired couple, moving from a big house, in a small town, to a small house, in a big town, excited to see what God has in store for just the two of us, now that our eight children have grown & left our nest. The past eight years working here have been such a blessing, and knowing all of you an even greater blessing. I know God will provide a new replacement, for such a time as this, as He is always faithful, and knows exactly what you have need of, and all will be well. So thank you all for being my extended family in Saugatuck, where I know I will always be welcomed! May God continue to bless all of you!"

Notes from Church Treasurer

- Our June collections are $6700
- Our June expenses are $10,104
- Our year to date transfers from the Heritage Fund total $14,500
- The 6/30/17 Heritage Fund balance is $395,966.

The following chart includes the first half of 2017's budget, along with 2017 & 2016 collections and expenses at midway through the year.

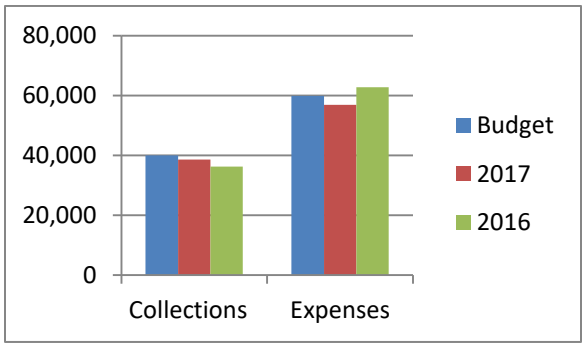


Photo Gallery

Introducing the soon to be Mrs. Timothy Terlouw – Congratulations Pastor Sarah!

Summer Sunday School – *Under the Sea*

Church Picnic

Outdoor Worship Service