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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 September 2017

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



"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland"

Isaiah 43:18-19

"Ohhhhh...

Back To School

Back To School

To Prove To Dad That I'm Not A Fool

I've Got My Lunch Packed Up,

My Boots Tied Tight,

I Hope I Don't Get In A Fight"

As soon as I start seeing pencils, folders, backpacks and crayons popping up in the aisles of the grocery store, the "Back to School Song" from Billy Madison comes flooding back. This movie was released well over twenty years ago! Its silly songs, certainly, make for resilient ear worms...

Far more than January, September has always felt like the true beginning of the year to me. Our social and civic life is so closely intertwined with the school year, we don't have to be a student or have one living down the hall from us to feel its influence. September, it seems, is meant for sticky-notes and planning, new commitments and adventures.

So, I wonder, what newness is heading your way this fall? A new project, perhaps? A new workout routine, class, devotional practice, or a new stage in life? What are you preparing yourself for?

There is a steady theme of "newness" throughout Scripture that I find wonderfully assuring in seasons such as this.

- "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another..." John 13:34a

Continued →

From the Pastor's Desk continued

- "I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 11:19
- "Sing to the Lord a new song, sing his praise from the end of the earth!" Isaiah 42:10a
- "He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5a

As the old saying goes: "The only thing that is certain in life is change." Maybe this is why God is constantly talking about drawing towards a new beginning. We are told that Christ is seeking (and will always seek) to renew us in covenant. That the Spirit desires (and will always desire) to place a clean heart in us. And if we offer it, God will take our frustrations and replace them with joy and zeal.

Sometimes when we are standing at the starting line, it can be hard to see the promises. But we can be assured that our Lord knows the way ahead. "I am making a way in the wilderness..." Isaiah 43: 19a.

This September I pray that we are all filled with a sense of divine optimism- knowing that God's got us and has a clear view of the way forward. I also pray that we trust these promises are meant for us all- that God is seeking to do a new thing in the community around us as well. May that optimism color how we interact with one another. We are merely fellow travelers, each prone to mistakes but brimming with potential.

All together in Christ,
Pastor Sarah

Pastor Sarah's Office Hours:
Tues, Weds, Thurs 12pm-5pm
& Fri 9am-12pm.
1-989-640-1487
rev.sarahgladstone@gmail.com

Women's Fellowship Circle

On **Tues, Sept 5th @ 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.



Calling All Choristers



Singers of all ages are invited to join us. Choir Practice begins on Sunday, September 10th, at 9:00am. We will sing during the worship service on September 17.

Our regular schedule will be to practice in the Fellowship Hall on the first & second Sundays of the month, at 9am. On the third Sunday of each month we will practice at 9am, and then sing during the 10am worship service. There is no practice the fourth Sunday of the month, or if there is a fifth Sunday. Contact Cathy Brockington for more information.

Notes from Church Treasurer

- Our July collections are \$7838
- Our July expenses are \$8763
- Our year to date transfers from the Heritage Fund total \$17,500
- The 7/31/17 Heritage Fund balance is \$404,460
- A stock gift of \$2168 was received into the Heritage Fund



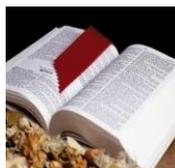
Respectfully submitted by: Phyllis Yff

Fellowship Host Schedule



- Sept 3 GROOVE
Exercise Class
- Sept 10 Prudential Board
- Sept 17 The Lamb & Vander Molen families
- Sept 24 Hank & Bonnie Stegenga

Scripture Reader's Schedule



- Sept 3 - Betty White
- Sept 10 - Cathy Brockington
- Sept 17 - Dotty Houser
- Sept 24 - Linda Escott



Workers' Schedule

- Sept 3 Janna Rudich
- Sept 10 Myrna Dornan
- Sept 17 Meagan Lampen
- Sept 24 Barry Clark

Sunday Morning Greeters



Volunteers are needed for all the Sundays in September. 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!

Come Ring the Bell!



Needed



There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk for any children interested in being an Acolyte, which means they get to pull the rope, and ring the church bell, and light the candles at the altar in the sanctuary. Ask your parent/guardian if you may, then choose a Sunday date to do so, have them initial alongside of your name, and make sure you are here at church by 9:55am to pull that rope 10 times, to let people know that church has started. Thanks!



Sunday September 3rd "Bring Your Fidget to Sunday School Day!"

Bring one bring, two bring, bring your favorite.....if you don't have one don't worry just bring yourself!

Hold on to God when life spins out of control.
Genesis 41:14-27, 41-43, Pharaoh and Joseph

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will give something they can't control to Jesus in prayer.

SUMMARY:

Sometimes life can feel like it's spinning us out of control! No one had a life that spun from good to bad to worse quite like Joseph. But Joseph never lost his faith, and God blessed Joseph.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIRV)

September 2017

First Congregational Church Activity Calendar

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00am

Nursery Provided

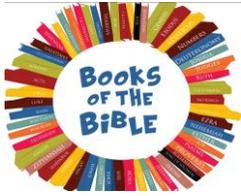
Communion will be served 1st Sunday of the month

Sunday School – 10:15am

Social Hour after Worship – 11:00am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10am GROOVE Exercise Class	2
3 Communion Sunday	4 Labor Day	5 10am WFC's meeting & Bible Study	6	7 6-9pm Lakeshore Community Chorus (LCC) Rehearsal	8 10am GROOVE Exercise Class	9 4pm Celebration of Life Service for Loretta Cuellar
10 9am Choir practice 11am Back to Sunday School Brunch 2pm Worship Service at Grace of Douglas	11 6pm Trustee Board meeting 7pm Prudential Board meeting 7pm District AA meeting	12	13	14 6-9pm LCC Rehearsal	15 10am GROOVE Exercise Class	16
17 9am Choir practice, sing during 10am service	18	19	20	21 6-9pm LCC Rehearsal	22 10am GROOVE Exercise Class	23
24 Bob Ruddy plays organ during worship 11:20am Diaconate Board meeting 5pm Star of Saugatuck Vespers Cruise for CROP	25	26	27	28 6-9pm LCC Rehearsal	29 10am GROOVE Exercise Class	30





**Sunday School
Overview
For September**

**“It’s All About Those Books,
About Those Books,
About Those Books”**

**Take Up Your Sword September 10
“Back to Sunday School Sunday”**

Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17 God wants us to know what’s in the Bible and where to find it.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn how many books are in the Bible (66), how many are in the Old Testament (39) and how many are in the New Testament (27).

SUMMARY:

God says the Bible is like a sword. Just like a sword takes practice to use, we need to practice using God’s Word. One of the ways we can do that is by knowing what God has included in the Bible and where we can find it.

The Next Five September 17

Genesis 17:1-8, God’s Covenant with Abraham

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the first 5 books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy with an action to symbolize each one.

SUMMARY:

The first five books of the Bible tell us how the world began, what God expects of us (the law), and how God put a plan in action to set things right.

All That History September 24

Joshua 24:14-22, Joshua’s Charge to the People

The books of history teach us what happens when we obey (or disobey) God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the next 12 books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther with an action to symbolize each.

SUMMARY:

The books of history tell us what happened to God’s people when they inherited the Promised Land and what happened when they forgot about God. They teach us about God’s laws and God’s forgiveness.

Sunday School Offerings:

For the months of September and October our Sunday School Offerings will go toward the Crop Walk Program.

Saving.....

Please continue to save all plastic and metal jar and bottle caps. They can be any color or size. Thank you. Bring them to church and add them to the box in the hallway marked for them.



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

A Diaconate Board Thank You

In his poem, "Precious Jewels",
William O. Cushing penned:

*Little Children, little children
Who love their Redeemer
Are the jewels, precious jewels
Bright gems for his crown.*

These words could not be truer then to
describe our youth, the jewels in our
crown here at First Congregational.

This summer some of our teens took
time out of their busy schedule to be
with our smallest gems while their
parents worshipped on Sunday
mornings! Thank you so much for your
service to the Lord and to the support
of our church family: **McKenzie Boyce,**
Robert Boyce, Isabella Camarota,
Sophia Camarota, Kimberly DeBoer
and Dana Goedkin!



September Celebrations



- 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



- 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

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



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!

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 \$1,500, which would sponsor six surgeries, and Praise the Lord, we collected over \$2,100! Way to put a smile on the faces of those kids people! Thank you for your generosity!

Our Autumn Mission Emphasis



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

The Star of Saugatuck Vespers Cruise for CROP Sunday, Sept 24th



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

A short devotional will be shared by Rev. Sarah Gladstone, 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: call 269-857-2996.

Saugatuck/Douglas/Ganges CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, Oct 8th, 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 Pastor Sarah 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!

Or designate a special offering gift, Sept – Oct, during worship, marking “CROP” on the memo line.

News from the Pews



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

- **Pray for** – The family of Loretta Cuellar, a former member, with family members here and across the country. She passed away on Aug 10, 2017. There will be a “Celebration of Her Life Service” held here at the church on Sat, Sept 9th at 4pm, with a light meal served after.

“I am the God that healeth thee.”

- **Pray for** Diana Theilgaard-Hoppe as she continues to recover 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:”

- **Help Wanted: Church Office Manager** – Duties: receptionist, secretary, bookkeeping, desktop publishing, office experience preferred, QuickBooks a plus. 3 days a week (12-15 hrs), \$13 per hour. Contact office@1stcongregational.net or call (269) 857-2929

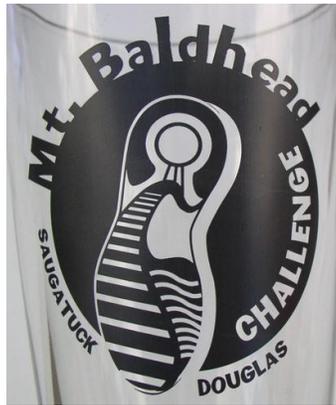


5k Event Group Calling all Runners (Walkers too!)



Calling all runners, walkers, and even those who just enjoy a nice mosey every now and again! Join us for our new 5K running/walking group!

There is a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall featuring event information and sign-ups for local charity races. Let’s run them/ walk them together! What a fun way to support area ministries and causes, while celebrating our time of fellowship together. Our next event is:



**18th Annual
Sept 9, 2017**

15K – 8am

\$30 by Sept 7

\$35 Sept 8 & 9

5K – 8:15am

\$25 by Sept 7

\$30 Sept 8 & 9

Register online at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Douglas/MtBaldheadChallenge>

Blessing Box Food for Anyone Who Needs It!

Located at Community Church of Douglas, 6874 Wiley Rd, next to the Trail Marker.

Help to serve others by restocking the Blessing Box with non-perishable food items & personal care items. Open 24 hrs a day.

Isn't room in the blessing box? An overflow tote box is located outside the entries to the church. Take what you need – Leave what you can – Above all, be Blessed! An outreach of the Women's Ministry Team.

