

# Lakeshore Congregationalist

May 2025

A monthly publication of the First Congregational Church of Saugatuck, est. 1860

## From the Pastor's Desk

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15: 13*

Last month I brought my lemon tree into worship to share with all of you. The poor thing looked like it was on death's doorstep. To make a long story short, this potted lemon tree has spent the winter in a bathtub - the only spot in the house with a nice plant friendly sun beam that was big enough for it's jumbo pot. And one day, (when the house was just a bit too quiet, if you know what I mean...) Isla turned on super hot water to the bathtub and nearly drowned the lemon plant in scalding water. Yikes! The tree did not fair well through that experience. It lost 90% of its leaves and much of it looks burnt.



But, as we talked about during the worship service, even through this damaging experience happened, the only thing I could do in response was "the next hopeful thing." Even though I didn't know if the plant would survive or would ever bounce back, all I could do was the next hopeful thing. For the lemon tree this looked like drying it out a bit, fertilizing it, trimming those burnt ends, making sure it got some better sun, watering it with nice cool water and waiting... and waiting... for signs of life.

And what do we have now? A few fresh green leaves!

Does this mean that all is well again? No. Much of the plant still looks very damaged. But doing "the next hopeful thing" is doing some good!

Every time I water this sad little tree, I'm reminded of the "spiritual fruit" that comes when we act with hope. When damaging things happen in this world, all we can control is how we respond. What motivates and informs our response? Anger? Fear? A desire to turn our backs and walk away to protect ourselves from further harm? Or will we behave as hopeful people?

As a people of faith, hope must motivate our actions. 1 Peter 1:3 states: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!" According to

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...And much more!



**First Congregational Church**  
Saugatuck, Michigan

## From the Pastor's Desk, Continued...

his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

The work of the resurrection was to bring hope to the world. And we, as an Easter people, are born of that hope. Hope, not just in eternal life someday, but of life abundant here and now. As a people of faith, hope must be our posture and our motivator.

So when the news is bad, all you can do is "the next hopeful thing." When the experience is damaging, all you can do is "the next hopeful thing." When Good Friday lingers, all you can do is "the next hopeful thing."

Give it time. Make hopeful choices. Give good fruit a chance to grow.

All together in Christ,  
Rev. Sarah Terlouw



## Lady's Spring Tea Saturday, May 3rd, 2pm

Please be our guest! All the ladies of the church (and our families and friends!) are invited to a Lady's Spring Tea on May 3rd. This is a free event. Kady Douglas, a Victorian actor, will be providing entertainment for the event. Please text Nyla Hensley to sign up: 616-216-7963.



## Ways to Worship

### Each Sunday at 10am.

You are invited to worship with us in person, or online via our Facebook livestream. The video of our worship service is also uploaded every week to our church's YouTube Channel, so you can catch the whole service any time. The church can be found on Facebook and YouTube by doing a simple search for First Congregational Church of Saugatuck. It is also on our church website.

## Ways to Serve

### In Worship:

There are sign up sheets for Greeters, Fellowship Host, Liturgist, Poet, Tech Helper, and Hymn Leader. Sign ups are open to everyone!

### In the Community:

Check out the "Donation Zone" by the handicap entrance of the church. There you will see shelving and baskets to place your in-kind donations for our various seasonal mission projects. We regularly collect requested items for area non-profits like the Christian Neighbors food pantry or the domestic violence shelter. Their needs change often so keep your eye on the weekly worship bulletin for updates.

## Ways to Give

### Make a Donation:

Your financial gifts to the church remain vitally important to keeping our building functioning for the community, keeping our staff paid, and keeping our ministries active! Thank you for your ongoing support.

You can mail your checks to:  
First Congregational Church  
PO Box 633  
Saugatuck MI 49453

Or you can give online via the Tithe.ly platform. Scan this QR code to get connected.



## Weekly Worship Volunteers

### Communion Set Up

Myrna Dornan

### Hymn Leader

May 4:  
May 11: Danny Mayer  
May 18:  
May 25:

### Poet

May 4: Cindy Raue  
May 11: Sue Nelson  
May 18: Cathy Brockington  
May 25: Linda Escott

### Greeter

May 4: Cindy Raue  
May 11: Linda Escott & Sue Nelson  
May 18: Sue Nelson  
May 25:

### Fellowship Host

May 4: Danny Mayer  
May 11: Linda Escott & Sue Nelson  
May 18: Dan & Connie Rusiecki  
May 25: Kathy Plapp

### Liturgist

May 4: David Edwards  
May 11: Linda Escott  
May 18:  
May 25: Danny Mayer

## Worship Arts

Submitted by Linda Escott

I want to take a moment to thank all who participated in our services during *Lent, Maundy Thursday, Easter and Holy Humor*. This is an important time in our church life and I wanted you to know that your participation is valued. Whether you, as a musician or vocalist, shared your music; or if you served as a liturgist or poet; if you ran the soundboard; warmly greeted those that attended; served Communion; or participated by attending and lending your voice to the service. Know that you were seen, heard, and that your time and talents were much appreciated!

In the Bible, Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem a week before his crucifixion. At First Congregational we've always tried to honor that in our Palm Sunday services in one way or another. This year it seemed different as many in our community had been out of heat for days. It has come to my attention that some were unhappy with the processional this year. I wanted to let those individuals know your concerns were heard. Pastor Sarah and I have discussed it and we will strive to be more inclusive moving forward.

*Pentecost* falls on Sunday, June 8th this year and we are asking that you wear red that Sunday. We are planning to take a group picture that day. If you join us online, please consider getting a picture of yourself/ yourselves and sending it to Pastor Sarah so you, too, can be in our church family picture!

## CONGREGATIONAL

### ORNER

You know the phrase, "Meet me in St. Louis?" That's not just where the adults of the NACCC will be meeting in June. The NAPF (National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship) and HOPE (Heritage of Pilgrim Endeavor) youth programs of the NACCC will meet there, too, **June 21-26**, on the campus of Eden Theological Seminary. Gathering around the theme, "LIMITLESS," they'll be diving into the meaning of Matthew 19:26, "Jesus looked at them and said that with man this is IMPOSSIBLE but with God all things are POSSIBLE."

Youth entering 9th grade through age 26 will hear dynamic speakers, enjoy small groups, experience uplifting worship, participate in mission work, and have fun at some of the special sites around St. Louis.

Cost of the **NAPF/HOPE Youth Conference** is \$445 if registration is paid before June 1. After that, the late registration fee is \$50. If you have questions, please come talk with me.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [https://www.naccc.org/events/2025-napf-hope-youth-conference/?blm\\_aid=26576](https://www.naccc.org/events/2025-napf-hope-youth-conference/?blm_aid=26576)

We're in this together. Shalom,  
Wendy Van Tassell  
Congregational Way Captain

## Financial Snapshot

Submitted by Janna Rudich, Treasurer

- ◆ As of 03/31/25 we had \$1,341.64 in our General Fund Checking.
- ◆ Heritage Fund - YTD gain/loss, transfers & expenses has our unrestricted balance up \$2,173.
- ◆ YTD money market transfers \$10,000 3/31 Unrestricted Heritage Fund Balance \$118,366.
- ◆ February budgeted expenses are \$10,716, Collections \$7,910.
- ◆ YTD Expenses are \$1,518 under budget, collections are \$160 over budget.

## Congregational Care

I am planning a meeting with the Shepherds on May 4th during fellowship. It will only take a few minutes. I have the Shepherd's new lists of names.

Also, I am still working on getting names and correct addresses of all members of the congregation.

So Shepherd's, please consider ideas and thoughts for our meeting on May 4th.

TOJA

Trusting Only Jesus Always,

Sue Nelson

## Women's Fellowship

*Bringing women together for service, Fellowship, and spiritual growth.*

For our Bible Study this month we used the Upper Room (available on the Welcome Table in the Sanctuary) with our discussion focused around 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.

Myrna Dornan, our Community Life Captain, shared more information on the upcoming *Lady's Spring Tea*, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. She has asked Women's Fellowship to assist with this first tea. We finalized the details for this upcoming event.

There were updates regarding our major fundraiser, the summer bake sales at *Music in the Park*. We also tentatively set a date for an outing to the Comedy Club at Coral Gables in August. More details to follow.

Finally, it was suggested that, as we are a commercial kitchen, we should look into a sturdier microwave with higher wattage to replace the small one we currently have. Nothing was finalized at this time.

Our next meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on May 7th, at 10am. The next **Wine @5** will be on **Wednesday, May 21st** at **SaugaTaco** located on Water Street in Saugatuck.

In His Service,  
Linda Escott

## Prayers & Possibilities

Saturday, May 24th  
10am-11am

**Prayers & Possibilities is an open time of conversation and prayer for our community. We talk about concerns on our heart and opportunities to spread God's love in the neighborhood around us.**

**Come and chat! Come and wonder at how the church might be welcome to all!**

Douglas Cove  
Worship  
May, 18th

## All Women of the Church

Gather with others for a time of relaxation and fellowship. Drink or eat whatever you like and pay your own tab.

Wednesday  
May 21st, 5:00pm





## News from the Christian Neighbors Food Pantry

The Christian Neighbors Board met on April 17th for a mid-year review of the numbers. Over the last 6 months, the traffic at the food pantry has steadily increased. The Saugatuck/Douglas community has been very responsive with an increase in financial support to sustain their ministry. Christian Neighbors has welcomed \$110,000 in donations (wahoo! Thank you community!), but operating expenses are keeping pace. May God continue to help them steward their resources. Here are a few notes about what is happening in the pantry:



- Christian Neighbors has seen over 300 different families for a total of about 725 visits this quarter. This included about 1100 adults, 900 kids, and 250 seniors. In addition to food assistance they received clothing, diapers, towels, blankets, sheets, and various household items.
- Christian Neighbors collected approximately 1,372 jars of peanut butter during the annual PB drive from January 24th through February 28th. The faith community accounted for 93% of this. In 2024, we collected 981 jars of PB. One other note, there was \$1,115 dollars donated which was used to purchase 902 jars through the Meijer B2B program, at \$1.28 per jar.
- The annual Cereal Drive begins May 1 and runs through the end of May. This drive supports the client families during the summer months. Each child up to 18 years old receives two boxes of cereal per month until it is gone. In 2024 we received 1202 boxes of cereal.
- It appears that Feeding America is offering less USDA meats and non-perishables, as a result of the loss of USDA funding. The estimated impact will be \$2,000 - \$3,000 monthly for Christian Neighbors.
- Wishbone Pet Rescue, Douglas continues to donate dog and cat food, pet supplies, treats, etc. 180 families (350 pets) are served each month.

### **Missions**

Submitted by Vicki Boyce

Thanks to Myrna Dornan for freshening up the Christian Neighbors donation zone and replacing the shelving. A new sign will be added to the area. The artwork that formerly hung in the area has found a new location.

May is Cereal Month! In preparation for the upcoming school summer break, Christian Neighbors is requesting contributions of cereal for the Month of May.

Our special Easter collection on April 20th to support the ministry of David's House totals \$513.00 so far.



### **Arthur Fredrick Legacy Benefit**

**for Christian Neighbors**

**May 4th, 1pm**

Enjoy hors D' Oeuvres, beer, and wine in the company of Friends and Supporters of the work of Christian Neighbors. This benefit will be held at The Saugatuck Yacht Club, 15 Park Street, Saugatuck from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

There is a requested Donation of \$75.00 made payable to Christian Neighbors. Checks can be mailed to All Saints' Church, 252 Grand Street, Saugatuck, MI 49453 or dropped off at the event. Thank you, see you there!

# Community Life

Submitted by Myrna Dornan

## WOW TAKE A LOOK!

The downstairs ladies' restroom has been under discussion for a refresh for too long. So, Phyllis Yff and I decided to take it on for the April 5th workday.



We met at Habitat for Humanity in Holland to look for ceramic tile and paint. The upper walls were in good shape so we stayed with the soft green and highlighted the lower walls with a light grey paint. To connect the two areas we found a textured grey tile to make a chair rail effect. The mirror was in good shape with a chrome frame. We found some fun penny tile to form a frame around the mirror. It adds a little sparkle and interest.



We paid \$34.00 for the paint and tile. Good shopping by Myrna and Phyllis.



Phyllis and Dan installed the tile, grouted, and made the finishing touches. Phyllis purchased a new ceiling exhaust fan. Such talent and energy.



The Fellowship Hall is looking great with newly waxed floors for our guests attending The Lady's Spring Tea on May 3rd.



## Resources from Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates

There are some additions to our prayer station in the sanctuary. You will find some print resources from the Holland based nonprofit - Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates. If you know of an immigrant in your community (documented or otherwise) that might be feeling vulnerable during this time of increased scrutiny, then you are welcome to share these resources! There are "red cards" available that explains the constitutional rights of an undocumented person and resources for how to make a plan if they are approached by ICE.



I was made aware of these resources following a "brainstorming" meeting hosted by our friends at Christian Neighbors. The pocket sized "red cards" (in Spanish and English) are something that they make available for all of their clients who might need clarification on what their rights are within the borders of the United States.

please help yourself.

All together in Christ,  
Pastor Sarah

If you know of anyone who might need these resources,





# Prayer Requests

- For the family of John Sanford as they grieve his passing.
- For those navigating cancer: Jedd, Wayne, Rainna, Stu, Cheyenne and many, many more.
- For those who mourn. We pray for the Hardy family as they grieve the loss of Rev. Victor Hardy who pastored the Congregational church in Chandler, AZ.
- For Marissa and Joseph (Betty White's grandson and wife), who suffered the loss of a pregnancy.
- For those who are unhoused.
- For the leaders of our nation - that they might be able to discern the ways of peace and love.
- For federal employees and non-profit workers who are uncertain about their job security.
- For Gaza.
- For the ministry of Christian Neighbors.
- For Andrew Rudich who is deployed overseas. May God keep him safe. And prayers for his wife Zoe.
- For Chris Raue (son of Kirk and Cindy) who awaits his retirement from his years of military service. He is expected home in May 2025.
- For Brad Rudich's health.
- For those battling addiction.
- For Trish.
- For a friend on a spiritual journey.
- For those wrestling with their faith.
- For Brad (Carol Garvelink's son).
- For all those struggling with depression.
- For all those seeking safe and affordable housing.
- For all those with Dementia or Alzheimer's. That God might bring them peace and clarity of mind.
- We pray for all care givers.
- For our hurting planet, that we all might be motivated to take better care of our earthy home.
- For Adam Schafer (Mike and Pat Gentry's grandson) for his health, vitality, and joy as he manages Muscular Dystrophy.
- For all of those dealing with diabetes, and seeking to make significant life changes.
- For all of those recovering from COVID and enduring long COVID symptoms.
- For truth, wisdom and justice - and for the Holy Spirit to heal places of deep hate.
- For an end to gun violence.



**BOSOM BUDDIES OF BROADWAY**

PRESENTED BY THE LAKESHORE COMMUNITY CHORUS  
JOSH KELLER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Saturday, May 31—4:00pm**  
**Sunday, June 1—2:00pm**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF SAUGATUCK

**TICKETS**  
\$20 Adults • \$10 Students

<https://lakeshorecommunitychorus.ludus.com/>

Lakeshore Community Chorus

## Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting May 7th, 4:30pm



# MAY

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

<p><u>Weekly Recovery Groups Schedule</u>          Mondays: AA, 7pm          Tuesdays: AA, 12pm          Wednesdays: AA, 12:30pm          Thursdays: AA, 7pm          Thursdays: Al-Anon, 7pm</p>	<p><u>LCC Rehearsals</u>          Tuesdays, 6pm</p> <p><u>Boy Scouts</u>          Sundays, 6pm</p> <p><u>Cub Scouts</u>          Wednesdays: 6pm</p>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Indivisibles 5pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> WFC Bible Study & Mtg 10am  Pastoral Relations Committee 4:30pm	<b>8</b>  Board of Ministry 6:30pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  District AA 6:30pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Redmond/ Herzberg Rehearsal 3pm	<b>17</b>  Redmond/ Herzberg Wedding 5pm
<b>18</b>  Douglas Cove Worship, 2pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Wine @ 5 SaugaTaco	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Prayers & Possibilities 10am
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  LCC Spring Concert Rehearsal 6pm	<b>31</b>  LCC Spring Concert 2pm

*Worship with us every Sunday at 10am! In-person and online.*



296 Hoffman - PO Box 633 - Saugatuck, MI 49453 - 269-857-2929  
 1stcongregational.net - Office Hours: 8:30am-12:30pm, Tues-Thurs - office@1stcongregational.net