

Lakeshore Congregationalist

November 2022

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



From the Pastor's Desk

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. - Psalm 28:7

It's November!

And you know what that means - It's time to dust off our buckle hats and bonnets! I, for one, have already set out my pilgrim rubber ducky collection, my William Brewster collectable doll, and my Plymouth Plantation pottery. These are all kitschy little reminders of our Pilgrim roots. And before we settle into the twinkling warmth of the Advent Season, I'm going to savor the lore of the Pilgrim narrative for a few weeks. Bring on the Mayflowers!

What do you think about the story of our Congregational roots, I wonder? It is a story deeply intertwined with the colonization of our nation and the effort of "Manifest Destiny"... And yet, it is also earnest and brave, bold and decisive. The Pilgrim narrative is as lovely as it is messy.

If you were asked, how would you describe the roots of our church? If you had to deliver an elevator speech about the "Congregational Way," what might that sound like?

This question was posed to Vitality Ministry Council of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (a leadership group that I have served for many years) this past June at the Annual Meeting and Conference in Wichita. I'd like to share with you our answer:

"We are a cooperative of churches that dates all the way back to the founding of our nation. We practice faith, freedom to follow the Spirit of God, and fellowship in devoted community. Our congregations uplift Christ as the head of the church and we work together as a diverse gathered body of equals. We do our best to live in faithful relationship with God and one another."

What might you add? Change? What might you disagree with?

If we were to personalize our elevator speech to the First Congregational Church of Saugatuck, we might mention that our church was the

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...And much more!



From the Pastor's Desk, Continued...

first in our community! That our building served as a muster location during the Civil War!

We might emphasize that today we are an autonomous (member run) little city, with Jesus as our Mayor. We might talk about how our Meeting House is positioned at the heart of the Saugatuck community and how we still strive to be a space available to our neighbors and adaptable to the needs of the time.

If you are up for a little homework this month, give it a try! Write out an elevator speech (1 minute or 100 words) about your church and why it is important to you. Bring it in to the office and I'll give you your pick of leftover Halloween candy :)

This is a month to remember the roots of our story. To thank God for the Pilgrims who were earnest and brave, who set their eyes on the New World with hope in their heart. And to spend some time in meditation on the hard parts of our history, to let the deeply sour notes of Indigenous oppression be heard, because they matter too.

A little later in the Lakeshore Congregationalist, I offer you a prayer of conciliation to help us in remembering.

With deep joy in my heart, I pray that you all have a blessed Thanksgiving season.

All together in Christ,

Rev. Sarah Terlouw



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.

Ways to Serve

In worship:

There are sign up sheets for Greeters, Fellowship Hour 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.

Remember to save you Family Fare receipts! There is a collection bucket for those in the "Donation Zone" year round! These receipts are collected by several local charities to help them purchase needed goods.

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.



A Prayer of Conciliation During this Heritage Month

Contributed by Pastor Sarah

Our Pilgrim history is deeply entangled with the history of Indigenous genocide and the removal of Native people from their home land. Before we tuck in for our Thanksgiving dinners, I would encourage everyone to find a quiet moment this month to pray a prayer of conciliation and remembrance. Here is a prayer to get you started:



Creator God,

During this Heritage Month, we look around at your world and praise you for the beauty and diversity that is present all around us.

Thank you for the gift of relationships, and freedom of our faith.

Thank you for our connection with people, animals and the land.

Help us, Lord, to see differences and diversity as strengths.

Help us to listen and understand; to meet one another with wonder and anticipation.

Help us to love as you love, without expectation.

Reveal to us your way of reconciliation and guide us into right relationships with all living things.

Lead us to understand how Indigenous peoples have been and continue to be profoundly harmed by settler people and institutions.

Lead us to repent when we as settlers deny Indigenous peoples respect, dignity and fullness of life.

Help us to listen compassionately, to speak humbly and to act justly.

Help us to seek the peace, justice and reconciliation you desire among all your children.

Thank you for your mercy and grace.

Amen.

Changes Coming for Live Stream Worship

Connecting with the live-streamed worship service does require a little bit of tech savviness, as you need to be able to find your way around Facebook. To make things a bit easier to navigate, the church is considering moving streaming platforms beginning this Advent. We will either be streaming directly through YouTube or utilize the Amazon streaming platform. YouTube would automatically save our services to the archive for you to access as any point during the week. The Amazon streaming platform can be linked through our website. Our goal is that people could use the same link each and every week to access the weekly worship service. When we do move platforms, we will send a letter out to the whole congregation so we can prepare.

Worship Services to Resume at Douglas Cove

Second Sundays at 2pm

This December, we will be back to hosting a once a month worship service for the residents of Douglas Cove Nursing Home. Due to COVID, we discontinued our monthly services back in April of 2020. Prior to the onset of COVID, we lead "Second Sunday Services" there for four years. Douglas Cove is open once again to small community groups to host programming. Prayerfully and cautiously we will resume our ministry with the nursing home community, being mindful, all the while, of safety concerns.

Douglas Cove currently has 58 residents (90% of which are Medicare recipients) who are all invited to worship in the Great Hall together. Services feature an abbreviated sermon, prayer time, and the most familiar of classic hymns. If you would like to tag along for worship with Pastor Sarah, just let her know! We could always use the extra singing voices!



Weekly Worship Volunteers

Hymn Leader

November 6:
November 13: Amory Jewett
November 20: Danny Mayer
November 27:

Poet

November 6: Cathy Brockington
November 13: Myrna Dornan
November 20: Connie Rusiecki
November 27:

Fellowship Host

November 6: Justine Kolev
November 13:
November 20: The Lambs'
November 27:

Greeters

November 6:
November 13: Myrna Dornan
November 20: Danny Mayer
November 27: Wendy and Tom
Van Tassell

Liturgist

November 6:
November 13:
November 20: Linda Escott
November 27: Dave Edwards



As we approach All Saints Day, I wonder if you are remembering someone special this year? If so, you are invited to bring a picture or an item that reminds you of them with you to worship on November 6th. You can place that item on the Communion Table, and we will celebrate their memory together.

Douglas Elementary Art a' Loan

We currently have artwork displayed in the back of the Sanctuary by local artist Lillian Rodriguez.



A resident of Saugatuck for 10 years, she was in 3rd grade when her artwork was completed.

Her interests include soccer, being and nature and drawing

"My plan for this project was to make sewing look like two hearts beating. It took a lot of time to put the design together. My favorite part of the project was experimenting with sewing and putting all the colors together. When I was finished, I loved the result."

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship Circle meets the first Tuesday each month. Please join us for fun and fellowship as we meet at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 1.** We will continue our study of women of the bible and continue planning for the year to come.

We are happy to announce that \$1,943 was raised this summer from the Music In the Park bake sales and the Peggy's Artist Lunches. Thanks to everyone who baked and volunteered at these events.

Pat Gentry



All Women of the Church-
Come join together with others for a time of relaxation & fellowship. Drink or eat whatever you like. Pay your own tab. **Wednesday, Nov. 16, 5 p.m.** Spectators



Questions? Need a ride?
Call Wendy Van Tassell 712-260-9976

Missions

Submitted by Pastor Sarah and Tim Terlouw, Mission and Stewardship Captain

Tis the season for gratitude and generosity! In November and December we will be partnering with our friends at Christian Neighbors once again. Here are some ways that you can pitch in:

Donate Thanksgiving Food Basket Items: cake mixes and frostings. Bring those in to the church any-time before November 20th.

Gift of Love Christmas Program: A little Christmas tree is now on the welcome table in the sanctuary loaded with gift tags for you to choose from. These tags feature small household items and lounge clothes/pajamas. These (unwrapped) gifts are due back to the church by December 4th. These items will contribute to the Christian Neighbors Christmas party for their clients. Parents are able to shop for Christmas gifts and household needs, while the kids play games.



Christian Neighbors Food Pantry is in need of bleach, detergents, fresh produce and cat food. It is absolutely amazing how far the food pantry staff is able to stretch your donation dollars! Unfortunately, they are currently having trouble finding a consistent supplier for certain items. If you are able, pick up any of these items next time you are at the store! You could drop them by Christian Neighbors during the week (9-12pm: M,T,Th,F) or bring them to the Donation Zone at the church and we will make sure they get transported over.

Your Financial Support!

Christian Neighbors is a vital resource for our community! Not only do they host our area food pantry, they are also able to help with utility bills, rent, medical and prescription costs. The thrift store steps up to the plate by providing anything from diapers to clothing, from bedding and towels to pots and pans. At the Christian Neighbors Annual Meeting on October 20th, attendees learned that this has been a "big giving" year for Christian Neighbors. Our community was wildly supportive and generous towards Christian Neighbors throughout the pandemic! So much so, that even with the launching of new programming to fill the needs of the community during that time, the Christian Neighbors organization was able to invest some of its income for a rainy day. Well, 2022 has been a downpour! The food pantry alone saw an increase of \$37,000! That is a 65% increase in spreading, for a total cost of \$84,000. Part of that is inflation and lingering supply chain issues... but this also reflects a tremendous increase in need. The next highest cost was rent support. Christian Neighbors was able to help 101 households this year make their monthly rent payment for a total amount of \$41,000. 515 households (2327 individuals) participated in Christian Neighbors this year - either by stopping in to the food pantry or by taking part in one of their seasonal programs (such as the Winter Coats Program that is just getting organized for the year right now!).

Christian Neighbors is an ecumenical project where all of our Saugatuck/Douglas churches come together to help meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community in the name of Jesus!

If you would like to make a financial contribution to their good work, you can do so at our Heritage Sunday Worship Service (November 20th) or at Christmas Eve Worship, when we will pass the proverbial hat in support of their ministry.

Thank you all for helping to keep Christian Neighbors rolling!! Let's bring in those cake mixes and frosting!!

Worship Arts

Submitted by Kristyn Boyce, Worship Arts Captain

Hello church family. It is crazy to me that Advent is already just right around the corner! We have a couple of Creativity dates to mark on our calendars this month:)

First, I would like to invite you all to join Pastor Sarah and I to create a couple of banners for this season which will correlate better with our Advent theme this year- From generation to generation. We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 12, at 11 am.

We will also be Decking our Halls on Saturday, November 26, at 11 am. Please consider helping to set up Christmas trees and Nativity sets throughout the church, hang wreaths, set up candles on the windowsills and enjoy some fun fellowship. Many hands make light work!

Financial Snapshot

Submitted by Phyllis Yff, Treasurer

- As of 9/30/22 we had \$19,907 in our General Fund Checking compared with last year's \$7062.
- September budgeted expenses are \$11,914, collections \$6481.
- Heritage fund - YTD gain/loss, transfers & expenses has our unrestricted balance down \$143,283 (since this time last year).
- YTD expenses are \$4487 under budget, YTD collections are \$11,042 over budget.
- YTD money market transfers \$45,000, 9/30/22 Unrestricted Heritage Fund Balance \$50,312.
- Parking lot donations through September are \$11,312.

— Building Task Team to Plan Upcoming Capitol Campaign —

While our beloved Building Captain, Cindy Raue, is healing from hip surgery, the Board of Ministry has assembled a temporary task team to see to the building's upkeep for the next couple of months AND to plan for an upcoming capitol campaign that will be launched at our congregation's Annual Meeting in January of 2023. This Building Task Team is made up of: Cathy Brockington, Phyllis Yff, Pastor Sarah, and Sandra Lauer.

The Building Task Team met for the first time mid-October. At our first meeting we began by recapping all that we have accomplished in the past five years since planning our last capital campaign in 2017/2018: new roof (✓), new sign (✓), insulation over sanctuary (✓), elevator rebuild (✓), technology overhaul (✓), energy efficient lighting in the sanctuary (✓), and new doors (✓). Then we began to sort through a list of projects that need our attention. We put them in piles of Need, Want and Wishlist for Some Day.

Needs:

- Furnaces
- Central air conditioners
- Steps, concrete work
- Benches for along the sidewalk
- Signage for parking lot and the side of building

Wants:

- Carpet in sanctuary, if so, possibly reupholstering the pews or replacing them with chairs
- Stained glass art piece utilizing our old window which was taken out and stored during the 1969 sanctuary build
- Landscaping for front lawn and around the new sign

Wishlist for Some Day:

- Moving the offices upstairs
- Lighting update and new ceiling fans for sanctuary
- Installing insulation in the old section of the building

Sandra and Pastor Sarah have already begun tracking down quotes and bids for many of these various projects. It will be up to the Building Task Team to wade through paperwork and come up with a plan for the congregation. The big conversation ahead of us is: do we shoot for raising \$50,000 as a church and tackle all the "needs" and keep it at that? Or do we shoot for raising \$80,000-\$100,000 and take on some of our want projects? As always, our Board of Ministry seeks to steward our resources prayerfully, carefully and with our eyes on the future of the congregation.

The task team also named a few small projects that we will take on this fall: painting the ladies bathroom off the Fellowship Hall, installing new paper towel dispensers, replacing the water damaged tiles in the basement, a deep clean of the Gathering Room, having an exterminator in to evaluate the building for bats, and removing the old window air conditioner in the office.

We do our best to keep up our old Meeting House for our community! May God bless us and guide us as we look ahead.

All together in Christ,

The Building Task Team
Pastor Sarah, Cathy Brockington, Phyllis Yff and Sandra Lauer



Sunday School Update

Our Sunday School Duo for November, Cathy Brockington and Kathy Plapp, have planned a great program for our students through the month ahead. Sunday School programming took a brief break in October to ease the load on our dedicated rotation of volunteers, but we are back up and running! A few things to remember:

- We do not have student programming on first Sundays as those are Communion Sunday and we worship together as a family.

- Our Sunday School classroom is a single multi-age experience for our kids.

- We use a great curriculum called Seasons of the Spirit which we supplement here and there with our ideas.

- Students are welcome to remain in the sanctuary if they choose.

Thank you all for your steady support of our student ministry programming.



Still Searching for a Student Ministries Director



Come join our team!
We are now searching for a...

Student Ministries Director

Do you know someone who would be perfect for this role?
Help us spread the word!

First Congregational Church of Saugatuck
Loving God, loving our neighbor and serving our community.



Calling all 6th -12th grade students!!

The Michigan Youth Commission has set the date for the next MiPF gathering! November 12th at the First Congregational Church of Portland, MI. This one day event looks to be a blast filled with games, good food and meeting new friends from all over the state.

The cost for the event ... a whoopin' \$1!

If you are interested in participating, talk to Pastor Sarah and we can get a car pool arranged. Pastor is just a little bit excited to show off her archery skills ;)

Want to learn more about Michigan Pilgrim's Fellowship?

MICHIGANPF.ORG
MICHIGAN PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP.

SHOOT ON OVER



JOIN AS WE GET-TOGETHER

with Youth from across the state, for an interesting day of target predation , questing for obscure objects, consumption of charred meat, and ice cream - with sprinkles.

Come find out what PF is all about and bring your friends.

Can't wait to see you.

* Activities Include: Games, Songs, Archery, Road Rally, Lunch and Snacks! All for the low price of \$1 (just bring it with you).

REGISTER AT: [PF Retreat](#) by November 6th

SATURDAY

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

12

FCC Portland

421 East Bridge Street
Portland, MI

NOVEMBER

Community Life

Submitted by Pat Gentry, Community Life

Heritage Sunday Potluck

Heritage Sunday is November 20. As we celebrate our church heritage on this day we will have our traditional potluck dinner following worship. A sign-up sheet will be available for you to offer your favorite dish, or if you prefer to prepare a dish featured at the original Thanksgiving feast. Recipes will be available. Invite your friends and family to join us. As one of our members told us "No one cooks like a Congregationalist!" Come hungry!



Planning Ahead: Cookie Exchange, Caroling

Christmas is right around the corner! Mark your calendars for December 18 when we will have a cookie exchange during fellowship hour. Dig up that favorite cookie recipe and join the fun! For those who are musically inclined, join us for Christmas caroling later in the day!



Chili Cook-off and Pumpkins

The aroma of chili filled the air as participants in the October 15 Pumpkins and Chili Cook-off were carving their pumpkins. 10 pumpkins were carved and presented to participants who voted for their favorite jack-o-lantern. After the votes were counted, Pastor Sarah's entry won and she was presented with the pumpkin pie prize! After the pumpkins were carved six delicious pots of chili were presented for tasting. When the votes were counted Pat Gentry went home with the traveling Sombrero Trophy and an apple pie.



Prayer Requests

- For our nation. The strength of our democracy. The civility of its citizenship.
- For Cindy Raue, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery. And for Kirk as they care for one another during this time.
- For Danny Mayer, who was recently in the hospital for treatment of a kidney issue. Prayers for his healing and answers to medical questions.
- For Mike, nephew of Ralph and Renna Birkholz, who was recently attacked by dogs, pray for his healing and peace of mind.
- For Jim and Nyla Hensley who are dealing with some frustrating pains.
- For Tom and Wendy Van Tassell who welcomed a new grandchild! Welcome baby Simon!
- For Katie Mayer, daughter of Phyllis Yff and Danny Mayer, as she welcomes a new baby on Halloween (or possibly before).
- For all of those who are navigating depression.
- For all those in the paths of hurricanes.
- For Lelaina Boyce, as she prepares for deployment to Syria at the end of the year.
- For Kathy Plapp, who is healing from a major neck injury and surgery.
- For the Potter family (relations of Linda Escott) as they grieve the loss of Matt, who was killed in a motorcycle accident.
- For Betty Jean who is recovering from a heart attack.
- For a neighbor named Jane.
- For a neighbor named Heather who is struggling with alcohol dependency.
- For all those who are in recovery from addictions.
- For Gail, Wendy Van Tassell's sister, who is beginning a course of chemo therapy.
- For Jordan, a young man who suffered a TBI early in the summer. He is making progress! Please pray for his family as he has a long road ahead of him.
- For Dennis, a friend from the community, who is navigating a new cancer diagnosis.
- For Adam Schafer, his health, vitality and joy as he manages Muscular Dystrophy. And prayers for his family as they care for him.
- For Amory Jewett, who is searching for sustainable housing.
- For Mike Gentry who is managing back pain.
- For all of those caring for people with Alzheimers, including our friend Doris (former Office Manager).
- For the Terlouws' as they are seeking to adopt a child.
- For the church, that God would bring us all that we need to thrive and grow.
- That God would bring the church a Student Ministries Director.
- For all those with COVID.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



David Edwards 11/3

Ric Gillette 11/3

Laura Camarota 11/11

Marchiene Rienstra 11/12

Betty White 11/15

Stefan Kolev 11/17

Adam Schafer 11/18

Char Houseman 11/21



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Joanne Schippa



296 Hoffman
 PO Box 633
 Saugatuck, MI 49453



269-857-2929
 1stcongregational.net
 Office Hours: 9am-1pm, Tues-Thurs
 office@1stcongregational.net

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 WFC's Bible Study & Mtg 10:00am	2 Fall Book Study 5pm	3 Lectio @ Lunchtime, 12:30pm Lakeshore Comm. Chorus 6pm-9pm	4	5
6 	7 Poinsettia Orders Due	8	9 Fall Book Study 5pm	10 Lectio @ Lunchtime, 12:30pm Lakeshore Comm. Chorus 6pm-9pm	11	12 Banner Making Day
13	14 Board of Ministry Meeting 6:30pm District AA, 6:30pm	15	16 Fall Book Study 3:30pm Wine @ 5 Spectators	17 Lectio @ Lunchtime, 12:30pm Lakeshore Comm. Chorus 6pm-9pm	18	19
20 Heritage Sunday Potluck	21	22	23	24	25	26 Decking the Halls
27	28	29	30	<u>Weekly Recovery Groups Schedule</u> Tuesdays, AA (12:00pm) Tuesdays, AA (7:00pm) Wednesdays, AA (12:30pm) Thursdays, AA (7:00pm) Thursdays, Alanon (7:00pm)		

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