



~Contents~

Q & A with Pastor Rob.....	Page 1
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Page 2
February Activities	Page 2
Volunteers Schedules.....	Page 3
February SS Program	Page 4
Church Talent Show & Potluck ..	Page 4
2012 FCC Board Members	Page 4
Every Monday Matters	Page 5
Soup Supper & Study Series	Page 5
Building Improvement Project ...	Page 6
News from the Pews	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.

Contact Information:

Church Address:
296 Hoffman St., PO Box 633,
Saugatuck, MI 49453
Pastor: Reverend Rob Brink
Email: rob@revsmilez.com
Office Mgr: Mrs. Kathleen Slawson
Office Phone: 269-857-2929
Office Hours: Mon-Tues-Weds 10am - 2pm
Office Email: office@1stcongregational.net
Website: www.1stcongregational.net
Facebook: 1st Congregational, Saugatuck

The Lakeshore Congregationalist February 2012

A Publication of First Congregational Church of Saugatuck
Serving since 1860, Issue 2

“We take God seriously, not ourselves.”

Q & A with Pastor Rob

Q: Did you know there are 53 weeks in this year?

A: Nope. Our wonderful Office Manager Kathleen informed me.

Q: What's the deal with that?

A: With Kathleen? She's just awesome like that. With me not knowing something? It happens quite a bit actually. With the leap year? It's part of the Julian/Gregorian calendar tradition.

Q: The whoosy-whats-it?

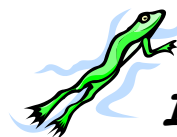
A: Julius Caesar developed the calendar as we know it today, giving us leap years and naming the month of July after himself. Before him, the best most people could do was a lunar calendar. Pope Gregory XIII improved it even further, making it accurate to literally seconds per year.

Q: Speaking of calendars. Is the Mayan calendar right? Is the world going to end in 2012?

A: God can do what God wants to do, but the end of a calendar isn't the end of time. You know this already, which is why most of you went to parties on New Year's Eve, instead waiting for Armageddon.

Q: What if I still feel worried?

A: Any calendar, no matter how accurate or complex, is a description of the movement of the stars. So look past the description to the real thing. Go outside and watch the stars move. What is a calendar compared to that? What is a calendar compared to a God who could create that? 1 John 4:18



It's a Leap Year!



Happy February Birthdays!

- Feb 2nd – Samuel Goulooze
- Feb 2nd – Will Doucette
- Feb 3rd – Patty Root
- Feb 4th – Phil Bohlander
- Feb 6th – Katie Mayer
- Feb 9th – Mike Doucette
- Feb 11th – Barb Baker
- Feb 11th – Henry Gleason
- Feb 15th – Rachel Searls
- Feb 16th – Kathy Plapp
- Feb 17th – Katie Doucette
- Feb 20th – Janna Rudich
- Feb 20th – Marilyn Tyler
- Feb 22nd – Martin Raebel
- Feb 24th – Eli Brink
- Feb 24th – Bryan Shields
- Feb 24th – Greg Van Portfleet
- Feb 25th – Jack Root
- Feb 27th – Linda Dine
- Feb 27th – Jeff VanderMolen
- Feb 28th – Tom Betts

Congratulations to our February Anniversary Couples!



- Feb 2nd – Daniel & Jennifer Goulooze
- Feb 10th – Mark & Linda Kinnaman
- Feb 23rd – Bill & Janet Hanscom

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Chicago Bus Trip
Saturday, May 5, 2012
Sign-up on clipboard @ Welcome Desk
More info to come.

February 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.

Chancel Choir Practice, with Rachel Searls & Cathy Brockington **Sundays, 9:00am Feb 5th, Feb 12th and Feb 26th**, singing on Sunday, Feb 26th.

New Praise Practice, Sundays 11:30am with Jack Nyland.

“**Make Monday Matters**” coordinated by Jess Brink. (More info Pg 5)

- **Monday, Feb 6th, 4pm @ the Brinks.** Create a craft & deliver to shut-ins.
- **Tues, Feb 14th, 4pm @ FCC.** Meet at church, then deliver Valentine surprises around town.
- **Monday, Feb 20th, Do Your Own Thing!** Get out there, be creative and share the Love of God!
- **Monday, Feb 27th, 7:15am @ Douglas Elementary.** PreGame with students before school starts.

Tuesday, Feb 7th, 10am, WFC’s meet to clean church kitchen.

Tuesday, Feb 14th, 10am, WFC’s meeting @ FCC.

Tuesday, Feb 21st @ FCC:

- **6:30pm, Diaconate Board meeting.** Chair, Betty White
- **7:00pm, Trustee Board meeting.** Chair, Frank Lamb.
- **8:00pm, Prudential Board meeting.** Moderator, Kirke White.

Starting every Wednesday @ 6pm @ FCC, Super Simple Soup Supper Study Series: Feb 22nd – March 28th. More info on Page 5.

Sunday, Feb 26th, 4pm @ FCC, Talent Show & Potluck Dinner. A Family Friendly Event.

Welcome Team Schedule



Feb 5th: Tom Betts, Dan Rusiecki, Brad & Janna Rudich

Feb 12th: Tom Betts, Dan Rusiecki, Graham Duryee & Sylvia Rudich

Feb 19th: Tom Betts, Dan Rusiecki, Jeff & Karen Baker

Feb 26th: Barb Baker, Kathy Plapp, Jon & Samantha Van Raalte

Please contact our Beadle, Tom Betts at 616-298-7036 to volunteer or with any changes. Thank you.



Fellowship Host Schedule

February 5 Chancel Choir
12 Mike & Katie Doucette
19 Ric & Cathy Gillette
26 Brian & Marie Shields & Family

March 4 Wayne & Phyllis Yff
11 Greg & Sheryll Van Portfleet
18 Barb Baker, Jeff & Karen Baker
25 Mike & Pat Gentry

April 1 Brad & Janna Rudich
8 Deacon Board
15 Frank & Joan Lamb
22 Vic & Jane Mayer
29 Dale & Kathy Plapp

PLEASE NOTE: Everything you need as a Host is in the kitchen; coffee, tea, juice or Kool-Aid, napkins, plates, etc. If you want to serve food, you are welcome to, but it is not required. The fellowship is the most important part! Contact the church office with any changes to the schedule please, thank you.

Nursery Workers Schedule



February 5 Pat Gentry
12 Betty White
19 Peggy Boyce
26 Joan Lamb

March 4 Paige Vander Molen
11 Renna Birkholz
18 Renna Birkholz
25 Samantha Van Raalte

April 1 Janet Hanscom
8 Dotty Houser
15 Tina Sturuss
22 Connie Rusiecki
29 Karen Baker

If your assigned date does not work with your schedule, please find a substitute or contact our Congregational Care Diaconate & Parish Nurse, Renna Birkholz 269-857-1804. Please call the church office with any changes, thank you.

Scripture Readers Schedule



Feb 5th Cathy Brockington
Feb 12th Pat Gentry
Feb 19th Kathy Plapp
Feb 26th Dotty Houser

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2011 READERS!

Would you like to become a part of our worship service? We are looking for Scripture Readers for one Sunday or multiple Sundays during the year, you choose. Anyone is welcome to participate. Please sign-up on the clipboard at the Welcome Desk or call our Worship Team Diaconate, Barb Baker, 269-857-2284.





February Sunday School

Volunteer Schedule:

February 5: Dotty Houser

February 12: Linda Kinnaman

February 19: Peggy Boyce

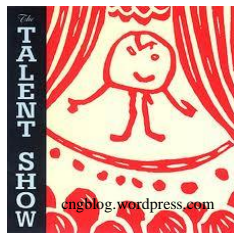
February 26: Rob Boyce

Theme: The Sunday School Children will learn the story of Zacchaeus. For a copy of this Lesson Plan see the bulletin table in the church narthex.

Volunteer Project: We will make crafts for the shut-ins on Monday, Feb 6th at 4pm at the Brink's home (3322 Coppice Court, Saugatuck).

Family Friendly Event: Sunday, Feb 26th, 4pm Potluck Dinner and Church Talent showcase.

Church Talent Show and Pot Luck Dinner



Do you sing, play an instrument, paint, tell jokes, take pictures, know a magic trick, dance, read poetry, bake, fish, golf, or have any other talent? If so we would like to invite you to participate in our very own talent showcase. Your talent is our treasure! Please join us on **Sun, Feb 26th at 4pm** for a Potluck Dinner and Talent Show. There is a signup sheet at the welcome desk. Please let us know if you need help creating a slideshow or movie to display items that may be difficult to transport to church. We will also need plenty of people in the audience to cheer everyone on. Plenty of talent is also required behind the scenes. Contact Jess Brink 616-929-4255 if you would like to help in any way.

FCC Board & Officer Members 2012

Diaconate Board

Chair (1):	3 years (2014)	Betty White
Worship (2):	3 years (2013) 3 years (2015)	Barb Baker Dotty Houser
Cong. Care (2):	3 years (2015) 3 years (2015)	Renna Birkholz Joan Lamb
Christian Ed. (2):	3 years (2014) 3 years (2013)	Linda Kinnaman Kathy Plapp
Fellowship (1):	3 years (2014)	Janet Hanscom w/Linda Dine
Outreach (1):	3 years (2013)	OPEN POSITION

Trustee Board

Chair (1):	3 years (2015)	Frank Lamb
Financial (1):	3 years (2013)	Sue Bohlander
Benevolence (1):	3 years (2013)	Murlyn Vollink
Building (1)	3 years (2014)	Gerrit Sturuss
Publicity (1):	3 years (2014)	Jeff Baker

Prudential Board & Officers

Moderator:	2 years (2014)	Kirke White
Clerk:	2 years (2013)	Cathy Brockington
Member at Large:	2 years (2013)	Cathy Gillette
Treasurer:	2 years (2014)	Phyllis Yff
Financial Secretary:	2 years (2013)	Samantha Van Raalte

Delegates

NACCC Delegate:	1 year (2013)	Peggy Boyce
State & Reg. Delegate:	1 year (2013)	Cathy Brockington

The church's Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 15th. If you would like a copy of the meeting minutes, information packet or the amended Constitution, please contact the church office, 269-857-2929, and we will get one to you. There is an open position on the Diaconate Board in the Outreach category, if you would like to know more about the responsibilities of this position or like to volunteer for it, please contact the church office.

Got a Key? Don't Need the Key?

With New Board Members there is a need for church keys to be returned for other's use. Please drop keys off at the church office. Thank you.



How can we show God's amazing love in simple ways? How can we convince our community

of God's freely given love? Every Monday, we rise to the challenge to Make Monday Matter.

Last month, we prepared meals for some unsuspecting members of our community, gave away coffee to the early risers at Demond's and helped out with Pre-Game activities before school at Douglas Elementary by playing games with students who arrive early, and delivered Christmas Cookies to the shut-in's.

Want to get involved? Check out our upcoming projects. Please note new dates and times.

Monday February 6 @ 4:00 pm @ the Brinks (3322 Coppice Ct) we will be making crafts for the shut-ins. All are welcome to help! We also need help delivering the crafts.

Tuesday, February 14th 4:00pm @ FCC we will be showing God's love to local businesses with a special Valentine's Day surprise. Come help us share God's love with unsuspecting members of our community.

Monday, February 20th: How can you show God's love today? Can you open a door for some one? Offer to carry groceries? Drop off a home cooked meal? There are so many ways to show God's love. Pick one!

Monday, February 27th 7:15 am @ Douglas Elementary School for an all-new event PREGAME! It has been brought to our attention that a number of elementary school kids are dropped off very early for school. Join us in showing God's love to some of the

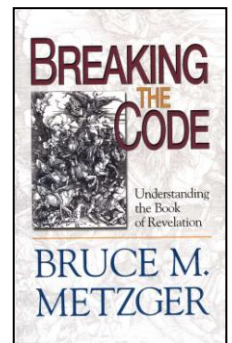
youngest members of our community through games and stories. We are collecting a basket of quick fun games that are easy to learn and easier to play. If you have something you would like to donate, please drop it off at church. All volunteers will need to complete a 1-page background sheet before participating. Pick up the form in the back of church or the office.

We are making a difference in our community and need your help! Have connections in the community, know of a project that needs to get done, think of a way to show God's amazing love? Contact Jess Brink with your ideas. She is looking for projects for March and April!

Remember. "Unassuming acts of kindness convince people of the love of God more persuasively than words."

Super Simple Soup Supper Study Series

Join us **Wednesday, February 22nd**, the beginning of Lent, starting with a **Super Simple Soup Supper at 6pm**, followed by a **Study Series at 6:30pm**, led by Pastor Rob. This will be a six-week study, every Wednesday through March 28th, of the book, *Breaking the Code – Understanding the Book of Revelation* by Bruce M. Metzger.



Here is a book description, taken from www.Christianbook.com. "The book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. Metzger presents the fruits of solid scholarship in a nonacademic style. *Breaking the Code* serves as a key for understanding this powerful and puzzling book from the first century of the Christian Era."

If you would like to participate, there is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table. Bring something "simple" to share for the meal and an open mind. If you can't join us for soup, come join us for the study.

Our Next Building Improvement Project

– Clear tempered storm panels for our stained glass windows. We have received an estimate in the amount of \$3,917 and the Women's Fellowship Circle have generously committed to donating \$1,000 to get us started off. If you would like to give towards this church project, designate your donation amount to "Storm Windows".

Hospital Stay in Your Future? Pastor Rob Wants to Be There!

As many of you know, privacy laws of the last few years are making it more difficult for us to know if you're in the hospital. The area hospitals interpret these laws very strictly. So how can you make sure you receive care from your pastor while you are in the hospital? Tell the medical staff you belong to First Congregational Church of Saugatuck. Ask someone to call us. Call any time. Here's our policy on hospital visiting: If you are in the hospital and we know about it, we will visit you as far as we are physically able, or we will find someone who can. Thanks for your help so we can help you!

Contact phone numbers:

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

Call Pastor Rob any time at:

Cell: 616-283-5990 or
Home: 616-929-4255

Deadline for March Newsletter article submissions is Monday, February 20th to the church office.

Thank you so very much!

News from the Pews



- Murlyn Volland, with a dear friend Shirley Kuykendall, will be at Naco Mission, in Arizona, for the winter, ministering to overnight visitors going back and forth between the US and Mexico. They would appreciate your prayers and or a note to : Murlyn Volland c/o Naco Mission, PO Box 890, 3748 S. Encinas, Naco, AZ 85620
- Please pray for Sharon Gossett, wife of Tom Gossett, founder of Indian Trails Mission. She has just been diagnosed with cancer. There is a mass around her upper stomach and esophagus that is very aggressive and grows rapidly. She needs a miracle!
- Judy Brake just returned from her trip to Disney World with her grandchildren, thanks to the generous donations of family & friends. Currently her cancer is dormant and is not advancing so please continue praying for her healing.
- Lynn Betts had a rough spell recently, but has made it through and is back at her previous health's plateau. She is in good spirits and appreciates all your prayers.
- Nancy Nyland has received some negative reports from her doctor, experiencing loss of mobility and is in pain. She is in a tough place right now and would appreciate all forms of encouragement and support from her church family.
- New Phone Number: Wayne & Phyllis Yff have a new home number – 616-335-3184.
- Missing some faces in church? Gerrit & Tina Sturuss will be in Florida until Mid-March. Ralph & Renna Birkholz will be gone Jan 28th – Feb 25th and Bev Nieuwsma will be in Florida Feb 6th through Feb 20th. When the snow blows some of our people go! But they will be back, don't worry!
- Pray for Our Shut-Ins: Jean Bekken, Cheryl Brown, Gwen Crawford, Anna Diepenhorst, Bonnie Raue and Marc Waugh.
- Also, pray for our military families: Rob Boyce, Joseph Callejas, Jason Mayer, Christopher Raue, Christopher Schmitt & Amber Taylor.