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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.

**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: 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational, Saugatuck

# The Lakeshore Congregationalist January 2012

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“We take God seriously, not ourselves.”

## New Year Resolution Tips from Pastor Rob

1. Pick behaviors, not outcomes. “Lose 40 pounds” is not something you can do unless you use a hacksaw.
2. Be specific. “Exercise more” is a behavior, but it’s so vague that you never know if you’ve actually won.
3. Start small. We naturally over-estimate our ability to change, and we naturally underestimate the difficulty of change.
4. Start ridiculously small. “I will floss one tooth” seems silly, but that’s exactly why it works! Go ahead and floss one tooth, chuckling at yourself the whole time, and call it a win. Do that awhile and see what happens.
5. Measure what you do now. This is the simplest of all behaviors, because you’re not committing to change anything, yet just measuring often produces change.
6. Track results. Is it working, do you need to be more consistent, or is this just the wrong tactic? You’ll never know unless you track results.
7. Make it automatic. Why fight the same battle twice? Most bills and donations can be automated. Morning and bedtime routines can be too.
8. Use peer pressure. Join a group of people who already do the thing you want to do, or already are what you want to be.

Continued →

**New Year Resolution Tips cont.**

9. Create artificial consequences and rewards. Example: Put \$100 in an envelope and give it to your best friend. If you win, you spend it together. If you lose, they mail it to the charity you hate most, using your correct name and address.
10. Build habits. This is the sum and total of everything else on the list.



**Happy January Birthdays!**

- Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Rev. Robert Hanna
- Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jean Purtle
- Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cheryl Brown
- Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – Fred Schmitt
- Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – Gerrit Sturris
- Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – Ralph Birkholz
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – Charlie Stormer
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Gary Van Dis
- Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – Michael Camarota
- Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – Liam Battjes
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – Haley DeBoer
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – Robert Boyce
- Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> – Vic Mayer
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Nyland
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – Patricia Birkholz
- Jan 30<sup>th</sup> – Lynn Betts

**Congratulations to our January Anniversary Couple!**



January 31<sup>st</sup> – Dick & Pam Haferman

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

**January Activities**

**Sunday Worship Services – 10:00am**

Nursery Provided

Communion will be served 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

**Sunday School – 10:15am**

**Social Hour after Worship – 11:00am**

**Blood Pressure Clinic after Worship**, every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, with Parish Nurse, Renna Birkholz.

**Chancel Choir Practice, Sundays, 9:00am** with Rachel Searls & Cathy Brockington

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

**“Undeck the Halls”, Sunday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> after Worship.** Take down Christmas decorations.

**Monday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Reports due in Church Office by 10am**

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

- **Saturday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, 2pm @ Grace of Douglas.** Play BINGO with the residents.
- **Monday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, 4pm @ The Brinks.** Meal prep and delivery.
- **Monday, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7am @ DeMonds.** Free coffee give-away.
- **Monday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:15am @ Douglas Elementary.** PreGame with students before school starts.

**FCC’s Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, after worship**

**Organizational Board Meetings, Tuesday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, @ FCC starting at 7pm.**

**Family Friendly Movie Night, Sunday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4pm @ FCC**

**Michigan Pilgrim Fellowship Winter Retreat for grades 9-12, Friday, Jan 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup> @ First Congregational Church, Greenville, MI.**

Email Michelle for more info: [michsimino@aol.com](mailto:michsimino@aol.com)  
Registration deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Welcome Team Schedule



**Jan 1<sup>st</sup>:** Tom Betts, Dan Rusiecki, Greg & Sheryll Van Portfleet

**Jan 8<sup>th</sup>:** Tom Betts, Dan Rusiecki, Phil & Sue Bohlander

**Jan 15<sup>th</sup>:** Tom Betts **Need 3 Volunteers**

**Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Tom Betts, Dan Rusiecki **Need 2 Volunteers**

**Jan 29<sup>th</sup>:** Tom Betts, Dan Rusiecki & Peggy Boyce **Need 1 Volunteer**

Please contact our Beadle, Tom Betts at 616-298-7036 or [tome.betts@yahoo.com](mailto:tome.betts@yahoo.com) to volunteer or with any changes. Thank you.



## Fellowship Host Schedule

- January**
- 1 Dotty Houser
  - 8 Kirke & Betty White
  - 15 Bev Nieusma, Gerrit & Tina Sturuss
  - 22 Hank & Bonnie Stegenga
  - 29 Phil & Sue Bohlander
- 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

**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!

## Nursery Workers Schedule



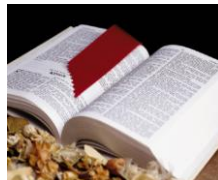
- January**
- 1 Janet Hanscom
  - 8 Dotty Houser
  - 15 Paige Vander Molen
  - 22 Karen Baker
  - 29 Pat Gentry

- February**
- 5 Cathy Brockington
  - 12 Betty White
  - 19 Peggy Boyce
  - 26 Joan Lamb

- March**
- 4 Paige Vander Molen
  - 11 Renna Birkholz
  - 18 **Need Volunteer**
  - 25 Sam Van Raalte

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



- Jan 1<sup>st</sup>** Greg Van Portfleet
- Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** Makenna Van Raalte
- Jan 15<sup>th</sup>** Janna Rudich
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>** Nancy Nyland
- Jan 29<sup>th</sup>** Peggy Boyce

**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.





## January Sunday School

### Volunteer Schedule:

**January 1:** Dotty Hauser

**January 8:** Sam Van Raalte

**January 15:** Jess Brink

**January 22:** Kathy Plapp

**January 30:** Jon Van Raalte

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

**Volunteer Project:** We will be playing Bingo with the residents at Grace of Douglas on Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. We will be collecting small personal care items to use as prizes.

**Children's Performance:** Sunday January 30<sup>th</sup> the children will perform a skit during the worship service. Practices will be January 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> after worship. A final rehearsal will be at 9:30 am Sunday January 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Family Friendly Movie Night

Join us for family friendly fun on **Sunday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4pm at First Congregational Church.** \$4.00 gets you pizza, popcorn, lemonade and a brownie! What a deal.



Bring your friends, your pillows or sleeping bags, and enjoy this heartwarming comedy. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call 269-857-2929 so we know how much pizza to order.

## Save the Date!

Our Annual Church meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**, after our morning worship service. Below is the Nomination Slate for our 2012 Church Boards. Those in *italics* will be voted on during the meeting. Those who would like to fill the empty positions may contact Jon Van Raalte (616-260-5591) or speak out at the meeting.

### Diaconate Board

Chair (1):	3 years (2014)	Betty White
Worship (2):	3 years (2013) 3 years (2015)	Barb Baker <i>Dotty Houser</i>
Cong. Care (2):	3 years (2015) 3 years (2015)	<i>Renna Birkholz</i> _____
Christian Ed. (2):	3 years (2014) 3 years (2013)	_____ Kathy Plapp
Fellowship (1):	3 years (2014)	Janet Hanscom w/Linda Dine
Outreach (1):	3 years (2013)	_____

### Trustee Board

Chair (1):	3 years (2015)	_____
Financial (1):	3 years (2013)	Frank Lamb
Benevolence (1):	3 years (2013)	<i>Murlyn Vollink</i>
Building (1)	3 years (2014)	<i>Gerrit Sturrus</i>
Publicity (1):	3 years (2014)	<i>Jeff Baker</i>

### Prudential Board & Officers

Moderator:	2 years (2014)	_____
Clerk:	2 years (2013)	<i>Cathy Brockington</i>
Member at Large:	2 years (2013)	Cathy Gillette
Treasurer:	2 years (2014)	<i>Phyllis Yff</i>
Financial Secretary:	2 years (2013)	<i>Samantha Van Raalte</i>

### Delegates

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

We will also be voting on an amendment change to the Constitution, which will be provided at the meeting. If you would like to see a copy of the Proposed Changes, contact the Church Office.

**All Annual Reports need to be into the Church Office by Monday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> by 10am** (preferably via email: [office@1stcongregational.net](mailto:office@1stcongregational.net)).



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 gave away hot chocolate during the Holiday Parade, 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.

- **Saturday, January 14th<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm @ Grace of Douglas** we will be playing Bingo with the residents. We are looking for donations of small personal care items to use as prizes.
- **Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>: 4:00pm @ the Brink's** (3322 Coppice Ct) we will be preparing meals for some unsuspecting members of our community. We will need help in preparing the meal as well as delivering it when we are done.
- **Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>: 7:00 am @ Demond's** we will be showing God's love by giving away coffee to all the early risers at the grocery store.
- **Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>: 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 in the church office.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped out this month! Women's Fellowship worked hard making cookies and delivering them to our shut-in's and the Baker family braved the rain to help hand-out hot chocolate at the Holiday Parade.

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 February and March.

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



## Your Talents are Our Treasures!

First Congregational Church has got talent! Can you sing, play an instrument, tell jokes, participate in a sport, draw or paint, take pictures, or act? We want

to know what your hidden talent is. Join us **Sunday February 26th at 4pm** for a Church Wide Talent Show. You may have multiple entries in different categories. Please limit the length to 2 minutes. Contact Jess Brink (616-929-4255) if you have questions or need to turn artwork or other mediums into a slideshow for display. There will be a potluck dinner following the performances. Please bring a dish to pass. Sign up at the welcome desk.

## 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

**2012 Giving Envelopes** are in the Fellowship Hall, find your name and pick your packet up. They are not required, but if you use one, you will receive a quarterly and end of year statement, useful for budgeting and tax purposes. If you would like a Giving Packet contact the church office, 269-857-2929.



**2011 Year End Giving Statements are in process and will be available mid-January.**

## News from the Pews



- Murlyn Vollink, with a dear friend Shirley Kuykendall, will be flying to Naco Mission, in Arizona, on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, to spend the winter ministering to overnight visitors going back and forth between the US and Mexico. Please pray for safe flights. If you would like to drop Murlyn a note while she is there, here is her contact information: Murlyn Vollink c/o Naco Mission, PO Box 890, 3748 S. Encinas, Naco, AZ 85620
- Jane Van Dis has moved south for the winter. If you would like to contact her while she is there, here is her contact information: Midway Mobile Home Park, 12674 Seminole Blvd., Lot S1, Largo, FL 33778. Phone: 727-585-1472.
- Judy Brake has been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, so let's rally around her with our love, prayers, words of encouragement, and faith that God will minister comfort, healing and a peace that passes understanding.
- Pray for the Bett's family, that they receive peace, comfort and God's daily grace, during this difficult time in their lives. Pray for Lynn's healing.
- 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.

## New Shepherds List for 2012

Did you know that you have someone, from the church, which has chosen to watch over, encourage, send birthday cards, and pray especially for you? Well you do, and that person is called your Shepherding Deacon. The last two pages of this newsletter is the newly revised Shepherds List for 2012. Don't see your name listed and you would like to be included? Then call the church office (269-857-2929) and we will make sure you are added in. We are the body of Christ and everyone matters!