

The Lakeshore Congregationalist

May 2018

First Congregational Church – Serving the community since 1860



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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, through one another, through fellowship, and through simple acts of service in the Saugatuck/Douglas area. We don't always get it right, but we have fun trying.



I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Joel 2: 28-29

Imagine arriving to worship, as we do each Sunday, to find bulletins neatly folded, a sanctuary full of warm smiles and hugs and greetings. Imagine Krystin playing the piano beautifully as we gather to praise God. Can you see us standing together speaking in one unified voice to God in prayer? Well... then imagine that all of a sudden, a violent rush of wind busts into the sanctuary- the doors fly off their hinges the widows shatter under the pressure - and a fire appears floating above each of our heads! Curious.

As we instinctively flinch or try and swat out the flames... we turn to each other and ask, "What was that? What's going on?" only to find that we are speaking unfamiliar, lyrical languages One in German, another French. I'm speaking Swahili. Another Farsi. Perhaps you are speaking Mandarin or Algonquian. The sounds are intriguing and new, but we understand each other perfectly!

That would certainly spice things up!

On the first day on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came whooshing into our world, the disciples didn't reach for the cell phones while trying to decide if they wanted to film the event or call for help, they praised God in their many tongues. They spoke of God's love and brilliance with all the textures our voices could offer!



Upcoming Meetings

- May 1** – Women's Fellowship, 10am
- May 16** – Prudential, 6:00 pm
- May 27** – Diaconate, 11:20 am

Fellowship Hosts

- May 6** – Dale & Kathy Plapp
- May 13** – Brad & Janna Rudich
- May 20** – Birkholz Family
- May 27** – Thom & Char Houseman

Scripture Readers

- May 6** – Betty White
- May 13** – Linda Escott
- May 20** – Myrna Dornan
- May 27** – Cathy Brockington

Nursery Workers

- May 6** – Myrna Dornan
- May 13** – **available**
- May 20** – **available**
- May 27** – **available**

Welcome Team

- May 6** – **available**
- May 13** – **available**
- May 20** – Myrna Dornan
- May 27** – **available**

Beverly Gaventa once wrote that, "We want the Spirit to be like airplane coffee, weak but reliable, and administered in small quantities."

Perhaps this tentative attitude is a response to the bold entrance on the Spirit for long ago.

Pentecost is one of the greatest stories of our Christian faith. It is a moment that speaks to us about beginnings, possibility and the potential of God's church. For it is the Spirit that sets our hearts and minds on fire-blessing us with giftedness and ideas, passion and convictions! The Spirit is a force of change and movement.

Sometimes I fear the church (our church, any church) wants God to be an old bearded man in the sky, in need of a good long rest and a rocking chair. Storied and wise, yet checked out and fragile.

But the Holy Spirit is definitely not that.

The Holy Spirit is alive, awake and on the move in our world today! Turning it towards love and a more just reality, inspiring grace in perilous places, urging those who are frozen in the pews to dance and think and try new things.

The Prophet Joel said that when the Spirit came that we would all be filled with dreams and visions. The young and the old, the slave and the free- flooded with inspiration and truth.

So I wonder what dreams you have for this world? For our church?

I'll ask this again at our Pentecost worship on May 20th, where I hope to receive some interesting answers!

There are seasons in church that are resistant towards the energy of the Holy Spirit, seasons that are fearful of change and possibility, where people ache for the comfortable routine of yesterday. But that is not us, not now. I know, and our leadership knows, that the Holy Spirit is up to something within our church family, blessing us with ideas and conviction. And so, I look forward to hearing from you at Pentecost!

All together in Christ,
Pastor Sarah



Spring Mission Project

Grant Me Hope:

May is National Foster Care Month

As we wrap up our spring mission, you will have one more opportunity to help reach our goal of \$1800 through our Noisy Offering, Pentecost Sunday, May 20th. Currently special donations are just shy of \$1200.

Summer Mission Project

Forgotten Man Ministries:



Just a heads up! In preparation for our summer mission, we will be soliciting donations of paperback books, used eye glasses, adult coloring books & colored pencils, and more. Beginning in May, I will be putting out a box next to the Christian Neighbors collection area for you to leave your contributions.



An Invitation from Women's Fellowship Circle

You are invited to join us on **Tuesday, May 1st** at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for Bible Study and Fellowship.

GROOVE! EXERCISE CLASS

Every Friday at 10am at the church. Come join the fun!

Instructor: Heather Winia

Cost: \$7 per session



START COLLECTING – WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GARAGE SALE IS NOT FAR AWAY!

Spring cleaning time is here! As you start to clean out those storage spaces, closets and cupboards, please remember to set aside items for the "Women's Fellowship Garage Sale" which will be held in July. We appreciate any clean, usable items.



Sunday School Overview for May

The curriculum for our Sunday School/Donut Club follows the same lessons taught/discussed in the church service for the day. In this way parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles can all join together in discussion of the lesson taught. It should make for a good family time.

Upper Room Sunday School Classroom:

Our activities will include bible lessons taught using various resources. Children will be involved in art activities, readings, plays and songs.

Thank you to our students who sang on ***April 8 at Grace of Douglas*** during Pastor Sarah's Chapel time there. Thank you to our parents for driving our Sunday school students to Grace of Douglas. Our students did a wonderful job and made for a joyful worship.

Donut Club:

Is making use of bible stories, group readings, special art activities. Kathy Plapp, the teacher for this group, has setup a special art center where students will be encouraged to express themselves and their faith via any of the arts. We also look forward to Donut Club members using their computers/phones to be creative about the lesson and sharing it with the rest of the class/congregation.

Themes for this month:

We are the people of Easter! In this season after Easter Jesus teaches us how to live. We meet Jesus speaking peace and breathing the Holy Spirit. We listen to Christ's teachings about loving our neighbors and friends the community of believers. We learn to pray for our leaders and community leaders. We learn of Pentecost and it's place in our lives today.

Here is how the Bible guides:

Easter People:

May 6, 2018 John 15:9-17 Loving our Church family

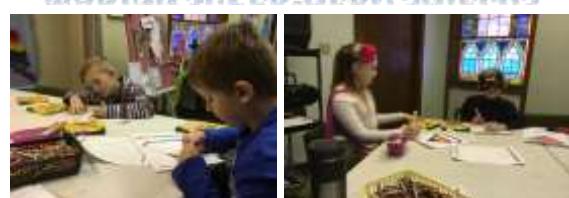
May 13, 2018 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Love leads the Way

May 20, 2018 Acts 2:1-21 Pentecost Sunday

SINGING AT GRACE OF DOUGLAS



MAKING SUPER-HERO SHIELDS





Kitchen Update

The Allegan County Health Department has stated that our kitchen facility is "approved for operation!" There is one more step we must take to be a fully licensed kitchen. When we host our first community meal, the event itself will be inspected. The Allegan County Health Department has given us the go-ahead to begin planning and dreaming once again!

Three dreams for the kitchen:

- 1) To host community meals for those in need
- 2) To be able to sell food made in our kitchen for ministry fund raisers
- 3) To rent the kitchen space out for cottage industry entrepreneurs

Thank you everyone for your patience, prayer, effort and resources as we take this big step together towards making our Meeting House even more community friendly and usable. And thank you Cindy Raue for spearheading this project.

We will keep you posted!

All together in Christ,
Pastor Sarah



Christian Neighbors Summer Cereal Collection

Throughout the summer, we welcome boxes of cereal to help the food pantry stock up – the #1 requested food item for kids during the summer break. We think of "holidays" or school lunches, but the truth is that summer is the most difficult time for kids without enough to eat. Share your love through a simple act of a box of cereal.



Are you looking for an opportunity to give a little more to this church community?

Current opportunities to serve include:

- Sunday Nursery – Contact Connie Rusiecki: Connie.rusiecki@gmail.com
- Welcome Team/Greeter – Contact Pat Gentry: pat.gentry22@gmail.com
- Acolytes/Bell Ringers – Contact Pastor Sarah: rev.sarahgladstone@gmail.com
- Trustee Board – Contact Phyllis Yff: pnee.kline@yahoo.com



Ryan Vander Molen	May 1
Milon Brockington	May 4
Adam Vander Molen	May 6
Griffin Baker	May 8
Frank Lamb	May 13
Sylvia Rudich	May 14
Vasil Kolev	May 18
Kirk Wingard	May 20
Lisa DeBoer	May 20
Randy Nieuwsma	May 27
Richard Crawford	May 29

Pastor Sarah makes pastoral calls at home and hospitals by need and request. Feel free to contact her if you or someone you know would appreciate a visit: 989-640-1487 or rev.sarahgladstone@gmail.com. Please be aware that hospitals and care facilities will not contact clergy if someone is being admitted. Our Shepherds are also happy to help coordinate meal deliveries.

Save your Lids and Recyclables!



Please continue to save plastic & metal lids. If you have not brought your items (treasures to us) in yet please do and drop them in the box marked Lids in the narthex. Also, if you purchase individual ***Stouffers Entrees*** which come in black plastic trays please wash and save the tray for us. **Thank you! From Diana & the Sunday School Team.**



***MI Congregational Summer Camp
The Happiest Place on Earth”***
-Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice -
 Sponsored by The Michigan Conference of Congregational Christian Churches
July 8 – July 13 YMCA Camp Ohiyesa (south of Fenton)
Any student who completed grades 3 through 8 may attend.
Registration materials are available in the office

Cost and Application Deadlines:

\$315 early registration discount - deposit of \$75 (non-refundable) must be postmarked by **June 1, 2018** for this discounted rate. The remaining balance is due by June 30.

\$365 standard registration - postmarked after June 1, 2018. Deposit: \$75 (non-refundable) with the remaining balance due by June 30.

NAPF/HOPE & NACCC Annual Meeting Mission Project**SOLE HOPE SHOE PARTY
ALL CONFERENCE MISSION PROJECT
SAN DIEGO, CA June 24, 2018**

It's a party! No, it's a mission project! Yes, it is a party and a mission project! It's a chance for us to be included in the Shoe Making Process!

NAPF/HOPE and Annual Meeting & Conference attendees (including Cathy Brockington—your Delegate) will team up with Sole Hope to prep the fabric that will be finished into shoes in Uganda and go on the feet of children to aid in living a life free from jiggers. Sole Hope believes actions based on love and hope can change a nation. Their servant model for love and hope is Christ Jesus. The goal for this Sunday afternoon event is 500 pairs of shoes!

The shoes are cut out of old denim jeans, (not stretchy denim). Each pair of shoes requires a Next Step Donation of \$10 to cover the process of getting the shoe parts we prepare to Uganda; paying the wages of the tailors and shoemakers; purchasing the additional shoe materials; and getting them to a clinic and onto the feet of the children.

Thank you for putting your soul into the Sole Hope Mission Project!

Laura Hamby, NACCC Moderator

FCC can participate by donating old blue or black denim jeans (not stretchy) — or give \$10 to help a pair of shoes get to Uganda.

Jeans can be left in the JEANS BOX in the narthex. Your \$1 to \$10 gift can be a check (or cash) made out to the church, with **Sole Hope Shoe Mission** on the note line. The church will be mailing the donated denim jeans and a check to California on June 11. Please bring in your denim jeans and/or money by Sunday, June 10.

Thank you all for helping our National Association participate in this worthy project.
Cathy Brockington

For more information, their website is: solehope.org/

May 2018

First Congregational Church Activity Calendar

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00am (Nursery Provided)

Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Sunday School – 10:15am

Social Hour after Worship – 11:00am

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs – 10:00-2:00

Deacon of the Month: Joan Lamb

Sunday 29 Bridal Shower 12:00 All Welcome!	Monday 30	Tuesday 1 WFC 10am Cub Scouts 6:30	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3 LCC Rehearsal 6:30	Friday 4 Groove 10am	Saturday 5 Mulch Day with Boy Scouts
6	7	8 Cub Scouts 6:30	9 Trustees 10:30am	10 LCC Rehearsal 6:30	11 Groove 10am	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16 Prudential 6pm	17 LCC Rehearsal 6:30	18 Groove 10am	19
20 *Pentecost “Noisy Offering” Diaconate Meeting 11:20	21	22	23 Dance Asylum Recital	24 LCC Rehearsal 6:30	25 Groove 10am	26
27	28	29 LCC Riser Set-up LCC Rehearsal 6:30	30 LCC 9:30 Decorating; Piano tuning	31 LCC dress Rehearsal 6:30	1 Groove 10am	2

Wear RED for Pentecost!

*Noisy Offering will go to Grant Me Hope spring mission project