



Thank you for joining us at the
First Congregational Church
PO BOX 633, 269 Hoffman, Saugatuck, Michigan 49453
269-857-2929 ★ Office@1stCongregational.Net
1stCongregational.Net

August 30th, 2020
First Congregational Church
Saugatuck, Michigan

What To Expect At Drive-In Church

- You can worship from the safety of your car! When you pull into the church parking lot you will be greeted by an usher who will help you park and will offer you a bulletin (or there will be a digital copy available on the website, 1stCongregational.Net). Tune into 89.7FM for the audio of the broadcast!
- If you would prefer to worship outside your car, you are welcome to bring your lawn chair and sit where you like. You will be expected to spread out, and if you plan on signing along with the hymns please leave at least 15' between your household and your neighbor. There will be "boombox" radios placed around the church property so that you can hear the radio broadcast.
- Kids! Attention families! There is an Activity Tent set up on the front lawn of the church. Kids (ages 6 and up) will be welcome during the worship service to come to the tent and do a craft. There are a few rules in the Activity Tent. 1) Kids need to wear a mask at all times. 2) They will be seated with their siblings or members from their household (kids or grandkids attending on their own will need a family member to come with them). 3) Supplies will not be shared between tables. We have two volunteers overseeing the Activity Tent. Our volunteers will be introducing the art project and helping kids social distance, but they will not be helping kids do their art. Sadly, nursery care will not be provided at this point.
- Please wear your mask when you are outside your car.
- Restrooms are available. Please sanitize your hands upon entering the building.
- We will be contact-tracing. Your attendance at worship services and mid-week gatherings going forward will be noted so that if someone in the congregation or someone having visited the building contracts the Coronavirus, you will be notified.
- Lastly, we will be streaming the service live to the church Facebook page and emailing out a YouTube link to the service in the Mid-Week News! If you are high-risk or feeling ill please stay home and take care of yourself and join us online for worship :)

I thank you all for being nimble in these creative and challenging times. It may be a while yet before we are able to reasonably gather inside the Meeting House for worship. Let's celebrate that worshiping outside allows us the space to sing and to gather in a variety of ways that respects people's comfort levels during the pandemic.

All together in Christ,

Pastor Sarah



Losing to Gain

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it

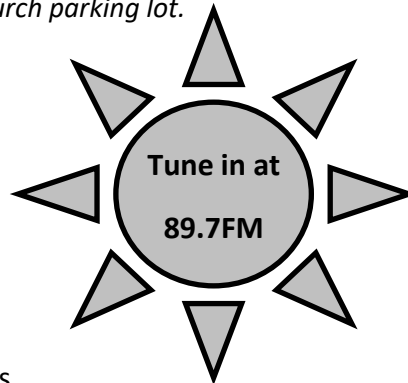
- Matthew 16: 24-25

First Congregational Church of Saugatuck

Order of Worship for the Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Thank you for joining us today for this time of prayer and praise! During these extraordinary times worship will look and feel a little different as we get creative to accommodate necessary safety precautions and strive to make worship accessible to our cherished community. Now, perhaps more than at any other time, it is vital for us all to seek out unique ways of fostering fellowship within the Body of Christ. Thank you for your ministry of presence whether you are worshiping from home or the church parking lot.

Gathering



Opening Jingle

Let us build a church, Outside the walls
Where all can safely be, A place of worship, hope and heart.
Where we forge community.
Built of prayer and Word and service,
A family of God's grace
Let us now proclaim from neighbor to neighbor:
All are welcome! All are welcome!
All are welcome, in this place!

Worship of Welcome

God is good. **All the time.**
All the time. **God is good.**

Call to Worship

We are gathered together on holy ground.

We gather as a community of compassion and hope.

Jesus calls us to care for each other tenderly and willingly

By our worship and our care we are known as followers of Jesus.

By our example and our joy-filled coming together may others be led to lives of peace.

Lord, open our hearts and bring us along in our discipleship.

Teach us to serve you truer and more fully everyday!

Lord, hear our worship today!

Sharing in the Ministry

Welcome! We are so glad that you have gathered with us today to **worship** and **wonder**. May you be energized in your **witness** this week!

Campfire Fellowship Gatherings—Wednesday Evenings at 7pm

Come one, come all! On Wednesday evenings we will be having a campfire in the small handicap parking lot at the church. Come for a s'more, good music, and a chance to catch up and just be together. Our Community Life Captain, Pat Gentry will be helping to coordinate these gatherings so talk to her for more information.



GROOVE Dance is Back!

Friday mornings at 10am, GROOVERS are welcome to gather in the parking lot of Encompass Wellness (2902 Bluestar Hwy.) for some spirit lifting dance! Heather Winia (the instructor) will honor dancers pre-purchased punch cards, the new cost is 10 sessions for \$75 or \$8 for a drop in class.

Lectio @ Lunchtime, Thursdays at 12:30pm

Bring your brown bag lunch and we will meet outside the church for Bible study and discussion. Our Bible selections follow the Revised Common Lectionary, so this is a great opportunity to explore the Sunday passage more fully. Come one, come all!

How Hiring!

The church is just starting to search for a new Sunday School Director. If you know of someone who loves the Bible, loves teaching kids, loves having fun and is eager to build relationship with our young families, let them know we have a role for them! Questions and thoughts can be sent to Pastor Sarah:
Rev.SarahTerlouw@gmail.com

Fall Building Partners

This fall we will have a very active building! Uncle Rocco's Pizza will continue to be renting our kitchen. A "learning pod" student group will be utilizing our chapel and Sunday School room. We have welcomed a new AA group who will be in the fellowship Hall on Tuesday evenings. Let's celebrate that God is using our Meeting House in brand new ways to serve the community during such a unique season.

Mark your calendars!

The church is hoping to begin offering an inside, in-person worship experience starting October 4th. This step will also come with a higher quality online streaming option for those wishing to tune in from home. More Information coming soon!

Sending Song

My Friends May You Grow In Grace

My friends, may you grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

Thank you so much for joining us for worship today!

Your ministry of presence is a gift.

If you would like to contribute to the work of the church please send a check to:

First Congregational Church of Saugatuck

PO Box 633

Saugatuck, MI 49453

Or text "Give" to 833-705-1016 to receive a link to our Tith.ly account to donate online.

Be well! God bless!

Thank you for your ministry!

Musician: Bob Ruddy

Scripture Reader: Cathy Brockington

Parking Lot Usher: Phyllis Yff

Crossing Guard: Cindy Raue

Activity Tent Leader: Kristyn Boyce

Set-Up Team: Phyllis Yff & Timothy Terlouw

Opening Hymn

This is our church, we study without cease
How we may dwell in unity and peace
Lord, grant that we may grow in purity, and
Guard the wellbeing, we receive from Thee.

This is our church, in worship we attend.
The living Christ is present as our friend
As we are fed the holy wine and bread, And
Baptize believers, as our Savior said.

Invocation Prayer with Lord's Prayer (using 'sins')

Lord of summer sunshine and autumn harvest, be with us this day as we gather to encounter your word and your way for us. Guide our steps, we pray, and pick us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace and service...

Kid's Blessing Song

Following our Sending Song, the kids of the congregation are invited to go to the Activity Tent on the front lawn of the church where they will be making rain sticks! There are a few rules to the Activity Tent for everyone's safety: crafters must be 6 years old and above, masks are required for children and adults, kids will be grouped with their household, if a child is solo then a parent/grandparent must accompany them.

Encountering God's Word

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16: 21-28

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his

Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Sermon

Losing to Gain

Responding to God's Love

Hymn of Response

How Shall I Serve You, O Lord

How shall I serve You, Lord? Reveal Your Plan for me; My love for You I would enact, And live obediently.

In following where You lead, If I lack Needed skill, I trust You will equip me, Lord, to carry out Your will.

Am I to build, or teach, Or serve the Suffering, Lord? Must I stay home or journey Far, To witness in this world?

So call me forth to serve, However That may be; I long to learn Your plan for Me, Then live obediently.

How in my daily life, Can I be- Come Your hands? To end oppression through Your peace, In living Your commands.

Congregational Prayer

If you have a specific prayer request, please let Pastor Sarah know!

- *Pray for the COVID-19 pandemic*
- *Brad Rudich as he recovers from heart surgery*
- *A woman named Emily as she processes a trauma*
- *For or students/teachers as they begin this unique school year.*

Sung Response

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline, thine ear to us. And grant us thy peace

Sending

Sending Blessing

Christ asks if we love him?

If we say yes, he says; "Then care for one another."

This is our opportunity to make a difference, to live lovingly on the frontiers of his bright new world.

We cannot promise to do it perfectly, but we can give it a go, relying on his abundant wisdom to take our small love, and fit it into a larger pattern of good for all creation.

May God bless the world in which you move, and bless your home and bless your friends.

May God bless the eyes with which you see, and bless the ears with which you listen.

May God bless the way you use your hands, bless the way you employ your presence.

As a bonus from the living God in Christ Jesus, Grace, mercy and peace will be yours, today and always. Amen!

Closing Hymn

Be Exalted, O God

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the people. I will sing praises to Thee among the Nations. For Thy steadfast love is great, is Great to the heavens; And Thy faithfulness, Thy Faithfulness to the clouds, Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Thy glory be over all the earth. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Thy glory be over all the earth.

The Reading of the Covenant & Charge

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.