



Thank you for joining us at the
First Congregational Church
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1stCongregational.Net

September 13th, 2020
First Congregational Church
Saugatuck, Michigan

A Note From The Pastor

Greetings family of Christ!

I've had many people inquire recently as to what worship will look like this fall, so I'd like to bring you an update. It is our hope to be back worshipping inside the church meeting house as of **October 4th!** While pre-recorded worship and Drive-In Church have both been an adventure, it will feel good to get back into our prayed in/lived in pews. **Please note that this date is dependent on the current Executive Order.** A letter will be sent out to the congregation following next Mondays Board of Ministry meeting detailing our safety measures and what you can expect from this experience.

We will be wrapping up Drive-In Church on September 13th. The following two Sundays (September 20th & 27th) the congregation is invited to worship online with our sister church North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Pointe, WI. The Rev. Dr. Marty Hall and I have been working together to craft an intentional worship service that celebrates two congregations in fellowship in a common live-stream. A invitation video with instruction will be circulated starting mid-week. This will be a true experiment in our Congregational value of Fellowship :)

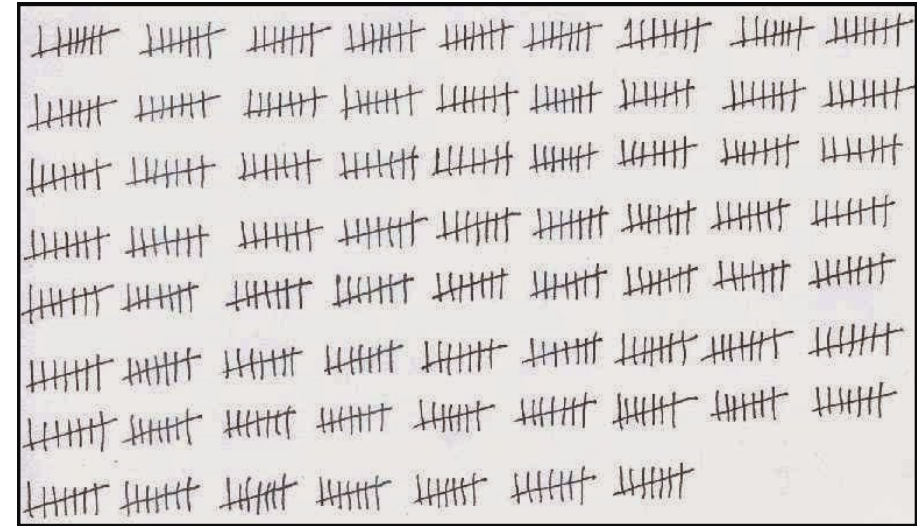
Those two Sunday (September 20th & 27th) I will be taking a silent spiritual retreat to the Hermitage in Three Rivers, MI and then Tim and I will be taking a road trip up to Minnesota for a little R&R. Wahoo!

The grand plan is to launch in-person worship back inside the church on October 4th - World Communion Sunday. Please note: We have installed some new technology at the sound board so that we can offer high quality on-line streaming and recording in the sanctuary. Also, the FM Broadcast to the parking lot will continue.

It is our leadership's hope that we move forward accessibly and all together.

**Mark your calendars for October 4th!!
I will see you from the chancel!**

- Pastor Sarah Terlouw



70 x 70, plus 1

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

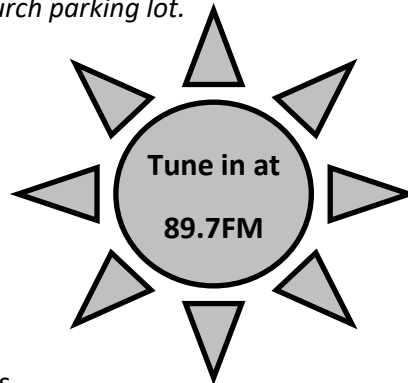
- Matthew 18: 21-22

First Congregational Church of Saugatuck

Order of Worship for the Fifteenth 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

How do we come before God?

In celebration and with shouts of joy!

We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Thank God! Bless God's name!

God's gates are flung open, the courtyards are full of praise.

Thank God! Bless God's name!

God is good; the harvest of love abounds.

Thank God! Bless God's name!

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.



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

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Ministry—September 14th, 6:30pm

Please Note:

The Sunday School Room and Chapel are temporarily home to a "learning pod" - a group of students doing virtual school together. Please stir clear of this area of the church if you stop by during the week.

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!

An Invitation to Worship

On Sunday, September 20th & 27th at 10am the First Congregational Church of Saugatuck is invited to worship together with our sister NACCC church, North Shore Congregational Church of Fox Point, WI. Rev. Dr. Marty Hall and the Rev. Julie Sheridan Smith will be leading worship online for both communities. Together our church leaderships have been busy crafting a worship experience that brings two worshipping bodies under the same "roof."

There are a few ways to access this live worship experience:

- A link to the worship service will be sent out with the Mid-Week News on Wednesday.
- If you are a Facebook user you are welcome to "follow" North Shore Congregational Church so that the video comes up on your own social media feed automatically. Or join Pastor Sarah on Facebook for a Watch Party Sunday morning.
- Or Pastor Sarah will send out an email on Monday morning with a link to the Youtube page where you can watch the worship service at your convenience during the week.

Check out the invitation video on our website now!



Thank you for your ministry!

Musician: Kristyn Boyce

Scripture Reader: David Edwards

Crossing Guard: Cindy Raue **Parking Lot Usher:** Kristyn Boyce

Activity Tent Leader: Tom & Wendy Van Tassel

Set-Up Team: Phyllis Yff & Timothy Terlouw

Opening Hymn

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Blessed Assurance

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

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

God who sees us, give us fresh eyes for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world. Change our perspectives: lead us to new vantage points and help us to see you in the places and with the people we do not expect...

Kid's Blessing Song

*Following our Sending Song, the kids of the congregation are invited to head to the fellowship hall for a special time of singing!
Music will be lead by Tom and Wendy Van Tassel*

Encountering God's Word

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18: 21-35

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat,

he said, "Pay what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sermon

Space for Truth, Grief and Hope

Responding to God's Love

Hymn of Response

Weave

Refrain:

Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together, in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together,
weave us together, together in love.

We are diff'rent instruments,
playing our own melodies,
Each one tuning to a diff'rent key.
But we are all playing in harmony,
in one great symphony.

We are many textures,
we are many colors,
Each one different from the other.
But we are entwined with one another
in one great tapestry.

A moment ago, we did not know
our unity, only diversity,
Now the Christ in me
greet the Christ in thee,

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

(written by Rev. Dr. Robert C. Joy)

Lord, our world has such complexity.

Gift us, our God, with simplicity.

There are too many needless distraction.

Free our minds for useless attractions.

Keep us upright in relationship.

Until we are one in fellowship.

Gift our hearts with faith, freedom and love.

And fit us for Your courts above.

Make us simple,

Make us wise,

Make us pure

In Your eyes.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather
Nestling bird nor star in Heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given

Children of the Heavenly Father

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord, His children sever
Unto them His grace He showeth
And their sorrows all He knoweth

God, His own doth tend and nourish
In His holy courts they flourish
From all evil things He spares them
In His mighty arms He bears them

Though He giveth or He taketh
God His children ne'er forsaketh
His, the loving purpose solely
To preserve them, pure and holy

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.

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. *(sing twice)*