



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

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 worshiping 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.

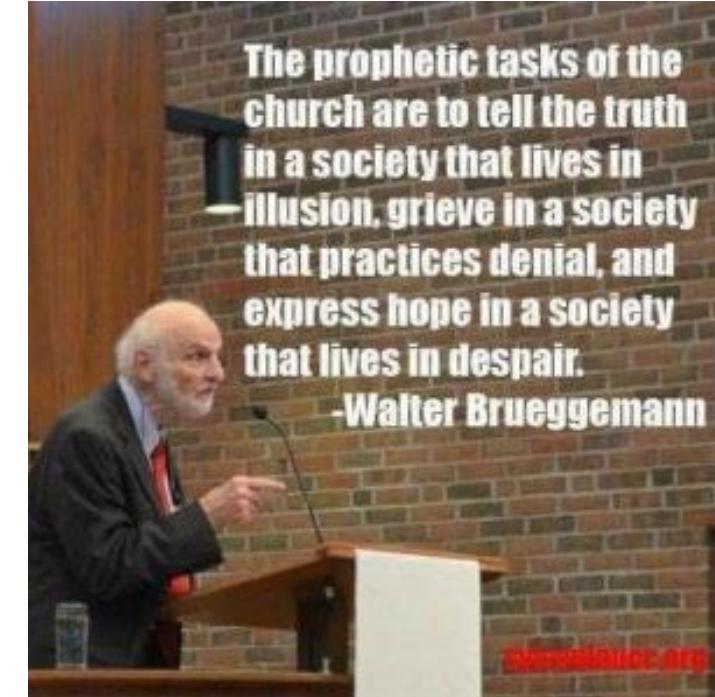
Mark your calendars for October 4th!!

I will see you from the chancel!

- Pastor Sarah Terlouw

September 6th, 2020

First Congregational Church
Saugatuck, Michigan



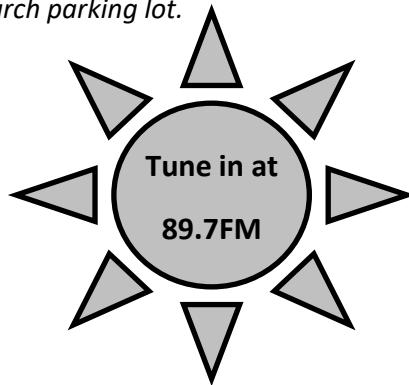
Space for truth, grief and hope

Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

- Matthew 18:18

Order of Worship for the Fourteenth 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

People of God, open your eyes! Look around!

The presence of our Lord Jesus Christ is here.

Yes, God is among us and within us.

God's salvation is close at hand - nearer than you know.

So open your hearts and minds to the Spirit, and let's worship God together!

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

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.

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!

Loving God, increase our hope

**that we may reach out for a better tomorrow and be
undaunted by temporary setbacks.**

Inspiring Spirit, increase our love

**that we may put into the world something of the joy
and compassion which you put into our lives.**

For the sake of your new world,

and to your praise and glory.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Refrain:

We stand united; we are one family.

We seek the living, loving God.

Shoulder to shoulder from this day forward,

We will serve the living, loving God.

God, you love us and You call us;

As your children we are saved.

Yet still we struggle as sin surrounds us.

God, purify us; Show us You grace.

Shoulder to Shoulder

God, You love us and You forgive us;

You give life so blessed and full.

We call to You, Lord, our strength and shelter;

Now make us ready, prepared and whole!

We go forward; we trust Your leading.

You will give us all we need.

You comfort, guide, and you draw us forward.

Shoulder to shoulder, let You kingdom come!

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)

Thank you for your ministry!

Musician: Kristyn Boyce

Scripture Reader: Connie Rusiecki

-Crossing Guard: Cindy Raue

Activity Tent Leader: Pat Gentry & Linda Escott

Set-Up Team: Phyllis Yff & Timothy Terlouw

Opening Hymn

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.

Praise the Lord in the field and forest,

praise the Lord in the city square,

praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,

praise the Lord in the dark of night,

praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.

Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,

praise the Lord on the highest hill,

praise the Lord; never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord With the Sound of Trumpet

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
Praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
Praise the Lord with joyful songs you sing.

Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,

Praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,

Praise the Lord by the light of sun and moon.

Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,

Praise the Lord in the time of joy,

Praise the Lord every moment; Nothing, let your praise destroy.

Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,

Praise the Lord in your work and play,

Praise the Lord everywhere and everyday.

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

Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope for the future. Help us to be those who bring peace in our families and communities. Banish the heaviness of doubt and fear; anoint us with your love that we may spread the good news of your mercy to everyone...

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 backpack blessing buttons! 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 18: 15-20

15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the

church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Sermon

Space for Truth, Grief and Hope

Communion Hymn

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Prayer of Confession

Wondrous God of infinite love and boundless compassion
Mark our hearts with the seal of your handiwork
Create within us the joy of being in your presence.

**Stitch into our souls the desire to serve, the power to heal,
and the capacity to love deeply and genuinely.**

Mold us into reservoirs of hope,
that we might pour out your bountiful blessings
upon all of your people.

**May this time we partake of the body and blood of Jesus
unite us in the community of saints who know your love
and proclaim your Son with fervor and grace
to a broken and hurting world.**

May your healing hands be the salve
for ending hurt and violence in this world,
even as we prepare for the next.
In the holy Name of Jesus. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread & the Cup

Responding to God's Love

Trust and Obey

But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]

Hymn of Response

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

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 our 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

Savior Christ, increase our faith
**that we may trust the unseen truths as more important
than bland or trivial physical possessions.**